

To make buildings health promoting, we need to:

- Clearly articulate our understanding of the determinants of health, and the overlap between healthy and sustainable societies (KEEP OUR COOL and MIND THE GAP –Contraction and Convergence)
- Create simple ways for people to implement policy which will beneficially influence the determinants.
- Identify the human, financial and technical support necessary.

To make buildings health promoting.

- Show how the facility affects the three pillars of sustainability.
- Emphasis need to create virtuous cycles- simultaneously benefiting each of the pillars.
- Promote local production and consumption cycles.
- Aim at carbon neutral facilities, which are solar ready./ Role of environmental/social impact assessment
- Design/redesign for conservation plus renewables.
- Water and waste reduction, biodiversity enhancement.

In the Development of new buildings

- Clearly identify where the building could benefit the pillars of sustainability.
- Robustly negotiate for these, with a committed Board and champion.
- To identify the key points in negotiation, and the key issues you need to raise, use the simple documents produced by LSDC framework and implementation booklet, ‘building for health, ‘WWF sustainability check list, RDA info.

The Health Care Service in England and Wales

- Employs 850,000 people.
- Spends 11.6 billion on products (73% clinical—mainly pharmaceuticals).
- Consumes 54,000 tonnes of food .
- Produces 3 million tons of CO₂.(excl. transport).
- Generates 300,000 tonnes of waste (250,000 domestic).
- Is spending £10-20 billions on new buildings.
- And has therefore profound impacts on health(well-being) as well as delivering health care.

Helpful Examples(mainly from the health service)

- Environmental and social impact (integrated impact) assessment of Lewisham Hospital. A framework for enhancing an already functioning institution.
- Building for health.(Romford, Barts/London and Lewisham. JB's support.
- Footprint of the NHS-shows how far we have to go, and measures progress.
- Demonstration of virtuous cycles .
- Bedzed

Homes for all-Sustainable communities .

- Active, inclusive, safe and well run.
- Environmentally sensitive, well designed and built.
- Well connected to transport, jobs services schools, health, and well served.
- Thriving with jobs and training opportunities, and fair for everyone.
- WWF sustainability check list suggests add global issues, maritime issues.
- But-Govt document seems to be only aspirational.
- Will Dong Tang stimulate us all?

Wider community/Global effects of reducing our footprints.

MITIGATING GLOBAL WARMING. The 3.5 C increase projected for 2100 is predicted to cause:

- Disruption of agriculture and built environment through extreme weather and changed rain patterns. Worse for 'income poor' world.
- Rising sea levels –1 metre rise will displace 120 million people-mostly in the income poor world.
- Extension of vector borne diseases: From 45% - 60% exposed to malaria:60 million cases/year.

Sustainable building code

- Voluntary, and new houses only.
- Covers::Energy: water performance: waste and material requirements: durability and flexibility: health and well being and flood resilience.
- ? Post completion evaluation.
- Seems strangely detached from sustainable communities document

Examples of Virtuous cycles.

- Local production and consumption cycles through local food production.(Cornwall).
- Reducing energy costs and CO 2 emissions through insulation—trained local employees entering the job market.
- CHP plants—small scale, very high temp waste incineration.
- Growing insulating materials locally(sheeps wool/flax).
- Developing renewable technologies.

Problems

- Sustainability is seen as an optional extra-not the essence of public health. ‘Sustainable Communities’ is aspirational, the buildings code voluntary
- Lack of financially supported direction from the NHS
- For new build: Poorly worded contracts; need a consistent public health champion input.
- Difficulties with whole life cycle financing-we must develop public health supportive capital/revenue payback mechanisms.

Take Home Messages

- Running and building facilities afford us multiple opportunities to improve the health of individuals , communities and the planet.
- these are not being taken up in an energetic (and funded)way.
- From the health service perspective, If £5 million was made available in each region for health facilities to bid for with the specific intent of creating virtuous cycles of activity, and with a clear life cycle pay back time , we might see some action.
- What else do we need to happen?