

# THE LIVING STREET

Urban strategies to improve social cohesion, health equity and economic opportunity for all

The Living Street is designed to stimulate neighbourly interactions and community events by providing a vehicle-free thoroughfare through which people can move or gather safely. We envisage this connective green space branching across new developments and into existing places. The Living Street will encourage activities for families and residents, where friendships can build and the community feels truly happy. A place close to home, an extension of your home.



The past ideology imagined...



The present day reality...



An achievable future vision.

HLM Architects has developed a concept called the Living Street that is entirely free from motorised transport. Applied to new masterplan projects, this Living Street offers a solution to place making and community cohesion and allows for all abilities and ages to move freely between their homes and local activations, such as schools, shops, green spaces and places of employment. Importantly it is distanced from vehicular traffic.

The Living Street has potential to radically recast existing approaches to the vehicle dominated 'spine road' favoured in current masterplans. By removing vehicles from this people friendly route, the Living Street pioneers an environmentally sensitive future focused on human well-being.

Designs for the Living Street would vary depending on the brief, location, density and tenure of project. Importantly the street would pass through from new communities through to existing ones.

"Listen up class! The Living Street radically re-imagines an environmentally sensitive future, that will look after you and the planet! It will be a place where families and biodiversity have equal importance. So you get to have a thriving and resilient place to play and be happy close to home."



"HEY! Did you know the Living Street promotes a healthy, thriving and resilient streetscape for your neighbourhood? You can walk, scoot, wheely or cycle anywhere, as it has created a safe and convenient route across our town."

**LANDMARK VISIBILITY**  
As a space for trees and shrubs to mature, the Living Street will provide a visually distinctive destination, creating a clear recognisable space for local residents that would connect to key village-green and town-square spaces.

**CONNECTION**  
As a pedestrian-friendly street it will allow for neighbour engagement, natural surveillance, street play, communal space, along with providing quick and easy access for people of all abilities and cyclists, to a network of pathways leading to the local shops, amenities and transport connections.

**GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**  
As a green corridor the Living Street provides a multi-functional green and blue asset to improve ecological connectivity across new developments and importantly, linking it back to existing natural resources. It will provide shade from tree planting and integrate SuDS into the design to provide valuable biodiversity.

**LAYERS OF LIVING**  
As a community resource it will include a diverse and interesting series of experiences, incorporating areas for sitting, learning, playing and growing. Its design will promote social interaction with exercise and leisure activities close to home. Providing refuge as well as visual stimulation. It will promote opportunities for the community to grow edible plants, herbs and fruit from allotment and orchard spaces, encouraging edible produce to be part of daily lives.

**VARIETY OF ROUTES**  
The Living Street delivers a Sustainable Transport solution for integrated Green Travel Plans, contributing towards energy reduction and promoting a shift in localised modal transport strategies. It should also include for cycle shelters and be a space where cycle-sharing schemes are encouraged.

