

INSPIRING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES...

for real!



Thursday 15th March 2007 at the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare

Local to Regional Sustainability Forum



LOCAL TO REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY
FORUM FOR THE SOUTH WEST

Post event report April 2007



SSW gratefully acknowledges DEFRA
& GOSW support for this event



In association with LSGSW

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1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

In response to feedback from regional partners, Sustainability South West (SSW) in association with the Local Sustainability Group South West (LSGSW), proposed to establish a Local to Regional Sustainability Forum which would meet annually to:

- promote a better understanding of the wider roles/ways of working between the local/sub-regional delivery organisations and regional strategic bodies.
- provide an opportunity for sub-regional/local Sustainable Development (SD) delivery practitioners to make comments/raise issues with strategic regional bodies.
- provide an opportunity for strategic regional bodies to raise awareness of strategic issues/initiatives with delivery practitioners.

Importantly this could provide an opportunity to identify the perceived barriers and potential solutions to adopting a more integrated sustainable approach.

2. A ONE DAY INTERACTIVE SEMINAR FOR LOCAL LEADERS AND OFFICERS SEEKING TO DELIVER GENUINELY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The National Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the Future* (2005), makes clear that:

'Local authorities and their partners, through Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), are pivotal to delivering sustainable communities. Making the vision of sustainable communities a reality at the local level means supporting strong local leadership and developing the right skills and knowledge.'

As the region's sustainable development champion body, SSW has been given by DEFRA a mandate to work with Local Authorities to support them in embedding sustainability into their Sustainable Community Strategies, Local Area Agreements and more widely through LSPs. DEFRA funding helped support this event which was designed to inspire and equip local leaders and officers with best practice examples of what can be done to make both new and existing communities genuinely sustainable.

3 PRESENTATIONS

Speaker presentations can be downloaded by clicking on the links provided throughout this report.

3.1 What is a vision for a genuinely sustainable community?

Leslie Watson, Director, SSW

Leslie provided a vision for a genuinely sustainable community against the national and regional sustainable development strategy context. She emphasized the starting point was to adopt a definition of a genuinely sustainable community i.e. one which is healthy, socially just, productive and living within environmental limits. This means taking a long term and integrated approach to community issues and delivering win-win-win outcomes for society, the economy and the environment on which we all depend.



The Region's Sustainable Development Framework (now known as the Sustainability Shaper) contains a sustainable communities checklist to help guide policy and practice in this area see <http://www.shapersw.net/rsdfresources.php?ID=48&category=48&stylesheet=style>

Leslie's presentation can be accessed by clicking on [http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/powerpoint/Inspiring_Sustainable_Communities_for_real_Event_-_Leslie_Watson_\(SSW\)_Presentation.ppt](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/powerpoint/Inspiring_Sustainable_Communities_for_real_Event_-_Leslie_Watson_(SSW)_Presentation.ppt)

3.2 How can we deliver large scale sustainable communities?

A European exemplar in zero carbon development

Nick James, Sustainability Projects Manager, BioRegional Quintain Ltd

Nick provided an overview on how the WWF's 'One Planet Living' principles will be applied to the UK's largest zero carbon development in Middlesbrough. This presentation illustrated a range of ambitious measures that can be taken to make new large scale developments more sustainable. Further information



on the One Planet Living guiding principles can be found at www.oneplanetliving.org

Nick's presentation can be accessed by clicking on:

[http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/powerpoint/Inspiring_Sustainable_Communities_for_real_Event_-_Nick_James_\(BioRegional_Quintain\)_Presentation.ppt](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/powerpoint/Inspiring_Sustainable_Communities_for_real_Event_-_Nick_James_(BioRegional_Quintain)_Presentation.ppt)

3.3 How to achieve success in an existing community? ***Go Zero – Success so far for Chew Magna***, Ian Roderick



Ian highlighted the Chew Magna's Go Zero project achievements in making an existing community more sustainable. Action has focused on 4 key areas: energy & transport; waste & recycling; consumption & people; and converging world. Key successes have included raising awareness (through meetings, newsletters, open days, media coverage etc.), increasing recycling, local food and fair trade products. Transport remained a key area where further progress could be made. Visit www.gozero.org.uk to find out more.

Ian's presentation can be accessed by clicking on:

[http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/powerpoint/Inspiring_Sustainable_Communities_for_real_Event_-_Ian_Roderick_\(Go_Zero\)_Presentation.ppt](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/powerpoint/Inspiring_Sustainable_Communities_for_real_Event_-_Ian_Roderick_(Go_Zero)_Presentation.ppt)

3.4 How to unlock the positive potential of local communities? ***The power of ABCD (Asset Based Community Development)***

Hazel Stuteley, Connecting Communities Coordinator, SW Peninsula Strategic Health Authority

Hazel provided an inspiring presentation on unlocking the positive potential of local communities. Her presentation included a range of innovative (including award winning) examples where extremely deprived communities, for example in Camborne and Redruth, were dramatically improved by community led action.



Hazel's presentation can be accessed by clicking on:

[http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/powerpoint/Inspiring_Sustainable_Communities_for_real_Event_-_Hazel_Stuteley_\(SW_Peninsula_Strategic_Health_Authority\)_Presentation.ppt](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/powerpoint/Inspiring_Sustainable_Communities_for_real_Event_-_Hazel_Stuteley_(SW_Peninsula_Strategic_Health_Authority)_Presentation.ppt)

4. REGIONAL PANEL DISCUSSION

Delegates were invited to ask the panel questions on the theme of inspiring sustainable communities for real. The morning speakers were joined by the following representatives from the key regional agencies:

Andrew Slade, Sustainability, Intelligence and Rural Affairs, Government Office SW
Sandra Rothwell, Head of Renaissance & Renewal, SW Regional Development Agency
Jane Lavick, Principle Sustainable Development Adviser, SW Regional Assembly
Nick Harrison, Senior Analyst, Creating Excellence
Colin Fudge, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Environment and Technology, UWE

The topics covered included:

- **Transport:** this issue needed to be given further serious consideration and supportive measures put in place if communities are going to become genuinely sustainable
- **Existing communities:** further work should be undertaken to support existing communities to become more sustainable
- **Rural versus urban based communities:** the distinctive challenges faced by rural communities also needed to be given further consideration
- **Role of parish/town councils:** there is already a network of parish and town councils in place – these could be linked in more fully to the sustainable communities agenda.
- **Community engagement:** language around sustainable development is very important – it needs to be broken down and communicated in a way which is easy to understand and actually excites/motivates communities. This also includes helping communities understand climate change and carbon footprints. It was also important not to hide behind the language argument.
- **Integrating sustainability into organizations:** a challenge still exists in ensuring local organizations are themselves becoming more sustainable
- **LSPs:** have a key role to play in supporting genuinely sustainable communities



5. INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

Delegates were invited to join one of the following interactive workshops.

Key recommendations for supporting the delivery of genuinely sustainable communities for each of the workshop themes are recorded below.

Workshop A: ‘Leadership for delivering genuinely sustainable communities’ key recommendations:

- LSPs to set up a ‘mini-commission’ to focus on key (2/3) actions, these could be supported by a championing group
- Improve joint consultation and working between Local Development Frameworks and Sustainable Community Strategies
- Develop more joint ownership through partnership working*
- Critical to establish a cultural change – skills for leadership are key*
- Support social enterprise and build in a structure to support local champions
- Take a more holistic approach to learning

Workshop B: ‘Using the Low Carbon Agenda to deliver sustainable communities’ key recommendations:

- Support the SSW Fair Shares Fair Choice carbon reduction initiative see www.fairsharesfairchoice.com for positive support in helping communities reduce their carbon footprint
- Take a more strategic approach to commuting corridors
- Provide more multi-agency local service hubs
- Provide more locally generated power supplies*
- Planning system should favour carbon neutral buildings*
- Provide further education, awareness raising and skills support
- Promote minus carbon developments!

* = Top recommendations as voted by delegates

Workshop C: ‘Unlocking the positive power of local communities to achieve sustainable communities’

- For local authority’s/agencies (including the police) to work more closely together at a ‘street level’ with residents and **consider different ways of working** better with local communities – and really connect and understand their lived experience of that community. For example police and paramedics together tackling anti social behaviour and increasing engagement by walking round together providing opportunities for home visits (via a card system) helping local residents address crime/health issues in their home environment where they felt comfortable.
- **Connectivity** – increase face to face dialogue with as diverse a range of agencies and residents as possible in a balanced way which ensures you listen, ask questions, share

learning and answers. The ultimate goal being to develop a **shared vision** that organizations and the community can work together to achieve.

- **Active listening** – was key and innovative measures should be taken to respond to views throughout the project eg via regular meetings. The importance of having a conversation (eg by knocking on doors) as opposed to a questionnaire. Delivering not just 'on need' as identified by deprivation stats but also on community aspirations.
- **Capacity Release:**
 - Consider self-selection of residents rather than going to usual community activists. Support these individuals by providing training and encouragement, giving them confidence to set up a residents association and constituted partnerships leading to Neighbourhood Governance.
 - Looking at ways of freeing up service deliverers eg health visitors time to facilitate community action.
 - Make physical space accessible for the local community at convenient hours for example opening up local schools in the evenings/weekends etc.
- **Visibility:**
 - Support community groups going door to door – engaging positively at a personal and street level. Ask the question 'whats it like to live round here?'
 - Visible foot patrols for police and paramedics (see above) in fact regular combined 'walkabouts' for all agencies in the area they serve.
- **Co-learning:**
 - As above establish routine meetings with residents and agencies and feedback opportunities and opportunities to share learning, understand each others roles i.e establish a 'positive feedback loop.'
 - Believe that the community can deliver and regularly ask questions and listen i.e. what you do want this neighbourhood to look like?
- **Keeping it going:**
 - Celebrate success to positively reinforce achievements that are being made.
 - Create a constituted community led forum which meets regularly without fail.

6. CLOSING PRESENTATION

Colin Fudge, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Environment and Technology, UWE

Colin provided a great end to the day, highlighting the inter-linkages between sustainability and health. In particular Colin highlighted the challenges we face in meeting the needs of our increasingly aging population and measures which should be taken to support this section of our society. Overseas best practice examples were cited to illustrate what can actually be achieved to support genuinely sustainable communities.



Colin's presentation can be accessed by clicking on:

[http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/powerpoint/Inspiring Sustainable Communities for real Event - Prof. Colin Fudge \(UWE\) Presentation.ppt](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/powerpoint/Inspiring_Sustainable_Communities_for_real_Event_-_Prof._Colin_Fudge_(UWE)_Presentation.ppt)

7. Next steps

SSW will consider participants recommendations around supporting the delivery of genuinely sustainable communities alongside wider points which address improving the integrated delivery of sustainable development in the region. This feedback will be used to inform our work eg when lobbying key regional agencies, inputting to national responses or supporting delivery at a local level.

Feedback from delegates will also be considered for integration into the continuously evolving Regional Sustainable Development Framework or sustainability shaper see www.shapersw.net. In particular SSW is considering developing further resources for the sustainable communities module of the shaper. **If you have further views on what you would find useful please let us know!**

Finally, SSW wants to build on our work in supporting local authorities in responding effectively to the increasingly important SD agenda. With a DEFRA subsidy, we are offering a limited number of local authorities discounted support for embedding sustainability into Sustainable Community Strategies, Local Area Agreements and more widely through the work of LSPs. If you would like to find out more about the discounted services that SSW can provide in 2007/08 please contact Sylvie Channon on 0117 933 0249 or sylvie.channon@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk for further information.

Delegate List

NAME	JOB TITLE	ORGANISATION
Andrew Grant	Regional Support Officer	SW Conference of Local Councils
Anthony Littlechild	Corporate Sustainability Officer	Dorset County Council
Andrew Slade	Sustainability, Intelligence & Rural Affairs	Government Office SW
Bill Holiday	Manager	Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership
Cllr Bob Cook	Elected Councillor	North Somerset Council
Catherine Bailhache	Development Officer	Bristol Partnership
Celia Wilkinson	Development Officer, Adult Care	North Somerset Council
Charles Couzens	Director	Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development
Colin Medus	Transport Policy Manager, PPT, D&E	North Somerset Council
Colin Fudge	Exec Dean, Faculty of Environment & Tech	University of the West of England (UWE)
David Crisfield	Stronger Communities Manager	West Wiltshire District Council
Cllr David Jolley	Elected Councillor	North Somerset Council
David Maynard	Corporate Adviser-Policy and Strategy	Wiltshire County Council
David Rees	Regeneration Manager	SW RDA Somerset Area Team
Cllr Deborah Yamanaka	Executive Member, Env. & Community	North Somerset Council
Douglas Eyre	Chairman	Bournemouth Partnership
Freiny Miles	Public Relations and Administrations	Sustainability South West
Hazel Ball	Director of Community & Environment	Exeter City Council
Hazel Stuteley OBE	Connecting Communities Co-ordinator	SW Peninsula Strategic Health Authority
Heather Whittle	Partnership & Development Manager	North Somerset Council
Helen Rutter	Lead officer for LSP	Somerset District Council
Ian Roderick	Director	Schumacher Inst. for Sustainable Systems
Ian Tearle	Interim Head of Health Policy	Devon PCT
Cllr Isabel Cummings	Elected Councillor	North Somerset Council
Jackie Young	Sustainable Development & Climate Change	Plymouth City Council
James Carey	Corporate Development & Partnerships	Weymouth & Portland Council
Jane Lavick	Sustainable Development Advisor	SW Regional Assembly
Jane Wildwood	Corporate Sustainability Manager	Bath and N East Somerset Council
Jeff Ligo (chair)	Associate	Sustainability South West
Cllr Jenny Gosden	Elected Councillor	North Somerset Council
John Allison	LSP member	West Wiltshire District Council
Karen Rais	Community Learning , Adult Care	North Somerset Council
Kate Hall	Sustainable Development Manager	Dorset County Council
Kathyrn Lamble	Environmental co-ordinator	Exeter City Council
Lena Maller	Forest of Dean LSP Co-ordinator	Forest of Dean District Council
Leslie Watson	Director	Sustainability South West

Louise Stewart	Weymouth & Portland Partnership	Weymouth & Portland Council
Lynn Gibbons	Project Manager, Future Footprints	Sustainability South West
Mark Lewis	Building Control	South Gloucestershire Council
Mike Hennessey	Head of Strategic Support Services	South Gloucestershire Council
Nancy Brenchley		South Gloucestershire Council
Nick Harrison	Senior Analyst	Creating Excellence
Nicola Builder	Sustainability Coordinator	North Somerset Council
Nigel Williams	Partnership Manager	SW RDA
Cllr Pat Hockey	Exe. Member, Planning/Transportation/Env.	South Gloucestershire Council
Paul Taylor	Community Regeneration Administrator	SW RDA
Pete Grigorey	Strategy Manager	Environment Agency
Nick James	Sustainability Project Manager	Bioregional Quintain Ltd
Peter Lacey	LSP Chair	Exeter City Council
Petula Davis	Policy Officer	Stroud District Council
Phil Harding	Senior Policy Adviser	GOSW
Rebecca Jones	Community Learning Quality Improvement	North Somerset Council
Rob Guest	LSP Chair	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr Robert Coleman	Elected Councillor	North Somerset Council
Rosemary Dowie	NSP Board Member	North Somerset Council
Sandra Rothwell	Head of Renaissance & Renewal	SW RDA
Steve Marriot	Sustainable City Team	Bristol City Council
Stuart Palmer	Head of Housing	North Somerset Council
Sue Bellamy	Community Strategy Officer	Purbeck District Council
Sue Henchley		Forest of Dean
Sylvie Channon	Regional Liaison & Appraisal	Sustainability South West
The Ven John Wraw	Archdeacon of Wilts	Wiltshire Strategic Board
Tony Williams	Director, Environment & Economic Services	Bournemouth Borough Council
Vanessa Collier	NSP Board Member	North Somerset Council

Speaker Biographies

Jeff Ligo, SSW Associate

Jeff has had a long career in local government, including nineteen years as a chief executive in the South West. From 1984 until 1997, he was Chief Executive of West Devon Council, which commissioned WestDen to develop a sustainability strategy for the district. From 1997 to 2003, he was the chief executive of West Wiltshire Council where he championed partnership working and established an economic partnership which included an environmental business club. He represented local government on SSW's membership for a number of years before leaving local government and becoming an SSW Associate. He played a key role in the development of the RSDF and currently chairs the Review Group looking at up-dating that Framework. Jeff's independent consultancy specialises in change and project management and has a wide range of clients.

Leslie Watson, Director, Sustainability South West

Leslie is Director of the charity Sustainability South West – a roundtable of experts acting as the region's independent champion for sustainability. A landscape architect by training, Leslie managed the strategic environmental improvement initiative 'Operation Green Up' for West Midlands County Council. She was appointed Director of the national charity 'Think Green' – a campaign for urban greening. Leslie worked as Community Relations Manager at The Bristol Development Corporation. She was Sustainability Manager for West Wiltshire District Council where she also initiated the Wessex Environment Business Club. She was the first chair of the Local Sustainability Group for the South West (LSGSW) and was also a member of East Midlands Electricity's first environmental panel. Leslie is a board member of Regen SW – the region's renewable energy agency.

Nick James, Sustainability Projects Manager, BioRegional Quintain Ltd

Nick trained as an architect and completed both Undergraduate and Masters degrees at the University of Bath. He worked in architectural and masterplanning practices in London and the South of England before joining BioRegional Development Group in 2002.

At BioRegional, Nick led in the delivery of numerous sustainability projects working in partnership with Local Authorities, Government, Regional Development Agencies, NGOs, developers and private companies. This work included disseminating the lessons learnt from BedZED and other international sustainable community projects to the planning, development and construction sectors to support the delivery of infrastructure, communities and services which enable sustainable lifestyle choices. In support of this work, Nick was a founding director of BioRegional Consulting Ltd. Nick joined BioRegional Quintain in 2005 and works specifically on integrating sustainability into development projects. His role includes defining and expressing development vision, setting sustainability targets, identifying the delivery mechanisms, drilling into the detail, and ensuring implementation. Nick is a registered BRE EcoHomes assessor. Nick's experience combines experience within the masterplanning and developing industries, with more than five years working at the leading edge of sustainability innovation and implementation.

Ian Roderick, Go Zero

Ian is the Director of the Schumacher Institute for Sustainable Systems - a "think and do tank" created by the Schumacher Society. He is also president of the UK Systems Society and a leading light in the Go Zero project in the village of Chew Magna. He is a founding member the charity 'The Converging World', which funds work for sustainable livelihoods and communities both in the developing and demanding worlds, based on the principles of Contraction and Convergence.

His early career was in Operational Research and he co-founded a software company in 1982. Since 1999 he has worked voluntarily and in 2002 he completed the renowned MSc in Responsibility & Business Practice at Bath University; he is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Hazel Stuteley O.B.E., R.G.N., R.H.V.

Hazel has a background as a qualified as a health visitor and worked for many years in inner city practices in London and Southampton and rurally disadvantaged areas in Cornwall. She also worked for Social Services with self-harming teenagers, teenagers on remand and developed parenting programmes for abusing families. She returned to Health Visiting where her practice included the highly deprived ward of Penwerris in Falmouth, where she co founded the multi award winning Beacon project. In 2000 she was appointed as a member of the Prevention and Inequalities

Modernization Action Team to develop the NHS Plan. Hazel then undertook a secondment to the Dept. of Health as National Head of Healthy Communities to lead the development phase of the Healthy Communities Collaborative. In 2002 she was named Community Development Manager with West Cornwall Primary Care Trust before moving in Oct 2003 to become Research Fellow/Community Regeneration at the Inst of Health and Social Care, Peninsula Medical School, Exeter Univ. She is a founder member of the Health Complexity Group, a multi disciplinary team who use insights from complexity science to understand the barriers and drivers to transformational change. Hazel and the team have spent the last 3 years producing the Connecting Communities (C2) programme, an evidence based course designed to equip frontline service providers with knowledge and skills to work more effectively within disadvantaged communities. Her current role is with the NHS Southwest as Strategic Lead for Community Engagement, disseminating C2 throughout targeted neighbourhoods in the region. She has an Honorary Fellowship with the Peninsula Medical School and is a member of the Deputy Prime Minister's National Panel of Neighbourhood Renewal Advisers. Hazel was awarded an O.B.E. in the 2001 Queens New Years Honours list for services to the Community in Falmouth.

Nick Harrison, Creating Excellence (Workshop Facilitator)

Nick works for Creating:excellence, the regional centre for Sustainable Communities in the South West of England. An organisational psychologist by training, he recently coordinated one of four national pilots for the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister, championing the use of evidence in the local delivery of services, regeneration and development. Previously he has worked for the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), as an analyst in the City of London (researching socially responsible investment) and more recently developed an intelligence tool for strategic targeting of social exclusion in the city of Bristol. For the past eight years he has written a quarterly news feature for international development professionals on climate change and sustainable development and is currently undertaking training to become a LEAD International fellow in leadership for sustainable development. Email: nick.harrison@creatingexcellence.org.uk

Professor Colin Fudge, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Environment and Technology, UWE

Colin is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, RAE, Estates) and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Environment and Technology. He was previously Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Built Environment (1995-2005), Director of Environmental Services, Bath City Council (1990-95), Professor of Urban Environment, University of Cardiff (1990-05), Senior Lecturer University of Bristol (1975-1990) and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Planning, Environment and Aboriginal Affairs Australia (1983-86).

He holds degrees in Architecture and Town and Regional Planning and was awarded an honorary fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects (2001) and the title of Royal Professor of Environment by the Swedish Academy of Sciences in 2002 for his work on urban sustainability.

Currently he is Chair, EU Expert Group on the Urban Environment and advisor to DGs Environment and Research; Visiting Professor European University, Florence, Chalmers University Sweden, and the Alliance for Global Sustainability (MIT, Tokyo, ETH Zurich, Chalmers); Board member, Chalmers University; Cities Advisory Board, LSE; adviser on the Anglo-Swedish Ministerial Round Table on climate change and to the Swedish Research Councils, FORMAS and MISTRA. At a regional level Professor Fudge is Chair creating:excellence; South West representative of CABE; Chair SW Design Forum; Chair SW HERDA Research Committee and Board member of Great Western Research, Bristol Initiative, Science City, SPark and SWRDA EU Structural Funds Committee.

Colin's research interests are in the areas of cities health and sustainable futures and he has published extensively in these fields and has worked internationally in the EU, Scandinavia, Australia and New Zealand, Japan and Southern Africa for WHO, EU, UNESCO, OECD, UNDP and SIDA.