

# Building Sustainable Communities

**Seminar three:** The link between environmental sustainability and participation – how can sustainable lifestyles and behaviour change be encouraged in new housing developments and how does this link to participation?



# Context

## Housing Green Paper

- Four existing growth points
- 29 'New growth points'
- Eco towns

## Empowerment Agenda

- Quality of services
- Community empowerment
- Civic participation

## Environmental sustainability Agenda

- CO2 reduction
- Tackling waste
- Behaviour change



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# Promoting environmentally behaviour

- Balance to be struck between what can be ‘designed in’ and what is down to individuals

When considering physical design features that can be included in a settlement from the outset there is a role for:

- Regulation & targets – e.g. building regulations, zero-carbon target for 2016
- Integrated infrastructure, considered from the outset
- Re-evaluation of cost and risk?



# Behaviour change

- How can you market pro-environmental behaviour as a positive change to people's lives and communities?
- Do we need different strategies for the groups Defra identified within the UK population?
  1. Positive greens
  2. Waste watchers
  3. Concerned consumers
  4. Sideline supporters
  5. Cautious participants
  6. Stalled starters
  7. Honestly disengaged



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# What is a sustainable community: two views

## 1 Institutional

- Governance
- Social and Cultural
- Housing & the built environment
- Economy
- Environmental
- Services
- Transport & Connectivity



Source: Egan Review: skills for sustainable communities, 2004



## 2 An alternative view

- Physical boundaries to promote geographical identity
- Visible leadership
- Rules and laws specific to the area, e.g. car free areas
- Possibly shared belief system, e.g. garden cities, new towns, eco-cities
- Strong social relationships, networks & bonds
- Local myths & stories
- Rituals and rhythms



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# What does success look like?



- unemployment
- low social capital
- little physical movement
- low expectations



- employment
- social capital
- movement
- aspiration



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# Aims of the seminars

To examine **transferable lessons** from previous experience

To stimulate **discussion** into the best ways forward

To **bring together** the **interests** that need to work together:

- Agencies (including the new Homes and Communities Agency)
- Housing providers
- Local authorities
- Third sector organisations



# The four seminars

## 1. 28<sup>th</sup> April – London

Building forms of stewardship that encourage participation in new developments

## 2. 19<sup>th</sup> May - Birmingham

The tensions between national policy aspirations and what residents want

## 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Manchester

The link between environmental sustainability and participation

## 4. 30<sup>th</sup> June – Milton Keynes

Constructing longer term stewardship and governance`



# Agenda

- 13.00 – 13.15** Topic introduction
- 13.15 – 14.25** Exploring international examples
- 14.40 – 15.40** Sustrans' work in Bristol
- 15.40 – 16.00** Whole group discussion





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# Peter Head ARUP



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# Hammarby Sjöstadt

## Stockholm, Sweden



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# History of the site

- Privately owned land
- Ex-industrial area
- Heavily polluted site – had been used by industrial squatters
- Identified in the early 1990s as a site for new housing – as part of wider city plans to accommodate a projected population rise
- Originally part of an Olympic bid for the 2004 games – intended to be the first sustainable athlete's village



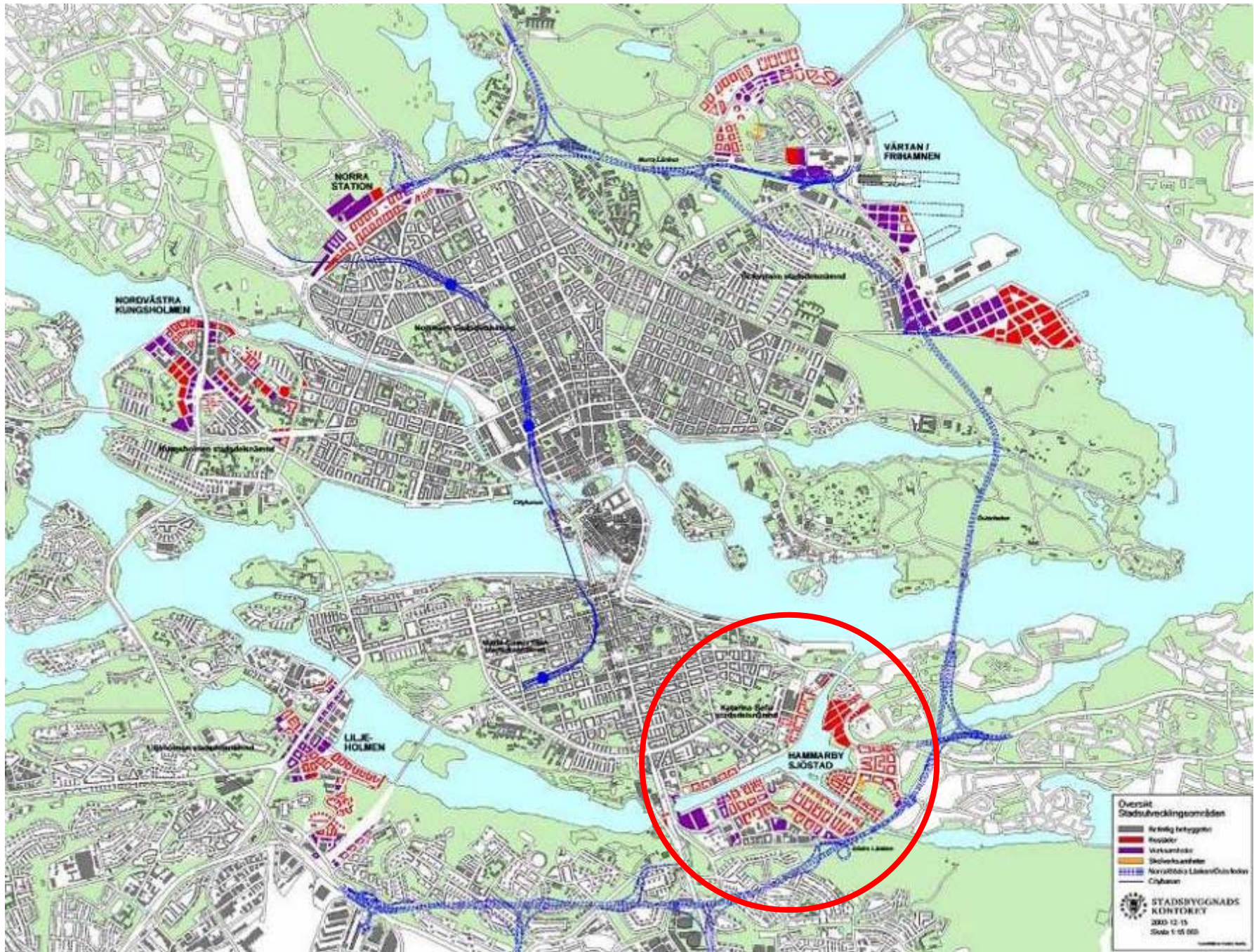
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# Infrastructure

## Transport

- Public transport: two new bus routes (fuelled by bio gas)
- New tram system
- New ferry service (bikes allowed on)
- Car sharing scheme (cars partly fuelled by bio gas)
- Road lowered by two metres on periphery of scheme to reduce impact of noise and emissions



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## Heat and waste

- Envac waste collection system to eliminate the need for garbage trucks and to facilitate separation of waste
- Accommodation linked up to the existing district heating and cooling plants which are fuelled by bio gas and collected waste
- Sewage from the area linked to existing processing plants to generate bio-gas and heat energy





## Social infrastructure

- 4 or 5 schools in the area, including crèches built into the ground floor of some of the apartment blocks
- Used some of the spoil to build a slope for skiing in the winter
- Boardwalks built through the reed-beds
- Linear green spaces threading through the whole masterplan to connect through to a nature reserve nearby
- Restaurants and shops at ground level of the apartment block. Cultural space under construction now



# Housing

- 6,600 of 11,000 units already built
- Restrictions on certain building materials e.g. pvc, copper
- Some apartment blocks have solar cells or solar panels that provide around 50% of their hot water
- High density housing – around 100 units / ha



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# Successes (transferable?)

- Use of targets to galvanise action – but relaxed culture when targets not met
- Competition between developers (up to 40 used) to drive up their standards
- Planning applications based on life-cycle analysis – encourages people to consider longer-term costs of various technologies
- 48% of energy used in development from renewable sources
- Average carbon emissions for Swedes close to global average



- 75% down to design, 25% down to individual behaviour. Still challenging to encourage people to change their behaviour
- Have centre on site to provide education about behaviour change. Had popular 'From toilet to omelette' exhibition



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## and less successful...

- Original plan was for 0.2 car parking spaces per unit but at present there are about 0.6 cars per unit. People were not happy about not having a space
- However, around 80% of commuting journeys are made sustainably. Car generally used for family outings at weekends
- Not legal to sell excess energy back to the grid – sometime excesses are wasted. Hoping law will change soon



# Differing contexts

Some social factors totally different:

- no social housing in Sweden
- Living in apartments a social norm – partly due to few people living in cities historically
- Renting a social norm
- Political influence in some public housing companies regulates levels of rent for whole industry
- Landfill illegal



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# Alexandra Allen Sustrans



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