



Sustainable Thornbury's Response to S Glos' Consultation on Lodge Farm

Sustainable Thornbury are delighted with South Gloucestershire's vision in the possibility of using the Lodge Farm estate for long-term community use. We wish to take the opportunity of this consultation phase to make a proposal for consideration by the Council.

We believe that, within the recognised need to generate a realistic return for S Glos from the estate, scope exists for a community project benefiting the people of the Thornbury, Yate and Winterbourne districts, all of which are within reasonable distances of Lodge Farm, and supporting the Council's sustainability initiatives.

Sustainable Thornbury are willing to participate, in conjunction with local Councils and voluntary bodies, in setting up and administering a Trust to oversee the purchase or lease of the land and the setting up of interlocking projects on the site. We foresee that the land is large enough to accommodate recreational, educational and fund-raising projects with a unifying theme of arboriculture. One might imagine willow coppice for sale as bio-mass fuel, "forest school" provision, self-guided woodland walks, and fruit and nut orchards; there is the possibility of incorporating the historical aspects of the King's Wood. We foresee that non-residential buildings for classrooms and shelter would be beneficial, but these would be low-impact, non-permanent constructions built from natural and locally-sourced materials. Solar power, rainwater harvesting and reed-bed sewage treatment would obviate the need for external services. The design and construction of the buildings and services would be part of the educational experience.

This proposal could include one or both parcels of land; Lodge Farmhouse itself could be incorporated or, perhaps more realistically, this could be disposed of separately by S Glos. It may be possible to include a wind-power generation scheme above the coppicing, should this prove to be within planning guidelines, but this must show community benefit to be in keeping with the Trust.

We recognise that there are many details of this proposal as yet undefined and we have not yet made any approach to other bodies that might form part of the Trust. However, we believe that these can be addressed within reasonable timescales should S Glos Council wish to pursue this proposal.

R.S.Dale

01454 415345

thethornburydales@blueyonder.co.uk

for Sustainable Thornbury

Sustainable Thornbury is a constituted, open-to-all, voluntary group working "within a geographical area of Thornbury and its surrounding villages [including Alveston parish] promoting [*inter alia*] community engagement and social cohesion, community self-sufficiency and facilitating the adaptation of the community to future energy and climate challenges."