



EC SO6004: Sustainable Communities & Global Development

Theme 4: What is a Sustainable Community?

Part 2: Some Examples

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Sustainable Communities Examples and Models

UN Sustainability Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities



But what does a sustainable community look like?

For the rest of this Theme, we will explore various models and proposals for sustainable communities.

As we look at each example, make a note of any thoughts or questions that occur to you.



Sustainable Urban Communities

Transition Towns



*As you watch this short video, make a note of key points or
points for further research*



*'Interview with Ted Hopkins, Transition Network'
(The Green Interview, 2013)*



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Sustainable Urban Communities

Transition Towns – The Principles of Transition Towns

Head, Hearts and Hands

- Doing Transition successfully is about finding a balance between these:
- The Head: we act on the basis of the best information and evidence available and apply our collective intelligence to find better ways of living.
- The Heart: we work with compassion, valuing and paying attention to the emotional, psychological, relational and social aspects of the work we do.
- The Hands: we turn our vision and ideas into a tangible reality, initiating practical projects and starting to build a new, healthy economy in the place we live.

(Transition Network, 2021)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Transition Towns – The Principles of Transition Towns

- **We respect resource limits and create resilience** – The urgent need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, greatly reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and make wise use of precious resources is at the forefront of everything we do.
- **We promote inclusivity and social justice** – The most disadvantaged and powerless people in our societies are likely to be worst affected by rising fuel and food prices, resource shortages and extreme weather events. We want to increase the chances of all groups in society to live well, healthily and with sustainable livelihoods.
- **We adopt subsidiarity** (self-organisation and decision making at the appropriate level) – The intention of the Transition model is not to centralise or control decision making, but rather to work with everyone so that it is practiced at the most appropriate, practical and empowering level

(Transition Network, 2021)

Transition Towns – The Principles of Transition Towns

- **We pay attention to balance** – In responding to urgent, global challenges, individuals and groups can end up feeling stressed, closed or driven rather than open, connected and creative. We create space for reflection, celebration and rest to balance the times when we're busily getting things done. We explore different ways of working which engage our heads, hands and hearts and enable us to develop collaborative and trusting relationships.
- **We are part of an experimental, learning network** – Transition is a real-life, real-time global social experiment. Being part of a network means we can create change more quickly and more effectively, drawing on each other's experiences and insights. We want to acknowledge and learn from failure as well as success – if we're going to be bold and find new ways of living and working, we won't always get it right first time. We will be open about our processes and will actively seek and respond positively to feedback.

(Transition Network, 2021)

Transition Towns – The Principles of Transition Towns

- **We freely share ideas and power** – Transition is a grassroots movement, where ideas can be taken up rapidly, widely and effectively because each community takes ownership of the process themselves. Transition looks different in different places and we want to encourage rather than unhelpfully constrain that diversity.
- **We collaborate and look for synergies** – The Transition approach is to work together as a community, unleashing our collective genius to have a greater impact together than we can as individuals. We will look for opportunities to build creative and powerful partnerships across and beyond the Transition movement and develop a collaborative culture, finding links between projects, creating open decision-making processes and designing events and activities that help people make connections.

(Transition Network, 2021)

Transition Towns – The Principles of Transition Towns

- **We foster positive visioning and creativity** – Our primary focus is not on being against things, but on developing and promoting positive possibilities. We believe in using creative ways to engage and involve people, encouraging them to imagine the future they want to inhabit. The generation of new stories is central to this visioning work, as is having fun and celebrating success.

(Transition Network, 2021)

Transition Towns – Additional Information

- Elton, S. (2017) 'Transition Towns' *Alternatives Journal*, 43(2), pp. 20-23. Available at: [Transition Towns - ProQuest](#) [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- Flintoff, J.P. (2013) 'Local, self-sufficient, optimistic: are Transition Towns the way forward?' *The Guardian* Available at: [Local, self-sufficient, optimistic: are Transition Towns the way forward? | Transition towns | The Guardian](#) [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- Richardson, J., Nichols, A. and Henry, T. (2012) 'Do transition towns have the potential to promote health and well-being? A health impact assessment of a transition town initiative', *Public health (London)*, 126(11), pp. 982–989. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2012.07.009> [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- Taylor, P.J. (2012) 'Transition towns and world cities: towards green networks of cities', *Local environment*, 17(4), pp. 495–508. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2012.678310> [Accessed 31/10/2024]

Can you identify any links to the theories of Sustainability that we looked at in Theme 2?



Any thoughts or questions?



Sustainable Urban Communities

Liveable cities and towns



N.B. This link now take one to the UK COLLABORATORIUM FOR RESEARCH ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND CITIES

*As you watch this short video, make a note of key points or
points for further research*



The Liveable Cities Project
(Liveable Cities, 2014)



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Sustainable Urban Communities - Backcasting

- Although not mentioned specifically in the video this projects uses the principle of Backcasting.
- Unlike forecasting, which starts with predicting how things will change, backcasting asks “What do we want our cities to look like in the future?” and plans backwards from there
- [Backcasting in futures studies: a synthesized scholarly and planning approach to strategic smart sustainable city development – ProQuest](#)
- [Generating a vision for smart sustainable cities of the future: a scholarly backcasting approach - ProQuest](#)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities (sic)

- The links on the previous slide relate to UK Research
- We will now take a little time to look at the concept of Livable cities as it is being applied in San Francisco



(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities – Goals

1. Define Livability

- There are five fundamental aspects of great, livable cities:
- robust and complete neighborhoods,
- accessibility and sustainable mobility,
- a diverse and resilient local economy,
- vibrant public spaces, and
- affordability.

(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)*

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities – Goals

2. Reclaim the Streets

- The city should make walking a joy—safe, comfortable, interesting.
- The quality of sidewalks, parks, and plazas—life “between” buildings—is one of the ultimate signs of a healthy city.
- We recommend measures such as buffering pedestrians from traffic, reducing the speed of traffic on residential streets, and widening sidewalks.

(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities – Goals

3. Fast and Frequent Local Transit

- The best way to attract people to public transit is to make it the fastest way to get around.
- That means getting transit out of traffic. Imagine an express network of rapid transit buses and trains that took only 20 minutes to get all the way across town and came every five minutes!
- Focus on a set of core routes and then upgrade these lines to rapid and frequent service, using transit priority techniques such as bus-only lanes and bus-controlled traffic signals.

(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities – Goals

4. Connected Regional Transit.

- A livable, sustainable, and city depends on a robust, effective, and connected regional transit system.
- New jobs and housing in the region should be focused around the region's transit network.
- Such changes will start to provide choices in mobility to everyone in the region, laying the ground for a future when it will actually be easy to get around.

(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities – Goals

5. Safe and Comfortable Bicycling

- In a compact city where most trips are under five miles, bicycling could be a much more useful and popular mode of transportation.
- We just need safe places to ride and secure bicycle parking.
- Cities should build a comprehensive network of bicycle lanes, paths, traffic-calmed bike-priority streets, secure bicycle parking, and bike-sharing.

(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities – Goals

6. Living Gracefully with the Car

- We must accommodate the car, but let's do it gracefully. That means managing the supply of parking to make sure that cars don't overwhelm the capacity of the streets.
- We can use the market to allocate spaces for cars, instead of giving away parking "free."
- And we can design streets so cars can move efficiently, while still creating a good environment for the pedestrian.

(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities – Goals

7. Promote Car Sharing and Taxis

- Many people need a car for just a few trips each week. But if they own a car, they tend to use it far more than they have to, creating traffic congestion and occupying parking spaces.
- Car-sharing organizations and taxicabs make it possible for people to enjoy the benefits of car use without the burdens of car ownership.
- The cab system should be expanded and Car-Share locations spread throughout the city.

(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities – Goals

8. Making Housing More Affordable

- First, we need to spend a lot more money on affordable housing.
- And second, we need to encourage the construction of much more housing at all income levels.
- The city should up-zone around major transit nodes, re-zone industrial lands for housing, and conduct in-depth neighborhood planning efforts.
- The city's cultural diversity and livability hinge on our ability to build a pro-housing culture

(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities - Goals

9. Planning for a Better Future

- In many ways, the city is gripped by pessimism, only able to imagine things getting worse.
- Official city plans predict that congestion will increase and mobility will decrease. We can do better.
- We can ensure that over time, the city grows more healthy and livable.
- Comprehensive neighborhood planning can build consensus democratically about how to manage physical change.
- Transportation planning can help us make informed choices about what future we want.

(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)

Sustainable Urban Communities

Livable Cities – Goals

10. Paying For It

- Building and maintaining the infrastructure of livability – transportation, housing, streets, parks and public open spaces, libraries, utilities, etc. – is expensive, but there are many untapped resources that the city can turn to.
- These range from user fees to make sure cars pay their own way, to development impact fees, to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure investments.
- Smart investments in infrastructure and public places will be repaid many times over in the increased economic vitality and livability of the city.

(Livable Cities San Francisco, 2021)

Liveable Cities– Additional Information

- Lancaster University (2023) *Liveable Cities: Transforming the Engineering of Cities for Global and Societal Wellbeing* Available at: <http://imagination.lancaster.ac.uk/project/liveable-cities/> [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- Sustrans (No Date) *Liveable cities and towns for everyone* Available at: [Liveable cities and towns for everyone - Sustrans.org.uk](https://www.sustrans.org.uk/liveable-cities-and-towns-for-everyone) [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership (2007) *Liveable cities: the benefits of urban environmental planning* Available at: [liveablecities 3.pdf](#) [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership (No Date) Main Website Available at: [Home | One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership](#) [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- University College London (2023) *Liveable Cities* Available at: [Liveable Cities | UCL Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy - UCL – University College London](#) [Accessed /2024]

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Any thoughts or questions?



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Sustainable Communities Examples

20 Minute Neighbourhoods



As you watch this short video, make a note of key points or points for further research



20 Minute Neighbourhoods
(Glasgow University, 2023)



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The 20 Minute Neighbourhood

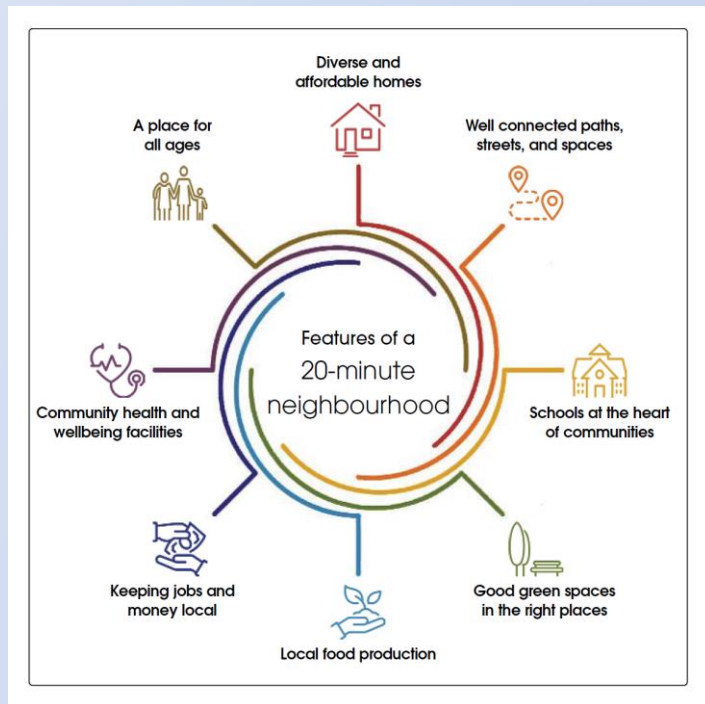
- This is a growing movement in Town and Country planning across the world.
- The 20-minute neighbourhood is all about living locally, giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home, with safe cycling and local transport options.
- The COVID-19 pandemic lockdown has put a spotlight on the importance of the livability of our local neighbourhoods, with people spending more time locally, working at home if possible, using public green space, cycling and walking instead of using cars and connecting with neighbours.

Town & Country Planning Association (2020)



What is this organisation?

20 Minute Neighbourhoods – Features



- 2.1 Diverse and affordable homes
- 2.2 Well connected paths, streets and spaces
- 2.3 Schools at the heart of communities
- 2.4 Good green spaces in the right places
- 2.5 Local food production
- 2.6 Keeping jobs and money local
- 2.7 Community health and wellbeing facilities
- 2.8 A place for all ages

(TCPA, 2021)



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Economic benefits of 20-minute neighbourhoods

- **Local businesses:** Investment in better streets and public spaces for pedestrians can boost footfall and trading by up to 40%, and can help to reduce retail vacancy in high streets and town centres.
- **Productivity:** Walkable environments with highly connected street networks are more likely to make a positive contribution to labour productivity.
- **New jobs:** Keeping investment local through community wealth-building can develop the skills of local people and create stable, well paying jobs.
- **Land value:** Investment in better place-making can boost land values by up to 25%. Walkable environments sustain and increase their value because they are popular places in which to live and do business.
- **Road congestion:** 58% of car journeys made in England in 2018 were under five miles long and could have been made by walking or cycling. Making active travel safer and more inviting can help to minimise traffic and unproductive congestion.

(TCPA, 2021)

Environmental benefits of 20-minute neighbourhoods

- **Air quality:** Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health, and results in up to 36,000 deaths per year in the UK, with vehicle emissions the largest source of air pollution. Evidence is also emerging which shows that air pollution increases the number and severity of COVID-19 cases.
- National and local government can help to reduce air pollution by promoting a shift from private cars to active travel. Urban greening, such as the introduction of street trees, can also help to improve air quality.
- **Climate resilience and mitigation:** Road transport is a major source of both greenhouse gases and air pollutants, with around a fifth (21%) of UK greenhouse gas emissions coming from road transport in 2017.
- Walkable environments assist in climate change mitigation by reducing the reliance on fossil fuels for transportation, as well as by supporting climate resilience through mitigation of the urban heat island effect.

(TCPA, 2021)

Environmental benefits of 20-minute neighbourhoods contd.

- **Energy efficiency:** Creating walkable environments provides opportunities to develop community district heating systems and zero-carbon homes, reducing the demand for non-sustainable sources of energy.
- **Biodiversity:** Planning for walkable environments offers opportunities to improve biodiversity, particularly when considering street connectivity and the movement of flora and fauna across landscapes.

(TCPA, 2021)

Health benefits of 20-minute neighbourhoods

- **Physical and mental health:** The physical and mental health benefits of regular physical activity are well established.
- Time spent walking in green spaces contributes directly to mental health and recovery.
- Those who walk and cycle to work are at a reduced risk of early death or illness compared with those who commute by car.

(TCPA, 2021)

Health benefits of 20-minute neighbourhoods contd.

- **Healthcare costs:** Physical inactivity is responsible for one in six deaths in the UK, and is estimated to cost the NHS up to £1 billion per annum.
- In England the economic and social costs of poor mental health amount to £105 billion a year.
- Encouraging people to become more active can improve physical and mental health, helping to relieve pressure on the NHS.
- Regular use of parks and green spaces saves the NHS £111 million each year, simply through a reduction in GP appointments.

(TCPA, 2021)

Health benefits of 20-minute neighbourhoods contd.

- **Accessible healthcare:** The NHS is increasingly trying to provide healthcare services close to where people live, thus reducing the need to travel to hospitals. 'Health hubs', or other local centres that bring together traditional healthcare services and voluntary groups, nurseries and libraries, can be co-located in high streets and other sites that already have good public transport links.
- **Healthy Diet:** Poor diet is associated with heart disease, stroke, cancers and type 2 diabetes, and people on lower incomes are more likely to suffer from these diet-related illnesses.
- Improving the local food environment in a walkable neighbourhood, through local food-growing, can enable people to access healthier options.

(TCPA, 2021)

Social benefits of 20-minute neighbourhoods

- **Sense of community:** Living in a walkable environment can support a sense of community and improve social interaction, as residents are more likely to know their neighbours and trust others, participate politically, and be involved in the community.
- **Safety:** Increased pedestrian activity in public space can improve perceptions of safety through passive surveillance that naturally aids the prevention of crime, with more 'eyes on the street'.
- Investment in **safe streets** can also reduce the number of traffic-related pedestrian injuries and deaths.

(TCPA, 2021)

Social benefits of 20-minute neighbourhoods contd.

- **Inclusiveness:** Creating a well-designed, more walkable environment provides opportunities to support inclusive design.
- Older people are more likely to engage in walking than in other forms of exercise, which can help to prevent ageing conditions such as arthritis, and
- Child-friendly streets allow for informal play and increased independence, which is important for child development

(TCPA, 2021)

20 Minute Neighbourhoods– Additional Information

- Future Generation Commission for Wales (2020) *How 20-minute neighbourhoods can help us fight the Climate Emergency and save our towns and cities* Available at: <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/news/climate-week-how-20-minute-neighbourhoods-can-help-us-fight-the-climate-emergency-and-save-our-towns-and-cities/> [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- O' Gorman, S. and Dillon-Robinson, R. (2021) 20 Minute Neighbourhoods in a Scottish Context. Ramboll. Available at: <https://era.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/37524> [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- Town & County Planning Association (2021) 20-Minute Neighbourhoods: Creating Healthier, Active, Prosperous Communities - An Introduction for Council Planners in England Available at : https://tcpa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/final_20mnguide-compressed.pdf [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- Town & County Planning Association (No Date) *Search Results: 20 Minute* Available at: [You searched for 20 minute - Town and Country Planning Association](#) [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- Van Holle, V. *et al.* (2014) 'Relationship between neighborhood walkability and older adults' physical activity: results from the Belgian Environmental Physical Activity Study in Seniors (BEPAS Seniors)', *The international journal of behavioral nutrition and physical activity*, 11(1), pp. 110–110. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12966-014-0110-3> [Accessed 31/10/2024]



Can you identify any links to the theories of Sustainability that we looked at in Theme 2?



Any thoughts or questions?



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Critical Thinking Question

How does this approach apply to rural communities?



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Sustainable Communities?

- In looking at Urban solutions to Sustainable Communities we have looked at a range of examples and identified positives and issues to be considered
- Before we move on to look at the concept as it is applied to rural communities, we will take a look at an interactive resource that helps illustrate some of the issues we have already discussed and will discuss in the next section.

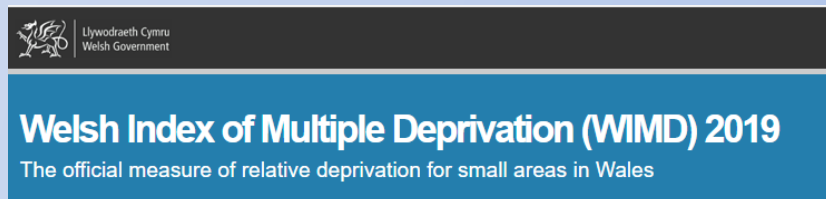
The Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)

- The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (of population) in Wales.
- It identifies areas with the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation.
- It is a National Statistic produced by statisticians at the Welsh Government.

(Welsh Government, 2024)

The Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)

- WIMD is a measure of multiple deprivation that is both an area-based measure and a measure of relative deprivation.
- WIMD is currently made up of eight separate domains (or types) of deprivation. Each domain is compiled from a range of different indicators.
 - Income
 - Employment
 - Health
 - Education
 - Access to Services
 - Community Safety
 - Physical Environment
 - Housing



(Welsh Government, 2024)

Sustainable Rural Communities

- Transition Towns, Liveable Cities and 20 Minute neighbourhoods are all focused on sustainability in an urban setting
- We will now turn to look at some approaches that are focused on rural communities
- Once again, it should be noted that we cannot look at them in any detail
- If this aspect interests you then please focus on this in your independent study.

Sustainable Rural Communities

One Planet Living



As you watch this short video, make a note of key points or points for further research



**‘The Community Living Off Grid In Wales’
(Context, 2018)**



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One Planet Living – 10 Good Reasons

Sustainable Low-Impact Homes

- One Planet homes are required to have minimal visual and environmental impact.
- They must be constructed from sustainable or recycled materials, locally sourced where possible.
- Buildings must be energy efficient and generate their own renewable electricity and heat.
- Innovation and different styles of construction are encouraged as long as they comply with the stringent planning standards and meet building regulations.

(One Planet Council, No date)

One Planet Living – 10 Good Reasons

Creating sustainable livelihoods

- Practitioners of One Planet Development in the open countryside are required to meet their basic household needs (food, energy, water, waste assimilation, and money to pay for IT/communications, council tax, clothing, and transport) from land-based activity within a 5 year period.
- A robust management plan is required at planning application stage to show how these needs will be met and to demonstrate the economic feasibility of the enterprises.

(One Planet Council, No date)

One Planet Living – 10 Good Reasons

Affordable housing

- One Planet Development requires the construction of simple, well functioning dwellings tied into sustainable land management.
- The necessity for self-build and the resourceful use of materials, means that they are much less expensive than the average home, even when constructed to a conventionally accepted standard.

(One Planet Council, No date)

One Planet Living – 10 Good Reasons

Increased land productivity

- One Planet Developments promote more labour-intensive food production which uses less chemical input but can still be highly productive.
- This is due to the extra human input of small-scale gardening, as opposed to huge monocrops which rely upon heavy machinery and artificial pesticides and fertilisers.
- In addition, OPD practitioners make “value added” small-scale products rather than relying on bulk sales with small profit margins.

(One Planet Council, No date)

One Planet Living – 10 Good Reasons

Good for the land and wildlife

- One Planet practitioners have a duty to conserve and enhance the biodiversity, cultural heritage and landscape of a site.
- The existing ecology is carefully preserved and enhanced by planting hedgerows, orchards and wetlands, as appropriate to the location.
- Produce is grown without the use of pesticides, herbicides or artificial fertilisers by using methods such as companion planting, soil care and encouraging natural predators of pests.

(One Planet Council, No date)

One Planet Living – 10 Good Reasons

Efficient use of natural resources

- One Planet Developments are required to harvest their own energy using old and new renewable technologies.
- Water is sourced on site from springs, streams or rainwater collection, and wastewater is processed on site with the nutrients reused to encourage biodiversity and fertility.
- Composting of all biodegradable waste and non-biodegradable waste is minimised, re-used where possible and re-cycled off site as a last resort.

(One Planet Council, No date)

One Planet Living – 10 Good Reasons

Sustainable transport

- One Planet Developments are structured around a low-transport lifestyle, with residents living and working on the same site.
- Sites should be located within walking or cycling reach of public transport and local communities to reduce vehicle dependence.

(One Planet Council, No date)

One Planet Living – 10 Good Reasons

Measurable

- One Planet Development is quantified by ecological footprinting, which shows how much of the Earth's resources people are consuming.
- When households reduce their own ecological footprints this helps their country reduce its overall footprint.
- Practitioners are required to log specific inputs and outputs so that data can be monitored for planning and research purposes.

(One Planet Council, No date)

One Planet Living – 10 Good Reasons

Good for the local community

- One Planet Developments have much to offer both rural and urban communities.
- Surplus food and other land-based produce and crafts are sold locally to generate income, which reduces food miles by offering affordable, fresh, healthy food.
- Open days provide a way for people to experience different examples of sustainable living.
- Educational courses bring people together to share tools, skills and resources.
- Employment opportunities such as apprenticeships may arise from land based enterprises.

(One Planet Council, No date)

One Planet Living – 10 Good Reasons

Good for Wales and the planet

- One Planet Development is open to people from all walks of life.
- The more developments that use different approaches to meet the targets and requirements above, the more exemplar models others will have to learn from.
- The Welsh Government have made a bold commitment to a sustainable future for current and future generations.
- This initiative can help Wales become an inspiration to people around the world.

(One Planet Council, No date)

One Planet Living – Additional Information

- Bioregional Development Group (No Date) *One Planet Living*® Available at: <https://www.bioregional.com/one-planet-living> [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- Harris, N. (2019) 'Exceptional Spaces for Sustainable Living: The Regulation of One Planet Developments in the Open Countryside', *Planning theory & practice*, 20(1), pp. 11–36. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649357.2018.1562562> [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- Thorpe, D. (2019) 'One planet' cities : sustaining humanity within planetary limits. London ;: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. Available at: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9780429463402/one-planet-cities-david-thorpe> [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- Welsh Government (2020) *One planet development: practice guidance* Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/one-planet-development-practice-guidance> [Accessed 31/10/2024]

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Any thoughts or questions?



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Sustainable Rural Communities: Some Other Examples



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Sustainable Rural Communities

Partnership for Sustainable Communities Livability Principles

- **It is important to note that this was a U.S. Federal Initiative**
- **Provide more transportation choices:** Develop safe, reliable, and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.
- **Promote equitable, affordable housing:** Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.

(US Partnership for Sustainable Communities, 2011)

Partnership for Sustainable Communities Livability Principles

- **Enhance economic competitiveness:** Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers, as well as expanded business access to markets.
- **Support existing communities:** Target federal funding toward existing communities—through strategies like transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling—to increase community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes.

(US Partnership for Sustainable Communities, 2011)

Partnership for Sustainable Communities Livability Principles

- **Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment:** Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.
- **Value communities and neighborhoods:** Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods—rural, urban, or suburban.

(US Partnership for Sustainable Communities, 2011)

Sustainable Rural Communities: Additional Resources

- Shucksmith, M. (2009) *Sustainable Rural Communities: constructing sustainable places beyond cities*. [\(PDF\) Sustainable Rural Communities: constructing sustainable places beyond cities](#). [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- South Gloucestershire Council (2023) *Creating sustainable rural villages and settlements* Available at <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/publications/local-plan-2020-phase-1-issues-and-approaches/creating-sustainable-rural-villages-and-settlements> [Accessed 31/10/2024]
- United Nations (No Date) *Rural Development* Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/rural-development> [Accessed 31/12/2024]

What is Truly Sustainable?: Guided Learning

As we approach the end of this Theme we will take a moment to look at three more Welsh examples.

In each case, identify the strengths and weaknesses.

Can you detect the influence of any of the eco-theories that we have looked at previously in the examples?.

**Lammas Eco-Village
Crymych
Pembrokeshire**

3



**Tipi Village
Nr. Cwmdu
Carmarthenshire**

4



**Brithdir Mawr,
Pembrokeshire**

5



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Critical Thinking Question

Can these approaches be applied to the whole population?



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Sustainable Communities

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Response

- We have seen that the Town & Country Planning Association are engaging with this issue
- So too have RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects)
- Thus, two of the UK organisations involved in planning and designing our communities are taking this issue seriously
- Before we collect our final thoughts we will take a brief look at the RIBA sustainable outcomes

Sustainable Communities

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Response

- The RIBA sustainable outcomes are:
- Net zero operational carbon
- Net zero embodied carbon
- Sustainable water cycle
- Sustainable connectivity and transport
- Sustainable land use and bio-diversity
- Good health and wellbeing
- Sustainable communities and social value
- Sustainable life cycle cost

Critical analysis: Final Thoughts

- Think about a community you know/ are familiar with...
- Do you think these aims are achievable in a community?
- If so how can it be achieved?
- What are the challenges?
- Consider the definitions of sustainability we discussed earlier, how does the model espoused stand up to green theoretical perspectives?
- Consider the Examples we have looked at in this Theme

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