

Annex 9

14 June 2010

ECO TOWN CONSULTATION SUCCESS BICESTER RESIDENTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS

Well over two hundred Bicester residents came along to three 'Masterplanning in Partnership' public drop in sessions that took place in Bicester last week (5 – 12 June 2010). During these sessions the local community were able to learn more about the NW Bicester Eco Development and leave behind their thoughts and ideas on the proposed project.

Ian Inshaw, Chairman of P3Eco (Bicester) says: *"We have been really encouraged by the support the Open Planning Week has received from the people of Bicester. We have had a range of views and some really positive contributions for the Masterplan. I hope these events will be the start of a partnership between the Eco development team and the members of the Bicester community. All those who want to discover what we learnt during the Open Planning Week should register for Wednesday evening's Community Feedback event."*

The **Community Feedback Session will be held on Wednesday 16 June 6 – 8pm at the Garth, Launton Road, Bicester** during which the professional team will outline what they have learnt from the views of the wider Bicester community. To register for this event, please email info@p3eco.com or phone 0207 930 3606.

Some of the points that were raised at the drop-in sessions covered infrastructure, both physical and social, and the pressing need to address these well in advance of any building starting. Those who were encouraged by the proposed development called for it to be truly pioneering, setting a benchmark for Eco towns. It should be an exemplary project using the very latest green technologies. There was also great emphasis placed on making the new development very much part of Bicester, not simply a bolt-on to the existing town.

- Ends -

For further information on the NW Bicester Project, please contact Pall Mall Consult: Catherine Nestor, 020 7930 3581 or catherinen@pallmallconsult.com or Fiona Brenner at Pall Mall Consult 020 7930 3606 or fionab@pallmallconsult.com.

Notes to Editors

1. **What is Masterplanning?**
A type of *planning brief* which outlines the preferred development for a large site or area, and the overall approach to its layout and design. The Master Plan provides detailed guidance for subsequent planning applications.
2. **Become a Friend of the NW Bicester Eco Development**
Friends of the NW Bicester Eco Development will receive updates on the project and information about events and ways to contribute to the emerging scheme.
If you would like to become a Friend of the NW Bicester Eco Development contact info@p3eco.com or call 020 7930 3606 to give us your contact details for inclusion in the mailing list.
3. **P3Eco (Bicester)**
For more information about the eco development facilitators visit www.p3eco.uk.
4. **The Open Planning Week** included public drop-in sessions, a two day planning workshop for the professional team and invited members of the local community, and the Community Feedback session.
5. **The 'Masterplanning in Partnership'** process is a response to government guidance on eco towns and Cherwell District Council's draft core strategy to identify land at NW Bicester for an Eco development. P3Eco Ltd has brought together a consortium to develop a Masterplan for the site. The intention is to take a 'Masterplanning in Partnership' approach, which will allow anyone who wants to contribute to do so. Councillors, community representatives and members of the public from Bicester and the surrounding villages can be involved in the development of the proposals