

Appendix A –Bicester Projects

Community Garden, Bicester Town Council provided disability persons the chance to grow their own produce in a working environment which meets their training and personal requirements. Since BTC started to buy in bedding plant stock, the nursery compound had become redundant; an existing glass house was removed to free space for a community garden. The space then provides an area for raised beds giving wheelchair/mobility vehicle access. The raised beds provide users of the garden access to grow at various different levels. The rear of the site was cleared and used as an open growing ground for minor disabilities. The site also includes pots and other growing containers required for growing seed onwards. Following a successful season, the users of the site use the produce to cook their own meals during the day at the centre located at the Garth.

Bryan House, a joint project of the Eco Bicester team and the Sanctuary Group, consists of 23 energy efficient affordable homes in Bicester, located in a Conservation Area. Completed in 2013, the development comprises a mix of rented and shared ownership homes all built to Levels 4 and 5 of the Code for Sustainable Homes – a first in the district. The overall reduction in energy usage is 70%. These properties have been monitored since construction by Oxford Brookes University allowing valuable lessons to be learnt on the construction and operation of higher code level housing. The monitoring of Bryan House is funded through TSB.

Insulation scheme

An Eco Bicester funded scheme to provide subsidised cavity and loft insulation to Bicester residents. During the 18 months period approximately 1700 installations were completed which represents 13% of the housing stock in Bicester. In total, £590,000 was invested directly into Bicester's housing stock.

Demonstration Building

The Eco Bicester Demonstration Building, built to PassivHaus standards, promoted CO2 and energy saving, creating a place for learning for it's over 3,000 visitors some from as far away as Australia and China. A varied programme of engagement activities were delivered during the two years it was open. The Demo House, as it became known, evolved into a well – used resource for the whole community, a full scale example of sustainable building (solar pv, super insulated, ground source heat pump, heat recovery system) all residents in Bicester could experience and use. The Demo House has now been deconstructed and is relocated to Warwickshire by SPAKS-SLC to also work as a demonstration building.

Cooper School

The new sixth form centre for Cooper School is a zero carbon building, built to BREAM standard very good including solar PV, ground source heat pump and a biomass boiler. This building includes real time energy monitoring in the main entrance, so that the building's performance is visible to staff and pupils on a daily basis. In terms of carbon the school has actually saved over 41.5 tonnes in its first year, which is the amount which it would have used had it pulled the energy from the national grid.

Travel behaviour

The Eco Bicester Travel Behaviour Demonstration Project has included a "Cycle for Bicester" scheme incorporating a cycling package comprising of 20 bicycles available

to loan, free bike fixing sessions (approximately 30 bikes fixed at each session), additional cycle parking (town centre and Bicester North Station) as well as minor changes to the cycling network including removal of barriers in Southwold and a cycle/pedestrian link (approximately 100m) adjacent to the Bure Park local centre west of the Banbury Road.

The cycle loan scheme ran between March 2012 and November 2012 and it is understood approximately 50 bikes were loaned to local residents using the Demonstration Building as the local facility for the scheme. Based on this take up, the scheme has continued to operate from March 2013 to today using the Bicester Green facilities as a collection point. It is understood that 7 bikes a month on average have been loaned to residents per months.

LEAF

The DECC funding initiative, dubbed **Leaf (Local Energy Assessment Fund)**, was applied for and funding used to assist residents in Highfield, a community in Bicester, to save money and energy in their homes. We organised free energy saving workshops and training in schools and in the community. In partnership with Oxford Brookes University, local community action group Grassroots Bicester and environmental charity BioRegional, we mapped 374 dwellings in the area of Highfield.

Green Deal Communities

To kick start DECC's flagship **Green Deal Communities** retrofitting project, the Pioneer Places funding provided for energy retrofits and to test the new Green Deal infrastructure. We have conducted 100 domestic and 10 non-domestic assessments with the results leading to the selection of 14 homes and 3 businesses to receive funded energy saving measures. The example buildings were then invited to take part in a Bicester Open Homes day to showcase their energy efficient homes to the community.

Bicester Green, which is part funded by the EcoBicester initiative and is a social enterprise entering its second year. Bicester Green's aim is to reduce waste, reduce hardship and reduce isolation by running a centre for re-use and sustainability. It facilitates the repair and re-use of household items from the Bicester area that would otherwise go to landfill. These repaired items are then sold to those in need. Their second hand bikes help people get around in Bicester in a healthy, sustainable and low cost way.

Heat Network

Funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Eco Town funding and Oxfordshire Council a technical and commercial feasibility study into a heat network is currently being undertaken. The aim is to use the heat from the energy from waste plant at Ardley (Viridor) to heat the homes in NW Bicester and subsequently the wider town. Expected completion of the study is summer 2015.

Eco Bicester Boiler Scheme

A subsidized scheme to receive £300 off a replacement boiler funded by the Eco Bicester team. Boilers account for around 60 per cent of what residents spend in a year on energy bills, so an efficient boiler makes a big difference. The scheme has started in April 2014 – so far 130 residents have registered their interest. To qualify

for the boiler cash back the old boiler must be rated D or as a rule of thumb if the boiler is older than 10 years it is likely to be rated D. This scheme supports the replacement of gas, LPG and oil boilers.

PhD student Oxford Brookes University

Eco Bicester team, A2Dominion and Bioregional as well as Oxford Brookes University are co-sponsoring a PhD student to assess the performance of NW Bicester homes on the first phase. The scope of the study is to review the performance of the buildings against the eco-town aspirations and the one planet community aspirations of the Exemplar as well as assessing data collected in the construction and post occupancy phase.

Living Lab

The Bicester Living Lab has been launched as a partnership project between A2 Dominion, BioRegional and the Eco Bicester team. The mission of the Bicester Living Lab is to bring world-leading research and innovation into sustainable buildings and communities within Bicester to enable the creation of a truly sustainable town for the 21st century and to build an ongoing framework of learning and improvement for the various sustainable initiatives and programmes. The website <http://bicesterlivinglab.org/about-the-living-lab> went live and contains presentations and images of the launch event.

John Paul II Community Centre

The John Paul II Centre fulfilled the ambition to build a new community centre for a Bicester Parish Church, and is currently the largest civic building in the UK to be certified PassivHaus. The formal opening took place in November 2011 and the venue is now available for use and hire.

The Garth / Bicester Town Council

The Garth, home to Bicester Town Council has received insulation applied to the inside face of all of its exterior walls plus secondary glazing for all of its windows, thanks to a grant from the government's Technology Strategy Board. The solution adopted by the council and its project partners BioRegional, architects and building consultants Ridge and Partners LLP and Oxford Brookes University, was to insulate the building's exterior walls from the inside using an advanced, computer-controlled technique. The expected energy reduction due to the insulation scheme is 30%.