

Creating a Sustainable Swindon: Planning for OUR Communities' Future

Red Group

Workshop 2: Planning for Real

The group started the development of their community with the inclusion of a railway and river as the focus for the community to develop around. However, this created a few dilemmas by placing constraints on the further development as the group would have wished.

Members of the group suggested that the community should represent a redevelopment of Swindon, however this view changed as the community developed. In order to provide a focus for the community the group tried to define a population size, which initially was 3000, but later developed to 10,000 population.

There were a number of key things that the group highlighted:

- Key cycle routes around the community
- Recreational facilities focused around the river
- Green spaces and trees throughout the community
- Industry and employment located to the east of the community
- Schools and medical facilities provided adjacent together with shops as a central hub to the community
- Library and religious facilities provided for the community

The group suggested that the community was a Utopia and would not happen in reality as there were no existing constraints to development.

The group suggested that it would have been a better exercise if there were constraints placed upon the development of the community such as flooding, contours, rivers railways and major access roads. The group felt that this would then have provided a more realistic debate over where things should be located. The group also suggested that providing an outline of the population size and the facilities and services required as a minimum would have been helpful to the exercise.

In addition the group felt that there were too many options and elements to the exercise and would be better being reduced in number to concentrate on how community facilities are provided.

