

# Community Blueprint - Consultation

Submission on behalf of the

Alresford Greening Campaign & Alresford Wildlife Group



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[www.alresfordgreening.org](http://www.alresfordgreening.org)

[www.alresfordwildlife.org](http://www.alresfordwildlife.org)

The AGC & AWG would like to propose policies, suggestions which are relevant to the town of New Alresford and the surrounding villages.

The three major issues which need to be addressed within the Community Blueprint should be Climate change (global warming), Peak Oil and Biodiversity loss (see definitions in appendix 1)

# Policies

## TRANSPORT

Cars are essential for our current way of life especially where people cannot travel by other means such as public transport, cycling or walking.

The efficiency of car travel should be increased in order to help reduce the pollution created by private car use through the following

- Increase/encourage car sharing
- increase/encourage alternative forms of transport such as walking, cycling, bus and rail
- Encourage more fuel efficient cars into the town - free parking for zero carbon emission vehicles and higher charges for the least efficient vehicles
- invest the money into better public transport links

## EDUCATION

Providing good education facilities is important for our town while also conserving our natural resources and reducing pollution within our town

- Support the redevelopment of school sites in order to provide new modern school buildings which are energy efficient, provide energy to the town, and enhances biodiversity
- All new buildings should be built to a very high standard to ensure that the buildings are carbon neutral and have zero carbon emissions
- make sure that the new buildings meet the requirements under the relevant scheme in relation to Green Schools or Eco School schemes

## JOBS

The challenges facing our community through climate change and the effect of peak oil should be an opportunity to promote new jobs within the town

- Localisation of the town's businesses is key to help adaptation to future climate change and the effects of peak oil
- Ensure that the low carbon economy provides local employment for local people to help reduce pollution into the local environment

## COMMUNITY

It is very important that the whole community is involved with the challenge of tackling the prospect of future climate change and the effects of peak oil.

- Promote local projects to help provide local food, community waste management such as recycling, composting and bioenergy schemes
- Help the local community to develop their own projects for energy conservation, wildlife habitat creation, and alternative transport links
- promote a movement away from the use of fossil fuels towards a more sustainable low to zero carbon economy

## **HOUSING**

There is recognition that there will be need for housing within Alresford and the surrounding villages. It is important that difficult decisions are made on a thorough understanding of where housing should be built - either on brownfield sites within the town or on greenfield sites to the east of the town

New housing should be/provide opportunities to

- Sustainable - following a zero carbon emission policy
- Use sustainable urban drainage systems
- follow a living roof policy to provide new habitats for wildlife, reduce water wastage, increase energy efficient of housing
- Provide permeable surfaces to water rather than impermeable services which increase flooding
- Rainwater and grey water harvesting systems should be standard on all new houses
- Retrofitting of existing housing stock to reduce carbon emissions - insulation, alternative power sources
- New estates should facilitate community waste projects - community composting, recycling and bioenergy schemes

## **BIODIVERSITY**

The environment of Alresford and the surrounding villages should recognise the important wildlife habitats which are found in the countryside and from within the town itself

All policies in the community blueprint should consider

- the impact on biodiversity, habitats and species within a given area throughout Winchester
- a plan of all the important habitats, species and designated sites should be clearly defined within each area
- the policies within the Winchester Biodiversity Action Plan and future publications relating to biodiversity in Alresford and the surrounding areas

- Areas for biodiversity projects to restore habitats and wildlife areas on areas which have been severely degraded due to agriculture
- increase the amount of biodiversity throughout the rural to urban areas of the community
- create opportunities for habitat creation through development schemes, community projects and through all the sections in the community blueprint

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

All the policies within the community blueprint should link together in order to adapt to the future prospect of climate change

- All communities should be encouraged to sign the declaration on climate change (by WInAcc see appendix 2) which states that carbon emissions should be reduced by 20% by the year 2012 with further reductions in pollution beyond 2025 in the region of over 50%

## **PEAK OIL**

Many communities in the UK are now working towards an Energy Descent Plan in light of the future after Peak oil (see definitions in appendix 1)

- This follows from communities who have been working on running projects within the initiative [in our case Alresford Greening Campaign] that reduce CO2 and increase resilience. The next stage would be working towards an EDP for the town.
- The EDAP involves the community coming together to create a vision of what, in 15 or 20 years, that locale might look like, feel like, sound like, smell like if it had successfully navigated its way through the imperatives to reduce CO2 emissions, increase resilience and rebuild its economic fabric. That visioning covers all the key areas noted above.

<http://www.transitionnetwork.org/support/jargon-buster#EDAP>

- The Community blueprint should adopt measures which enables communities such as Alresford to adopt such a plan through community action involving all the different themes in the blueprint (transport, housing, jobs, education etc) 2011 - 2026

## Appendix 1 - Definitions of climate change, peak oil & biodiversity loss

### Definitions

#### Climate Change -

*'Climate change is any systematic change in the weather which can be discerned when averaged over at least several tens of years. It might, for example, be a trend of steadily increasing temperature. Therefore, climate change is independent of the seasons because it happens on a much longer timescale. Climate change is usually observed on regional, continental or even global scales.'*

*Rising concentrations of greenhouse gases, mostly carbon dioxide, in the atmosphere from mankind's activities e.g. burning fossil fuels [is one of the drivers for future global warming or climate change]*

[http://www.winacc.org.uk/files/winacc/MinCard\\_what\\_is\\_CC.doc](http://www.winacc.org.uk/files/winacc/MinCard_what_is_CC.doc)

#### Peak Oil -

*'Peak oil is the simplest label for the problem of energy resource depletion, or more specifically, the peak in global oil production. Oil is a finite, non-renewable resource, one that has powered phenomenal economic and population growth over the last century and a half. The rate of oil 'production', meaning extraction and refining (currently about 85 million barrels/day), has grown almost every year of the last century.*

*Once we have used up about half of the original reserves, oil production becomes ever more likely stop growing and begin a terminal decline, hence 'peak'. The peak in oil production does not signify 'running out of oil', but it does mean the end of cheap oil, as we switch from a buyers' to a sellers' market. For economies leveraged on ever increasing quantities of cheap oil, the consequences may be dire. Without significant successful cultural reform, severe economic and social consequences seem inevitable.'*

<http://www.energybulletin.net/primer>

#### Biodiversity

*'Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is a term we use to describe the variety of life on Earth. It refers to the wide variety of ecosystems and living organisms: animals, plants, their habitats and their genes.'*

#### Why we need biodiversity?

*Our **food and energy security** strongly depend on biodiversity and so does our **vulnerability to natural hazards** such as fires and flooding. Biodiversity loss has negative effects on our **health, material wealth** and it largely limits our **freedom of choice**. As all cultures gain inspiration from or attach **spiritual and religious values** to ecosystems or their components – e.g. landscapes, trees, hills, rivers or particular species - biodiversity loss also strongly influences our **social relations**.*

<http://www.iucn.org/iyb/about/?gclid=CPjrsauu3KUCFVAf4Qods2nJ0A>

## Appendix 2 - Winchester Declaration on Climate Change

### 20:12 - The Winchester Declaration on Climate Change

- [View](#)
  - [Track](#)
- 

in

- [20:12](#)
- [Winchester Declaration on Climate Change](#)

**Major organisations in the Winchester District have pledged to reduce their carbon footprints in a pioneering local declaration on climate change. 20:12 is our target to cut the carbon footprint of Winchester district by 20% by 2012.**

[FAQ's](#)

[How to reduce your carbon footprint](#)

[More on Winchester Action on Climate Change](#)

Winchester District Strategic Partnership (WDSP) has been working with Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) on 20:12, the campaign to cut the carbon footprint of Winchester by 20% by the end of 2012.

The Winchester Declaration on Climate Change is the pledge for organisations to cut their own footprint. The Winchester Declaration on Climate Change was launched in January 2010 in central Winchester.



The first wave of organisations to sign up included the University of Winchester, Winchester Area Community Action, Winchester City Council and Winchester College. Winchester and Eastleigh HealthCare Trust is already working to a NHS scheme for carbon footprint reduction, but as a local public service organisation it has the same goals as the Winchester Declaration and has also signed. Since the launch, DC Leisure has also signed up. DC Leisure is the Council's partner which runs the River Park Leisure Centre.

**To sign up**, please download the PDF [HERE](#). Once opened, please print it off, fill in the name of your organisation and sign the form, and return to us at:

Winchester Action on Climate Change  
Room 9, Masters' Lodge  
West Downs Campus  
Winchester University  
Romsey Road  
Winchester, Hampshire  
SO22 4NR

## Appendix 3 – Examples of ecological/environmental measures within this submission

### Green/Brown – living roofs

Broadly speaking, a green roof is one with plants growing on its surface. This could range from a spontaneously occurring moss and lichen covered roof to a full-scale roof garden that includes trees, shrubs and hard landscaping features. The practice of roof planting in Europe is at its most technically advanced in Germany where green roofs have been fundamentally divided into two categories, *intensive* and *extensive*.

Intensive green roofs are roof gardens and like any garden provide space for people. They require the intensive management of a ground level garden, are usually based upon a thick soil or substrate layer and require artificial irrigation. Preferred plants are selected and the roof conditions created to support them. They are heavy systems and thus can have major structural implications for the building.

Extensive green roofs are not usually recreational (although extensive planting can be integrated with intensive systems). They have low management requirements and do not usually require artificial irrigation. Plants are selected that will succeed with only minimal modification of the normal roof conditions. Planting styles are usually naturalistic with the objective of establishing a self-sustaining plant community on the roof. Based on a thin layer of soils or substrates, they are lightweight systems with minimal structural implications for the building. The main reasons for installing an extensive green roof are visual appeal, reducing the environmental impact of the building, creating habitat for native flora and fauna, and enhancing building performance.

Read more <http://www.greenroof.co.uk/greenroofs.html#concept>



## Sustainable Urban Drainage systems

'Drainage systems can be developed in line with the ideals of sustainable development, by balancing the different issues that should be influencing the design. Surface water drainage methods that take account of quantity, quality and amenity issues are collectively referred to as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS). These systems are more sustainable than conventional drainage methods because they:

- Manage runoff flowrates, reducing the impact of urbanisation on flooding
- Protect or enhance water quality
- Are sympathetic to the environmental setting and the needs of the local community
- Provide a habitat for wildlife in urban watercourses
- Encourage natural groundwater recharge (where appropriate).

They do this by:

- Dealing with runoff close to where the rain falls
- Managing potential pollution at its source now and in the future
- Protecting water resources from point pollution (such as accidental spills) and diffuse sources.

They may also allow new development in areas where existing sewerage systems are close to full capacity, thereby enabling development within existing urban areas. Urban drainage is moving away from the conventional thinking of designing for flooding to balancing the impact of urban drainage on flood control, quality management and amenity.'



Reference -

[http://www.ciria.com/suds/cs\\_matchborough\\_school.htm](http://www.ciria.com/suds/cs_matchborough_school.htm) [http://www.ciria.com/suds/cs\\_lamb\\_drove.htm](http://www.ciria.com/suds/cs_lamb_drove.htm)

## Code for sustainable homes

The Code for Sustainable Homes became operational in England in April 2007 and a Code rating for new build homes became mandatory from 1 May 2008. Note: Developments where notice or plans were received by a local authority prior to 1 May 2008 are exempt.

Also from 1 of May 2008, a minimum of Code Level 3 is required for all new housing promoted or supported by the Welsh Assembly Government or their sponsored bodies and from 2nd June 2008, Code Level 3 is required for all new self-contained social housing in Northern Ireland. The Code does not apply in Scotland.

In April 2007, the Code replaced Ecohomes for the assessment of new housing in England. The Code is an environmental assessment method for new homes based upon BRE Global's Ecohomes and contains mandatory performance levels in 7 key areas.

- Energy efficiency/CO<sub>2</sub>
- Water efficiency
- Surface water management
- Site waste management
- Household waste management
- Use of materials
- Lifetime homes (applies to Code Level 6 only)

### Links – SUDS, Green roofs, BREAM & CSH

<http://www.ciria.com/suds/>

<http://www.grassroofcompany.co.uk/green-roofs-menu.htm>

<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/living-roofs.pdf>

<http://www.dustygedge.com/greenroofs.html>

<http://www.breeam.org/page.jsp?id=86>

<http://www.thecsh.co.uk/index.aspx>