

Annex 7

1 June 2010

ECO TOWN TEAM WANTS YOUR VIEWS

AN INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

Between Saturday June 5 and Saturday June 12 2010, the residents of Bicester and the surrounding villages are being offered the 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

The public drop-in sessions are being held on:

- **Saturday 5 June 10am – 2pm at Methodist Church Hall, Sheep Street, Bicester**
- **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 have such a great opportunity to make this eco development a really outstanding place which provides good, sustainable and much needed housing as well as open spaces and community facilities for all. Most importantly, we want NW Bicester to have a natural connection to Bicester town centre. Involving everyone in the masterplanning from the start can help to ensure that this is achieved. We would like to see as many people as possible at the drop-in days and the community feedback session."

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 is 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.