

## 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 9 – Transport**

### **Session 1**

The Transport Workshop considered how the sustainability component 'Well Connected' applied to this theme.

A **Well Connected** community would include the following aspects:

- a) transport facilities, including public transport, that help people travel within and between communities and reduce dependence on cars.
- b) facilities to encourage safe local walking and cycling.
- c) an appropriate level of local parking facilities in line with local plans to manage road traffic demand.
- d) widely available and effective telecommunications and Internet access.
- e) good access to regional, national and international communications networks.

All aspects would contribute to developing sustainable communities with good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services.

### **Transport workshop notes**

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

- ✓ Climbing lane of M5.
- ✓ Big Lamp Corner, Weston-super-Mare.
- ✓ Cycle route through Long Ashton (current).
- ✓ Strawberry Line.
- ✓ Long Ashton bypass – 2+ lane.
- ✓ Cycle route on A38 Bristol – Winford, shared footway scheme.
- ✓ School travel plans – current, proposed – all schools by 2006.
- ✓ Cab stand junction at Portishead.
- ✓ New buses – X1 route to Bristol (30 minutes).
- ✓ Extension of Ashton – Pill path – now closed because of landslide.

#### **Identifying issues to address to ensure that we are all working towards a well-connected community**

- Link homes to jobs.
  - Take a Structured Approach.
    - Accessible.
    - Public transport links.
    - Links to Bristol + airport.
- Safer streets – for those without access to a car!
  - Pedestrians.
  - Cycleways (secure and safe).
  - Safe public realm.
  - Take 'public safety' into account in street design.
- Focus of walking/cycling.
  - Transport measures to deal with exclusion.
- Tackling 'Fear of crime' issue around the use of public transport.
- Junction 21.
- Junction 21A.
- Provision of major feeder road to Bristol Airport – i.e. to bypass villages.
- Encourage Freight (general) on rail.
- Improve disability access at railway stations. (lift at W-s-M, provision at Backwell).

- Disability Discrimination Act - Hackney taxis by 2011 - need a meeting of all involved.
- Improved access and training for scooter users.
- Parking – Weston-super-Mare (W-s-M) Park & Ride (illegal parking at Bristol Airport).

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

- Junction 21 + bypass feeder road.
- Freight onto rail.
- Disability access to stations .  
(All stations W-s-M and Nailsea/Backwell/buses/rail/taxis + scooters (mobility)).
- Link homes to jobs.
- Making transport links safer.
- Tackling issues of fear of crime.
- Structured approach to encouraging walking and cycling.

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

#### Junction 21 Plus (Greater Bristol Transport Study says take out, we say leave in)

- 21A – Southbound – flyover to W-s-M/Worle - all traffic plus feeder road to airport to bypass

#### Freight/Rail

- General freight onto rail (transporters that carry driver/wagon i.e. like channel tunnel) to cut down congestion and off/onload.

#### Disability Discrimination Act - improve access –rail – bus – taxi etc.

- Lift at W-s-M station
- Access at Yatton, Backwell etc. (all west)
- Taxi – need funding to help
- Buses need more space for wheelchairs.
- Disability ‘scooters’ need tightening up of criteria.
- Cobbled street areas – unable to push wheelchair

#### Link homes to jobs to relieve congestion

- Needs to be area wide
- Explore road user charging
- Attracting jobs to towns – where people live.

#### Safer Streets

- Developing work place/attraction Travel Plans

#### Walking and Cycling

- Carrying out a Crime Audit
- Carrying out a Disability Audit
- Provide Scooter training

### **Workshop Outcomes**

The Transport 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.

**Well Connected -**

With good transport services & communication, linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services

**TRANSPORT**

**Key Issues**

1. Junction 21 & bypass feeder roads.
2. Freight onto rail.
3. Disability access (stations, buses, scooters, taxis).
4. Link homes to jobs.
5. Making transport links safer.
6. Tackling fear of crime; structured approach to walking & cycling.

**Key Solutions**

1. Junction 21A, flyover & feeder road to airport.
2. Freight rail containers & on/off facilities.
3. DDA access (rail, bus, taxi). Lifts at stations. Training for scooter users/ hirers.
4. Congestion – road user charging.
5. Attracting jobs to main towns.
6. Travel plans to work, retail, and specific villages

## **Transport Session 2 – Considering the sustainability component: Fair for Everyone**

### **Views on what applying the principle of Fair for Everyone means in relation to the key issues and solutions identified in session 1**

- Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study – Sustainability + well connected – mainly roads. Need to provide all forms of transport.
- Rural communities – addressing gaps in access  
Solutions – community transport – extend + consider other options – cross boundary.
- Dragon Fly – Chew Valley/Wrington → connected to BIA (frequent bus).
- Major Development often focused on car use – need alternative modes to be considered.
- Encouraging Mixed development.

### **Solutions identified by participants:**

#### Improving public transport by:

- making it cheaper.
- more accessible i.e. low floor buses and cycle racks on buses.
- ensuring that it is clean and tidy so people want to use it rather than have to.
- should be for the public not just for making profit, should serve and benefit the community.
- Key partners should be involved in trying to get better rail links to some towns in North Somerset e.g. Portishead, Clevedon etc.
- Developing a range of transport .
- not just the car.
- wheels to work schemes.
- Tackling Congestion.
- Developing alternative schemes.
- co-ordinating the range of transport schemes in North Somerset using spare capacity e.g. Dial a Ride, Car Share Schemes, Buddy schemes for people with learning disabilities.
- Encouraging Park and Ride Schemes in some of the larger towns.
- where a reasonable charge is made.
- subsidised or free in some cases.

#### Junction 21

- Increase capacity.
- Rail network.
- Bus services – rural.
- Education v Environment.

#### Freight Rail

- Reduce double handling.
- Logistical Master plan.

#### Disability Discrimination Act

- Implementing the Act in full.

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

**FAIR FOR EVERYONE**

1. J21 – alternative modes in conjunction with J21.
2. Freight Rail – Reduce double handling & expand.
3. Congestion – Park & Ride & viable alternatives to road/car.
4. Make public Community Travel cheaper, accessible, clean/tidy.
5. Develop alternative schemes – car share, buddy, dial-a-ride & coordinate the range of schemes.
6. Park & ride schemes for larger towns e.g. WsM (at reasonable cost or free).