

**Timsbury Environmental Sustainability Group
Response to the B&NES Core Strategy Consultation
January 2010**

Timsbury has established an Environmental Sustainability Group in order to respond to issues raised by villagers in the Village Plan questionnaire. The group is to recommend measures to secure a more sustainable and resilient life style for the community to the Parish Council. The membership of the group is as follows:

Tudor Croft
Sheila Matthews
David Packham
Sue Walker
Dave Watson

Below is the Response of the Environmental Sustainability Group to the Bath &North East Somerset Core Strategy Consultation questions concerning sustainability.

QUESTION DW6: Do you agree with the [district-wide renewable energy] targets suggested by the research or should we aim for higher targets?

Group Response

We share the government's view of the seriousness of the Climate Change issue, and that large reductions in CO₂ emissions seem to be needed, the higher 'technically feasible' targets should be aimed for.

QUESTION DW8: Do you think a local policy should be developed to support retro-fitting?

Group Response

This is well worth supporting with villagers being able to opt for one or more forms of retro-fitting.

QUESTION DW9: Do you agree with the targets [for on-site renewable energy generation] suggested by the Research?

Group Response

The 20% target is above that recommended in Revision2020: South West Renewables, Electricity, Heat and On-Site Generation Targets for 2020, and should be supported with a proviso that revision upwards might be considered as technology and opportunity develop.

QUESTION DW10: Do you agree with the threshold (10 dwellings) [above which developers should have to apply the on-site renewable energy generation targets]?

Group Response

There is some support for the view that same requirements should apply to all developments, because this will increase demand for such technology and so bring the price down. Other members considered that there might be practical difficulties in applying as strict criteria to smaller developments, so different criteria should be applied to these.

QUESTION DW11: Do you agree that major development should meet higher targets than national standard?

Group Response

As new housing could well be in use for over a century, serious consideration should be given to introducing the "zero carbon" standard immediately.

QUESTION DW12: Do you agree with the threshold or should it be lower? [i.e. what constitutes a major development]

Group Response

As new housing could well be in use for over a century, serious consideration should be given to introducing the "zero carbon" standard immediately.

QUESTION DW13: Should the [sustainability] Checklist be required as part of planning applications?

Group Response

These should be required. Such a checklist should lead to a greater degree of compliance, have evidence to support it and commitments indicated in it should become a condition within the planning permission.