Climate Change Statement: Land off Heator Lane & Rowgate, Upper Cumberworth (LPA ref: 2026/93215

The WMS December 2023 (Planning – Local Energy Efficiency Standards), issued after the validation requirement for a Climate Change Statement by Kirklees, says that the Government does not expect planning policy to set energy requirements that go above and beyond building regulations standards.

The proposed development will meet building regulations standards on energy efficiency and this is already a high bar in terms of sustainability. This is sufficient in planning terms in light of national planning policy guidance. Development cannot proceed on site unless building regulations standards are satisfied and there is no requirement for the planning system to place additional requirements on applicants.

Notwithstanding the above, we copy the below from the Design & Access Statement by Good & Tillotson Architects submitted with the planning application:

> *"Whilst not a specific requirement of the applicant, given the aspirational nature of the proposed dwellings, the decision was made to work towards the creation of a properties that would have minimal impact on the environment when they are complete. It is therefore proposed that the designs / specifications will significantly exceed the UK building regulations requirements.*
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> *In the first instance, and by nature of the construction, the properties will be highly insulated and sealed using a 'fabric first' approach to the conservation of energy. It is anticipated that this element alone will lead to a 10– 15% improvement on existing building regulations requirements. The dwellings will also incorporate building materials that have been independently assessed for thermal bridging leading to reduced heat loss at construction junctions. This detailed analysis of the construction details is often overlooked in energy assessments, but it gives significant reductions in CO2 emissions.*
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> *It acknowledged that the dwellings will incorporate significant amounts of glass and heat gains need to be considered in the summer months. To mitigate this, high-performance solar control glazing will be installed throughout. Full thermal modelling will be carried out at the technical design stage to assess the impacts of solar gain.*
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> *With reference to the mechanical and electrical installations (to provide heating and power) it is proposed to install a state-of-the-art Mechanical Ventilation / Heat Recovery system to each dwelling, to provide general heating and ventilation. A small air source heat pump unit will then be installed to provide hot water and additional heat supply. The MVHR system will also make use of additional heat gain in the summer months. The heating controls will be fully zoned so that the timing of the heating and the temperature settings can be changed in the various rooms of the houses. This will mean that the heating will not operate in at a time when the room is not used. Delayed start thermostats will also be incorporated that will further reduce the time when the heating is operating. It is anticipated that the M&E installations will provide a further 50% improvement on existing building regulations standards.*

Due to the orientation of the properties, opportunities for solar panel installations are limited. Nonetheless, each property will incorporate some solar panels which will contribute to the eco performance of the houses. All internal and external light fittings will have low energy lamps. The external lighting will also have controls that restrict operation to 'dusk to dawn' periods. Detailed energy / heat loss calculations will be prepared during the building regulations stage with a target energy rating of 'A' or above."

Furthermore, we draw attention to the following points:

- The site is sustainable in terms of accessibility and footpath linkages to services and amenities in Upper Cumberworth and beyond.
- The proposed development will include electric vehicle charging points to encourage the use of electric vehicles.
- The scheme includes a detailed landscape planting scheme that includes new native soft landscaping.
- The proposed scheme will secure a 10% net gain in terms of biodiversity as per statutory requirements.