

Annex 8

7 June 2010

ECO TOWN CONSULTATION OFF TO A GREAT START STILL TIME TO CONTRIBUTE!

Over one hundred Bicester residents contributed to the first 'Masterplanning in Partnership' drop-in session at the Methodist Church Hall last Saturday (5 June 2010). During the session residents were able to learn more about the NW Bicester Eco Development and leave their thoughts and ideas behind. This was the first of three Public Drop-in sessions to take place in Bicester over the coming week. Two further drop-in events are taking place on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 June 2010.

The Public Drop-in sessions offer the residents of Bicester and the surrounding villages a chance to contribute their views and ideas to the early masterplanning stages of the proposed NW Bicester Eco Development. Public drop-in sessions are being held around Bicester town centre to ensure that those interested in the proposed eco development are involved and engaged - and that the project embraces the whole of Bicester and local villages. The events are being hosted by P3Eco (Bicester) who are facilitating the development of a masterplan for the site.

At the public drop-in session, people will have the chance to:

- Learn more about the aspirations for the project
- Contribute to the Masterplan
- Get involved with table-top activities where you can leave your comments on key themes
- Discuss the project with members of the team

Further public drop-in sessions are being held on:

- **Friday 11 June 11am – 4pm at the Courtyard Youth Arts Centre, Launton Road, Bicester**
- **Saturday 12 June 10am – 4pm at Bicester Resource Centre, Launton Road, Bicester**

Following the public drop-in sessions, a **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.

There is no need to register for the drop-in sessions.

Ian Inshaw, Chairman of P3Eco (Bicester) says: *"We are delighted the public drop-in sessions have started so well. It is invaluable for us to have the views and ideas of the Bicester community. I would urge people to come along as it is a unique opportunity to be involved a truly pioneering project. We hope that many more Bicester residents will be able to find the time to come along on Friday and Saturday this week (11 & 12 June)".*

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.

P3Eco (Bicester) established a consortium to develop proposals for an eco development in North West Bicester. This consortium includes housing provider A2Dominion and world renowned architects and masterplanners, Terry Farrell and Partners, working with Bicester Town Council, Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to ensure that Bicester is a pioneering model of environmental and community sustainability. This consortium determined to create a development which will gradually become an organic extension to Bicester, which sits comfortably with and enhances the town. It will add significantly to the profile of Bicester.

- 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 on 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** includes 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.