

Design & Detail

- 88.** New housing in Staffordshire must accommodate all income groups, age ranges and access groups. There is no reason why a complete range of house types should not be provided in an harmonious and pleasing way so that designs may be sensitive to the potential and characteristics of their sites.
- 89.** Historically, most buildings in Staffordshire had steeply pitched roofs to accommodate clay plain tile slate or thatch. They presented a small sharply defined roof area to the road. Larger properties had additional rooms beneath parallel roofs or gabled at right angles. Modern broad roof spans are less impressive. Standard house types use regular eaves and ridge heights making a repetitive roofscape, unrelieved by chimneys which helped to break up rooflines and provide rhythm to the street scene. In sensitive areas, it would be desirable to revert to more traditional proportions that relate more satisfactorily to most surrounding existing development. The possibility of moving from truss frames to allow for rooms within the roof spaces might also be explored.
- 90.** Modern development tends to incorporate large areas of window set flush with the outer face of the wall. This lacks shadow lines and creates bland elevations. The emerging interest in energy conservation creates an opportunity to revert to smaller, recessed windows.
- 91.** Traditional detailing such as decorative bargeboards and crested ridge tiles have been rediscovered in an effort to lend individuality to standard house designs. Regrettably, these architectural devices have themselves become standardised, being applied regardless of the style of local houses. Staffordshire has its own vocabulary of detail, as well as a distinct repertoire of local building materials. Designers should seek to understand these historical motifs and draw inspiration from them. The skilful interpretation and use of such details to give individuality to new housing will work best where it is an integral part of the design. Such details include chimneys; decorative ridges; patterned tiles; brick corbelled eaves; moulded eaves brick; encaustic tiles and terra cotta boards; besides a wide range of timber decorative features: porches; eaves corbels; bargeboards and fascias.



Reflecting traditional details in new development

