

EC SO6004: Sustainable Communities & Global Development

Theme 4: What is a Sustainable Community?

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Re-cap: The 3 Elements of Sustainability

What are the three elements of sustainability that we looked at?



Economic Growth (Profit)

**Environmental
Protection
(Planet)**

**Equity / Social
Justice (People)**

What is a sustainable community?

Drawing on what we have already studied with regard to sustainability, share your thoughts on what makes a sustainable community.

In your discussions you need to consider what a sustainable community would look like in terms of;

- Economic factors
- Environmental factors
- Social Factors



What is a sustainable community?

Definition of a 'sustainable community'

- Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.
- They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life.
- They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.

(Department for Communities and Local Government, 2005)*

What is a sustainable community?

For communities to be sustainable, they must offer:

- decent homes at prices people can afford
- good public transport
- schools
- hospitals
- shops
- a clean, safe environment.

People also need open public space where they can relax and interact and the ability to have a say on the way their neighbourhood is run.

([Department for Communities and Local Government](#), 2005)*



As researchers what can we infer from the fact that this has now been 'archived'?



What is a sustainable community?

Sustainable communities acknowledge the link between place and context

- i.e. the design of buildings and services etc. reflect the locality in terms of landscape, ecology, water and energy use etc.



Share your thoughts on the implications of this.

Sustainable communities promote the localisation of services

- Challenging the current trend of car reliance for shopping, accessing services
- Challenging 'out of town' locations for shops & services chosen because they are cheaper to build



Sustainable Communities – Access to Services

- One aspect of deprivation measured in the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is access to services
 - The move towards large ‘out of town’ developments means that access to services is an issue for deprived urban areas as well as rural areas
- ‘The purpose of this domain is to capture deprivation as a result of a household's inability to access a range of services considered necessary for day-to-day living. This covers both material deprivation (for example not being able to get food) and social aspects of deprivation (for example not being able to attend afterschool activities)’.

Sustainable Communities – Access to Services

The domain is calculated from the following indicators:

- average travel time by public and private transport to a food shop;
- average travel time by public and private transport to a GP surgery;
- average travel time by public and private transport to a primary school;
- average travel time by public and private transport to a secondary school;
- average travel time by public and private transport to a post office;
- average travel time by public and private transport to a public library;
- average travel time by public and private transport to a leisure centre;
- average travel time by public and private transport to a pharmacy;
- and
- average travel time by private transport to a petrol station.



What is a sustainable community?

Sustainable communities rebuild the relationship between the 'social capital' of the community and the locality



Handout 2: OECD – What is social capital?

- Local activities are organised and valued on the basis of local identity and need
- Put simply a sustainable community considers both people and place

Community groups and citizens are seen as partners in the process of planning and developing their community

= **'Co-production'**



Governance International – Co-production



Co-production Wales



NHS – Co-production



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Models of Sustainable Communities

- There are many models of sustainable communities just as there are many theories of sustainability
- It is important to remember that a 'model' is created in order to illustrate an argument or theory
- Models tend to be neat and tidy
- They represent an ideal model of society
- The reality is often more complex

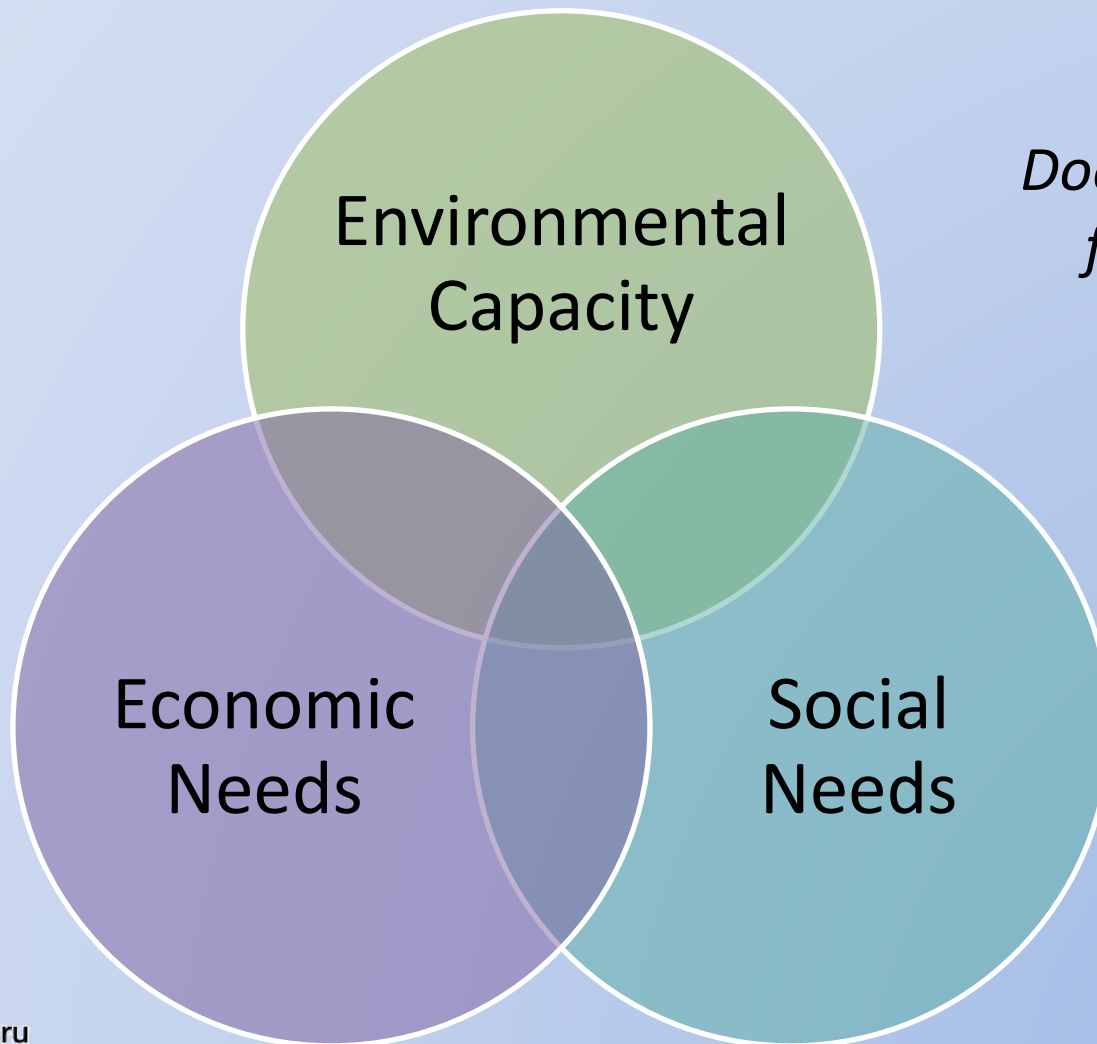
An IDEAL: The Eco-Village

- “The village would be a balanced community for people of all ages and incomes, where people can live, work and enjoy a vibrant community life, the majority without the need to commute and where everyone could feel a sense of personal belonging. It would provide affordable housing, work opportunities, food production, energy and water conservation as well as self-reliance for its residents in an ecologically aware and sensitive way”

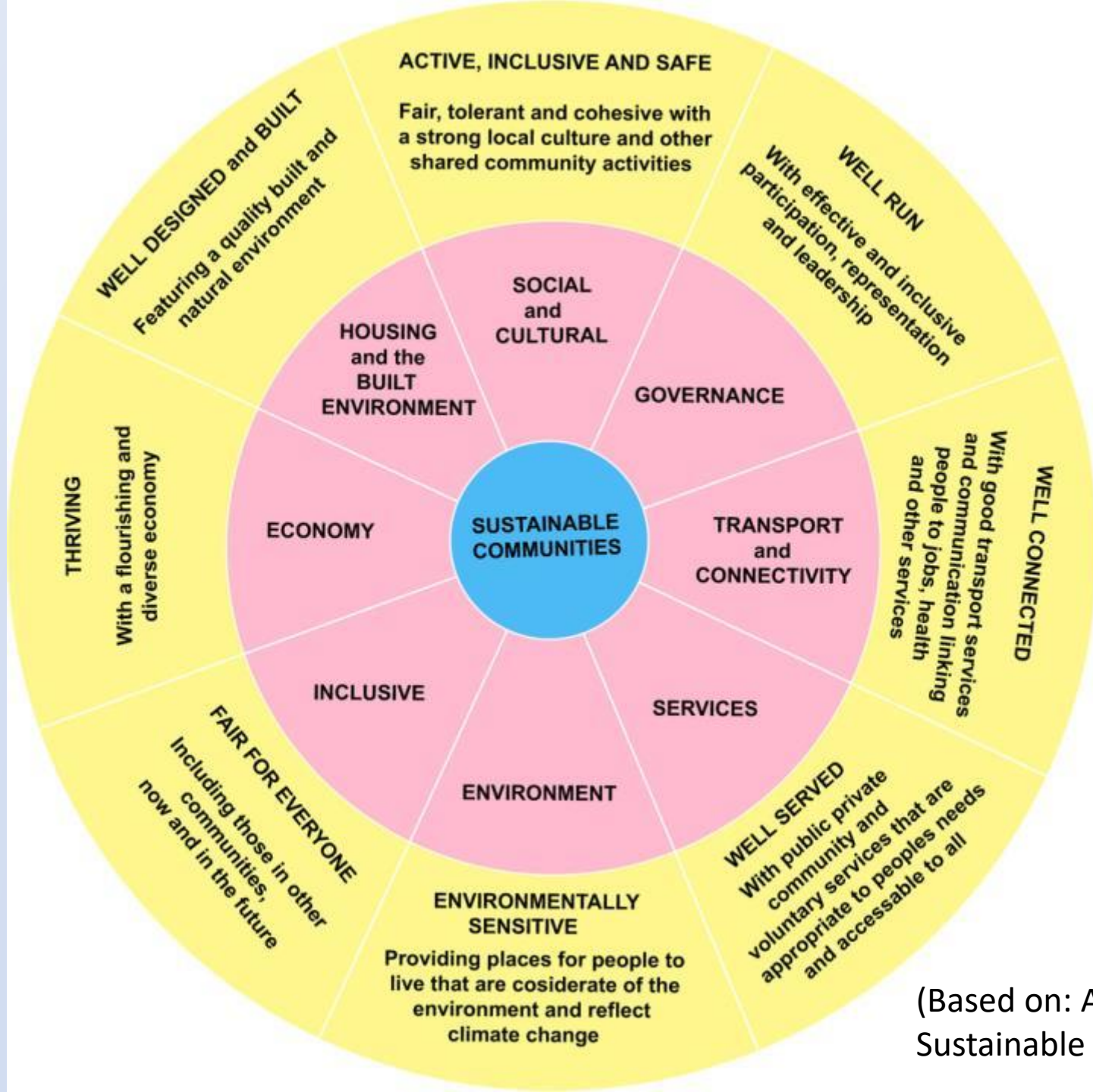
(Littlewood, 1998, *cited in* Barton, 2000, p.11)

'Sustainable Communities'

Barton's Model



Does this look familiar?



(Based on: Academy for Sustainable Communities, 2005)

What is a sustainable community?

Using the model of sustainable communities created by the Academy for Sustainable Communities re-evaluate your description of a sustainable community .

Is there anything that you would like to add to the description?

Is there anything that you would like to remove?



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.



The 20 Minute Neighbourhood

- Melbourne, Australia is one of the cities leading in this development.



What is a 20 minute neighbourhood?

Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning Victoria (2019)



A 20 Minute City

Melbourne School of Design (2013)



Living Locally: 20 Minute Neighbourhoods

Geography Teachers Association Victoria [GTAV] (2019)



What are your initial thoughts on this concept?

What is Truly Sustainable?: Guided Learning

Using the evaluation tool provided analyse the three video examples of experiments in sustainable living.

In each case, identify the strengths and weaknesses.

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

**Lammas Eco-Village
Crymych
Pembrokeshire**

3



**Tipi Village
Nr. Cwmdu
Carmarthenshire**

4



**Brithdir Mawr,
Pembrokeshire**

5



***We will discuss our findings in
the next tutorial session.***



Other Useful Websites

Diggers and Dreamers: The Guide to Communal Living in Britain

[Diggers and Dreamers – Intentional Community in Britain](#)

Co-Production Network Wales

[Co-production Network for Wales](#)

United Nations Development Plan: Sustainable Cities and Communities

[Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities - The Global Goals](#)

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