



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
ON THURSDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2014 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor K. James - Chairman
Councillor D. Havard - Vice Chairman

Councillors:

M. Adams, C. Elsbury, S. Kent, J.A. Pritchard

Together with:

P. Cooke (Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment), S. Martin (Energy Officer), W. Grimstead (Area Principal Enforcement Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

WELCOME

The Panel welcomed Dan and Sarah Moody, who had been invited to the meeting to share their views and experiences of life on their One Planet Development at Nant y Cwm Farm.

A welcome was also extended to Wayne Grimstead, Area Principal Enforcement Officer, Caerphilly CBC, who had led the planning application submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Moody in 2013 under the One Planet Development policy.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs P. Cook and C.P. Mann.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel meeting held on 14th July 2014 (minute nos. 1-6) were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. ONE PLANET DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

Wayne Grimstead, Area Principal Enforcement Officer, Caerphilly CBC, presented the report, which outlined the background to the One Planet Development policy, which stems from Wales' Sustainable Development Scheme, "One Wales, One Planet". In 2010 Welsh Government published Technical Advice Note 6 "One Planet Development", Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities" as part of its commitment to "One Wales, One Planet" that "within the lifetime of a generation, Wales should use only its fair share of the earth's resources".

Members were informed that TAN 6 sets out a set of essential characteristics that all One Planet Developments in the open countryside must have viz: -

- They must have a light touch on the environment – positively enhancing the environment wherever possible through activities on the site.
- Be land based – the development must provide for the minimum needs of residents in terms of food, income, energy and waste assimilation in no more than five years.
- Have a low ecological footprint – the development must have an initial ecological footprint of 2.4 global hectares per person or less with a clear potential to move to 1.88 global hectares per person over time.
- Have very low carbon buildings – these are stringent requirements, requiring that buildings are low in carbon in both construction and use.
- Be defined and controlled by a binding management plan which is reviewed and updated every five years.
- Be bound by a clear statement that the development will be the sole residence for the proposed occupants.

One Planet Development in the open countryside is required to meet the minimum needs of residents in terms of food, income, energy and waste assimilation from the site. This means that it should be broadly self-sufficient, in ways, which have a low environmental impact. The policy also requires that a management plan, which will form the basis of a legal agreement relating to the occupation of the site, should accompany applications. The management plan should provide evidence that the proposals meet the exceptional nature of One Planet Development in the open countryside. Annual monitoring reports on progress are required and a full review after five years needs to be undertaken as part of the planning condition. Failure to fulfil the management plan if not corrected as the management plan envisages, can be addressed by planning enforcement measures.

The Panel noted the content of the Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note 6, "One Planet Development, Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities".

5. PRESENTATION - NANT Y CWM FARM, ONE PLANET DEVELOPMENT

The Panel welcomed Dan and Sarah Moody, who had been invited to the meeting to share their experiences of life on their One Planet Development at Nant y Cwm Farm.

It was noted that Caerphilly CBC had been the first Local Authority in Wales to grant planning permission under the One Planet Development. The application had created a lot of excitement throughout the network and another application had recently been granted in Pembrokeshire.

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6 "One Planet Development, Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities" which was published by Welsh Government in 2010 states that One Planet Development in the open countryside should provide for the minimum needs of the inhabitants in terms of income, food, energy and waste assimilation over a period of no more than five years from the commencement of work on the site. In addition to meeting planning

regulations, applicants are required to produce a detailed management plan and ecological footprint analysis, which demonstrates a commitment to sustainable living.

Members were advised that an independent body "One Planet Council" had been established to provide a bridge between applicants and local planning authorities with guidance and tools to support anyone making the transition to a more sustainable way of life. It also works with those who have already made the leap and with policy makers, academics and landowners.

As well as being invited to book launches and country fairs to talk about their experiences, references to Dan and Sarah, who hope to be able to help people to live more sustainable lives, have also appeared in various books and on relevant websites. In addition to producing meat, eggs and a wide range of fruit and vegetables on their farm, some of which is sold to local residents, they have a working horse and support different local causes, one of which is Kaleidoscope a charity, which helps people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

The Panel heard about the various courses run by the Council's RDP Team, which Dan and Sarah are attending e.g. basket weaving, chainsaw training and hedge laying. All of which are helping them to live more sustainably whilst acquiring additional skills. They are also working with the Council and the Ruperra Woodland Trust to show what can be built with locally sourced timber.

The Chair thanked Dan and Sarah for their extremely interesting account of life on their farm and a full discussion ensued. Members congratulated Dan and Sarah on their achievements to date and wished them well for the future.

6. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) BILL

On 7th July 2014 the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill was tabled as the start of its legislative journey. It is anticipated that it will receive Royal Assent in the Spring of 2015.

The Act is in four parts with sustainable development at its heart. The general purpose of the Act is to ensure the governance arrangements of public bodies, including local authorities, for improving the wellbeing of Wales take the needs of future generations into account. The aim is for public bodies to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Wales in accordance with the sustainable development principles.

Part 2, which is the main part of the Bill, provides an overview of the main provisions. It sets out 6 well-being goals against which all public bodies must set and publish well-being objectives that are designed to maximise their contribution to the achievement of these well-being goals. Public bodies covered by the Act, including local authorities, are required to publish annual reports of the progress they have made in meeting their well-being objectives.

The Act makes provision for the establishment of a public services board for each local authority area in Wales. The board will have the local authority, Local Health Board, Welsh Fire and Rescue Authority and Natural Resources Wales as members. In addition, the board must invite Welsh Ministers, the Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner and representatives of the probation service and voluntary organisations in the area.

The Panel noted the content of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill.

7. WLGA EARLY ADOPTERS PROGRAMME FOR THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS BILL

The WLGA has developed an "Early Adopters" programme for local authorities to start work towards the requirements of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill. The support from WLGA is free and will include an opportunity to help shape the guidance to support the

implementation of the Bill. Involvement in this programme will allow the Authority to continue to be at the leading edge of SD in Wales.

On 21st August 2014 Corporate Management Team approved a recommendation for Caerphilly to join the Early Adopters Programme. The first part of the programme involves senior officers completing an on line diagnostic questionnaire that will help to establish the starting point for each of the early adopter authorities. It is proposed to hold a workshop for those who completed the questionnaire to receive feedback on the results and to identify a "critical path of actions". This will form the basis for the work of the Authority as part of the programme.

The Panel noted the decision to join the WLGA programme as an "Early Adopter" for the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill.

The meeting closed at 6.20 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments being recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2015.

CHAIR