The reality of creating sustainable communities
2nd December, London

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Project – Sustainable Training

Project Drivers

- Test out a Sustainable Design Review Panel
- Deliver training on sustainable design to planning officers

Participants:
- RB Kingston
- LB Barking
- LB Barnet
- LB Islington
- GLA

Submit details of live planning applications

SDRP Review

15 projects reviewed

Criticisms of projects delivered to planning teams in workshops
Sustainable Design Review Panel

Dr Ben Croxford (UCL)  Air Quality
Professor Barry Gibbs (Liverpool)  Noise Quality
Professor Cedo Maksimovic (Imperial)  Urban Water Management
Dr John Mardaljevic (De Montford)  Lighting and Microclimate
Dr Mike Davies (UCL)  Building Design (Energy)
Dr Rajat Gupta (Brookes)  Urban Carbon Emissions
Dr Aylin Orbasli (Brookes)  Conservation / Building Re-use
Professor Julienne Hanson (UCL)  Inclusive Design
Professor Alan Penn (UCL)  Space Syntax / Security
Professor Nick Bailey (Westminster)  Community Consultation
Professor Yvonne Rydin (UCL)  Sustainability / Planning
Dr Philip James (Salford)  Urban Ecology
Dr David Shiers (Brookes)  Green Materials
The Alternative UrbanBuzz

• Working definition of Sustainability

• Skills verses System
Sustainability

The Triple Bottom Line

Commercial

Society
Compensation

Environmental
Mitigation

S106 (planning gain)
Environmental Economics

David Pearce’s work on externalities

- PROFIT CENTRE
- social detriment
- environmental impact
- externalities
Sustainability?

- Environmental impact
- Externalities
- Social detriment

Location: London
Sustainability?

- Social detriment
- Environmental impact
- Externalities

BARNET
What are Sustainability Statements?

in the individual development context …

presumption of outcome of political process!

If the Triple Bottom Line is our working definition of sustainability, then that is exactly what our planning process has always sought to do … since 1947!
What are Sustainability Appraisals?

Since 2005, SAs are required for each and every piece of new planning guidance and policy for the whole UK.

Based on the defined purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal process as:

“... to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations ...”

Where Sustainability is defined as:

“Sustainability issues = The full cross-section of sustainability issues, including social, environmental and economic factors.”

TAUTOLOGICAL HOGWASH???
Consultants dream – “money for old rope”
Other Definitions

**Brundtland Definition**
"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present **without** compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

**Quadruple Bottom Line (EU / UN)**
- Economic
- Social
- Environmental
- Institutional

**Quintuple Bottom Line (SDC)**
- Healthy Society
- Environmental Limits
- Sustainable Economy
- Good Governance
- Sound Science
The Alternative Urban Buzz

Are we lacking the skills to deliver?

or

Are the structures we are using entirely inappropriate to the job?
Day in the career of a planning officer

Education

- Primary School Report
  “shows good promise understanding maps”
- A Levels include geography
- Degree in geography or planning or some other social sciences
Day in the career of a planning officer
First day as a planning officer

- Conservation
- Air Quality
- Hydrology
- Secured by Design

- Chemistry (contamination)
- Contract Law
- Acoustics
- Waste Management

- Archaeology
- Ecology
- Urban Water Management
- Lighting

- Consultation Techniques
- Building Services
- Microclimate

- Renewable Technologies
- Inclusive Design
- Building Physics

- Space Syntax
- Life Cycle Analysis
- Accessibility

Secured by Design

Urban Buzz
Leading Sustainable Communities
Day in the career of a planning officer
Second day as a planning officer
Day in the career of a planning officer
Third day as a planning officer

Pass the buck to Building Control

2016
Some lateral thinking

Germany
Sweden

New property owner able to sue developer if energy performance of dwelling does not meet specific performance standard,
… measured over first two years of occupation.

Might help our house builders focus some energy on their customer satisfaction,
which is notoriously poor.
Solutions?

Sustainable Development definition

- In the project context – understand it for what it is
- Outside of projects
  - drop the Sustainability Appraisal malarkey
  - initiate a proper Carbon Appraisal

Skills or Structure

- Now is the time to think through the issue properly
- Remit of Killean-Pretty was far too limited
Thank You