

# Appearance

*The basic design intent is to introduce a new use to the site, which is for four residential units set within a grouping including two new garages, while in so doing, minimising the impact in terms of scale, massing and materials. It is important that the finished development will be complementary to the existing general character of Mill Lane.*

*We can consider the appearance of the development under the following headings.*

## *Scale*

*The residential introduce a two storey organisation to the site. Great care has been given to minimise the impact by setting the units into the ground. The Studio at no 30 Hillfield Road has been used as a notional reference to define the general height.*

*The elevational treatment is informal and is intentionally varied, both in materials and level, so as to reflect the character of the context. The choice of flat roofs is further intended to reflect the massing and scale of the existing garages.*

## *Massing*

*A slightly sloping site serves to naturally arrange the accommodation into a stepped organisation along Mill Lane. The mixture of dwellings and garages adds a further dynamic to the change in profile.*

*The inherently varying change in frontage along the development reflects the random settings of the adjoining garages.*

## *Materials*

*The section of Mill Lane along which the development site occurs has a mix of wooden fencing to low concrete retaining walls, and garages constructed from timber, brick, and concrete panels and blockwork. For the new development, it is proposed to use a combination of brick, reconstructed stone blockwork and timber, all of which will be the subject of final negotiation with the Council. The arrangement of timber panels and window design is varied within each dwelling to provide individual expression, further helping to break down the massing and increasing the visual interest within the façade.*

*The general architectural expression is of simple rectilinear forms and natural materials. The intention is to create an inherently modest character, to blend rather than provoke, but which is also enhanced by good materials and careful detailing to raise the environmental quality of the neighbourhood.*