

Sustainable Communities: Achievable? Or Essential?

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The challenge of sustainable communities

Better places...
... and a better planet

- The integration of environmental and social development goals
- Recognition of the environmental limits which we face
- Genuinely sustainable development

Sustainable Communities in a climate change context

- The need for major changes at a fundamental level if we are to achieve 60% or 80% by 2050
- Huge challenges to how and where we live
- We need to ensure that the benefits of moving to a low-carbon economy are delivered to everyone

Long term sustainable change requires:

- Good Policy
- Good Infrastructure
- Good Engagement

Without all these working together, then change is unlikely to be sustained or effective

Towards better policy

We need policies that support sustainable development for

- Housing
- Energy
- Transport
- Planning
- Health

(and all the rest...)

Towards better infrastructure

- the services we need to live our lives

- We need to design communities that help people live their lives in environmentally friendly ways.
- This is a particular challenge for new developments but also applies to regeneration and to all other change and development
- Huge opportunities for innovation

Towards better engagement

We need to

- Deliver real benefits
- Move from climate awareness to engagement to action
- Understand and recognise the extra benefits that come from collective and community action

Sustainable communities

- Not just a highly desirable aim for any locality
- Certainly not business as usual with low-energy lightbulbs
- A way to start the programme of transformation and engage wider audiences
- A way to help overcome nervousness about change
- A way to deliver better places and a safe planet