

Rural Services Network
Annual Conference

17th September 2024

Building Tomorrow's Rural Communities

A Design Guide

Martin Collett

*Chief Executive, English Rural
Housing Association*



Our Village, Our Future



Homes for your community – Affordable, flexible, variety



Getting involved – Community input, what's needed, addressing broader concerns



Designing for life – The best homes, the community on your doorstep, ramping up accessibility



Getting about – Walk this way, buses and trains, shops, schools and surgeries





Everything is beautiful and everything works – The good life, clever layout and design, think local, architects matter

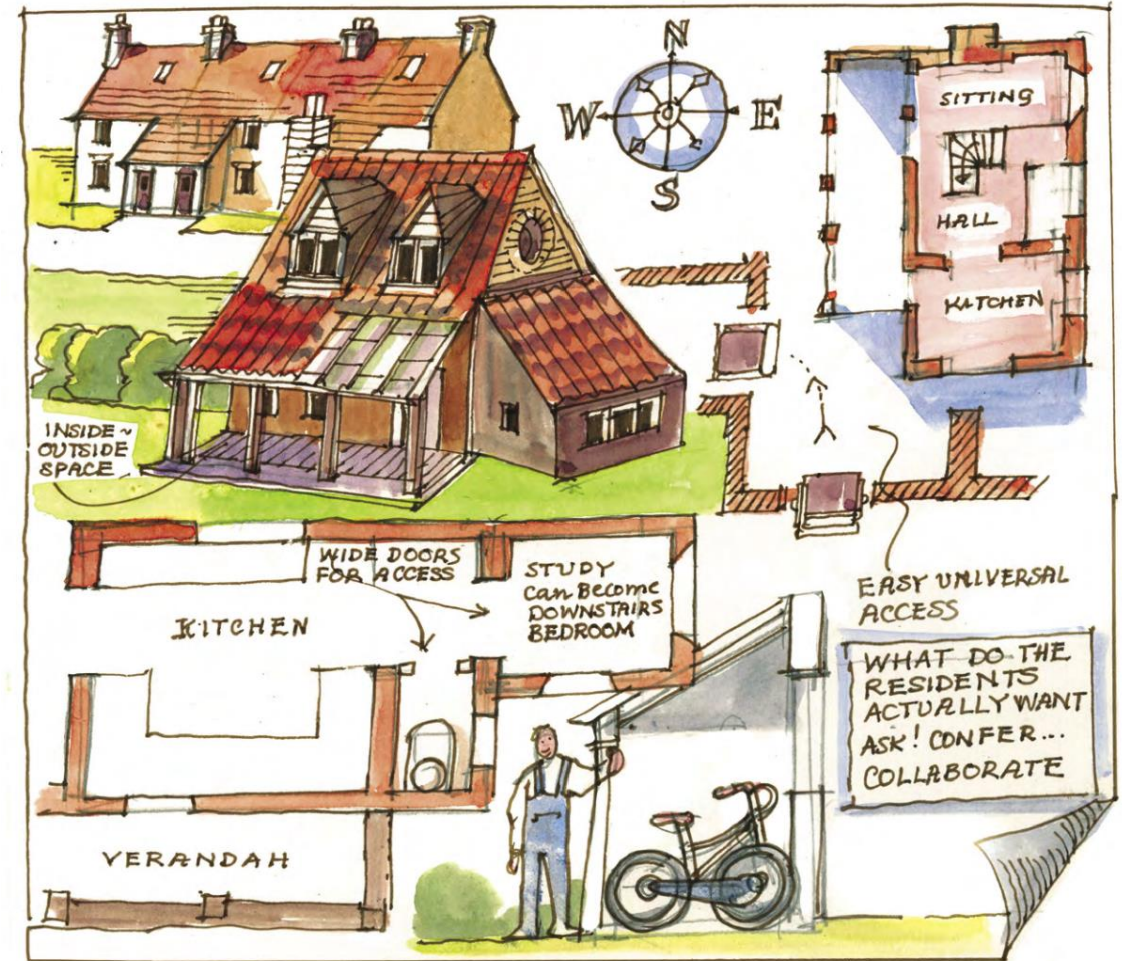


Let in the sunshine – Bright ideas, sunny side up, a room with a view



Changing needs, now and in the future – What's around the corner, welcome home, stronger together

Our House is a Very, Very, Very Fine House



Our Village Landscape



FITTING IN – HARMONIOUS DESIGN, LOCAL MATERIALS, RESPECTING THE VILLAGE RHYTHM



CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY – GOOD NEIGHBOURS, VILLAGE PATHWAYS, KEEPING FIT, COMMUNITY HUBS, THE DIGITAL HIGHWAY



GREEN AND PLEASANT VIEWS – FRAMING VIEWS, EMBRACING NATURE, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS, PLANT YOUR VILLAGE



Designing with Tradition

- **Merging into the landscape** – Respecting our heritage, respecting the land, respecting local character, thoughtful details
- **Everyone welcome** – Friendly streets, distinctive yet harmonious, facing the street, feeling safe
- **Smart and considerate planning** – Public spaces matter, people first
- **Past and future** – Respecting tradition, innovative yet familiar,





Building Towards Tomorrow



Embracing green solutions – Eco-friendly practice, greener still, build with care, sustainability matters



Minimising energy usage – Smart design, renewable power, managing water wisely



Supporting wildlife and ecology – The joy of nature, enhancing biodiversity, creating homes for all



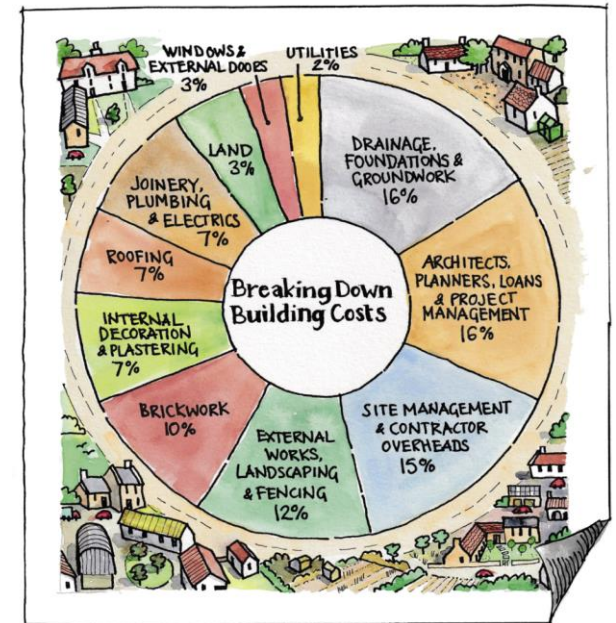
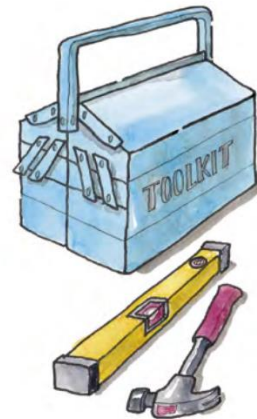
Adapting to climate change – Flood-resilient design, comfort and durability,

CHECKLIST

Use this checklist as a starting point for your rural housing project. Consider each item carefully and prioritise them based on your community's needs, values, and aspirations. Feel free to add or modify items to create a bespoke checklist that reflects your unique vision.

Items highlighted in bold green text are considered "given" factors that should be included in any design considerations. Items not highlighted in bold should be discussed and agreement reached on how important each is and what trade-offs might be made.

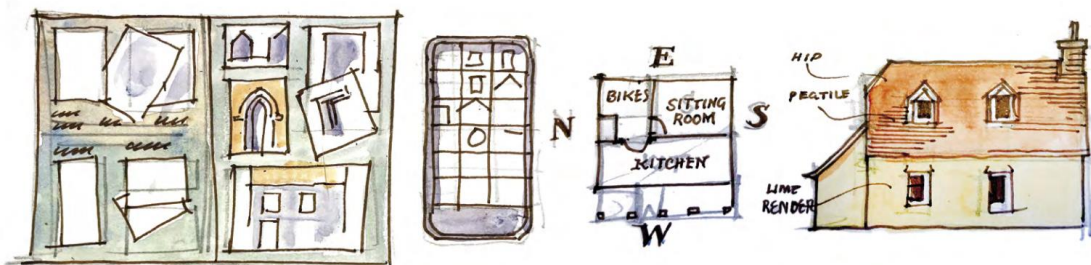
Rural Housing Design Guide Toolkit



**“Study, dream, consult and discuss.
Plan and think again.
Resolve and agree.
Compromise and forge ahead.
Build tomorrow’s homes now.”**



Matthew Rice



Resources & Contacts



There is a great deal of information and support out there for those who want to find out more about good design and getting affordable rural homes built. A network of organisations and individuals exist who can help by offering expertise and support, normally for free.

To make sure that resources and contacts supplied to those reading this guide remains current and comprehensive, a dedicated online page has been built and can be accessed by scanning the QR code below.

