

## Introduction to Workshop Sessions

### Sustainability Wheel

#### 'Working towards Sustainable Communities'.

The Sustainability Wheel featured below was developed by the Government to illustrate different elements that contribute to improving quality of life for everyone, both now and for generations to come. Developing and implementing our North Somerset Community Strategy is one of the ways that we can work towards sustainable communities.

The wheel shows how all the elements fit together. For a community to be truly sustainable all the elements must be considered equally. At the NSP stakeholder event each workshop considered two elements of the wheel as they relate to the themes of the Community Strategy. Workshop participants worked together to identify what working towards sustainable communities could mean when developing and implementing the Community Strategy for North Somerset.



## Introduction to Workshop Sessions

Each participant selected two workshop sessions in the morning. Ten workshops were run reflecting the nine themes of the Community Strategy plus one workshop introducing the 'Compact' for North Somerset.

During session one each thematic workshop worked on a sustainability component to explore in relation to their theme, as follows:

- Communities and People – **'Well Run'**
- Community Safety – **'Active, Inclusive and Safe'**
- Culture, Leisure & Recreation – **'Active, Inclusive and Safe'**
- Economy and Employment – **'Thriving'**
- Environment – **'Environmentally Sensitive'**
- Health and Wellbeing – **'Well Served'**
- Housing – **'Well Designed and Built'**
- Learning and Skills – **'Well Served'**
- Transport – **'Well Connected'**

During session two all thematic workshops were asked to develop work undertaken in the first session by looking at how the 'Fair for Everyone' sustainability component could be applied to the work documented so far. Workshops also considered how local people and communities might be engaged in shaping these areas of work further.

A sustainable community that worked towards being **Fair for Everyone** would include the following aspects:

- a) recognise individuals' rights and responsibilities
- b) respect the rights and aspirations of others (both neighbouring communities, and across the wider world) also to be sustainable
- c) have due regard for the needs of future generations in current decisions and actions.

## **Workshop 5 - Environment**

### **Session 1**

The Environment workshop was asked to consider how the sustainability component 'Environmentally sensitive' applied to this theme.

An **Environmentally Sensitive** community would include the following aspects:

- a) actively seek to minimise climate change, including through energy efficiency and the use of renewables.
- b) protect the environment, by minimising pollution on land, in water and in the air.
- c) minimise waste and dispose of it in accordance with current good practice.
- d) make efficient use of natural resources, encouraging sustainable production and consumption.
- e) protect and improve bio-diversity (e.g. wildlife habitats).
- f) enable a lifestyle that minimises negative environmental impact and enhances positive impacts (e.g. by creating opportunities for walking and cycling, and reducing noise pollution and dependence on cars).
- g) create cleaner, safer and greener neighbourhoods (e.g. by reducing litter and maintaining pleasant public spaces).

All aspects would contribute to developing sustainable communities that provide places for people to live that are considerate of the environment.

### **Environment workshop notes**

#### **Reflecting on Achievements over the last 12 months**

- ✓ Action for Nature Biodiversity Action Plan.
- ✓ CO2 emissions progress.
- ✓ Weston Vision inclusion of climate change
- ✓ North Somerset focus/work on recycling.
- ✓ Work to begin on Dowlais Farm Wetland Reserve.
- ✓ North Somerset Hills & Moors project – engagement.
- ✓ Fly tipping regulations.

#### **Identifying issues to address to ensure that we are all working towards an environmentally sensitive community**

- Low priority – natural environment.
- Development pressure on flood plain.
- Tokenism e.g. Biodiversity Action Plan Targets.
- Planning enforcement poor.
- Poor waste management.
- Lack of integrated transport policy (car dependency).
- Rural Economy & needs secondary to urban areas.
- Climate change – long term planning needed.
- Education curriculum lacking environmental focus.
- Lack of real biodiversity data.
- Dependence on voluntary sector.
- Unsustainable resource use e.g. energy, food production.
- Waste & recycling – Disposal.
  - European Penalties.
- Transport - CO2.
  - Cycling & recreation.

- Safety.
- Airport.
- Major roads.
- Planning - Houses.
- Energy - Wind farms.
  - Hydro.
- Education - Lack of public awareness.
- Climate Change – Flooding.
- Safe communities.
- Natural Environment.
  - Preservation.
  - Local distinctiveness.

### **Identifying key issues to be addressed through a partnership approach**

- Rural Economy & needs secondary to urban areas
- Climate change – long term planning needed
- Unsustainable resource use e.g. energy, food production
- Transport
- Safe communities
- Natural Environment

### **Considering potential solutions to key issues identified**

#### Rural Economy

- compact between local people and big business.
- local federation of shopkeepers.
- more Fair Trade agreements.
- more outlets for local produce.
- pump priming local initiatives by public sector.
- Parish Plans - Identify needs, local action and local people's engagement.

#### Climate Change

- better policy and integration.
- NSC better integrated working (cross department) and other agencies.

#### Unsustainable resource use

- continue review of environmental data.
- supplementary planning guidance & better enforcement.
- to include building standards, Best Available Practice, Flood Plain Development.
- strategy/policies for development. Transport infrastructure.
- more flexible working practices.

#### Transport

- improve public transport – cheaper.
- environmentally friendly cars (electric cars).
- better cycle/pedestrian routes.

#### Safe Communities

- cycle paths – initial planning stage.
- better public transport.
- safe play areas – space for recreation (Home Zones).
- health and well-being.

**Natural Environment**

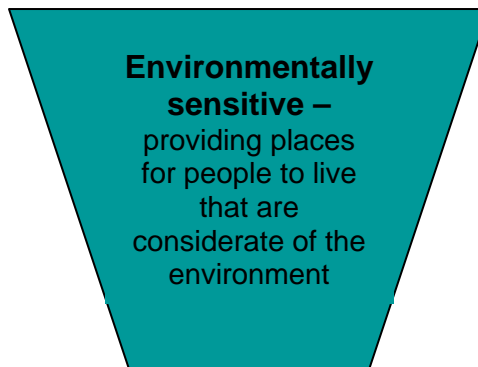
- public awareness – education campaigns.
- conservation and preservation.
- local contributions – better communications.
- local economy – preserve local environment.

**Car parked suggestions**

- pricing of ‘green energies’ fuels should be more in line with fossil fuels.
- green waste/kitchen waste – recycle through allotment association.

**Workshop outcomes**

The Environment workshop suggested issues and potential solutions to help develop ‘well run communities’ in North Somerset. This work was presented as part of the sustainability wheel built by all participants at the Stakeholders event.



<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rural economy needs – often seen as secondary to urban.</li> <li>2. Climate Change – lack of long-term planning.</li> <li>3. Un-sustainable resource use – energy, food.</li> <li>4. Presentation of the natural environment – local distinctiveness.</li> <li>5. Safe communities.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Key Solutions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and give priority to Parish Plans – identifying local needs.</li> <li>2. Better integration of policies and team working in organisations eg. NSC.</li> <li>3. Better supplementary planning guidance and enforcement for environmental issues.</li> <li>4. Education campaigns and awareness raising.</li> <li>5. Safe recreation areas and space for recreation.</li> </ol>

## **Environment Session 2 – Considering the Sustainability Component: Fair for everyone.**

### **Views on what applying the principle of Fair for everyone means in relation to the Environment theme.**

- Building on water-tables – address for future generations.
- Recognising issues surrounding ‘densely’ populated areas – ‘individual rights’.
- Consider alternative waste disposal methods such as incineration.
  - reduce transport higher disposal costs.
  - power from waste.
- All new houses to have solar panels – planning permission supporting this.
- Look at other transport models.
- Education (about recycling and composting)
  - citizenship lacking - self responsibility
  - easier access to recycling facilities.
  - schools.
- Look at best models from other countries e.g. Germany recycling.
- Transport – needs of children.
  - equality of access.
  - safe routes.
  - planning/design.

### **Who else should be involved & how?**

- Citizenship models.
  - schools.
  - young parents.
- Allotments.
  - re-use of green waste – low/no cost, takes it out of waste chain.

**Issues and solutions** identified by the group when applying the sustainability principle of ‘Fair for Everyone’ to the Environment theme. The work below was included in the sustainability wheel produced at the event.

#### **FAIR FOR EVERYONE**

1. Transport: ensure equality of access and safe routes for children.
2. Look at best practice models from other countries.
3. Recognise issues and start to work out local solutions.