

Is Milton Keynes a Sustainable Community?

The Egan Wheel



Sustainable Development

Sustainable development was originally defined as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” In 2004 Sir John Egan was asked by the Deputy Prime Minister to examine how communities could be more sustainable.

Egan suggests that sustainable communities must meet ‘the diverse needs of existing and future residents, their children and other users’ by offering choice. In order to be sustainable, communities must:

- Make effective use of natural resources
- Enhance the environment
- Promote social cohesion and inclusion and
- Strengthen economic prosperity.

He introduced what is referred to as the ‘Egan Wheel’ (see above), which can be used as a tool for judging sustainable communities. It is this wheel that we will use to decide if Milton Keynes can be an example of a sustainable community.