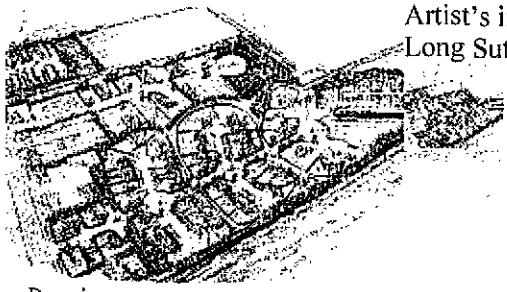
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49 eco-friendly homes planned for Long Sutton



Artist's impression of the revolutionary green development planned for Long Sutton. The architect says the eyes of the world will be on it.

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By Kate Chapman

THE country's first eco-development, offering residents a green lifestyle, could be built on the outskirts of Long Sutton.

Plans for a 10-acre site next to 47 Bridge Road show 49 homes, allotments, gardens and open spaces, more than 28,000 plants and shrubs and a wetland area.

There will also be nine commercial units to be used as offices and a research/visitors' centre which could all be occupied in four years' time.

The £7.5 million development will allow people to live an eco-friendly lifestyle by generating their own energy and water, waste management and food supplies without resorting to the use of fossil fuels.

Architect Jerry Harrall, of Sustainable Ecological Architecture, who is behind the Sustainable Settlement Extension, says the project is the culmination of many years' work for him and is his most important development to date.

Dr Harrall said the scheme will promote a low carbon work-life ethic.

He said: "It will inform, influence and inspire the rest of the area. It becomes a benchmark delivering the agenda of autonomy.

"Woe betide anyone who ignores the inevitable. We have got to plan for it. Everything here will be fossil fuel free. This is what the eco-town movement should be doing. The businesses and homes here will run on at least 70 per cent less energy."

Twenty-five of the homes will be affordable. All the properties have been individually designed and have been planned so they are south-facing, which research shows will reduce the risk of Seasonal Affective Disorder for occupants.

Harrall said the price of the properties will be comparable with conventional homes and he has a developer lined up subject to planning approval.

Houses will provide negative Co2 emissions and have annual energy costs of around £43 a year.

Dr Harrall, who is also responsible for the Work Life Project, Carbon Neutral Business Zone, Earth Sheltered Social Housing Scheme and Greening the Box, all in Long Sutton, is thrilled at the prospect of his flagship development coming to fruition.

He said: "All of these projects are firsts in the UK and they are all here in Long Sutton and South Holland.

"This is the greenest development of its type in the country. All eyes will be on Long Sutton."

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