

PARISH OF OLVESTON DESIGN STATEMENT

Richard Lloyd, Parish Vision Group

We are fortunate to live in a parish with a high quality environment. Each of the three main settlements – Olveston, Tockington and Old Down – have a distinctive character, and the older parts of Olveston and Tockington have been designated as Conservation Areas because of the concentration of buildings of historic and architectural interest.

The Parish of Olveston Design Statement was produced in response to community concerns about the design of new buildings and their “fit” within the local environment. It was published in 2004 and includes guidelines for new development to ensure that development and change enriches rather than erodes the character of the Parish. The Statement was produced through a consultation process including a community questionnaire and an exhibition, and copies were provided to all households at the time.

Specifically, the Statement was written for:

- **the community**, to encourage interest and involvement in the future development of the Parish, and greater care over building alterations which do not require planning permission
- **planning applicants**, to help ensure development proposals are in keeping with the special character of the Parish
- **the planning authority and the Parish Council**, to inform advice and decisions on planning applications
- **the highways authority**, to encourage a more sensitive approach to highway works.

The document was endorsed by South Gloucestershire Council and is a material consideration when the Council is determining planning applications. It has also been used successfully in evidence at planning appeals.

The Statement was reviewed as part of the process of producing the Olveston Parish Vision 2015. It is still a valid document and the design principles remain widely supported.

Residents can view the Design Statement on the Community Website – olveston.com and on the new Parish Council Website – olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Do have a look.

Olveston Parish Council will be seeking confirmation from South Gloucestershire Council that the Statement remains a material consideration in determining planning applications alongside the emerging South Gloucestershire Policies, Sites and Places Plan. This Plan is due for completion in 2016 and will provide the policy context for decisions on planning applications in our Parish.