

Appendix 27

Comments from young people

Cooper School Eco Bicester Information and Consultation Session, 13th October 2010

An Eco Bicester consultation event at Cooper School took place on 13th October 2010, available at the morning break and lunch break, plus used by a Year 10 science lesson. The exhibition boards from the pre-application consultation on the Exemplar were displayed and members of the project team on hand to explain and gather feedback. The CDC Eco Bicester Team were also present. Below is a summary of comments gathered:

The students were quite concerned that there should be social activities for the whole area, they didn't want the development to become isolated with people not forming a community spirit. A cinema was a popular request. Also popular was the idea of an active voluntary sector, with groups arranged for litter picking, tidying verges etc.

Concern was often expressed for neighbours, ensuring that people looked after each other, looking out for elderly and disabled neighbours, neighbourhood watch etc. Very supportive of a traditional village atmosphere.

Traffic was an issue for some. There needs to be proper traffic management with consideration given to both speeding and traffic jams. This should apply not only to the new development but to the surrounding areas.

The appearance of the new development was important. By and large the students wanted the new development to reflect the styles and traditions of the area around Bicester rather than some sort of radical new designs. Linked to this was their concern for the environment of the new development. They wanted to see lots of open space and more trees sustaining more wildlife. Once again litter came up along with ensuring that there were plenty of bins provided so that the environment stayed clean. Places to cycle and walk were important as well as places for ball games. Places to grow vegetables etc were mentioned by quite a few of the pupils, their idea was a farm where people could take a small area for growing their own food.

Fairness was quite a topical issue, one boy raised the issue of rented housing so that those that couldn't afford to buy wouldn't be excluded, another one wanted to ensure that houses were a "fair" price so that people could afford them. This all harks back to the general feeling of creating a community.

Energy was a point many of the students mentioned, they would like to see wind turbines and solar panels used extensively. One girl mentioned "cars that run on water", in essence a hydrogen fuel cell car - maybe one for the future!

A few of the pupils were obviously looking to the future and concerned about jobs and training, they wanted to make sure that as people moved into the new houses that there were jobs for them.

Suggestions which are unlikely to be developed were McDonalds and an "Eco Primark" – but the ideas of fast food and ethical shopping do have resonance.

Bicester Youth Council: Eco Bicester Youth Consultation Evening, 20th October 2010

The Bicester Youth Council promoted an Eco Bicester Youth Consultation Evening on 20th October 2010. The pre-application consultation exhibition boards were on display and a member of the project team attended, alongside members of the Eco Bicester Team at CDC. A presentation was given by Cllr Barry Wood, Leader of CDC. The following is a summary of comments gathered. In attendance were 4 young members of the youth council and 3 other young attendees.

Comments made during the discussion were:

- Open spaces - want range of facilities for all ages - other than just football pitches look at other sports such as netball, athletics, basketball, cycle tracks - also something to deal with general loitering
- Community facilities that can be used by young people - at the moment nowhere really in Bicester for them to meet and socialise and have parties without alcohol for 14 - 18 year old.
- There is a gap in Bicester for 18-21 age range - not much to do and everybody has to travel to Oxford to socialise go to concerts etc.
- Bus Service - have loop that goes around the outskirts of Bicester - near Southwold, Bure Park, Caversfield etc. There should be a link or improved bus service to Wendlebury, Heyford as only runs every 2 hours. Request for better transport links to put in place before the new housing was built.
- Study areas - There was support for the proposed hot desk area in the Eco Business Centre and they asked if there could be a link for young people to meet and work on study projects

together - Barry Wood also mentioned that there were plans for a new 2 storey library in Bicester which would have a study area on the second floor;

- Jobs - general need for higher paid and different type of jobs - no options for creative type jobs in Bicester with studio facilities;

- College of FE - at the moment most young people travelling out of Bicester for FE - Jenny Barker of CDC mentioned that they are reviewing options for a college at South West development instead of a new school;

- There was interest in a self build option on the development in future phases.

- Also interest in house share provision and strong call for affordable housing for young people;

- Introduce a new 'peoples park'

- Information is too complicated – request for simpler information regarding the exemplar/eco town for them to use for consultation in the future.