

AGM 27th September 2010

You may have noticed a conflict of day/date in the notice of the Annual General Meeting. I confirm that the date is MONDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER. The venue and time are as stated. The venue is the John Stripe Theatre, University of Winchester and the time is 7pm.

Ian Patton

It is one of the Trust's ambitions from time to time to invite speakers from the forefront of current thinking on matters that concern us all in Winchester. This year we are fortunate to have persuaded **Sue Riddlestone** to give the AGM talk. She is widely acknowledged to be both a leading expert on sustainable housing and a gifted speaker.

Amongst numerous other things, Sue is Executive Director & Co-Founder of BioRegional, an organisation that has promoted sustainable communities in countries from China to the US, so that in 2008 the Government appointed Sue to the Eco-Towns Challenge Panel.

Perhaps the best known of BioRegional's projects in this country is the Beddington Zero Energy Development (widely known as BedZED) for the Peabody Trust, a first of its kind built as an example of how we can remedy our current unsustainable lifestyle, and to show that we already have the capacity and expertise to build and live sustainably if we choose to.

The development has 99 homes and workspace for around 100 people. The housing is arranged in five terraces, all of which face south and have triple storey conservatories to maximise light and warmth from the sun. BedZED's outer walls and roofs are super-insulated, combined with triple glazed windows, this negates the need for a central heating system. A wind powered ventilation system keeps the homes supplied with fresh air.

Another key aim was to create a socially inclusive sustainable community, with housing for social tenants, key workers and owner occupiers. BedZED is a high-density development suitable for inner city areas, and the model will help to minimise urban sprawl. The site is built to the same density as London's Soho but nearly everyone has a garden.

So successful has this first project been, not only in terms of its environmental credentials but its popularity with residents, who form a thriving community, that the Peabody Trust is refurbishing its existing properties and BioRegional is working on the promotion of another 20 projects.

Michael Carden