

STATEMENT B6 – Sam Goss

My name is Sam Goss, I am the lead architect responsible for facilitating the co-designed Astry Close scheme.

Our process has at every stage been based on consultation, data and understanding local need; and has followed a structured, participatory co-design process that used research visits, planning for real workshops, models, and virtual reality tools to enable residents' full involvement.

Every aspect of the scheme reflects local needs and aspirations, including the housing mix, internal layouts, proximity between houses, parking arrangements, gardens and materials. These proposals are overwhelmingly supported by the community, in particular the strong emphasis on creating houses and not flats for local families, which determined the approach to the residents' preferred layout.

Our view is that it strikes an appropriate balance between the need for efficient use of land required by the Urban Living SPD, and the unequivocal desires of local residents.

Each fabric first, all-electric home has been proven to surpass the city's sustainability standards for energy use, daylighting, overshadowing, and overlooking, and houses are no closer in proximity than in the exemplar schemes referenced in the SPD such as the Paintworks.

The 'clustered' approach directly reflects the desires of local residents for stronger community connections, whilst the central, car free 'Heart Space' provides for both privacy and natural surveillance over a new amenity space which is safe and designed to support residents.

The planning team would have you rip the heart out of this scheme, that local residents love, to spare the grass verges, which they hate. Please support this scheme and respect the will of the people of Lawrence Weston to enable their right to community empowerment.