

A living and lively place for the future



The shared spaces and public places within the masterplan are intended to foster social interaction and conviviality between its residents, with a shared relationship with the surrounding environment. Access to social/ friendship groups is proven to create better mental health and longevity in people, as such the places we live in have a direct impact on how we interact with each other and how we form social and familial bonds. Social meeting places are focused around landscape, with views onto convivial shared spaces and safe public routes. Habitable rooms such as kitchens will face onto play areas and playable streets offer passive surveillance amongst neighbours, creating safe spaces for children to play and meet each other.



As part of the phased delivery of green infrastructure, street trees are used to characterise each neighbourhood, different neighbourhoods are planted with different species and varieties of fruit trees that have been raised in the on site tree nursery. These are focused in public spaces such as the linear parks and are designed into different groupings so that harvesting can be carried out by the local community in each neighbourhood throughout the year. This can be an educational community endeavour and the differing species will help to add identity to each neighbourhood and is an evolution of the one of the original garden city design principles. Large rootstock, Apples, Pears, Plum and Damsons along with Walnut and Mulberries can all be included where neighbourhood microclimates will best suit them with a range of local heritage and commercial varieties to ensure resilience and a long harvest in each area. Nitrogen fixing shrubs such as Elaeagnus and Sea Buckthorn help to provide nutrients within the soil in a resilient productive ecosystem.

Planting schedule and character areas



SUDS and drainage strategy



Agroecology Planting (at threshold/site perimeter) Native trees (pioneer, coppice and longer lived legacy trees) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Willow- Alder (nitrogen fixer to add resilience to soils)- Poplar- Oak- Field Maple Fruit (Large Rootstock) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apple- Plum- Bullace- Pear	Extensive Urban Agriculture Fruit (Large Rootstock) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apple- Plum- Bullace- Pear- Mulberry Nuts <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Walnut- Almond Herbs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sage- Rosemary- Mint (in planters)- Oregano	Semi Public Planting Flowering Perennials (examples of wider mix): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Day Lilly- Verbena- Iris Fruit (Semi dwarfing rootstocks): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apple- Pear- Plum- Cherry Plum Fan trained Fruit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apricot- Cherry	Neighbourhood trees Fruit (Large Rootstock) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apple- Plum- Bullace- Pear- Mulberry Nuts <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Walnut- Almond	Linear Park Pioneer trees and shrubs <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Birch- Willow- Alder- Dogwood Flowering Perennials and grasses (examples of wider mix): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Miscanthus- Day Lilly- Verbena- Iris Robust grasses, Sedges and Wildflower in base of swales.	Connecting Streets Pioneer trees and shrubs <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Birch- Willow- Alder- Dogwood Fruit (Semi dwarfing rootstocks): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apple- Pear- Plum- Cherry Plum- Apricot Robust grasses, Sedges and Wildflower in base of swales.	Communal and Semi Private Courtyards <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Annual vegetables- Dwarf Fruit trees- Herbs- Flowering and scented plants and climbers
---	---	---	---	--	---	---



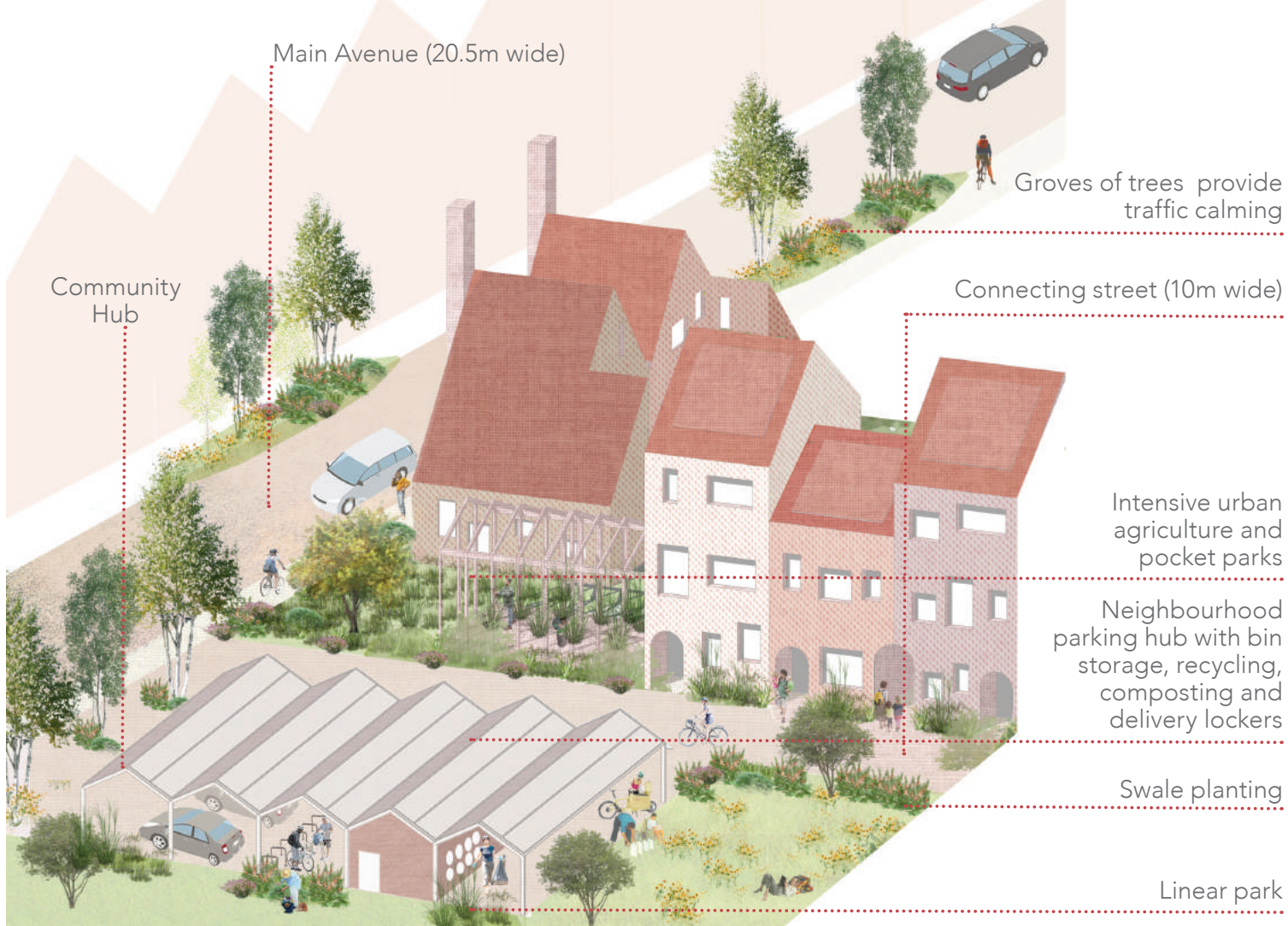
Views of the courtyard community typology

Shared between small groups of residents, these spaces are inherently more sheltered and peaceful. Offering the opportunity to interact with a shared garden space that can be used for food growing, informal play and socialising. Planting that requires care can be grown in these spaces by residents motivated and supported by the Landscape Stewardship Team. Dwarf rootstock fruit trees, herbs, scented climbing plants and annual vegetables can be grown alongside informal natural play forms for toddlers and areas to congregate.

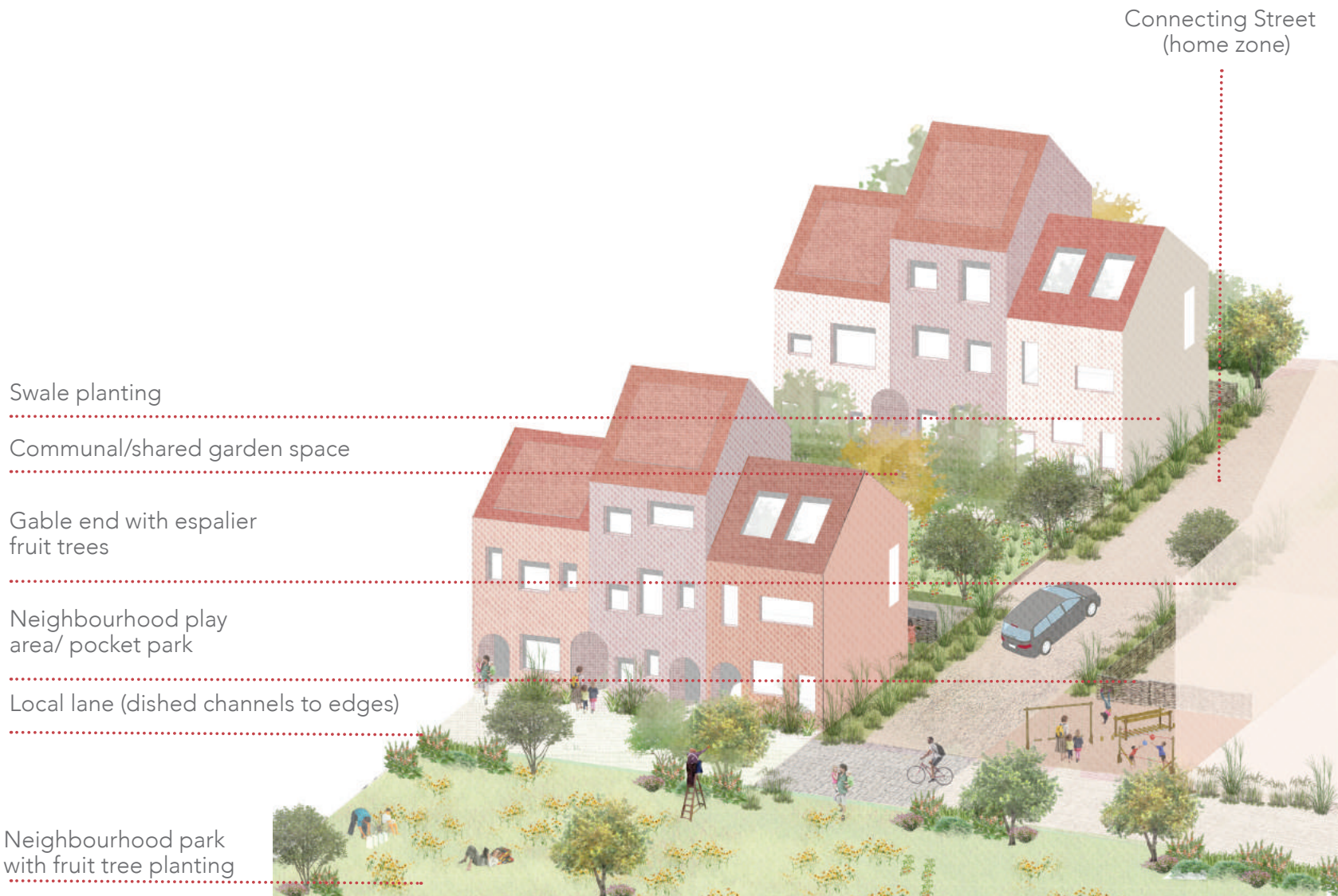


Views of the linear park community typology

Road Typologies



Groves of street trees Relating to the wider tree planting strategy associated with the SuDS system, agroecology and coppice. Groves of pioneer species are proposed as street trees to break up and soften vehicle and cycle routes, offering subtle demarcation within the street scene by providing pockets of multistem trees and biodiverse planting.



Intensive Urban Agriculture Throughout neighbourhoods on the doorsteps of residents, both pocket parks and small productive community gardens provide informal spaces for residents to gather, socialise and grow food. Education around the upkeep of the food growing spaces is facilitated by the Landscape Stewardship Team along with maintenance and help with the timing of harvests.



1

The central public area of the masterplan is intended to create a connection between the place and its rural surroundings. This will create a counterpart to the more urban existing centre of Letchworth Garden City, drawing people from the surrounding areas to this new place.

As a rural open space, biodiverse meadow planting helps to enliven the adaptable central zone. As a resilient tapestry of planting, different routes can be created through this area without damaging the integrity of the meadow. Rather than annual food crops, these areas are planted with perennial food crops and fruit that require less maintenance. In this central space a visitor is 'introduced' to the orchard framework that is spread throughout the public and semi public spaces across the site.



2

The linear parks in the masterplan create spaces for recreation and for people to meet. The community hubs contain car parking and car charging, bin storage, bike parking, compost bins, storage for deliveries and other shared facilities which encourages neighbours to meet on a daily basis

Linear parks and connecting communal spaces are planted with a resilient mix of planting that is designed to maximise wildlife interest at the same time as communal productivity. Not only part of the Extensive Urban Agriculture strategy to provide edible food crops, these spaces (along with the adjacent connecting streets) are framed by linear swales that link the SuDS system to the northern perimeter of the site.



3

The local lanes are for pedestrians and cyclists, designed to discourage a culture of car use promote more healthy and natural ways of moving. Without cars and car-parking, these spaces can be given over to the community as spaces for play, gardening, outdoor working and social interaction

These streets are characterised both by the linear swales and the neighbourhood fruit trees and are punctuated by informal pocket parks. The swales are planted with multistem pioneer species (Birch, Willow, Alder) with a ground layer of robust grasses, sedges and wildflower while the spaces in the shelter of garden walls and buildings are populated with semi dwarf fruit trees such as Apple, Pear, Plum and Apricot.