

Basingstoke Transition Network (BTN) has announced today it has published a visionary *Development Standard* for Manydown. This Standard details how Manydown would put Basingstoke on the map for sustainable development.

From Boringstoke to Ecostoke!

A vast new community of up to 3,520 new homes plus community facilities, schools, businesses and shops is planned to be constructed at Manydown. What could this mean for the future of the town?

What if this development could be...?

- A showcase of sustainable development, incorporating state-of-the-art net zero design, technology, features and techniques using locally sourced materials and manufacturing capability
- A first for Hampshire and a model for further development in the county and region
- A huge boost to the local economy through the accumulation of expertise, supply chain development and jobs centered around the delivery of low carbon buildings incorporating renewable energy
- A demonstration that it is possible to build on a greenfield site AND make a significant enhancement to the biodiversity of the area

Manydown would then become a catalyst for establishing Basingstoke as a 'centre of excellence' for sustainable development for Hampshire and beyond, and be a sure foundation for the future prosperity of the town and its current and new inhabitants.

This is truly a unique opportunity because Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council have both declared a climate emergency and are the current landowners so have full control over the direction of the development. Homebuyers are increasingly demanding carbon emissions information for making purchasing decisions (2019 YouGov Poll) and low carbon developments are in high demand as homebuyers realise that the incremental price of low carbon homes is easily cancelled out by the significant reduction in running costs. Also, the selected Master developer Urban & Civic state in their media that "Sustainability is at the heart of what we do."

So, are we ready to change the reputation of Basingstoke to a place of groundbreaking development and vibrant communities where people want to live? This is our opportunity!

The Basingstoke Transition Network (BTN) Manydown Standard is, of course, equally applicable to all other planned housing developments in the area.

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Editors:

Basingstoke Transition Network (BTN): Exists to encourage the transition of the borough and its surroundings to a low-carbon, low-waste community that encourages biodiversity and seeks climate justice.

Carbon Emissions from Homes: The UK Committee on Climate Change has stated that any new homes must be low-carbon, energy and water efficient and climate resilient¹. This is important because 14% of UK emissions come from energy use in homes and this must decrease by 24% by 2030 to meet emissions targets. Reducing the carbon emissions from our homes is a key requirement if we are to meet our 2030 emissions reduction targets². 81% of the UK public believe that climate change is a global emergency³ and YouGov polls show that consumers now demand low-carbon housing⁴. Any new homes constructed now are likely to still be in use not only in 2030 but potentially in hundreds of years' time. It is more cost effective to build homes to the right standards now than to have to retrofit them in the future¹.

Destruction of Greenfield Land: The Manydown development, and others proposed within Basingstoke and Deane, are being constructed on greenfield sites rather than on brownfield sites or utilising the empty office blocks in Basingstoke. This will result in the destruction of part of our historic countryside, including destroying trees which naturally remove carbon from the atmosphere. If we are to intentionally devastate our own countryside in order to build houses then it is vital that these developments are low carbon and energy efficient.

¹The Committee on Climate Change (2019) *UK Housing: Fit for the Future*, Available at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/UK-housing-Fit-for-the-future-CCC-2019.pdf> (accessed 22/05/21)

²The Committee on Climate Change (2016) *The Fifth Carbon Budget How every household can help reduce the UK's carbon footprint*, Available at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/5CB-Infographic-FINAL-.pdf> (accessed 20/05/21)

³United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and partners (2021) *The Peoples' Climate Vote*, Available at: <https://www.undp.org/publications/peoples-climate-vote> (accessed 23/05/21)

⁴SmartCitiesWorld (2019) *Consumers demand low-carbon housing*, Available at: <https://www.smartcitiesworld.net/news/news/consumers-demand-low-carbon-footprint-housing-4740> (accessed 20/05/21)