

Urbanism Awards 2023 nomination: Belper, England

Great Town category

The supporting statement for Belper's nomination has been edited for brevity and is quoted in part below.

"Situated deep in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, Belper is a historic and vibrant, post-industrial, market town [...] with a mix of independent shops and businesses, working with local government, for the benefit of the community and commerce.

"Belper Town Council published its Corporate Plan to help manage and guide the work of the Council until 2024. [...] Its themes are: 'Discovering Belper'; 'Sustainable & Environment-Friendly Belper'; 'Prosperous Belper'; 'Caring Belper'; and 'A Modern Council'.

"Physical development in Belper is influenced by its and its geography; excellent use is made of existing space and there is still potential for expansion without loss of character.

"Belper Town Council's Accessibility initiative has engaged with established community organisations [...] to make Belper a more user-friendly destination for people with mobility and cognitive impairments.

"In summary, Belper has overcome severe economic challenges to become the vibrant town that it is today. Its people, businesses, and outstanding community structures have enabled it to leave behind the loss of its industrial base and to transform into an attractive place in which to live and do business in and around its award-winning High Street."