Joined up Thinking

A Vision of Totnes and District in 2030 ........................ 50
Timeline of Change .............................. 54
“Can we rely on it that a ‘turning around’ will be accomplished by enough people quickly enough to save the modern world? This question is often asked, but whatever answer is given to it will mislead. The answer “yes” would lead to complacency; the answer “no” to despair. It is desirable to leave these perplexities behind us and get down to work.”

E.F. Schumacher

“Saving our civilisation is not a spectator sport.”

Lester R. Brown

The Totnes of 2030 is a town which has weathered difficult times, but has now emerged as a resilient, diverse and prosperous community. The surrounding parishes have undergone a similar transition, and the parishes and the town are now much more economically intertwined and more dependent on each other. The area is now 60% self-reliant in terms of food, and has reached a similar percentage in terms of energy provision. Many more people now work closer to where they live, and have become active members of the community, more engaged in a more vibrant and effective local democracy. The south-facing rooftops of the town now glint on a sunny day with their solar panels and many members know that the wind turbine visible from the town is making them money each time it turns.

A walk through the town reveals a quieter, happier and calmer town than that of 2009. The ATMOS Project by the river became, in 2012, a key driver for the rebuilding of the local economy, and led to the creation of hundreds of new small businesses, providing revitalised local markets with building materials, food, skills, advice, and so on. Rather than the town’s economy now being at the mercy of international financial events, it has transformed into a more resilient settlement, one that has led the way and inspired many other communities to start taking their future into their hands.

Key Challenges

- Peak Oil: power down from 9 barrels pp/y in 2009 to (possibly) 1 barrel per person by 2030
- Climate Change: keeping the lid on global temperature rise, getting carbon below 350ppm
Carbon sequestration: removing some carbon from the atmosphere
Stabilising Population growth to around 7 billion and reducing thereafter
Increasing renewable energy supplies to meet 50% of current energy demand
Reducing consumption and waste to zero
Repairing biodiversity
Maintaining adequate clean water supplies with less energy inputs
Society making an inner transition and taking responsibility

"Our latest report finds that despite significant steps towards reducing waste, water consumption and emissions from road travel, Government departments are still not on course to meet their own target for reducing carbon emissions by 12.5%, and far more remains to be done if they are to make a real contribution towards meeting UK-wide targets for 80% emissions reductions by 2050." Sustainable Development Commission 2009

At current growth rates the global population is expected to grow to between 8 and 10.8 billion by 2050, increasing population poses an enormous challenge to all nations. Population stability requires the cooperation of both policy makers and people. In poorer countries, access to education and family planning, can reduce pregnancy rates. In many richer countries, pregnancy rates have fallen below replacement level, but we cannot afford to be complacent as we are likely to witness significant short-term population increase through "baby boomers," still in their fertile years, increasing life expectancy and "climate and immigrants," people displaced through their homelands becoming uninhabitable, as well as economic and internal migrants. In 2005 population projections suggested that South Hams could expect an increase of 3% by 2011 rising to 19% by 2031. A comparison of estimated population data from 2006 to 2008 indicates a rise of 4%, i.e. greater than the predicted rise in the first 2 years. A rise of 19% would bring the total population of Totnes and District from 23,863 in 2008 to 28,397 by 2031.

Business as Usual or Willing to Change?

If we continue to ignore these perceived problems facing society and continue Business as Usual in Totnes and District, by 2030 it is likely that we will see decreasing happiness and personal respect, and increasing fear, denial, austerity, poverty, climate chaos, severe environmental degradation, over-crowding, civil strife and an acceleration towards chaos, fragmentation and the decline of civilisation as we know it. The symptoms of a society in collapse may be clearly upon us. Most of society could be living in extreme hardship and ill placed to take responsibility or actions to reverse the impacts of climate change. A willingness to initiate change and build on a strong ray of hope and positive visioning can guide us to a better life. There are many unresolved issues and problems to be dealt with. The biggest challenges are relearning to live within the carrying capacity of one earth; stabilising population growth, reducing energy and material consumption, and repair and regeneration of biodiversity and ecosystems.
Indicators - Key Characteristics of a Resilient Community

These can be regularly revisited to see if the community is making progress in the right direction.

1. Leadership is diversified and representative of age, gender, and cultural composition of the community
2. Elected community leadership is visionary, shares power and builds consensus.
3. Community members are involved in significant community decisions.
4. The community feels a sense of pride.
5. People feel optimistic about the future of the community
6. There is a spirit of mutual assistance and co-operation in the community
7. People feel a sense of attachment to their community
8. The community is self-reliant and looks to itself and its own resources to address major issues.
9. There is a strong belief in and support for education at all levels
10. There are a variety of Community, Enterprise and Development (CED) organisations in the community such that the key CED functions are well served.

© Richard Hodgson
11. Organisations in the community have developed partnerships and collaborative working relationships
12. Employment in the community is diversified beyond a single large employer
13. Major businesses in the community are locally owned
14. The community has a strategy for increasing independent local ownership
15. There is openness to alternative ways of earning a living and economic activity
16. The community looks outside itself to seek and secure resources (skills, expertise, finance) that will address areas of identified weakness

17. The community is aware of its competitive position in the broader economy
18. Citizens are involved in the creation and implementation of the community vision and goals and have a CED Plan that guides its development.
19. There is on-going action towards achieving the goals in the CED plan
20. There is regular evaluation of progress towards the community’s strategic goals

**Global Greenhouse Emissions**

2010: 35-50 G CO₂-equivalent
> 2030: 43-78 G CO₂-equivalent
(anticipated range)
(source: IPPC)

**UK Carbon Budget (based on Contraction & Convergence)**

2009: 150 MtC
> 2027: 1 MtC
(source: Zero Carbon Britain)

**Rising Sea Levels**

3-10mm per annum
(source: K. Steffen
University of Colorado)

**Global Population estimates**

2009: 6.5 Billion
> 2030: rising 9.5 Billion or declining to 5 Billion
(source: Earthtrends)

**Global Surface Warming**

above pre-1850 levels
2010: 0.1 – 0.2 °Celsius
> 2030: 0.2 – 0.9 °Celsius
(source: IPCC)
The following timeline illustrates the suggested key challenges faced by UK society today and offers some solutions for mitigation. We have used a timeline of the next 21 years to show the widening gap between “business as usual” (if we don’t make and changes) and how small but significant steps can lead to substantial and meaningful improvements if society is willing to change.

Strategic themes: • Peak Oil • Climate Change • Stabilising Population • Reducing excess consumption and waste to zero

2009

Economic Downturn is Good News for DIY Enthusiasts

The economic downturn puts many people out of work; many use their newfound time to start growing food, insulating their homes to keep bills down, and looking for other ways to make and save money.

Transition goes mainstream in Totnes

Through the local Transition Town initiative, the rising cost of energy is becoming more widely understood to be linked to the depletion of reliable oil supplies. A new awareness and concern is evolving as people respond to news about global warming. The concept of environmental limits to growth is gaining momentum as the populist media cover stories of over population.

Major Report shows potential for behaviour change

The IPSOS Big Energy Shift Report reveals huge potential for people to change their energy use and that people are overwhelmingly positive, but that “they will need to be nudged along by the Government and other principal stakeholders.” 9

Community invests in Dairy Crest site

The Atmos Project for the Dairy Crest Site is swamped on its first day of trading as it opens for local investment. Investors in community bonds include prospective (affordable) home buyers, retirees, eco-commerce interests, green builders, community groups and railway companies, who all want to be part of this comprehensive sustainable development. At the close of the day the investors symbolically switch on the solar powered lights behind a brightly coloured billboard with a 3D picture of the proposed development and raise a glass of local wine. The Whistlestop café has done a roaring trade.

South Hams District Council hosts a Community Partnership Forum

to invite proposals under The Sustainable Communities Act. The event attracts a wide attendance and discussion leading to over 180 proposals coming from the community, with eleven proposals going forward to national government with SHDC backing.
A TIMELINE OF CHANGE

- Increasing renewable energy supplies
- Repairing biodiversity
- Maintaining clean water supplies with less energy inputs

Major national and international reports are released about possible impacts of climate change and plans for renewable energy.

They emphasise the urgency of political and international cooperation and strong leadership to avert catastrophe.

UN Copenhagen Summit fails to secure a global agreement to reduce carbon emissions in line with atmospheric levels of 350ppm and a range of measures to achieve this. They agree in principle that subsequent agreements to reduce carbon emissions to reduce global warming to just 2 degrees above pre-industrial averages is desirable and will form the basis of future UN agendas.

Global warming causes 300,000 deaths a year

says Kofi Annan of the UN think-tank. It is affecting 300m people, according to the first comprehensive study of the human impact of global warming.

The Prime Minister puts out a national call to everyone to rise to the challenge of climate change and support the stringent yet realistic outcomes from Copenhagen.

He says he will lead by example and has started by putting his car on ebay and will use the profits to put solar hot water and PV panels on the roof at no.10. He has promised to use UK produce for all food at no. 10. He has further given a personal guarantee to reduce the carbon footprint of Parliament. The media has a field day.

People are feeling fitter

from all the DIY and use their newfound energy to walk and cycle instead of using the car for many short journeys; some children complain about the new family walks but enjoy the other children who tag along.

Widespread popular interest is shown in local development planning

in the wake of the 2009 Enquiry by Design process and the revised DPD is publicly debated. Public meetings about significant developments and valued sites in the locality attract large attendance and the need for affordable and social housing as well as co-housing is widely supported. A broader debate about how to support a more diverse society is evolving at grass-roots level and there is a rising call for high quality housing to ensure that those on lower incomes can live comfortably and better understanding of how everyone benefits from getting involved in local issues.
Community events are gathering momentum

The weekly markets, the annual festivals, the Lantern Procession and the Christmas markets are all gaining in popularity as giving pleasure and local economic benefit. Many people of all ages are putting a lot of effort into these events as they find a renewed pleasure in being involved in local activities, wondering how and why they previously spent so much time and money on retail therapy. Homemade jams and chutneys are back in fashion.

The UK Government announces ‘Green Transport’ plans to electrify public transport, which will run off renewables.

This will be fast-tracked, commencing with trains and move swiftly to national buses. Grants are to be made available for local transport providers to convert their vehicles to electricity, bio-diesel from waste cooking oil and methane from anaerobic digestion. All public service vehicles will gradually be replaced with lighter models to reduce weight and resources. The replaced and scrapped vehicles will provide metals for the additional railway infrastructure, which will also create more local employment as we move towards reopening many old lines.

Devon County Council and South Hams District Council adopt Transition.

Their first stated goal is to rapidly improve the position of SHDC of 15th from the bottom of the UK 434 Local Authorities with the worst CO₂ emissions per capita. They also wish to improve community consultation, and agree to develop a Kitemark for Public Meetings to maximise community participation and partnership in building resilience and localisation. Being in Transition means we will make strong positive changes a priority says a spokesperson.

The ‘Big Lunch’ is a bumper event in over 50 streets in Totnes and District.

Home grown food is a popular theme, and this summer’s glut of peas dictates the main dish for many of the tables. Conversations at these parties lead to several ad-hoc car share schemes starting up, people clubbing together to buy Heat Pump units in bulk and informal child-minding arrangements with retirees.
A TIMELINE OF CHANGE

- Increasing renewable energy supplies
- Repairing biodiversity
- Maintaining clean water supplies with less energy inputs

Teachers are inspired by Transition
throughout Totnes & District, and actively encourage their schools and students to become sustainability centres in the local community. Weekly goals for change are leaning on parental support for the cycle trains and walking buses. Some parents are starting to wonder how they ever had time to work full-time; but enjoy the additional time they are now spending with their children.

Unified religious events
such as the harvest thanksgiving are becoming more popular and some take place on the land as more people are growing fruit and vegetables they are proud of.

The UK has become the holiday destination
of choice for many UK residents and European tourists as heat waves, floods and forest fires become more severe in Southern Europe. For 3 years in succession Greece and Spain are badly burnt out and their tourism market is declining. A flurry of new B&B’s appear all around Totnes and District, with many proprietors pulling in the extended family and neighbours to help run the business; many are promoting home grown and organic breakfasts. Local wildlife routes for pedestrians and cyclists are gaining popularity with visitors and residents.

UK government proposes a ban on fuel hungry cars
The ban will apply to the sale of cars using more than 80kWh per 100km and is widely hailed as a very positive step. The government decides to make this a stepping down process from 80kWh to 60kWh to 40kWh with additional design improvements to lower fuel consumption further over an 8-year period. This is welcomed by health workers who have been calling for legislation to reduce emissions in cities and towns to improve air quality. The slowing of traffic in all urban streets to 20mph also reduces fuel consumption, emissions and improves road safety, encouraging cyclists and pedestrians.

Health and Safety regulations reviewed as objections rise to Nanny State
These will “loosen restrictions and simplify local systems”. Transport of waste will be reviewed to ease transport of materials for bio-digestion. DIY fitting of renewable energy supplies to houses will be reviewed along with packaging and freezing requirements for food products. This is just the start says the Minister for Enterprise, “we want to encourage people to take actions and take more personal responsibility to improve life for themselves and others. A multi-agency approach to the review will ensure safety yet flexibility for increased personal responsibility.”

Green Space Initiatives
are supported at all 3 tiers of Local Authority in Devon. A new comprehensive Public Space Plan to support local food production, biodiversity, wood fuel and recreational public space, and which will involve the public is welcomed by many community groups.
Letters Page makes the News
As the media is bombarded by letters from inspired people who want to share their ideas about a better life with less material goods. A rising wave of positive thinking is supporting strong initiatives from the grass-roots and elected public representatives at all levels are responding by making change easier and giving strong leadership.

Celebrities lead on Population Challenge
In the wake of yet another African famine threat, a number of celebrities join together to highlight the need to stabilise the global population. The Invest in our Future - 2 is plenty campaign calling for voluntary limitation to family size is welcomed by many national leaders and development organisations around the world. Small is Beautiful was never more true says Stephen Harding at Schumacher College.

Readathon clocks up 24 hours for new library opens in Totnes
as part of the community rooms and services. Community groups are delighted with the new enlarged facilities and supports including hot desks, meeting rooms and their own section in the library. A voluntary Ex-libris bookstall in the market will help provide on-going funds for new books and facilities in the library.

Great Retrofit shows tangible benefits as fuel prices rocket.
Some older houses have proved more of a challenge to insulate and install with renewable energy; however this has increased interest and understanding of many traditional crafts and trades and has created many new jobs. Recycled materials are being utilised wherever possible and many old buildings are looking funky.

Community tax on second homes and empty houses is piloted in response to local pressure groups to discourage this practice. The money will be used to buy more land for allotments.

Trains, Buses and Bikes win favour.
A re-appraisal of public transport finds that all forms are running at much higher efficiencies than predicted as most trains and buses are running at an average of 80% full. Working in conjunction with the Dept of Education, new road designs to improve safety for cyclists are introduced as a pilot in Devon; this includes roundabouts with an outer separate cycling lane, where cars exiting the inner lane must give way to cyclists. The Devon network of off-road cycle and walkways is to be completed. School cycling clubs and community groups will be consulted on preferred routes and signage.

Community Right to Buy legislation introduced nationally.
This will allow land to be transferred from local authority ownership to community groups at less than market value, giving community groups ‘first refusal’ on any land disposal by the local authority. Totnes & District Allotments Association are delighted and put in an offer for land at Follaton.
UN hosts world summit on Climate Change and Energy Poverty.

20 years on from Rio, major negotiations take place to secure energy for overcrowded countries from over-heating countries that are predicted to become uninhabitable for several decades. Old oil pipelines are to be used to bring desert energy to many parts of Europe that are expected to host climate migrants. TEQs (Tradeable Energy Quotas) and energy rationing are discussed as citizen based currency in some of these deals. Unlike the Johannesburg Summit, there is positive cooperation, and US President Obama takes a key role in pressing for international implementation agreements.

Most families are growing some of their own food.

Food swaps at Totnes Market’s Glut Stall provide a great meeting place and exchange of seeds, ideas and information about food growing. Children are becoming very aware and informed about food growing and there is a rising interest from young people going into jobs in agriculture. Farming has risen in popularity and status and is providing more families with income and food. Different farming systems and crop and farm animal varieties are attracting interest, in particular those that can sequester carbon, support wildlife, are naturally resilient to pests and moulds and can adapt to hotter climes.

Age of Scarcity

is coined by the media, but letters to the popular press indicate that many people feel living more frugally is okay, and there are expressions of pride in tightening belts and making ends meets. Plastic materials and goods are far less dominant in shops and recycled paper and card is replacing plastic for many uses; the latest bankcards are made from a new cellulose laminated card. The Good Ideas notice boards lead to a national competition for “The Ten Best Things YOU Can Do To Make Do and Mend.”

The great compost versus bio-digestion debate heats-up

as both sides defend the benefits of their systems. Methane assessments of open composting and compost toilets are to be trialled at Landmatters in Cornworthy, while the comparative fertilizer value of bio-digestate and compost will be the subject of a study at KEVICCs students with funding from South West Water. Bio-Digesters for waste are coming on stream in nearly all the parishes. SWW announces plans to pipe all soft biodegradeable

Worrying reports from the polar regions

are exacerbated when summer storms and major heat waves strike Europe, US and Australia. People are getting more active. A number of public commentators take substantial leadership in their media columns and programmes. 3 local radio stations in Totnes and District link together to provide daily programmes to highlight enterprising ideas. First to call in is Jamie Hanson from Berry Pomeroy who offers to help people convert abandoned large cars into useful space including chicken sheds and cloches for seedlings.
wastes and agricultural effluents to the biodigester units to save energy from overland transportation and risk of contaminating waterways.

**UK Government adopts the Citizens’ Income**

which will be paid to all UK residents regardless of whether they are in or out of work. It is estimated that this help those without paid work yet will save money by simplifying benefits and removing a large layer of bureaucracy that will be redirected to implementing the energy saving initiatives and grants. The news is welcomed by many sectors including Trades Unions who say this will provide opportunities for people to become more independent and help people to find time to grow food etc.

**Shopping list of measures to support local businesses and energy initiatives are introduced by Westminster**

that will be administered locally. Business rate relief for businesses that trade in locally grown or locally made produce. Local energy suppliers will be able to bring local renewable energy supplies on-stream at competitive prices with major suppliers. The Post Office network will be supported to provide a service in every village and town throughout the UK by allowing them to perform new functions and local community services.

### Strategically thematic:

- Peak Oil
- Climate Change
- Stabilising Population
- Reducing excess consumption and waste to zero

Grey Power becomes hip

as the number of people in Totnes and District aged 65 or over hits 35%. Elders are given a number of supports in the community and with safer streets, many are able to be more mobile. Public transport and local deliveries becomes more viable with more people using the services. Health and wellbeing spaces, gardens and cafés are widely used by young and old and are meeting places for community across the generations. Extended families are living under the same roof as housing has become more expensive and less available and many children are learning from and sharing domestic tasks with grandparents. Public Health services are reporting a rise in general health and well being for older and younger people, reflected with a decline in the number of children going in to foster care, and youth crime rates are decreasing.
A TIMELINE OF CHANGE

- Increasing renewable energy supplies
- Repairing biodiversity
- Maintaining clean water supplies with less energy inputs

Sign up for your Local SWAT Teams

Local Territorial Army members, volunteers from the over 50’s and others with occasional days to spare have formed work-parties to prepare and help out with emergencies or urgent needs. Their emergency planning is well rehearsed and they provide training to school and community groups who enjoy the sessions. Totnes Arts has designed a very visible and popular temporary shelter which most people can make quickly should a flooding or migration emergency arise; the prototype Swelter is used as a marquee for the annual festival. Suprisingly the shelter is found to be more energy efficient than some of the commercial buildings in Babbage Road.

Food & Travel Hubs keep the wheels turning

A survey into the use and benefit of the Food and Travel hubs operating in and around Totnes finds they are working like clockwork. National interest has grown in the ‘linked up system’ which was piloted in Totnes in 2010. Over 90% of local people use their local hub at least twice a month, making them one of the most successful initiatives to support local food production. Food producer reports in the survey show that 60% rely on the hubs to be viable. Amongst the other initiatives that have arisen at the hubs are reading rooms, crèches, health cafés and cycle repairs.

Happy people as more affordable houses are eco-homes

In the wake of national legislation for affordable and sustainable homes, new local planning and development policies reflect an emphasis of meeting social and environmental needs rather than economic development. Community housing co-operatives and parish councils can apply for grant aid to buy up empty houses and convert large houses and other buildings according to the number of local people on their housing lists. Compulsory sustainability checks called Integrated Impact Assessments on all new builds and refurbishments of 5 or more dwelling units will be required to ensure the local community’s health and well-being; this will require a locally based, multi-agency approach.

Public representatives slash travel budgets

The increasing government levies on aviation fuel have almost brought commercial flights to a standstill. The investment in solar planes is still controversial and yet to reap reliable results. Few people take flights for holidays or business trips, preferring to use the fast trains with improved dormer units. Local public representatives have agreed a voluntary energy budget, encouraging them to minimise travel.
Strategic themes: • Peak Oil   • Climate Change   • Stabilising Population   • Reducing excess consumption and waste to zero

Wild about Totnes
Recognising the need for pollinators and with an increased interest in the science of growing food, many local food growers are setting aside a section of their garden to support wildlife. A group of growers have formed Wild Totnes, an advisory group that will advise and help people carry out wilderness regeneration to support biodiversity going through difficult times, reduce extinctions and plant trees to sequester carbon. Schools have formed support units for this initiative and some students monitor named species in their home gardens. Tree planting expeditions take place most weekends across the winter.

Water rationing saves on butts
Severe water shortages are being coped with by stringent water rationing and extensive reuse of grey water. Flush piping and buckets are being supplied to all households to enable people to collect grey domestic water and refill toilet cisterns. Clothes are lasting longer as they are washed less. Rainwater butts are being extended with additional barrels on most buildings, as the hotter weather is bringing flash rainfall that needs to be collected. Many growers and gardeners have dug extended wastewater irrigation schemes for watering plants and many have created covered horticulture units.

Climate migrants to be allocated around Devon
Totnes and District is expecting to host an additional 1,000 people over the next 5 years, although this figure may rise. Many people are worried about the impacts and whether all the services will cope, but Community and Voluntary Services host a number of community evenings to introduce the idea and later the new migrants to the area. Migrants are hosted as lodgers in family homes and a number of flooded units in Babbage Road are to be rebuilt on raised bases to create co-housing units for the incomers. Many migrants have skills for growing different vegetables, which are more adapted to the warmer climate.

Totnes and District Agricultural show blooms
The variety of stands has expanded including many advisory stands for food growers and agricultural services. Local public representatives host a stand to invite ideas and initiatives that the public are interested in. Many people take the opportunity to discuss the new locally based income taxation system and how they would like to see the money spent.

Totnes Water Back on Tap
SHDC agrees to investigate some of the old aquifers including the old Ashprington springs in and around Totnes to the delight of many. A pilot Totnes Water supplies in returnable glass bottles springs to life.

Paid volunteers opens the way for better local services
A restructuring of Local Authorities as they take on more duties in line with localisation of services improves dialogue between the sectors. The changes away from privatised services has opened very localised employment opportunities and in response to public meetings, many of the new posts are part-time to enable people to have time to grow food, mind their children, help the elders etc. Many voluntary groups will be able to claim for paid volunteer workers under the new localised services and this is widely welcomed.
A TIMELINE OF CHANGE

- Increasing renewable energy supplies  
- Repairing biodiversity  
- Maintaining clean water supplies with less energy inputs

2026-30

The family is flocking back
A survey shows that more young people are likely to return to their home town, after they finish their studies, than head for the cities. The opportunities for interesting and meaningful work has reversed in recent years and many are opting to work from family bases, often supporting older members of the family. Living units are more diverse reflecting extended family and friends sharing co-housing units.

Better health with less wealth
Local public health units are benefiting from reduced workloads due to people being more healthy, resilient and enterprising in addressing their own needs. The health gardens and increased community supports are popular and having a marked effect on the general health and happiness of local people. Many people are claiming that having fewer possessions is less stressful, others consider the greater diversity of tasks in their day gives them an increased sense of achievement, others put their increased sense of well-being down to less isolation and the strong sense of community they feel.

Happiness and calm reigns on the streets
Totnes and District has quite a different ambience. There are more people on the streets and there is a general air of being busy yet conversational. The shops in the town and villages have gone through many changes and there are many new food and general hardware shops as well as repair and reuse shops. Many of the products on sale are locally produced, more utilitarian and there are generally fewer exotic and luxury goods for sale. Most businesses offer a local delivery service which is generally by bicycle. The local Nostalgia Society has commenced horse and cart street deliveries for daily bakery and dairy products, much to the delight of local small children and elders alike.

Global response to climate change
The international call to arms to implement severe carbon mitigation is met with enthusiasm by the general public. While many measures have already been undertaken, it is widely recognised that not enough is being done by the developed nations, and Ethiopia shows strong leadership again by calling for universal stringent energy rationing and carbon sequestration requirements per capita. The UK Government debates where it will plant all the trees to manage its carbon quota and enters into negotiations with other European countries to mobilise communities. We have still got too many people observes Karen Chinner age 10 from South Brent.
Contingency Planning for Sudden Change

Assumptions around Contingency planning (From EDAP workshops)

- People will respond and pull together (as per WWII)
- Contingency planning – need to cope with National requirements to supply food to outside areas (e.g. 50%)
- We will be forced to think about food security and other securities – energy and water
- Enduring peace / expect violence over resource shortages
- Strategic rationing i.e. oil in many products
- Catastrophic fluctuations in commodities – including volatility
- Governments will start to look at alternative energy supplies: nuclear, bio-fuels, quick-fix centrally controlled
- The military are likely to have a role in domestic disaster management

Contingency planning is essential when difficulties and serious challenges face society. While the main mobilisation plan will be at national and regional level, locally a strong plan can help mitigate the worst impacts of difficulties likely to be experienced due to sudden energy shortages and climate change. In conjunction with community representatives, local leaders need to agree a clear set of priorities and make preparations in the event of any national emergency due to sudden extreme changes in weather, sea-level or energy cuts.

As in the last world war, a plan for rapid mobilisation of a plan is also essential. The following list provides a brief outline that can be built on by public bodies who wish to prepare:

Contingency - First Aid Starter Kit

- A clearly identified team of Trained Emergency Personnel including a local volunteer back-up force and local people trained in First Aid and veterinary experts.
- Battery operated communications equipment including radio and telephones
- Emergency local contact numbers in all community halls and key public notice boards
- Local food growing, storage and security of supply. An emergency food distribution plan
- Adequate access to non-energy dependent, clean water supplies, and containers to carry water
- Non-grid dependent local renewable energy supplies
- Safe weatherproof shelter for large numbers of people spread across the district, e.g. community halls with access to blankets, first aid and emergency equipment, medical supplies, candles, matches and rope
- Isolation plans in the event of a pandemic disease of people, animals or plants
- Flood mitigation procedures in place, ability to check quality of possibly contaminated water
- Rescue boats, bicycles, sandbags and bales of straw.
- Local supplies of antidotes in the event of a nuclear incident.
- Preparations to ensure elderly and disabled people can be checked on and helped as needed.
Transition Streets

Transition Streets is an exciting project that will make a real difference to the carbon emissions, energy bills and depth of community for at least 10% of households in Totnes. Based on a funding pot of £625,000 awarded by the DECC’s Low Carbon Communities Challenge and announced just before the publication of the Totnes EDAP, this project has 2 main streams – one that works with householders directly, and one which uses public assets for the benefit of the whole community.

Households are invited to join the existing Transition Together programme (see page 272) which helps them, in small groups with friends or neighbours, to take practical low or no cost actions to minimise energy and resources across all parts of their lifestyle. In addition to this standard programme, groups eligible for Transition Streets ‘extras’ then have access to personal advice from the Energy Saving Trust about relevant grants for things like loft insulation and cavity wall insulation. They then also have the option of a £3,000 towards discounted solar PV systems, with further support available to low income households thanks to South Hams District Council.

Meanwhile the community’s Civic Hall will undergo a total energy retrofit, including installation of around £60,000 of solar PV. The income generated from this system will be used to support further projects and provide a highly visible manifestation of the work TTT is doing in the town.

For more information see www.transitionstreets.org.uk and www.transitiontogether.org.uk