



Environmental Theme Group

Title of meeting Climate Change Centre – good practice involving partners in practical delivery in an eco district.

Meeting Details

Date: 9th December, 2008

Venue: Committee Room 7, Council House

Attended by:

Phil Jones	CEN
Duncan Elliot	CCC
Jade Mosey	CCC
Cat Parker	CCC
Tina Knowles	Environment Agency
Elise Smithson	Coventry University
Selina Fletcher	Coventry University
Monika Bzowy	IKEA
Andy Tasker	Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT)
Melody Stokes	Coventry City Council
Peter Woodward	Quest Associates (Facilitator)

Current Situation:

City Farm:

Wound up by trustees last year. WWT have been working with City Council to explore possible uses for the site. The importance of both a capital and revenue stream to sustain the site was emphasised. Further opportunities to broaden the site and its use included an adjacent site which was for sale, this could include 20-30 homes. It was noted that the city farm was very much a community resource, and political commitment had been made to ensuring the site maintained a focus on the broader green agenda.

Other sites:

Several sites are used that could showcase 'sustainability and climate change eg. Sherbourne Valley, Charterhouse, Allsley Walled Garden.

Links to Housing:

The group heard about several high quality sustainable housing sites.

- Looking for a zero carbon site which could include aspects of the Swanswell development. A site (Bishopsgate) was being scoped with a prescriptive brief which would fit in with this agenda.

- The Canley site was being designed with sustainable communities in mind – around 700 homes would be delivered there. The study which would include feasibility of recycling, public transport and renewable energy for example would be completed in March '09.

Benefits:

Sends a clear message that Coventry celebrates the developments within the city.

The project could help showcase the other work streams within the environment theme group and demonstrate to residents and businesses what could be achieved.

Vision for Coventry:

A decision on the City Farm needs to be coherent with the overall vision for this proposition. However, the timescales involved are slightly different. A decision must be taken on city farm by the end of March '09.

There is potential to link a number of projects by creating a hub/gateway for learning.

Revised Proposition:

- Gateway site for low carbon high quality living
- Coventry: a centre of excellence in zero carbon living
- City Gate – Gateway to climate change
- A first project at city farm site that is part of a chain of 'eco' sites (with a gateway at Bishopsgate)
- A landmark eco housing and education centre. Linking with Swanswell, City Centre, Coventry Canal – activity to grow in all directions.
- Coventry – building a sustainable future in Bishopsgate.
- Coventry Eco Sites: Challenging climate change.

The idea chosen by the group was to progress the development of the Bishopsgate site as a gateway to a number of key projects. This could be a regional and national exemplar.

Ideas:

The site at Bishopsgate could be an exemplar for climate change, and the hub of a number of centres. Its location next to electric wharf, the canal (possible links to bio-mass?) and within walking distance of the city centre enabled its use as a gateway, and a starting point for a number of 'tours'/ 'learning journeys'. It was noted that this could assist in opening up the canal basin and maximising its potential. The site could also host innovative businesses.

The City Farm site would require a solution which enabled its long term survival. Central to this would be to secure some kind of activity on the site.

Next Steps

Duncan Elliott to consult with the Director of City Development and elected members on the possible vision for Bishopsgate.

Melody, Peter and Andy to work up a more detailed brief, which Duncan could use and share.

There was a sense that the City Farm work would progress without intervention from the theme group.
