

Summary of decisions reached at Exeter Ecocommunity Project meeting 9th February 2008

Exeter Ecocommunity project



Present: Chris, Andrew, Diana, Sue, Andy and Cally.

Apologies: Liz

Sue – went through the ground rules with us. All other points on page 8 ‘process’ of ‘Exeter Eco-village Project- the story so far’ were discussed.

Safe space

The idea of a meeting or place where issues discussed around how the group dynamics are working i.e. issues with each other was discussed. This would be a place we could get to know each other; expressing feelings, airing problems etc before they fester. Using a talking stick may be a way forward for this.

Meeting agendas

It was agreed that Diana would arrange agendas for meetings.

Our vision

A discussion was held regarding the vision for the community contained on p2-3 of ‘The Story So Far’ document. Comments/issues raised re: vision and principles included:

Issues relating to community commitment:

- How much time devoted to community activities?
- Defining boundary between personal and community
- Defining limits of commitment

Issues relating to inclusivity:

- How we change
- How we involve new people
- Process of review

Issues relating to low carbon/carbon neutrality:

- Clarity needed over terminology – what does carbon neutral actually mean?
- Something we should work towards?

Issues relating to land use

- Animals/livestock to be included; if these are to be kept they need to be looked after professionally
- Communal food production
- Do we want large scale food growing?
- Decided that in all cases, we should work to Soil Association standards (but not seek certification!)

Values

Diana discussed values and how they should impact on the community. She said it is important that people are happy with their own values - personal values - and that we should really think about them. An exercise was carried out which explored our most important values and the group ended up with some key values they believe are critical to the community – **sharing, simplicity, respect, integrity, trust/openness, vitality.**

Shadow Constitution

It was agreed that this document devised by Diana needs to be read, and comments listed, in readiness for our next meeting. Chris offered to find an example clause relating to how much, and by whom, money can be borrowed.