

BIODIVERSITY DUTY WORKSHOP: PLAS TAN-Y-BWLCH, 13-14 October 2009

GROUP 1: SPORT & TOURISM

Major golf course development proposed for a coastal headland currently designated as a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive, for chough and peregrine falcon. Development would significantly alter local grassland habitats and threaten the viability of the chough population. Development would bring £150 million to the economy and employ 300 people during 3 years of construction - £1 million per annum and 50 jobs thereafter. Site associated with rural agricultural community. Current land use is low intensity pasture, also bird watching, walking. Local villagers divided on merits.

Ecosystem Services:

- 🌿 Food production.
- 🌿 Physical / mental health benefits for
- 🌿 Habitat for species

Visitors
Residents



Value £/€Unknown
Cost of loss - unknown

Strategic Approaches:

- 🌿 Maximise biodiversity benefit from development.
- 🌿 Maximise access for residents.
- 🌿 Unreliable figures on economic benefit (number of jobs as well as income) from developer.
- 🌿 All money generated from development would not be circulated within the local community.

This is an SPA: we would assume that development would be rejected as not in “overriding national interest”.

GROUP 2: EDUCATION

In a sprawling industrial town of 13,000 people, 1,500 children from disadvantaged and marginalised areas suffer from malnutrition, even though they all get three square meals a day. Physical and mental health suffers, as does academic performance.

Ecosystem Services:

- ↑ 🌳 Green lungs
- ↑ 🌳 Clean water
- ↑ 🌳 Productive soils
- ↓ 🌳 Good air quality

Strategic Approaches:

- 🌳 Local development planning
- 🌳 Green infrastructure - gyms, walks, social spaces, nature
- 🌳 Community schemes - allotments
- 🌳 Partnership with farmers + community } Food co-ops
- 🌳 Job creation
- 🌳 Make school focal centre for action
- 🌳 Involve politicians – champions
- 🌳 GPs cascade information through community

Health:

- 🌳 Poor diet
- 🌳 Poor mental health
- 🌳 Few opportunities for exercise
- 🌳 Breathing problems! Air quality
- 🌳 Contaminated land – soil / water quality
- 🌳 Child obesity, nutrient, mineral deficient
- 🌳 Teenage pregnancy
- 🌳 Addictions – smoking / alcohol / other drugs

Social:

- 🌳 Unemployment across all ages
- 🌳 Low expectations – low motivation issues
- 🌳 Dysfunctional families
- 🌳 Skills shortage – lack of expertise
- 🌳 Lack of green-space
- 🌳 Benefits dependency

Business:

- 🌳 Limited services
- ↓ 🌳 Fast food outlets selling processed food
- 🌳 No incentives for new business
- 🌳 No skills base – or limited skills base
- 🌳 Limited opportunities

GROUP 3: SUPERMARKETS

A small rural town (4,000 people), which was founded in 16th century suffered huge traffic congestion each day, until the town was by-passed by a new dual carriageway. The bypass cleared the congestion and attracted large out-of-town developments – Tesco, IKEA, McDonalds... – all built on surrounding agricultural land. A number of badger setts and commuting routes were affected by the development. Small businesses in the town suffer, local economy of the community collapses; not enough employment in the new developments to support all those unemployed, so many people move away. Affected landowners handsomely paid for their land.

Issues:

- 🌿 Economy collapse
- 🌿 Lost control of economy

Social Equality:

- 🌿 Some benefit lots / most don't
- 🌿 Local jobs replaced by less / poorly paid / low-skilled jobs
- 🌿 Community cohesion lost

Health:

- 🌿 Possible animal health issues (badgers / TB)
- 🌿 Mental health? Physical and other health issues related to poverty (diet / exercise etc).

Prevention:

- 🌿 Ecosystem goods and services pre-development
- 🌿 Regulation
- 🌿 Food production (agricultural)
- 🌿 Cultural / spiritual – strong communities (health)
- 🌿 Supporting

- ➔ Planning policy should address such development (out of town).
- ➔ Spatial planning approach – make 4,000 population town bigger with in-town shopping to make a viable economic unit, and use by-pass as part of expansion / economy package. Use CIL Section 106 for G1 package to enhance biodiversity / access / health agendas.
- ➔ Partnership of Chamber of Commerce / PCT / PC / LA / biodiversity network (NGO).



Develop masterplan / planning brief.

GROUP 4: URBAN DEVELOPMENT

A beautiful modern housing estate is built on the edge of a rapidly expanding conurbation in what is a very upmarket area. The adjacent landscape includes rolling farmland and woodland. There are adequate public and private social services, good schools and other modern infrastructure is well developed. The houses are all sold quickly. Two years later, families are growing, crime rates are practically zero, there is full employment and at least one person in every family has a terrible dose of worms.

Ecosystem Services:

- 🌿 Disease regulation breakdown
- 🌿 Damage to structure of ecosystem
- 🌿 Cultural attitude to wildlife

Strategic Solutions:

- 🌿 Partnership: Environmental health, NHS (GP), community council, waste management
- 🌿 Teach planners, developers

Residents



Health:

- 🌿 Worms and worse (eyesight loss)... bad publicity (potentially)
- 🌿 Stress

Social:

- 🌿 Price drop in houses
- 🌿 Stigma (people and wildlife)