

Growing together_a productive Framework

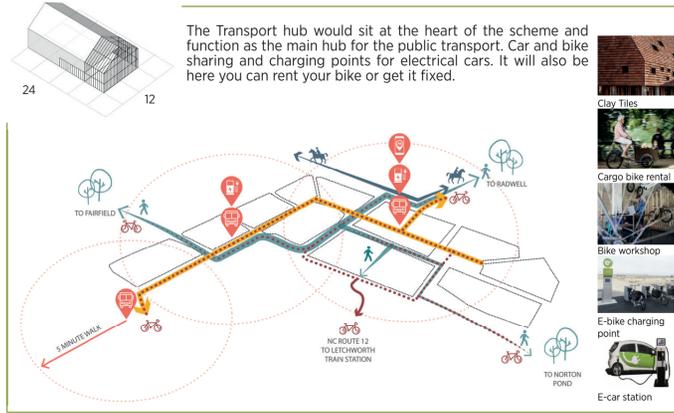
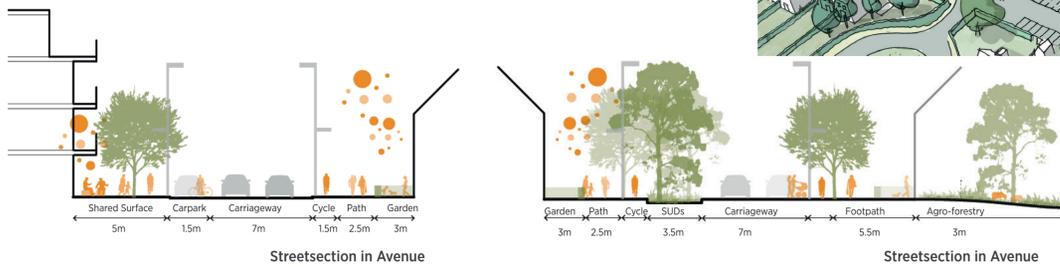
Re-Imagining The Garden City



The Community Centre



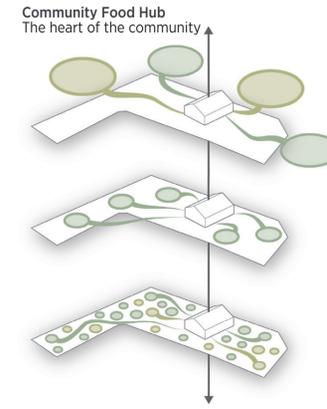
The Flexible Structures



The Transport Hub / Connectivity



The Meadows park, The Community Hub, The Hedgerows connections

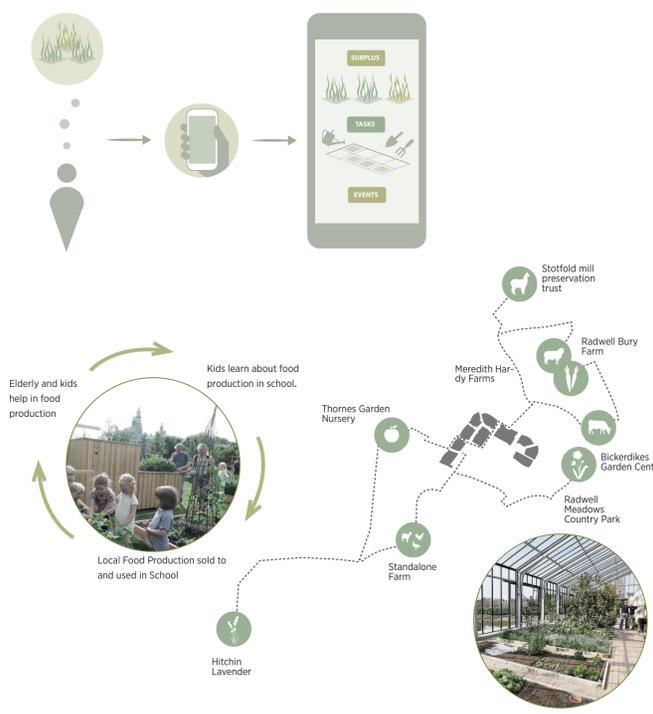


Celebrating local food

Spaces to Grow
In the past, land has either been used for agriculture or for development. Our proposal is to use it for both. The masterplan is therefore organised into a series of neighborhoods each of which incorporates a hierarchy of productive growing spaces.

The Community Food Hub
The community food hub would sit at the heart of the scheme and function as the centre for every food growing space in the hierarchy shown in the diagrams above. Residents could use the centre to share and exchange surplus crops, cook and prepare food together and host events to share learning.

Learning / Research / School
The new school is positioned next to the food hub and the vision is that food production should be more integrated into the school curriculum - reconnecting children with the landscape and the food they eat. The compactness of the civic centre aims to create a synergy between the food production, the elderly people at the care home and the children in the school.

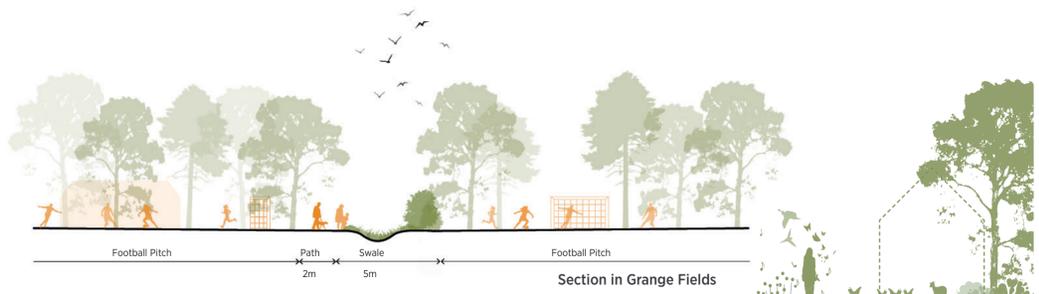


Supporting the community

Supporting the Community / Neighbourhood Farmer
At the start of the new development a neighborhood farmer would be appointed to coordinate the management of the collective agriculture and to involve the local residents as much as possible in the day-to-day work and the organisation of the crop rotation. Involving the residents could be through a green box scheme in which people receive vegetables in return for a few hours of work a month.

Organising the community- App

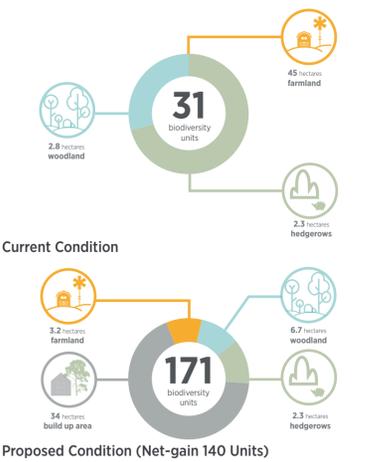
The hub and community farmer could be supported by an app - letting residents know what surplus crops are available, coordinating tasks in the communal growing spaces, and promoting learning events and socials. This app could likewise be used for other community-based activities such as the compost collection and waste management. The app would also be used as a management tool for a carsharing scheme with electric vehicles (cars and bikes). Charging points and parking will be provided for these vehicles in each hamlet as well as in the central car hub.



Growing a Community Sustainability & Stewardship

Bio-Diversity

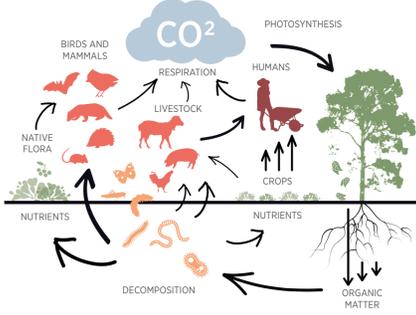
After decades under intensive farming, the level of nutrients in UK soils is in sharp decline with direct impact on biodiversity and food quality. Agroforestry, as a complex system combining trees, crops and livestock, can contribute to achieve economic and ecological value - whilst restoring soil health.



Our vision is to design a neighbourhood transforming the monotonous farmland in a more complex landscape which integrates housing, woodland, hedgerows and agro-forestry, resulting in an expressive biodiversity net gain.

By incorporating trees in agriculture we can increase the amount of carbon sequestration in the soil, triggering a food chain that starts with the decomposition of organic matter and results in an overall biodiversity increase, from which we ultimately benefit.

A robust green infrastructure, articulating the existing hedgerows and spots of woodland with street trees, parkways, wild buffer and sustainable farming will increase the connectivity of the landscape, with great benefits for new species to thrive.



Social Sustainability

The food production will involve everyone from school children to elderly in the care home, so growing becomes the medium that unites the community. Each hamlet contains a mix of typologies and tenures resulting in a range of people of all ages, health and income. The community is an expression of a circular living arrangement, where residents can stay and be the co-creators of the good social life as a whole.

Economic Sustainability

Such a neighbourhood could provide for much of its fresh food needs. People could grow for themselves, grow communally with their neighbours and grow for sale in local markets. This would start to develop a circular economy in the neighbourhood where food waste is recycled and turned into productive output. It would also be self-supporting financially with the income from the production and processing of food being used to pay for the neighbourhood. The aim is by making it as easy as possible in regard to local food production, waste management, walking and cycling to create an everyday culture of living within our environmental means.

Environmental Sustainability

Converting regular farming into a door step productive landscape will massively reduce carbon emissions and, together with SuDS, preserve soil and water quality. This will benefit many generations to come and guarantee the health and well-being of people at present.

The landscape is hereby a vibrant and potential environmental troubleshooter solving climate challenges, whilst creating recreational variety and hotspots for social activities.

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INCORPORATING EXISTING HEDGEROWS

