

Mr. Stephen Fisher
Town Clerk,
Ilminster Town Council,
North Street,
Ilminster

Dear Mr. Fisher,

Having attended the strategic planning evening, there are a number of issues I would like to raise with members of the town council although I recognise that many do not fall under the remit of the town council, but relate to District and County council responsibilities. However, before I raise them I would like to record my thanks to all the councillors who give up their time to try and improve the town, and who, I suspect, often receive considerable criticism and rarely are thanked. I, for one, am very grateful that there are civic-minded people like yourselves, and I would not wish to criticise as I have no inclination to do the job myself!

I am principally concerned about the unsuitability of Station Road to act as the main thoroughfare into the Town which the current Ditton Street closure, and the strategic plan are promoting. My observations are that:

1. With the one-way system (north to south) via Ditton Street, all traffic from Chard direction coming into Ilminster will be Via the Southfields roundabout. This is already the busiest route into town.
2. The proposals to build light industrial/business units on the Horlicks site is an admitted and worthy attempt to provide employment for people from the town to stop it becoming a 'dormitory town'. However, given that all of the town's population lives to the east of the site, and that many will choose to drive to work, this will inevitably increase traffic in a westerly direction along station road.

The consequence of these decisions, notwithstanding the growth in the town's population, will be (and has been over the past few years) considerably more traffic on Station Road.

I would ask the council to consider the following:

1. Station Road has no pavement at all along one side of the road for a significant stretch. If you live, as I do, on the north side of the road, you have to cross the road twice to walk into town.
2. There is no pedestrian crossing point on this section of the road.

3. There are 3 homes for the elderly, as well as Home Farm Park which has a high preponderance of quite elderly residents who have to cross this increasingly busy road.
4. The current allocated point for Wadham school pupils to catch their bus is on the north side of Station Road adjacent to the (now demolished) Lord Nelson Pub. They have to stand next to a wire fence (ironically with signs stating 'no children'), there is little room, building vans use the entrance where they stand, and there is no shelter. (They used to be able to stand under the tree in the car park). Moreover, the majority of the children who catch the bus have to either cross the busy road, or walk along the side of the road where there is no pavement.
5. Almost every morning there are large lorries who park along Station Road waiting for Bradfords to open. These obscure vision, making it difficult to cross the road and particularly to pull out of Home Farm Way.
6. Once the development of the Lord Nelson Site is completed, there is likely to be more cars parked along the side of the road, and also more traffic as a result.

I am fully aware that the county council are unlikely to accept that they need to spend money until there are sufficient accidents to 'warrant' or justify the expenditure, but I would hope that you would continue to lobby for improvements to this stretch of road.

I am also concerned about the Southfields roundabout itself. As was pointed out in a recent letter to the Chard and Ilminster News, the road marking as you approach the roundabout from South Petherton does not include an arrow pointing to Ilminster. The logical conclusion is that you should go round the roundabout and come off at the 6th exit. Of course most people avoid the hatched left hand lane, and indicate left in the centre lane. However on several occasions this has resulted in near misses as cars have sped across the hatched left hand lane trying to cut out a queue of waiting traffic. I hope that you can make representations to the highways dept. at County Hall to rectify the markings before there is a serious accident as a result.

Finally, can I raise the issue of dog bins. As one of a number of dog owners (mostly very responsible) in Home Farm Way, I fully support the policy spelt out in numerous notices on lampposts in the area, that owners should clean up after their dogs. The problem is that there are no dog bins anywhere near the area. I think the nearest is somewhere near Ilminster gym. Could we please have a dog bin at our end of town?

Once again, Thank you for the work you do, and I hope these comments be viewed, not as criticisms, but as honest concerns.

Yours sincerely





Swanmead Community School

Ditton Street
Ilminster
Somerset
TA19 0BL

Telephone: 01460 52431

Facsimile : 01460 55305

e-mail: office@swanmead.somerset.sch.uk

Web Address:

www.swanmeadmiddle.uk.org

Adult Learning & Leisure: 01460 53195

Headteacher: Paul Birbeck, BA (Hons) F.R.G.S.

Mr S Fisher
Town Clerk
Ilminster Town Council
The Council Offices

16th May 2007

Dear Steve

Strategic Vision for Ilminster

I have noted the contents of your letter dated 30 April 2007 addressed to the head teacher regarding your consultation exercise for Ilminster and in particular the provision of education.

You may be aware that over the last twelve months the governing body have been conducting a strategic options review on the future of Swanmead School and its role in providing relevant and appropriate and high quality education for Ilminster within the context of a County Area Review. Ilminster schools are currently in discussion with the Local Authority regarding this issue. Once the outcome of these discussions are known at the end of June, we will be happy to meet with the town council to share and discuss the outcome.

I note from your letter that your consultation ends on the 31st May. I trust you will explain to the ITC that we are pleased to contribute to your consultation but only when we have finalised our position.

In the meantime the governing body would ask, and indeed expect, that any comments the town council offer on the shape of education in Ilminster will acknowledge that the governing body at Swanmead and Greenfylde First School are working on a future vision and will consult widely on these ideas once these have been finalised.

I look forward to meeting you and council members to discuss our ideas in due course.

Yours sincerely

Ian Munro
Chair of Governors



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Exchange partners with: St. Luke's High School, Msoro, Zambia

Marilyn S. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: <town.council@l1minster.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 May 2007 19:10
Subject: strategic vision

Dear Steve,

The committee is meeting on thurs 10th may, i
will ask how many would like to attend
your meeting and get back to you asap with some
dates.

Regards

Mark English

Tiscali Broadband only £9.99 a month for your first 3 months!
<http://www.tiscali.co.uk/products/broadband/>

Refuse
Manufacturing
Services

Marilyn Shelley

From: "John Jeffery - SCH.196" <JJeffery2@educ.somerset.gov.uk>
To: <town.council@ilminster.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Steve,

I hope that you are well.

It was good of Carol Goodall to come and speak to governors yesterday evening. She asked me to pass on my thoughts and comments about the Education side of things within the plan. I have the following observations, which I hope you will find helpful.

- It is good to see the town coming forward with a plan. Education (County) will have to do something about the schools in this town in the not too distant future, and it is good have a vision in mind to discuss with them.
- I personally do not feel that County will consider a stand alone secondary school in this town. The numbers are simply not sufficient for that, especially from a curriculum viability point of view.
- However, it may be worth exploring a more creative approach, looking at using the schools across Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster to provide post 11 education. This would result in pupils spending at least part of the week in the town, maybe going elsewhere for some lessons.
- I think the two tier/three tier system is a bit of a red herring. I suspect County would be wanting to build a new school (or schools) on the same site and whether this was one school (4 to 16) with one head or two schools (primary and secondary, with separate heads) is not the main point. The reason for looking at one site would be to maximize the potential for fund raising that that would bring i.e. a bid from County to 'Building Schools for the Future'.
- I also feel that any such 'through school' or schools could be situated on the Swanmead Site (with reservations) or on the land adjacent to Canal Way. County will probably have a view on this as they may wish to sell one of these sites to raise money towards a new building. The site to sell would probably be Swanmead.
- The other reason for one site for school(s) is that the facilities (sports hall, fields, swimming pool? Etc) would be usable by all pupils and could also be available to the community.
- We also have to be sensitive to the effects that these moves will have on the Crewkerne schools and the village schools that also feed Swanmead.

If I have further reflections I will pass them on. I have copied this e-mail to Gordon Twinberrow (Chair of Governors)

John Jeffery

While the sender, as an employee of Somerset County Council, makes every effort to ensure accuracy of content, the Council cannot accept any liability for claim, loss or damage howsoever arising from the reliance on or use of this information. All e-mails and replies may be subject to monitoring in line with the Regulatory and Investigatory Powers Act. If you have received this e-mail in error and are not the intended recipient you should not act further other than to delete the e-mail and inform the sender.

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices
North Street
ILMINSTER
Somerset
TA19 0DG

Tel: 01460 52149
Fax: 01460 55642
e-mail: town.council@ilminster.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Stephen Fisher

7 June 2007

Mr Paul Birbeck
Swanmead Community School
Ditton Street
Ilminster
TA19 0BL

Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter of 25 May 2007.

As Steve Fisher outlined in his letter of 30 April 2007, the Strategic Vision that the Town Council has prepared is in draft form as an initiative to chart the way in which we would like to see Ilminster develop over the next 5, 10, 15 years. None of it is set in stone. We are in the consultative phase and the Council will want to consider the responses it receives from individuals and stakeholders affected by the proposals.

In addition we are conscious that the Town Council cannot of itself deliver every aspiration; it must rely on others to support both strategically and financially and therefore we are not in a position to guarantee success. However we are determined to achieve what we can in the interests of the community as a whole.

The Town Clerk and I did offer to brief the Governing Body on the strategy behind the Vision so that you would not have to rely on press reports as well as giving the opportunity for us to listen to views of you and your Governors.

Futhermore our briefing would have made it abundantly clear that we have taken no stance on the educational merits of various systems of provision; nor have we commented in any way on the quality of education provided for the children of Ilminster by any of the schools in Ilminster and Crewkerne. However members do consider that they have a responsibility to the people that elected them to consider the wider implications of the present system on facilities available for the whole community and the social coherence of the town.

No doubt the Chair of Governors to whom I am copy this letter, will let the Town Clerk know when he considers it useful for us to discuss the issue further.

Yours sincerely



Carol Goodall
Mayor

Copy: Mr Ian Munro – Chair of Governors



Marilyn Shelley

From: "Paul.Birbeck - SCH.494" <PBirbeck@educ.somerset.gov.uk>
To: <town.council@ilminster.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 May 2007 15:32
Attach: Future education in Ilminster - Town Council letter.doc
Subject: Ilminster Strategic Vision

Dear Carol, please find my response to the published Strategic Vision.

I look forward to having further discussion relating to this issue.

Regards

Paul Birbeck
Headteacher

<<Future education in Ilminster - Town Council letter.doc>>

Whilst the sender, as an employee of Somerset County Council, makes every effort to ensure accuracy of content, the Council cannot accept any liability for claims or damage howsoever arising from the reliance on or use of this information. All e-mails and replies may be subject to monitoring in line with the Regulatory and Investigatory Powers Act. If you have received this e-mail in error and are not the intended recipient you should not act further other than to delete the e-mail and inform the sender.



Swanmead Community School

Ditton Street
Ilminster
Somerset
TA19 0BL

Telephone: 01460 52431
Facsimile : 01460 55305
e-mail: office@swanmead.somerset.sch.uk
Web Address:
www.swanmeadmiddle.ik.org
Adult Learning & Leisure: 01460 53195

Headteacher: Paul Birbeck, BA (Hons) F.R.G.S.

Mrs C. Goodall
Mayor Ilminster Town Council,
Council Offices
North Street
Ilminster
TA19 0DG

25 May 2007

Dear Carol,

Re: Ilminster Town Future development plan consultation

Having read with interest the proposal in the local press relating to the future structure of education in Ilminster I feel it appropriate for me to write an individual response as part of the consultation. The Chair of Governors has already responded to the Town Clerk's letter relating to the invitation to talk with Governors about this issue.

Whilst recognising that the Town Council will have a strong interest in this aspect of town life, it is very clear that there is a limited understanding from the author's of the plan as it relates to educational provision.

The suggestion to move to a two-tier structure seems to imply a level of dissatisfaction with educational provision in Ilminster with a view that the 3-tier system is somehow failing Ilminster children. The evidence is totally the opposite. OfSTED judged provision at Greenfylde First School to be good in 2006. Swanmead has been externally judged by OfSTED twice since 2006: the 2006 judgement was a 'good school with many a very good features' and the February 2007 inspection judged provision to be 'outstanding'. In 2006, the Key Stage 3 results of pupils from Swanmead within Wadham Upper School were: 84% achieved or exceeded national level in Mathematics (Top 5% nationally); 82% in Science (Top 10% nationally); 65% English (National average). These figures exceed those of Holyrood and Stanchester Secondary schools and the majority of secondary schools in Somerset. This trend is not unusual – it merely reflects the benefits of the 3-tier system, which I will not further elucidate in this response. This year, following a visit by DfES officers in recognition of our schools success, as headteacher of your town's middle school I have been invited to join a DfES national headteacher-working group to advise government policy on how to promote effective practice to ensure students' progression is enhanced through Key Stage 3.

Swanmead School also supports local provision within the Town and places a high value in working with all parties to improve the quality of life for Ilminster residents. The commitment to encourage people to use the school facilities remains very strong: over 1000 adults and children currently use the school site each week for after school activities; the MUGA is a shared community facility to which the Town Council have also made an active partnership commitment.

As a Town Council you should be celebrating and supporting these achievements in your town schools – not through a news article under-mining parental confidence by some ill-informed preconceptions of a 'system'. The system is irrelevant to educational provision – the important issue is good teaching and effective leadership and management.

If the Town Council insist on a future plan which states that 'Ilminster should go 'two-tier' the only feasible scenario would be for the town to have one large primary school and children being bussed to Crewkerne at the age of 11. The reason for this is simply that Ilminster is not large enough to justify a secondary school.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The facts relating to the previous assertion are that Swanmead Community School has a three-form entry that is projected to be constant for at least the next 5 years. Given this intake, the most optimistic figure for an Ilminster based secondary school, accounting for residential expansion, would be approximately 450 pupils. Currently, the smallest secondary school in the county has approximately 550 on role. The viability of this school is currently being reviewed as secondary provision at Key Stage 4 lacks the breadth and resources to effectively deliver the curriculum.

A secondary school in Ilminster would also be totally unviable; indeed, even if the Local Authority were to consider it being created, which they are not, such a school would severely limit students learning options at Key Stage 4 and result in a reduction of learning provision in the town. The only viable option for the Local Authority would be to expand Wadham into a 11-18 secondary comprehensive and review primary provision in Crewkerne and Ilminster. Given that primary school provision and funding is different to middle (deemed secondary) this would mean a significant reduction of investment in educational provision in Ilminster.

The funding source for the creation of an Ilminster based secondary school would also be a severe problem. A small secondary school would not attract government 'Building Schools for the Future' funding therefore funding well in excess of £10 million would have to be sought from alternative sources in order to build a new school.

As you will appreciate, school governors have the delegated responsibility for education standards. Whilst not wishing to pre-empt the Governors response to the consultation, could I suggest that a better stated educational objective would be for the Town Future Plan to state that 'Ilminster children should have all through learning provision in Ilminster'. Such a position statement would support delicate discussions and negotiations currently being conducted with Local Authority officers. If the town is lucky, these discussions could result in a concept for future education provision that not only has Local Authority support, but would be one that would put Ilminster at the forefront of national developments in educational provision for rural areas. Were we to be successful in our negotiations, the benefits to Ilminster residents in terms of educational provision, social and leisure facilities would be immense. You will understand that such negotiations are extremely confidential and complex and are within the existing Local Authority Area Review discussions. The outcomes of these discussions will form the basis of the governor discussion with members of the Town Council at the appropriate time.

Having viewed the proposed Future Town plan, I do welcome the designation of sites for expansion. These will be crucial in helping educational provision to be enhanced. As the newspaper summary identified, the recognition of the potential for developing community facilities, leisure, sporting and recreation and the implications to transport all need to be seen within a strategic umbrella for the town.

In conclusion, if the Town Council publicly states they support the two-tier system they would not only be undermining what are proven successful town schools but would also be taking no account of the reality of the demographics in relation to curriculum provision for the C21st. The notion of a two or three-tier system are concepts of the 1950's and 60's which hold little relevance to the future needs of educational establishments. I would request that the Town Council seriously re-consider their current publicly stated position statement.

Yours sincerely



Paul Birbeck
Headteacher





Copy to:
Steve Fisher – Town Clerk



Ilminster Town Plan

Thank you for your letter of 22nd June kindly inviting me to your meeting on Wednesday. I would have very much liked to attend but unfortunately I have already booked to go to the Warehouse theatre on that evening.

Having recently raised the question of what we should be planting on Herne Hill in the light of climate change as well as suggesting we might look at seeking Slow Town status I can at least claim an interest in such issues. They are obviously important and we should look to see what actions we can take to mitigate the effects of climate change on Ilminster.

That said I think that to place these issues at the centre of Ilminster Town Council's deliberations, by which I understand that they should be given the highest priority, would be wrong. It is my firm belief that the council should direct its efforts towards matters where it can achieve the greatest good for the greatest number, good Benthamite principles. We should place most emphasis on enhancing Ilminster as a thriving community which people enjoy living in. Most of the climate change matters are beyond our control, be they the action of Ilminsterians in choosing the sort of car they will drive, the anticipated increase in population in the world from 6.5 billion to 9 billion by 2050 and the increasing standard of living in China.

We should attempt to play our part, in particular by using energy efficiently and encouraging other means of transport than the motor car, but we should not fool ourselves by thinking that we can make a significant contribution.

While I am on the subject I hope that your group support nuclear power. Whilst improvement in efficiency of our energy use is likely to have the greatest effect on CO2 levels, over the next 30 years nuclear power offers us the best avenue for curbing CO2 in energy supply.

I hope you have a good meeting. It is a pity I can not be there.

Ilminster Town Plan

South Somerset CLIMATE ACTION's proposals for consideration

DRAFT

"Town looks into the future" ran the headline (centre pages Chard & Ilminster News, 16 May) followed by details of a draft "strategic vision" drawn up by the Town Council. The same details appeared on the paper's website. Two public meetings have also featured the plan.

At our meeting in the Minster Rooms on 23 May, South Somerset Climate Action members considered the Town Council's draft.

Our thoughts included:

1. **Fantastic that the Council is thinking ahead like this**
2. **There are many good ideas**
3. **Climate is not mentioned!** We think that it should be the context within which the whole plan is created

The following points were made (If you were there and we have recorded your ideas badly, let us know!) If you would like to add points or comment please Email neil.galbraith@virgin.net or write to:

Neil Galbraith, 24 Court Barton, Ilminster TA19 0DU

as soon as you can and ideally by Sunday 24 June (the end of this week!)

Email is much easier for us than the post.

This is work in progress. It is going to be a bit chaotic. We haven't got everything "right" but we do want many views.

IF YOU WISH, WRITE COMMENTS ON THIS COPY AND RETURN IT TO NEIL

Please note: We have added a couple of articles at the end - We need to be able to justify statements of the dangers of climate change or of potential shortage of fossil fuels or other resources.

Introduction

1. Town Councillors deserve great credit for initiating this process and for all their work which has created the opportunity for us to contribute our views.
2. The Council's draft vision can be seen at:
http://www.chardandilminsternews.co.uk/cicampaigns/strategy/articles/display.var.1387227.0.big_plans_for_ilminster.php
3. To begin with we have made no distinction between things that could be done:
 - a) **In the present political and economic climate** and
 - b) ideas which would come into play if/when there is a change – following, for example, an environmental crisis or a dramatic increase in the price of fuel.
4. **General purpose:** Climate and potential shortages of fuel, timber and other resources should provide the background for all proposals. In addition, the plan should aim for:
 - a) Major reductions of energy use for transport, heating, and power
 - b) Reducing use of other resources
 - c) Strengthening community activities
5. Ilminster Town Council has given a lead. **Similar thought should be given to the other local towns and rural areas** in due course.

A. Energy - Achieving self reliance

Investigate the practical and financial implications of investing in:

- wind power with a view to having a system in place within ten years if feasible
- district heating
- micro generation
- funding now available for local ownership of systems
- local power stations

Existing Properties:

- seek to encourage the insulating and installing of solar energy systems in existing properties.

New Development:

- adopt the approach taken by the Borough of Merton and seek that all new-build development provides a high degree of its own energy from embedded renewable resources
- seek the use of building materials with low embodied energy.

New Industry

- encourage new employment to suit local people

Energy Saving - promote the following and similar measures:

- Lights, street lights floodlights etc are to be switched off at midnight - SCE are considering this proposal

Working to increase awareness of climate change and accelerate action to limit the causes

27 East Street, Ilminster, TA19 0AN Tel 01460 55323

- With C of Trade encourage businesses to turn off lights at night
- Establish loyalty cards for local shops to encourage people to shop locally
- Make locally produced & organic produce easily available and good quality
- Improve the Thursday market improved incorporating a farmers market
- Create shop mobility programme based at Tesco car park

Community***Facilities**

- Establish the giving of grants to help organizations buy insulation, draught-proofing and low energy light bulbs, and possibly double glazing and solar water heating
- As a matter of urgency, award grants for insulation, draught-proofing, low energy light bulbs, and possibly double glazing and solar water heating.

Health

- A cottage hospital and maternity unit in the town would avoid much of the current need to travel to Taunton or Yeovil.

Education

- create 2 tier system to remove the need to bus children
- Involve the pupils in planning and construction of any new secondary school

***All new facilities should be build with sustainable designs and involve input from the community**

Environment

- create a vegetable garden for the whole community
- maintain and develop allotments

Sports Centre

- Develop a sustainable built sports centre facilities including a swimming pool in consultation with local users and organizations

Young People's Facilities

- create in Play area at recreation grounds a café - serving really good chips

Housing & Employment

- Employ the Merton principle in all old house building
- Take advantage of the fact that Local Authorities have the power to set their own standards
- Work towards making 100% of all new buildings zero energy
- Give support to schemes which provide low cost housing which is zero rated- eg housing association/self build schemes - see *Resurgence* March/April 07 Page 6
- Combined heat and power for new developments such as the Horlicks site -Make this a flagship development
- Ensure very careful scrutiny of all planning applications with regard to energy efficiency right from the start
- Produce a new booklet to explain to builders/developers that Ilminster Council are expecting very high standards especially in terms of energy use
- Re existing housing - provide incentives through local taxation - charging owners of energy efficient housing a lower tax
- Make individual advice and guidance more available
- Have a major leaflet campaign- similar to the one done successfully for recycling - a leaflet through everybody's door
- Take another look at the particular problems of making listed buildings energy efficient
- Land currently used for business and providing employment should not be granted change of use to residential status
- Small businesses should receive special incentives to come to Ilminster.

Steve Fisher

From: " [REDACTED] "
To: <Kim.Turner@southsomerset.gov.uk>; <Nicci.Court@southsomerset.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 June 2007 13:58
Subject: South Somerset Climate Action - Ilminster Town Plan

Dear Kim & Nicci

Though you are District Councillors we thought you might want to be involved in this as many aspects will have District implications. We would be pleased if you can join us on Wednesday 27 June – 7.30 The Minster Rooms, Ilminster. Councillor Caroline Cameron will be present. We hope other Town Councillors will also come.

"Town looks into the future" ran the headline (centre pages Chard & Ilminster News, 16 May) followed by details of a draft "strategic vision" drawn up by the Town Council. The same details appeared on the paper's website. Two public meetings have also featured the plan.

At our meeting in the Minster Rooms on 23 May, *South Somerset Climate Action* members considered the Town Council's draft.

Our thoughts included:

1. **Fantastic that the Council is thinking ahead like this**
2. There are many good ideas
3. **Climate and potential shortages of oil and other resources are not mentioned!** We think that is should be the context within which the whole plan is created.

I have attached a copy of the work we have done so far.

Warm regards

Joe Burlington
Chairman
SOUTH SOMERSET CLIMATE ACTION
27 East Street, Ilminster, TA19 0AN
01460 55323

This communication is intended solely for the named recipients only. It may contain privileged and confidential information and if you are not the intended recipient, you must not copy, distribute or take any action in reliance on it. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender as soon as possible by return and delete the message. Individuals are advised that by replying to, or sending an email message to South Somerset District Council, you accept that you have no explicit or implicit expectation of privacy. The information contained in this email may also be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Unless the information is legally exempt from disclosure, the confidentiality of the information in this email and your reply cannot be guaranteed. In line with the Council's email protocol, any email messages and attachments transmitted over the Council's network may be subject to scrutiny.

Steve Fish

From: [REDACTED]
To: "Undisclosed Recipient"
Sent: 10 June 2007 13:21
Subject: Iminster Town Plan

Iminster Town Plan

South Somerset CLIMATE ACTION's draft proposals for consideration

Dear Reader

"Town looks into the future" ran the headline (centre pages Chard & Iminster News, 16 May) followed by details of a draft "strategic vision" drawn up by the Town Council. The same details appeared on the paper's website. Two public meetings have also featured the plan.

At our meeting in the Minster Rooms on 23 May, *South Somerset Climate Action* members considered the Town Council's draft.

Our thoughts included:

1. **Fantastic that the Council is thinking ahead like this**
2. There are many good ideas
3. **Climate is not mentioned!** We think that it should be the context within which the whole plan is created.

Following are points that were made (If you were there and we have recorded your ideas badly, let us know!).

If you would like to add points or comment please Email neil.galbraith@virgin.net or write to:

Neil Galbraith, 24 Court Barton, Iminster TA19 0DU

Ideally by Wed 20 June (This week!) – or as soon after that as you can.

This is work in progress. It is going to be a bit chaotic. We haven't got everything "right" but we do want many views

Please note: We have added a couple of articles at the end - We need to be able to justify statements of the dangers of climate change or of potential shortage of fossil fuels or other resources.

Introduction

1. Town Councillors deserve great credit for initiating this process and for all their work which has created the opportunity for us to contribute our views.
2. The Council's draft vision can be seen at:
<http://www.chardandilminsternews.co.uk/cicampaigns/strategy/articles/display.var.138>
3. To begin with we have made no distinction between things that could be done:
a) ***in the present political and economic climate*** and

- b) ideas which would come into play if/when there is a change – following, for example, an environmental crisis or a dramatic increase in the price of fuel.
4. **General purpose:** Climate and potential shortages of fuel, timber and other resources should provide the background for all proposals. In addition, the plan should aim for:
- a) Major reductions of energy use for transport, heating, and power
 - b) Reducing use of other resources
 - c) Strengthening community activities
5. Ilminster Town Council has given a lead. **Similar thought should be given to the other local towns and rural areas** in due course.

Please make points here you think should be included remembering that it is for a general public as well as specifically for the council:

A. Energy - Achieving self reliance

Investigate the practical and financial implications of investing in:

- wind power with a view to having a system in place within ten years if feasible
- district heating
- micro generation
- funding now available for local ownership of systems
- local power stations

Existing Properties:

- seek to encourage the insulating and installing of solar energy systems in existing properties.

New Development:

- adopt the approach taken by the Borough of Merton and seek that all new-build development provides a high degree of its own energy from embedded renewable resources
- seek the use of building materials with low embodied energy.

New Industry

- encourage new employment to suit local people

Energy Saving - promote the following and similar measures:

- Lights, street lights floodlights etc are to be switched off at midnight – SCE are considering this proposal
- Shop and office lighting are switched off out of hours.
- heating in public buildings: libraries, schools, etc should be reduced 18° C
- with agreement with local Chamber of Trade shops, banks, etc should be encouraged to shut their doors to minimise heat loss.
- the improvement of Public transport to minimise vehicle use.
- Encourage marketing of local food
- Increased availability of allotments for private food production.

Please make further points here:

B. Transport

Pedestrians

- Establish "Pedestrian Priority"
- Redesign of pavements to facilitate the use of shopping trolleys
- Design shopping trolley scheme
- Investigate additional routes through the NatWest Bank's passage and the hardware shop

Motor Bikes and Scooters

- Incorporate more facilities for motor bikes/scooters
- Create a town centre priority parking scheme

Cyclists

- Create Cycle two way cycle routes throughout town - even on 1 way roads
- develop dedicated cycle routes, separate from motor traffic between housing estates, industrial estates and the shops
- provide a safer cycle route to the town centre than using Listers Hill or Herne Rise. in conjunction with 'safe routes to schools'
- develop cycle routes to the local villages and adjacent towns separate from motor traffic along the lines of Sustrans Route 33 to Chard should be developed.
- encourage people to come into the town on their bikes
- restrict use of some country lanes to bicycles, farm traffic and residents' cars only to enhance cycle safety whilst providing longer distance cycle routes.
- Support plans to extend the Cycle Route North to Taunton and beyond as part of Sustrans Coast to Coast Cycle Route 33 connecting Ilton to the town by a level and therefore easy cycle route

Buses

- Encourage use of buses
- establish Express services to adjacent towns and to the stations at Taunton and Crewkerne using Oyster cards
- buses keep to the main roads with stops near villages with facilities for locals to leave vehicles
- Establish local services with small buses to serve Ilminster's housing estates and the outlying villages
- Furnish stops with shelters and cycle racks
- Encourage buses to carry bicycles, folding ones inside and others on a rack at the rear.

Facilities for the Disabled, Elderly and other Non Car Users.

- Create dropped kerbs for wheelchair access and
- Create more disabled parking bays
- Create shuttle or rickshaw taxi service for shopping.

Recreation.

- Extend cycle routes of varying length and difficulty
- Develop and maintain a coherent network of footpaths, rights of way and bridleways

Attitude to Major Road Development.

- Invest allocated moneys for expansion of the A358 to improve public transport and investigate a separate cycle route along A358

Please make further points here:

Town Centre and Shopping

- Build adequate public toilets in and around
- Reconsider pedestrianisation – see Transport section
- Establish car parking within easy reach of town centre
- Make trolleys available for borrowing
- Organize and effect energy efficiency, including sensible temperatures in shops
- Implement appropriate street lighting shops
- With C of Trade encourage businesses to turn off lights at night
- Establish loyalty cards for local shops to encourage people to shop locally
- Make locally produced & organic produce easily available and good quality
- Improve the Thursday market improved incorporating a farmers market
- Create shop mobility programme based at Tesco car park

Please make further points here:

*Community**

Facilities

- Establish the giving of grants to help organizations buy insulation, draught-proofing and low energy light bulbs, and possibly double glazing and solar water heating
- As a matter of urgency, award grants for Insulation, draught-proofing, low energy light bulbs, and possibly double glazing and solar water heating.

Health

- A cottage hospital and maternity unit in the town would avoid much of the current need to travel to Taunton or Yeovil.

Education

- create 2 tier system to remove the need to bus children
- Involve the pupils in planning and construction of any new secondary school

**All new facilities should be build with sustainable designs and involve input from the community*

Environment

- create a vegetable garden for the whole community
- maintain and develop allotments

Sports Centre

- Develop a sustainable built sports centre facilities including a swimming pool in consultation with local users and organizations

Young People's Facilities

- create in Play area at recreation grounds a café - serving really good chips

Please make further points here:

Housing & Employment

- Employ the Merton principle in all old house building
- Take advantage of the fact that Local Authorities have the power to set their own standards
- Work towards making 100% of all new buildings zero energy
- Give support to schemes which provide low cost housing which is zero rated- eg housing association/self build schemes - see *Resurgence* March/April 07 Page 6
- Combined heat and power for new developments such as the Horlicks site -Make this a flagship development
- Ensure very careful scrutiny of all planning applications with regard to energy efficiency right from the start
- Produce a new booklet to explain to builders/developers that Ilminster Council are expecting very high standards especially in terms of energy use
- Re existing housing - provide incentives through local taxation - charging owners of energy efficient housing a lower tax
- Make individual advice and guidance more available
- Have a major leaflet campaign- similar to the one done successfully for recycling - a leaflet through everybody's door
- Take another look at the particular problems of making listed buildings energy efficient
- Land currently used for business and providing employment should not be granted change of use to residential status
- Small businesses should receive special incentives to come to Ilminster.

Please make further points here:

Appendices

a. The tide is running against a nuclear-powered future. Independent: 26 May 2007

Sir: There are things to be welcomed in the Energy White Paper, notably the recognition that tidal energy has a serious role within the energy mix. Predictably the RSPB cries "foul" as it has done since the early 1930s each time a commission of inquiry has reported positively on the Severn barrage proposal. Before jumping in, the RSPB should consider the infinitely greater threat to wading birds from climate change.

However, there is an alternative technology that safeguards the inter-tidal zones: the tidal energy bridge. This is a high energy density system pioneered in Canada of vertical rotors

between bridge supports which could generate around 1,000 MW (peak) per kilometre run in a situation such as the Severn estuary.

As for nuclear, an issue that so far seems to have been overlooked concerns the reserves of uranium. At the last count over 170 new reactors are expected by 2020. In September 2006 it was estimated that the 3.3 million tonnes of reserves of high grade uranium ore should last to 2030, provided that suppliers were given sufficient notice to mine it. Since then it is evident that the US regards nuclear power as the means of producing hydrogen to meet its road transport needs, placing even this date in doubt.

Life expectancy of uranium could be extended by employing closed cycle fast breeder technology. Reprocessing of uranium has still some way to go, as the UK found to its cost.

Few nations are so well endowed with the potential for renewable electricity as the UK, which could more than bridge the impending energy gap. Why then spend billions on indirect subsidies for a technology fraught with uncertainties and hazards and with such a brief life expectancy?

Professor Peter Smith: School of the Built Environment – University of Nottingham

b. Expert View: Never mind nukes, we're missing our carbon target: The most visible failure is the halting growth of renewable energy.

Chris Goodall Independent on Sunday 27 May 2007

Comment on the Energy White Paper has focused almost entirely on the government's decision not to discourage electricity companies from applying to build new nuclear power stations. Alistair Darling will have been relieved by this distraction: the underlying figures in the White Paper show an alarming deterioration in the government's own forecasts for greenhouse gas emissions. This was the real news story.

The previous Energy White Paper was published in March 2003. In this document the Government set a long-term goal for UK emissions for the first time. Without policy changes, the paper said, UK emissions would be about 135 million tons of carbon dioxide by 2020. The government-proposed measures to reduce this figure to between 110 and 120 million tons, an 11 to 19 per cent reduction.

If matters had gone according to plan, this week's White Paper should have reported on the progress towards the 2020 targets established four years ago. Unsurprisingly, the 2007 document does no such thing. It barely mentions the 2003 paper and certainly does not assess whether the 110-120 million ton figure is going to be achieved.

Instead, the new White Paper offers a brand new estimate of the likely 2020 emissions. The figure is now 151.2 million tons of carbon dioxide. Let us be clear what this means - instead of expecting to achieve a reduction to between 110 and 120 million tons, the White Paper now forecasts a figure 12 per cent higher than in 2003. A substantial fraction of this increase in the forecast has occurred since the Green Paper of summer 2006 as the electricity generation industry has switched to using more coal instead of less-polluting fuels. The stunning news is that four years of active policy making, endless initiatives and international conferences too numerous to count have all totally failed. The Government is finally acknowledging that it has lost control of emissions growth.

Nevertheless, the raft of new policy proposals continues. The 2003 measures have failed but about 50 new ideas were floated in this week's document, up from five big proposals

four years ago. In desperation, the White Paper throws every scheme it can into the reduction pot. These range from carbon capture and storage (untried and speculative) to free domestic electricity meters (not likely to affect household behaviour much). There are so many initiatives that no one can possibly assess their reasonableness, cost or efficacy. Government ministers no doubt hope that the plethora of new schemes will distract attention from the complete failure of the 2003 proposals. The proposed net impact of the new measures, as might have been predicted by more cynical observers, is to push forecast emissions for 2020 down by a massive 32 million tons, over 20 per cent of today's total. Perhaps this is coincidence, but this leaves the 2020 forecast at 119 million tons, just below the top of the range that the Government set out in 2003. There is no good reason to suppose that the new wheezes will be any more successful than the smart ideas proposed just four years ago.

The most visible failure of policy is the halting growth of renewable energy. The White Paper fails to acknowledge that on current trends the UK will not reach its 2010 target of 10 per cent renewable electricity by a wide margin. 37 wind farms are built, but 170 applications are in abeyance because of local authority resistance.

The nuclear power issue is an irrelevance. The first of the new nuclear stations could not be ready until early in the 2020s and will only marginally affect the UK's emissions for decades to come. The underlying issue is not whether wind is better than atoms, or whether planning decisions should be taken away from local government. It is whether politicians have the insight and courage to recognise the seriousness of the climate change problem, and then do something about it.

Chris Goodall's 'How to Live a Low-carbon Life' is published by Earthscan, £14.99

Marilyn S

From: [REDACTED]
To: "Ilminster Town Council" <town.council@ilminster.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 June 2007 19:28
Subject: FW: Ilminster Town Plan

Steve,

For information.

From: J [REDACTED]
Sent: Sun 10/06/2007 20:21
To: Undisclosed Recipients
Subject: Ilminster Town Plan

Ilminster Town Plan

South Somerset CLIMATE ACTION's draft proposals for consideration

Dear Reader

"Town looks into the future" ran the headline (centre pages Chard & Ilminster News, 16 May) followed by details of a draft "strategic vision" drawn up by the Town Council. The same details appeared on the paper's website. Two public meetings have also featured the plan.

At our meeting in the Minster Rooms on 23 May, South Somerset Climate Action members considered the Town Council's draft.

Our thoughts included:

1. Fantastic that the Council is thinking ahead like this
2. There are many good ideas
3. Climate is not mentioned! We think that it should be the context within which the whole plan is created.

Following are points that were made (If you were there and we have recorded your ideas badly, let us know!).

If you would like to add points or comment please Email neil.galbraith@virgin.net or write to:

Neil Galbraith, 24 Court Barton, Ilminster TA19 0DU

ideally by Wed 20 June (This week!) - or as soon after that as you can.

This is work in progress. It is going to be a bit chaotic. We haven't got everything "right" but we do want many views

Please note: We have added a couple of articles at the end - We need to be able to justify statements of the dangers of climate change or of potential shortage of fossil fuels or other resources.

Introduction

1. Town Councillors deserve great credit for initiating this process and for all their work which has created the opportunity for us to contribute our views.

2. The Council's draft vision can be seen at:

<http://www.chardandilminsternews.co.uk/cicampaigns/strategy/articles/display.var.1387227.0.big.pl>

3. To begin with we have made no distinction between things that could be done:

a) in the present political and economic climate and

b) ideas which would come into play if/when there is a change - following, for example, an environmental crisis or a dramatic increase in the price of fuel.

4. General purpose: Climate and potential shortages of fuel, timber and other resources should provide the background for all proposals. In addition, the plan should aim for:

a) Major reductions of energy use for transport, heating, and power

b) Reducing use of other resources

c) Strengthening community activities

5. Ilminster Town Council has given a lead. Similar thought should be given to the other local towns and rural areas in due course.

Please make points here you think should be included remembering that it is for a general public as well as specifically for the council:

A. Energy - Achieving self reliance

Investigate the practical and financial implications of investing in:

- * wind power with a view to having a system in place within ten years if feasible
- * district heating
- * micro generation
- * funding now available for local ownership of systems
- * local power stations

Existing Properties:

- * seek to encourage the insulating and installing of solar energy systems in existing properties.

New Development:

- * adopt the approach taken by the Borough of Merton and seek that all new-build development provides a high degree of its own energy from embedded renewable resources
- * seek the use of building materials with low embodied energy.

New Industry

- * encourage new employment to suit local people

Energy Saving - promote the following and similar measures:

- * Lights, street lights floodlights etc are to be switched off at midnight - SCE are considering this proposal
- * Shop and office lighting are switched off out of hours.
- * heating in public buildings: libraries, schools, etc should be reduced 18° C

- * with agreement with local Chamber of Trade shops, banks, etc should be encouraged to shut their doors to minimise heat loss.
- * the improvement of Public transport to minimise vehicle use.
- * Encourage marketing of local food
- * Increased availability of allotments for private food production.

Please make further points here:

B. Transport

Pedestrians

- * Establish "Pedestrian Priority"
- * Redesign of pavements to facilitate the use of shopping trolleys
- * Design shopping trolley scheme
- * Investigate additional routes through the NatWest Bank's passage and the hardware shop

Motor Bikes and Scooters

- * Incorporate more facilities for motor bikes/scooters
- * Create a town centre priority parking scheme

Cyclists

- * Create Cycle two way cycle routes throughout town - even on 1 way roads
- * develop dedicated cycle routes, separate from motor traffic between housing estates, industrial estates and the shops
- * provide a safer cycle route to the town centre than using Listers Hill or Herne Rise. in conjunction with 'safe routes to schools'
- * develop cycle routes to the local villages and adjacent towns separate from motor traffic along the lines of Sustrans Route 33 to Chard should be developed.
- * encourage people to come into the town on their bikes
- * restrict use of some country lanes to bicycles, farm traffic and residents' cars only to enhance cycle safety whilst providing longer distance cycle routes.
- * Support plans to extend the Cycle Route North to Taunton and beyond as part of Sustrans Coast to Coast Cycle Route 33 connecting Ilton to the town by a level and therefore easy cycle route

Buses

- * Encourage use of buses
- * establish Express services to adjacent towns and to the stations at Taunton and Crewkerne using Oyster cards
- * buses keep to the main roads with stops near villages with facilities for locals to leave vehicles ages with facilities for locals to leave vehicles.
- * Establish local services with small buses to serve Ilminster's housing estates and the outlying villages
- * Furnish stops with shelters and cycle racks
- * Encourage buses to carry bicycles, folding ones inside and others on a rack at the rear.

Facilities for the Disabled, Elderly and other Non Car Users.

- * Create dropped kerbs for wheelchair access and
- * Create more disabled parking bays

- * Create shuttle or rickshaw taxi service for shopping.

Recreation.

- * Extend cycle routes of varying length and difficulty
- * Develop and maintain a coherent network of footpaths, rights of way and bridleways

Attitude to Major Road Development.

- * Invest allocated moneys for expansion of the A358 to improve public transport and investigate a separate cycle route along A358

Please make further points here:

Town Centre and Shopping

- * Build adequate public toilets in and around
- * Reconsider pedestrianisation - see Transport section
- * Establish car parking within easy reach of town centre
- * Make trolleys available for borrowing
- * Organize and effect energy efficiency, including sensible temperatures in shops
- * Implement appropriate street lighting shops
- * With C of Trade encourage businesses to turn off lights at night
- * Establish loyalty cards for local shops to encourage people to shop locally
- * Make locally produced & organic produce easily available and good quality
- * Improve the Thursday market improved incorporating a farmers market
- * Create shop mobility programme based at Tesco car park

Please make further points here:

Community*

Facilities

- * Establish the giving of grants to help organizations buy insulation, draught-proofing and low energy light bulbs, and possibly double glazing and solar water heating
- * As a matter of urgency, award grants for Insulation, draught-proofing, low energy light bulbs, and possibly double glazing and solar water heating.

Health

- * A cottage hospital and maternity unit in the town would avoid much of the current need to travel to Taunton or Yeovil.

Education

- * create 2 tier system to remove the need to bus children
- * Involve the pupils in planning and construction of any new secondary school
- * All new facilities should be build with sustainable designs and involve input from the community

Environment

- * create a vegetable garden for the whole community
- * maintain and develop allotments

Sports Centre

- * Develop a sustainable built sports centre facilities including a swimming pool in consultation with local users and organizations

Young People's Facilities

- * create in Play area at recreation grounds a café - serving really good chips

Please make further points here:

Housing & Employment

- * Employ the Merton principle in all old house building
- * Take advantage of the fact that Local Authorities have the power to set their own standards
- * Work towards making 100% of all new buildings zero energy
- * Give support to schemes which provide low cost housing which is zero rated- eg housing association/self build schemes - see Resurgence March/April 07 Page 6
- * Combined heat and power for new developments such as the Horlicks site -Make this a flagship development
- * Ensure very careful scrutiny of all planning applications with regard to energy efficiency right from the start
- * Produce a new booklet to explain to builders/developers that Ilminster Council are expecting very high standards especially in terms of energy use
- * Re existing housing - provide incentives through local taxation - charging owners of energy efficient housing a lower tax
- * Make individual advice and guidance more available
- * Have a major leaflet campaign- similar to the one done successfully for recycling - a leaflet through everybody's door
- * Take another look at the particular problems of making listed buildings energy efficient
- * Land currently used for business and providing employment should not be granted change of use to residential status
- * Small businesses should receive special incentives to come to Ilminster.

Please make further points here:

Appendices

a. The tide is running against a nuclear-powered future. Independent: 26 May 2007

Sir: There are things to be welcomed in the Energy White Paper, notably the recognition that tidal energy has a serious role within the energy mix. Predictably the RSPB cries "foul" as it has done since the early 1930s each time a commission of inquiry has reported positively on the Severn barrage proposal. Before jumping in, the RSPB should consider the infinitely greater threat to wading birds from climate change.

However, there is an alternative technology that safeguards the inter-tidal zones: the tidal energy bridge. This is a high energy density system pioneered in Canada of vertical rotors between bridge supports which could generate around 1,000 MW (peak) per kilometre run in a situation such as the Severn estuary.

As for nuclear, an issue that so far seems to have been overlooked concerns the reserves of uranium. At the last count over 170 new reactors are expected by 2020. In September 2006 it was estimated that the 3.3 million tonnes of reserves of high grade uranium ore should last to 2030, provided that suppliers were given sufficient notice to mine it. Since then it is evident that the US regards nuclear power as the means of producing hydrogen to meet its road transport needs, placing even this date in doubt.

Life expectancy of uranium could be extended by employing closed cycle fast breeder technology. Reprocessing of uranium has still some way to go, as the UK found to its cost.

Few nations are so well endowed with the potential for renewable electricity as the UK, which could more than bridge the impending energy gap. Why then spend billions on indirect subsidies for a technology fraught with uncertainties and hazards and with such a brief life expectancy?

Professor Peter Smith: School of the Built Environment - University of Nottingham

b. Expert View: Never mind nukes, we're missing our carbon target: The most visible failure is the halting growth of renewable energy.

Chris Goodall Independent on Sunday 27 May 2007

Comment on the Energy White Paper has focused almost entirely on the government's decision not to discourage electricity companies from applying to build new nuclear power stations. Alistair Darling will have been relieved by this distraction: the underlying figures in the White Paper show an alarming deterioration in the government's own forecasts for greenhouse gas emissions. This was the real news story.

The previous Energy White Paper was published in March 2003. In this document the Government set a long-term goal for UK emissions for the first time. Without policy changes, the paper said, UK emissions would be about 135 million tons of carbon dioxide by 2020. The government-proposed measures to reduce this figure to between 110 and 120 million tons, an 11 to 19 per cent reduction.

If matters had gone according to plan, this week's White Paper should have reported on the progress towards the 2020 targets established four years ago. Unsurprisingly, the 2007 document does no such thing. It barely mentions the 2003 paper and certainly does not assess whether the 110-120 million ton figure is going to be achieved.

Instead, the new White Paper offers a brand new estimate of the likely 2020 emissions. The figure is now 151.2 million tons of carbon dioxide. Let us be clear what this means - instead of expecting to achieve a reduction to between 110 and 120 million tons, the White Paper now forecasts a figure 12 per cent higher than in 2003. A substantial fraction of this increase in the forecast has occurred since the Green Paper of summer 2006 as the electricity generation industry has switched to using more coal instead of less-polluting fuels. The stunning news is that four years of active policy making, endless initiatives and international conferences too numerous to count have all totally failed. The Government is finally acknowledging that it has lost control of emissions growth.

Nevertheless, the raft of new policy proposals continues. The 2003 measures have failed but about 50 new ideas were floated in this week's document, up from five big proposals four years ago. In desperation, the White Paper throws every scheme it can into the reduction pot. These range from carbon capture and storage (untried and speculative) to free domestic electricity meters (not likely to affect household behaviour much). There are so many initiatives that no one can possibly assess their reasonableness, cost or efficacy. Government ministers no doubt hope that the plethora of new schemes will distract attention from the complete failure of the 2003 proposals. The proposed net impact of the new measures, as might have been predicted by more cynical observers, is to push forecast emissions for 2020 down by a massive 32 million tons, over 20 per cent of today's total.

Perhaps this is coincidence, but this leaves the 2020 forecast at 119 million tons, just below the top of the range that the Government set out in 2003. There is no good reason to suppose that the new wheezes will be any more successful than the smart ideas proposed just four years ago.

The most visible failure of policy is the halting growth of renewable energy. The White Paper fails to acknowledge that on current trends the UK will not reach its 2010 target of 10 per cent renewable electricity by a wide margin. 37 wind farms are built, but 170 applications are in abeyance because of local authority resistance.

The nuclear power issue is an irrelevance. The first of the new nuclear stations could not be ready until early in the 2020s and will only marginally affect the UK's emissions for decades to come. The underlying issue is not whether wind is better than atoms, or whether planning decisions should be taken away from local government. It is whether politicians have the insight and courage to recognise the seriousness of the climate change problem, and then do something about it.

Chris Goodall's 'How to Live a Low-carbon Life' is published by Earthscan, £14.99

This communication is intended solely for the person (s) or organisation to whom it is addressed. It may contain privileged and confidential information and if you are not the intended recipient (s), you must not copy, distribute or take any action in reliance on it. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the sender and copy the message to ICTHelpDesk@somerset.gov.uk

Individuals are advised that by replying to, or sending an e-mail message to Somerset County Council, you accept that you have no explicit or implicit expectation of privacy.

In line with the Surveillance and Monitoring Policy, any e-mail messages (and attachments) transmitted over the Council's network may be subject to scrutiny.

Somerset County Council - An Excellent Four Star Authority

South Somerset CLIMATE ACTION

Ilminster Town Council is seeking feedback on their strategic vision.

Have your say **in creating a** **GREEN TOWN PLAN**

**Climate is changing. Fuel
supplies are uncertain.
Opportunities abound.**

Issues include:

Transport, Traffic, Open spaces, Sport, Recreation,
Community facilities - Health, Education, Policing,
Housing, Employment, Town centre, Shopping.

We wish to add: **Energy use and generation.**

**Come & tell councillors what you think
about Ilminster and your town or area.**

Wed 27 June

7.30 Minster Rooms, Ilminster

***Court Barton off Silver Street - £2 at the door including tea or coffee & biscuits
Further information: Wendy 01460 52347 or Joe 01460 55323***



15 June 2007

Re: The Ilminster Strategic Vision

Got there!

It has taken me a little more than the few days I indicated in my letter dated 6 June, but here are some ideas. I have tried to make the document as brief as I could in the hope that it might be used as something of an Aunt Sally. One outcome might be the need to re-focus it around the outcome of any debate among interested parties. We shall see.

As before, I have copied this to the Mayor and the Clerk to the Council.

With Every Good Wish



ENC:

Some Notions On The Industrial Future Of Ilminster

cc:

Cllr. Carol Goodall, Mayor

Stephen Fisher Esq. Clerk to Ilminster Town Council ✓

SOME NOTIONS ON THE INDUSTRIAL FUTURE OF ILMINSTER

The purpose of this document is to offer an alternative and complementary approach to the development and implementation of an industrial strategy for Ilminster consistent with the now evolving vision for the town. For ease of reference, paragraphs are numbered.

1. The Basic Issue

1.1. There seems to be a focus on employment opportunities, job creation and enabling people to make a good living. All this is very much to the point, but misses what I believe is a major issue; which is this. For a rich, developed nation our industrial future lies in being a world-class supplier of goods and services that are not price-sensitive, that is to say, products at the leading technological edge in their sectors.

We have one supplier like this in Ilminster: I believe we should seek more.

1.2. There is great merit in promoting businesses based on local craft skills from food to smithing to stained glass to restoration skills and so on. At best any such developed enterprise will employ a few tens of people, provide a decent living for owners and employees and be sustained by an excellent local reputation. We need something more.

2. What is The Something More?

2.1. Briefly put, the answer is to focus on wealth creation rather than job creation.

We should seek opportunities in the current and emerging advanced technologies. It is worth remembering that computers, information technology and telecommunications are but a small fraction of what advanced technology is about; as we shall see.

2.2. The "something more" company sees the world as its market. This is not about company size, it is about company capability. We have one of the best rôle models in the country in Gooch & Housego. What they do is highly specialised with stringent quality standards and a global market. Whilst they have to be competitive, they do not focus on price as their main marketing weapon. They don't have to. The nub of my argument is that we need more of the same.

3. A Complementary Vision.

It may be helpful at this point to outline what a complementary business community might look like. The term "complementary" indicates adding to, rather than replacing, ideas already mooted. We live in a "must have" society; this has two implications.

3.1. Businesses have to meet rapidly changing market demands. Products and services have built-in obsolescence. Ten years ago a new car model took 7 years to come to the market; today's benchmark is 1½ to 2 years.

3.2. Markets, both consumer and industrial, seek much more specific satisfaction of their needs. Examples of this, besides our local benchmark, are offered at Annex A.

Businesses can be small and still be important players in their fields.

3.4. One practical outcome of this is that service providing companies especially do not have to have permanent premises. They operate as "virtual companies" using electronic communications and meeting when necessary in premises providing office services and meeting rooms for hire by the hour.

3.5. For businesses that make something very special and of high added value, the specific skills and the specific equipment needed can be contained in quite small units. Small can be beautiful, but it needs to be very well-focussed. Given that such a strategic thrust is accepted, the next step is to develop the ways and means.

4. Blockers

4.1. At this point one has to recognise that blocking factors may be seen to exist, thereby limiting, or blocking off completely, any initiative that a small town might take.

4.2. It is no secret that the District Council would want to see industrial development in and near Yeovil. That does not mean that nothing can come to Ilminster. It may make the task more difficult, but I do not think that there is any statutory bar to Ilminster taking an industrial marketing initiative of its own. Colyton possesses a significant manufacturer of advanced ceramic products.

4.3. On the contrary, Ilminster can set out a most attractive stall. We all have equal access to cyberspace, but a good business still places great value on inter-personal contact. We have better communications; the M5 is nearer and more accessible, as is Exeter Airport with an expanding destination tariff. Even the Isle of Wight can claim a world-class company in composites.

4.4. Because of our location and communications advantages, emphasis may be placed on sectors such as warehousing and distribution, as well as tourism. That's fine, but efficient, systematised, logistics operations use a lot of space and a few people, of moderate capability, and relatively little value is added at a given location. Tourism is essentially the domain of the family business. This is not to decry such enterprises, but too much might be expected from them.

4.5 Because Ilminster is small, it may be argued that we envision doing too much, and therefore should back off. I would argue that we can seek to be innovative, and seek whatever support is necessary to do so. The trick will be to keep a sense of proportion.

5. Ways and Means – The Practicalities of an Alternative Strategy

As part of an industrial strategy that aims to provide a variety of opportunities from a variety of enterprises, I believe we should make high value adding companies a priority target.

This will mean that 4 practical steps would first have to be taken:

- Identify a few high value adding sectors as focal targets. (see Annex A)
- Identify what Ilminster has to offer, and where there are limitations. (see Annex B)
- Identify what other magnets or carrots could be offered. (see Annex C)
- Refine the choice of sectors and then refocus a strategy on them

6. A Way Forward

If this paper offers some useful ideas, a next step could for interested parties to meet to determine whether a fuller study of its basic themes is worthwhile. Bearing in mind that we are a smallish community, some finer focussing would provide feasible targets.

7. Credibility

The perceived value of this sort of contribution often depends on the relevance of the author's professional background and experience. So, at Annex D, there is a brief CV.



15 June 2007

Circulation:

Cllr. Carol Goodall - Mayor
Cllr. Margaret Excell
Stephen Fisher Esq. - Clerk to the Council

ANNEX A

The key is specificity: that means small quantities for niche markets; not for the big firm.

A.1. Health Care provides at least two opportunity areas.

As the understanding of the human genome and DNA broadens so it becomes possible to target new drugs and therapies very precisely. For example, there are drugs emerging that are blood group specific; that is to say that for a given disorder, different blood groups would receive different drugs.

As new materials emerge we are able to develop new devices that can cure and/or significantly improve the quality of life. As examples of this is that we can now provide stronger and more effective joint replacements for fingers and ankles; artificial bone replaces metal pins; there are artificial bladders and heart valves

A.2. Advanced Materials have widespread applications beyond the health field.

Materials can have built-in memories. They can be made to change shape to and fro over specific temperature ranges. So modern glass house have window hinges that open and close as the crop temperatures require, and without the need for complex control systems or human intervention.

Materials can be provided with surface layers one atom thick. In special information technology applications this can mean placing a piece of information on a given atom.

A.3 This can make information technology more effective still.

Special materials enable devices to be developed along with equally specialised software to fulfil a customer's precise needs. For example, a control system that controls brewing for Brewery X that would not work for beers from Brewery Y.

A.4. Large scale processing and the "must have and then throw away" society have changed the environment. Managing the environment in many different ways provides other niche opportunities. As an example, whilst waste recycling has a high political profile, the practicality is that sorting some wastes such as plastics and paper is almost impossible. A small specialist combining skills from A.2 and A.3. could (and probably will) crack the nuts.

ANNEX B

This would be a SWOT analysis. It may already exist, with the need perhaps to have some minor modifications. Issues to address and develop would include:

B.1. Strengths

The existence of the vision.

Having people with the will to seek the opportunities

Location. One aspect of special relevance is the relative proximity of the universities at Exeter and Bath, both of which have Innovation Centres from which new enterprises spin out into the general community.

The Gooch and Housego magnet with the strong indications of its commitment to the town.

B.2. Weaknesses

We are a minor municipal entity.

The sectoral commitment of the Chamber of Commerce may be myopic. We have lost a number of manufacturers in recent years. One minor tragedy was to lose a highly specialised company that spun out when the Glacier/Federal Mogul/Daido shrink occurred. The spin-out relocated within the town and then moved away.

B.3. Opportunities

To seek out one or two niches that other municipalities have not recognised.

To make more of our immediate location as a place for both working and living.

To exploit the burgeoning private equity investment sector.

To exploit the relative lack of need for a "town" location by advanced enterprises.

B.4. Threats

The power of the district/county/unitary authority.

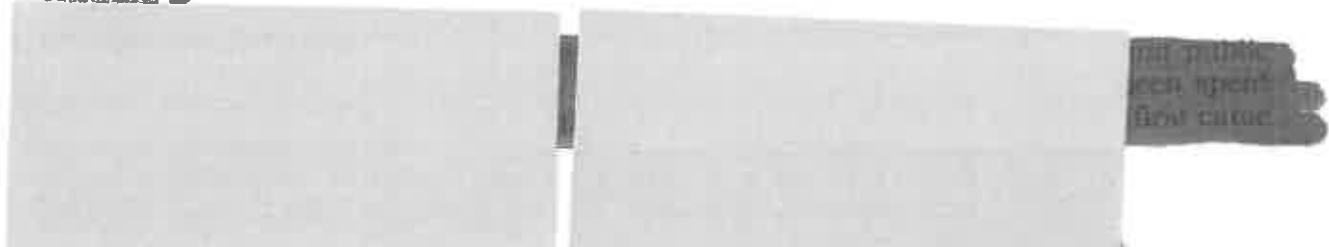
Local inertia.

ANNEX C

The magnets are those assets that exist firstly within Ilminster and secondly near to and accessible to Ilminster. They would include life style, amenities, communications, education, existing enterprises and so on.

In detail these may best be identified from other parts of the current "Vision", and refined around what target business sectors may emerge.

ANNEX D



Friday 1st June 2007.

Recd

The public consultation continues and in view of your long term involvement with industry, I wondered if you would be prepared to put some of your ideas in writing for consideration?

It is extremely good of you to show so much interest and because of this, I will copy your letter and this reply to both the Mayor and the Town Clerk to keep them informed. I trust this meets with your approval and I very much look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely.

Margaret

Margaret Excell

Copy to:
Clr Carol Goodall, Mayor.
Mr Stephen Fisher, Clerk to Ilminster Town Council.



Cllr. Margaret Excell

Dear Margaret,

29 May 2007

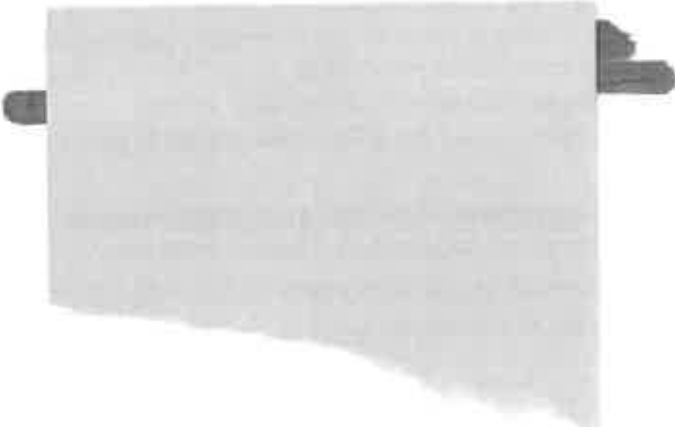
You may recall that we had quite a long chat in Southmead School a few weeks ago when the vision for the future of Ilminster set out for all to see. My overall impression was to be impressed! The possibilities and the breadth of vision are both exciting and commendable. However, as I think I indicated during our conversation, I believe the proposed industrial strategy is flawed.

You were tremendously supportive when a few of us tried to offer a development strategy through the Chamber of Commerce a few years back. We failed, but that does not mean that the need to develop has gone. Hence this letter to you. May I offer an overview of what we might do industrially, just to see what might emerge? I was encouraged by our recent chat and quite by chance a few evenings ago, I had a conversation with Mark Davis. He too feels that external input into the town's development plans might be helpful. That encouraged me too.

For something like the last 20 years of my active professional career, I was involved in industrial development all over Europe based on the effective transfer of technology. Computers and IT are only a small part of what technology is all about. I am still doing work in the field, but I am able to be "picky". The essence of industrial development is now not job creation, its is wealth creation generated by high value adding products. I am aware that the SSDC wants all new industry to go to Yeovil, but what is wrong with a local initiative? Especially when Ilminster is actually far better placed in communications terms than Yeovil.

In a nutshell, if I can help, please let me know.

Bert wishes
Yours sincerely



Copy for Steven Fisher, Town Clerk

South Somerset CLIMATE ACTION

Councillor David Miller
37 Acacia Road
Ilminster
TA19 9BG

11 July 2007

Meeting to discuss the Town Plan

Many thanks for sending your apologies and for your thoughtful response to our invitation.

You have rightly given expression to how we can mitigate the effects of climate change.

You make particular points about:

Population growth: When parents have reasonable expectation that their children will survive into adulthood; when they can rely sufficiently on adequate nutrition and basic healthcare — and girls receive at least basic education — then they usually want to limit the size of their families.

The standard of living in China: A Chinese Environment Minister is eager to reduce the environmental impact of their industrialisation but it is hard for Eastern politicians to impose restrictions on a poor populace when Western countries are so profligate. The Himalayas have lost 10% of their ice in the last 10 years. In consequence, melt-waters are becoming progressively less reliable. Huge numbers of people rely on river flows for irrigation in China, Indochina and the Indian subcontinent. I anticipate increasing pressure *from them* for curtailment of greenhouse gas emissions.

I heard a couple of years ago that the UK, with about 1% of the world's population, is responsible for about 15% of all the CO₂ produced anywhere in the last 150 years because it started the Industrial Revolution. Further, there are plans to market a car in India for about £1500 and to expand airports dramatically. Unless powerful action is taken soon, the climate could flip beyond any sort of human response.

Nuclear power may indeed have a role but the counter arguments are strong:

1. The whole system is investment-greedy — billions have already been spent on research without the breakthrough that has been promised again and again. The reprocessing plant at Winscale cost as much as the channel tunnel and still sits there out of operation. I think the investment should go into the development of *sustainable* energy sources. One good bet is Concentrated Solar Power (CSP). Banks of mirrors focus the sun onto engines or boilers to generate electricity or for local desalination etc. These can be large scale. They are already in operation in Spain, California etc. The sun shines with great intensity and regularity in Equatorial regions. Electricity can be transmitted great distances, etc.
2. There are limited supplies of uranium ore and, if many countries start wanting it, the price will go up while the time before supplies are exhausted will go down. And why should the current generation strip the planet of its uranium as well as its oil. Why shouldn't our grandchildren — and their grandchildren — benefit from these natural assets?
3. How can it be right for us to expand our nuclear programme if it is so wrong for Iran? Nuclear weapons proliferation will be even more difficult to control if more and more countries go the nuclear route. Conventional explosive surrounded by radioactive material is another frightening danger.
4. It is often claimed that nuclear power emits no CO₂. This is certainly not true *when the entire operation is considered*. Mining, transport, milling, chemical treatment, and dealing with waste all need fossil fuels as does the concrete and steel to build the plants and ...
5. ... power station sites and nuclear waste will need care and periodic renewal of energy-intensive concrete or other protection for 10,000 years. Do we want the entire planet to be littered with these sites? What a legacy!
6. Most nuclear power stations are by the sea. Former professor John Bowman, Vice-Chairman of the local Lib-Dems, says sea levels will rise by 45cm by mid-century. Former professor

Working to increase awareness of climate change and accelerate action to limit the causes

27 East Street, Ilminster, TA19 0AN Tel 01460 55323

South Somerset CLIMATE ACTION

2

County Councillor John Sharpe said to me "sooner than that". The Greenland and Western Antarctic ice-sheets are breaking up (see "*Climate change and trace gases*" attached. James Hanson, the lead author was principal advisor to the Bush administration and appeared before congressional committees). Sea levels are predicted to rise by tens of metres. Power stations and storage sites could be inundated.

A further consequence is that coastal communities world-wide — including probably those of Weston-super-Mare and London — look highly likely to be displaced over coming decades. New Orleans was simply the first large one!

The fundamental point of all of the above is that we have been living as though our success was unaffected by the difficulties of other regions in the UK and abroad. That will no longer do. We have to ensure that every community has a decent chance of living a healthy and productive life. This is not simply an ethical question; we need the co-operation of all communities for our survival.

Unless developing countries constrain their use of fuels, increasing numbers of regions will become virtually uninhabitable and the current residents will be on the move — and quite possibly armed and angry. Yet study after study over the last 30 or 40 years has shown that the world has enough for all to enjoy a sustainable and satisfying life — though, I have to admit, it is getting harder to maintain that optimism as our lifestyle becomes ever more wasteful and, for very many westerners, is *not* particularly satisfying. Why should we be able to squander increasingly scarce resources when others do not have enough for a meagre existence and future generations will find their lives have been constrained by the results of our extravagance?

Even if the climate were not the prime concern, there will come a point when it takes more than a barrel of oil to drill deep into the sea bed to extract another barrel of oil. As time goes by fuel is almost certain to be substantially more expensive. We urgently need to appraise our planners of this reality. It would be folly indeed to dedicate even more of our town to the motor car — for example by turning part of the recreation ground into a car park.

You said, "We should attempt to play our part, in particular by using energy efficiently and encouraging other means of transport than the motor car, but we should not fool ourselves by thinking we can make a significant contribution." I applaud the first sentence but take issue with the second. I assert that we 'fool ourselves' if we think that minor adjustments to our way of life will be sufficient.

If it were just Ilminster wanting to do something about these issues we might make no 'significant contribution' yet, worldwide, there are millions of us in tens of thousands of organisations and informal groups campaigning for environmental sustainability and social justice. What we do matters!

Woking has reduced the energy consumption of its municipal buildings by 70+% and is renowned worldwide for its initiatives. I do not see why Ilminster — whose residents must be among the most fortunate people ever to have lived — cannot make a significant contribution.

The whole point of the Town Plan is that we should not sit back and wait for the District Council but should think for ourselves and aim to influence them as much as possible.

Rather than climate change being an option which should not be given emphasis, six out of seven of the Government's existing policy "Key Planning Objectives" refer to either climate change or closely related matters. I enclose a brief.

Thank you once more, not only for your letter but for representing us on the council and taking all the flak that seems to be fired at those who accept such responsibilities.



Joe Burlington
Chairman

Working to increase awareness of climate change and accelerate action to limit the causes
27 East Street, Ilminster, TA19 0AN Tel 01460 55323

Planning Policy Briefing prepared by Somerset Wildlife Trust for South Somerset Climate Action

Sustainable development is now part of the purpose of the planning system.

Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (PPS1), published by Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in 2006, sets out the overarching planning policies on delivering sustainable development through the planning system. It states (section entitled "Protection and enhancement of the environment"):

"Development plan policies should take account of environmental issues such as mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the use of renewable energy . . ."

So that is existing policy and already quite a strong requirement to afford weight to climate change. But then in December of last year DCLG issued a consultation document on a proposed supplement to PPS1 on Planning and Climate Change the eventual effect of which is likely to make climate change an even stronger consideration in planning.

While the document is only emerging policy, unusually it does set out transitional arrangements that presumably apply right away. It states (paragraph 1.16):

"Where revisions to RSS or DPDs are inconsistent with the Key Planning Objectives in Planning and Climate Change the Department expects RPBs and LPAs to put work in hand to ensure consistency before their adoption"

A DPD is a Development Plan Document and would therefore include the Local Development Framework (the replacement for the Local Plan and Structure Plans), which presumably the Town Plan consultation is linked to. LPA is the Local Planning Authority, which in this case would be South Somerset District Council rather than the Town Council directly.

The Key Planning Objectives, set out in Planning and Climate Change, are (para 6):

"Regional Planning Bodies and all planning authorities should prepare and deliver spatial strategies that:

- ***Make a full contribution to delivering the governments climate change programme and energy policies, and in doing so contribute to global sustainability;***

- ***In enabling the provision of new homes, jobs, services, and infrastructure and shaping the places where people live and work, secure the highest viable standard of resource and energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions;***

- ***Deliver urban patterns of growth that help secure the fullest possible use of sustainable transport for moving freight, public transport, cycling, walking; and, overall, reduce the need to travel, especially by car;***

- ***Secure new development and shape places resilient to the effects of climate change in ways consistent with social cohesion and inclusion;***

- ***Sustain biodiversity and in doing so recognise the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change;***

- ***Reflect the development needs and interest of communities and enable them to contribute effectively to tackling climate change; and;***

- ***Respond to the concerns of business and encourage competitiveness and technological innovation."***

In light of all that it is difficult to see how the Town Council could not place climate at the heart of its plan making!

The consultation document on the Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 is at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/142/ConsultationPlanningPolicyStatementPlanningandClimateChangeSupplementtoPlanning1_id1505142.pdf PPS1 is at:

http://communities.gov.uk/pub/9/PlanningPolicyStatement1DeliveringSustainableDevelopment_id1507009.rtf

David Westbrook, Policy and Campaigns Manager,

Somerset Wildlife Trust, Tonedale Mill, Tonedale, Wellington TA21 0AW Tel: 01823 652405

27 June 2007

Climate change and trace gases

BY JAMES HANSEN^{1,*}, MAKIKO SATO¹, PUSHKER KHARECHA¹,
GARY RUSSELL¹, DAVID W. LEA² AND MARK SIDDALL³

¹*NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Columbia University
Earth Institute, 2880 Broadway, New York, NY 10025, USA*

²*Department of Earth Science, University of California,
Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA*

³*Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University,
Palisades, NY 10964, USA*

Palaeoclimate data show that the Earth's climate is remarkably sensitive to global forcings. Positive feedbacks predominate. This allows the entire planet to be whipsawed between climate states. One feedback, the 'albedo flip' property of ice/water, provides a powerful trigger mechanism. A climate forcing that 'flips' the albedo of a sufficient portion of an ice sheet can spark a cataclysm. Inertia of ice sheet and ocean provides only moderate delay to ice sheet disintegration and a burst of added global warming. Recent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions place the Earth perilously close to dramatic climate change that could run out of our control, with great dangers for humans and other creatures. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the largest human-made climate forcing, but other trace constituents are also important. Only intense simultaneous efforts to slow CO₂ emissions and reduce non-CO₂ forcings can keep climate within or near the range of the past million years. The most important of the non-CO₂ forcings is methane (CH₄), as it causes the second largest human-made GHG climate forcing and is the principal cause of increased tropospheric ozone (O₃), which is the third largest GHG forcing. Nitrous oxide (N₂O) should also be a focus of climate mitigation efforts. Black carbon ('black soot') has a high global warming potential (approx. 2000, 500 and 200 for 20, 100 and 500 years, respectively) and deserves greater attention. Some forcings are especially effective at high latitudes, so concerted efforts to reduce their emissions could preserve Arctic ice, while also having major benefits for human health, agricultural productivity and the global environment.

Keywords: climate change; trace gases; climate feedbacks; black carbon; sea level; Arctic

1. Introduction

Trace atmospheric gases have played a leading role in climate change throughout Earth's history. Thus, empirical data on trace gas histories and climate change provide invaluable information on climate sensitivity. The Earth's climate

* Author for correspondence (jhanson@giss.nasa.gov).

One contribution of 18 to a Discussion Meeting Issue 'Trace gas biogeochemistry and global change'.

An ice sheet in equilibrium may have summer melt on its fringes, balanced by interior ice sheet growth. Large climate change will occur only if a forcing is sufficient to initiate rapid dynamical feedbacks and disintegration of a substantial portion of the ice sheet. Rapidly rising temperatures in the past three decades (figure 4), evidence that the Earth is now substantially out of energy balance (Hansen *et al.* 2005b), and indications of accelerating change on West Antarctica and Greenland (see below) indicate that the period of stability is over.

(d) *Planet Earth today: imminent peril*

The imminent peril is initiation of dynamical and thermodynamical processes on the West Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets that produce a situation out of humanity's control, such that devastating sea-level rise will inevitably occur.

Climate forcing of this century under BAU would dwarf natural forcings of the past million years, indeed it would probably exceed climate forcing of the middle Pliocene, when the planet was not more than 2–3°C warmer and sea level 25 ± 10 m higher (Dowsett *et al.* 1994). The climate sensitivities we have inferred from palaeoclimate data ensure that a BAU GHG emission scenario would produce global warming of several degrees Celsius this century, with amplification at high latitudes.

Such warming would assuredly activate the albedo-flip trigger mechanism over large portions of these ice sheets. In combination with warming of the nearby ocean and atmosphere, the increased surface melt would bring into play multiple positive feedbacks leading to eventual nonlinear ice sheet disintegration, as discussed by Hansen (2005). It is difficult to predict time of collapse in such a nonlinear problem, but we find no evidence of millennial lags between forcing and ice sheet response in palaeoclimate data. An ice sheet response time of centuries seems probable, and we cannot rule out large changes on decadal time-scales once wide-scale surface melt is underway. With GHGs continuing to increase, the planetary energy imbalance provides ample energy to melt ice corresponding to several metres of sea level per century (Hansen *et al.* 2005b).

With this danger in mind, it is appropriate to closely monitor ice sheet conditions. Area of summer melt on Greenland increased from approximately 450 000 km² in the first few years after satellite observations began in 1979 to more than 600 000 km² in recent years (Steffen *et al.* 2004). Iceberg discharge from Greenland increased markedly over the past 15 years. Mass loss increased from 4–50 km³ yr⁻¹ in 1993–1998 to 57–105 km³ yr⁻¹ in 1999–2004, based on radar altimeters, with probable losses at the higher ends of those ranges (Thomas *et al.* 2006). Recent analyses of satellite gravity field data yield a net annual loss of 101 ± 16 km³ yr⁻¹ during 2003–2005 (Luthcke *et al.* 2006).

The gravest threat we foresee starts with surface melt on West Antarctica and interaction among positive feedbacks leading to catastrophic ice loss. Warming in West Antarctica in recent decades has been limited by effects of stratospheric ozone depletion (Shindell & Schmidt 2004). However, climate projections (Hansen *et al.* 2006b) find surface warming in West Antarctica and warming of nearby ocean at depths that may attack buttressing ice shelves. Loss of ice shelves allows more rapid discharge from ice streams, in turn a lowering and warming of the ice sheet surface, and increased surface melt. Rising sea level helps unhinge the ice from pinning points.

West Antarctica seems to be moving into a mode of significant mass loss (Thomas *et al.* 2004). Gravity data yielded mass loss of approximately $150 \text{ km}^3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ in 2002–2005 (Velicogna & Wahr 2006). A warming ocean has eroded ice shelves by more than 5 m yr^{-1} over the past decade (Rignot & Jacobs 2002; Shepherd *et al.* 2004). Satellite QuickSCAT radiometer observations (Nghiem *et al.* 2007), initiated in 1999, reveal an increasing area of summer melt on West Antarctica and an increasing melt season over the period of record. Attention has focused on Greenland, but the most recent gravity data indicate comparable mass loss from West Antarctica. We find it implausible that BAU scenarios, with climate forcing and global warming exceeding those of the Pliocene, would permit a West Antarctic ice sheet of present size to survive even for a century.

Our concern that BAU GHG scenarios would cause large sea-level rise this century (Hansen 2005) differs from estimates of IPCC (2001, 2007), which foresees little or no contribution to twenty-first century sea-level rise from Greenland and Antarctica. However, the IPCC analyses and projections do not well account for the nonlinear physics of wet ice sheet disintegration, ice streams and eroding ice shelves, nor are they consistent with the palaeoclimate evidence we have presented for the absence of discernable lag between ice sheet forcing and sea-level rise.

The best chance for averting ice sheet disintegration seems to be intense simultaneous efforts to reduce both CO_2 emissions and non- CO_2 climate forcings.


As mentioned above, there are multiple benefits from such actions. However, even with such actions, it is probable that the dangerous level of atmospheric GHGs will be passed, at least temporarily. We have presented evidence (Hansen *et al.* 2006b) that the dangerous level of CO_2 can be no more than approximately 450 ppm. Our present discussion, including the conclusion that slow feedbacks (ice, vegetation and GHG) can come into play on century time-scales or sooner, makes it probable that the dangerous level is even lower.

Present knowledge does not permit accurate specification of the dangerous level of human-made GHGs. However, it is much lower than has commonly been assumed. If we have not already passed the dangerous level, the energy infrastructure in place ensures that we will pass it within several decades.

We conclude that a feasible strategy for planetary rescue almost surely requires a means of extracting GHGs from the air. Development of CO_2 capture at power plants, with below-ground CO_2 sequestration, may be a critical element. Injection of the CO_2 well beneath the ocean floor assures its stability (House *et al.* 2006). If the power plant fuel is derived from biomass, such as cellulosic fibres⁵ grown without excessive fertilization that produces N_2O or other offsetting GHG emissions, it will provide continuing drawdown of atmospheric CO_2 .

We thank Rick Fairbanks, Peter Gleick, Gideon Henderson, Chris Jones, Joan Jouzel, Jim Kennett, Conway Leovy, Manfred Mudelsee, Maurcen Raymo, Eric Rignot, Reto Ruedy, Dean Shiskowski, Konrad Steffen, Bill Thompson, Chad Tolman, Michael Wright and Jay Zwally for their helpful data and suggestions, and Robert Schmunk and Darnell Cain for their technical assistance.

⁵The potential of these 'amber waves of grain' and coastal facilities for permanent underground storage 'from sea to shining sea' to help restore America's technical prowess, moral authority and prestige, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, in the course of helping to solve the climate problem, has not escaped our attention.



Cllr. Margaret Excell
10 New Buildings
Dowlish Ford
Ilminster
Somerset TA19 0PE

06 June 2007

Re: The Ilminster Strategic Vision

Thank you for your letter dated June 1st. It will take me a few days to get my ideas into a presentable form. It makes no sense to provide anything that is too lumpy and indigestible. What I will try to do is to produce something that offers the essence of a complementary industrial strategy that can be challenged and talked through. Then if the potential usefulness of a more detailed document emerges, I would be happy to keep the initiative going.

You will know that Carol Goodall and I have had a brief conversation. I am more than content that anyone interested should see what I am up to.

Looking back over my last letter, too many typos were evident. I'll try to do better in future!

With Best Wishes and Be In Touch



cc:

Cllr. Carol Goodall, Mayor
Stephen Fisher Esq. Clerk to Ilminster Town Council ✓

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices
North Street
ILMINSTER
Somerset
TA19 0DG

Tel: 01460 52149

Fax: 01460 55642

e-mail: town.council@ilminster.gov.uk



Town Clerk: Stephen Fisher

17 July 2007

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 19 June which I have read as an observation on the Council's draft Strategic Vision, even though it is headed Ditton Street One Way System. You also refer to a Local Plan which has a particular significance in planning terms, is in place and is not the same thing as the Strategic Vision.

The purpose of the consultative exercise on the draft vision was to provoke thoughts and reactions and I am grateful to you for taking the time to respond to the issues it raises. I shall certainly make sure that the contents are considered by the small working groups that will re-convene to review the feedback, but in the meantime I thought it would be helpful to comment on a couple of the points.

The concept of a road link between Shudrick Lane and Frog Lane is by no means new and was considered several years ago when the possibility of a food store on that site was first mooted. It was eventually rejected by the Highways Authority and I have asked them for chapter and verse on their reasons so that I do not misrepresent them.

Incidentally planning Application 06/02906/OUT has been determined, albeit after the date of your letter. It was, I understand, only waiting for legal details of the form of some of the subsidiary agreements.

An eastern relief road along the valley extending from Shudrick Lane, is a concept that the Council believes should be explored since it has the potential to remove traffic from the town centre. You are however reading too much detail into the idea. The Vision aims to ventilate the issue and to do so in plans being made available to the public, we had to draw a line somewhere to make the point. That route, if it ever came to fruition, would need to be fully investigated with not only people whose land is crossed but also professional highways officers.

Thank you for your observations, which, as I indicated, will be drawn to the attention of members at the appropriate time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve'.

Stephen Fisher
Town Clerk

**Mr F.S. Fisher
Clerk to the Council
Ilminster Town Council
Council Offices
North Street
ILMINSTER
TA19 0DG**

19th June 2007

Ditton Street One Way System

Dear Mr Fisher,


A short while ago I attended an exhibition of the Town Council's fifteen year Strategic Plan and I was impressed by the amount of thought that must have gone into the Plan's creation. I congratulate the Council on making the effort to give us all a chance to comment on the Council's current thinking. This is particularly important at a time when the Tesco development is dominating, one might even say distorting, the thinking of many people in the town.

A major cause for concern with the current Tesco development has been making Ditton Street one-way in a North South direction. Whilst it is clear that modern traffic requirements have made it improbable that Ditton Street could have been left "as is" it does seem that the objections could have been reduced or even avoided had the current requirements been known when the Canal Way development was being designed. Now the 125 yard South – North section of Ditton Street is to be replaced by a detour of about 1½ miles! Further more it is a route with all the attendant risk inherent in motorists speeding along a road regularly crossed by children and youngsters wishing to reach the various playing fields.

Now, it seems that we are about to commit a similar error of forethhought, an error made much worse because we now know much more about the current and future requirements.

Frog Lane could have been extended southwards to meet the northern extension of Shudrick Lane thus creating a viable South – North route avoiding the planned 1½ mile detour. I have, however, been informed that the County Highways department will not permit this because of the listed wall on the eastern side of Frog Lane. It is probable that the vitality of Ilminster's existing shopping area will come under significant pressure once the new Tesco Supermarket is opened. It does not seem to make sense to heap even greater pressure on the viability of these shops by forcing this 1½ mile detour yet we appear to be busy creating the same error as was made with the Canal Way development; permitting houses to be built that will cut off an important alternate South North route to the centre of Ilminster.

The South Somerset Planning web site gives the following outline planning proposal:-

06/02906/OUT	14 August 2006	Land At Shudrick Lane Ilminster Somerset TA19 0BN	Not Issued	
Proposal: Residential development and land to be used for badger mitigation strategy (GR 336348 / 114455)				

As the approval status of that plan is "Not Issued" I would ask that the Frog Lane concept is re-opened if only to ensure that the option of being able to join Shudrick Lane and Frog lane are put into the Local Plan to avoid the option being closed off for ever. It would, of course, need changes to the proposed Residential Development plan (06/02906/OUT) before it is re-submitted for planning consent and would probably require the "Adoptable Turning Head" to be modified and the two houses to the east would have to be forfeit to permit a road to be inserted between the end of Frog Lane and the Shudrick Lane extension. A possibility now if there was a Local Plan in place but very expensive or even impossible once planning permission has been given

The excellent 15 Year Planning Proposals shown in the exhibition illustrate that there are many possibilities which could, eventually benefit if the South – North option remained available. The Plan also opens up the possibility of an "Eastern Relief Road" extension of Shudrick Lane eastwards towards the Townsend – Kingstone Road. I would venture to suggest that whilst this may have other benefits, it would not be a viable South – North alternative but rather a mirror of Canal Way Road towards the east with the major disadvantage that vehicles wishing to go east on the "Old 303" would have to negotiate a 340 degree turn across the already difficult Bay Hill - Townsend road junction. In fact safety requirements would most likely require the insertion of a roundabout in very difficult, sloping terrain and with the loss of a number of mature trees.

Perhaps Councillors would be willing to give me the opportunity to explain this idea further and hear what difficulties need to be overcome in the hope that we can widen the discussion to the appropriate departments in South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council on a matter that I believe is important to the continuing vitality and vibrancy of Ilminster.

Please note, however, that I shall be on holiday now until July 16th!

Yours Sincerely

