

L W	Little Wolford
P M	Parish Meeting

What is a Village Design Statement?

A Village Design Statement (VDS) is a form of planning guidance to inform the design of new development. It is intended to encourage developers and house builders to design new buildings, extensions, outbuildings and boundary treatment, such as walls and fences, to reflect the existing local character of the area. A VDS is prepared by the local community, using robust consultation techniques.

A VDS is a document describing the qualities and characteristics that a local community values in its village and surroundings; it sets out clear and simple guidance for the design of all development in the village. A VDS cannot be used to prevent new development, but it can be used to influence developers and the District Council, and to ensure that new buildings respect and reflect local character.

If a VDS is adopted by the District Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), it can be used by officers in the determination of planning applications. VDSs adopted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council are available to view at the [District Council's website](#).