

SHETLAND'S LOCAL PLACE PLANS

Leaflet 5 - A Community Safety Perspective

Why should we think about community safety?

Safe, welcoming places help people feel confident and connected. Planning decisions about land and buildings can reduce risks, prevent crime, and support social cohesion.

How does community safety affect land use and buildings?

- Poor lighting or isolated spaces can increase the fear of crime
 - Well-designed and well-managed public areas encourage positive use and discourage antisocial behaviour
 - Access to emergency services and safe routes matters for all ages
-

Key concepts:

- **Designing Out Crime:** Using layout, lighting, natural barriers and visibility to reduce risk
 - **Safe Routes:** Paths and roads that feel secure for walking and cycling
 - **Community Spaces:** Places that actively encourage positive social interaction
-

What does this look like in Shetland?

- **Remote settlements** may have limited emergency service access
 - **Dark winters** make good lighting essential for paths and public spaces
 - **Harbour areas** and ferry terminals need safe pedestrian routes
 - **Community halls** often act as safe gathering points during storms or disruptions
-

Things to think about when planning land and buildings:

- Are paths well-lit and overlooked by homes or activity areas?
- Are there safe places for young people to meet?
- Is there good visibility in car parks and public spaces?
- Can folk sit and shelter safely from the weather?
- Are there activity programmes suitable for all or focussed on specific groups?
- How can folk in need seek help?
- Are emergency services easy to reach from your community?

Examples:

- Install lighting on paths and near bus stops
 - Design play areas and seating where they can be seen from homes
 - Provide safe cycle and walking routes to schools and other facilities
 - Use community halls as safe spaces during severe weather
-

For information and support:

- [Designing Out Crime – A Guide](#)
- [Crime reduction toolkit | College of Policing](#)
- [Secured by Design - National Network of Designing Out Crime Officers](#)
- [Planning Advice Note PAN77 - Designing Safer Places](#)
- [Antisocial behaviour – Shetland Islands Council](#)
- [Voluntary Action Shetland](#)