

Present:

Ann Cornelius – Chair	Westlea Housing Association
Joe Backshell	Swindon Coalition of Disabled People and SSP
John Popowicz	Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service
Julian Parsons	Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service
Angela Clack	Swindon Borough Council
Andy Parsons	Swindon Climate Action Network
Alison Chamberlain	Swindon Borough Council

Meeting decisions:

1	<p>The vision: Achieving sustainable, inclusive communities through partnership; by creating a desirable place to live, work and visit.</p>
2	<p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build new sustainable communities with high standard designs. • To make Swindon a vibrant town that has a sense of place and identity. • To Make Swindon a safe and healthy place where people aspire to be.
3	<p>Delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with developers and other partners to agree a protocol to build new sustainable communities with high standard design and excellent environmental standards. • Implement the neighbourhood renewal strategy programme. • All Council property to achieve decent homes standard by 2008.

Discussion notes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After introductions, it was agreed to use the Terms of Reference as the agenda and task list.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group talked about the vision and how they could make it fit for purpose and had a lengthy discussion about what the vision should be for a sustainable Swindon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group talked about Corporate buy-in for the new Strategy and emphasised that the strategy is for the whole of Swindon and not just the Borough Council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion took place about how the group could influence developers – and what tools are available to help to do that.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group talked about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lifetime homes/accessible homes and the differences between them. ○ Building regulations and safety regulations so that they could better understand some of the problems, ○ Bye-laws, road access and accessibility – to make them think about the built environment and the difficulties some have getting around the home and also around the area around the home. ○ Regeneration and Renewal and the differences between them.

- Discussion about how the outcomes will be monitored and about performance monitoring regimes already in place for the current community strategy.
- Group thought that the only way that this vision can work is through continuing dialogue with partners.
- Discussion about how the planning service can influence developers through emerging development plan documents (DPDs), supplementary planning documents (SPDs), design codes and through the Developers forum. The group thought that all developers should start from a level playing field and that the Council should aim for higher standards of design
- They also talked about influencing developers at an early stage in the planning process so that it's easier to consider sustainability and accessibility issues rather than later on in the process when plans have been submitted
- Next steps:
 - The work done tonight will form the basis of a document that will go out to consultation for 3 months.
 - Feedback from the consultation will be pulled together and presented at the next Strategic Partnership Conference in June 07.
 - Publication of the strategy will take place around Oct/Nov 07.
- The members of the group were keen to meet again once the consultation cycle on this theme of "Well Designed and Built" ends to look at the feedback.
- A further meeting will be organised before the June SSP conference. Action: Alison