
Draft vision for a sustainable community at Mackie's

Prototyping changes for communities to respond equitably and resiliently to climate change

Drafted by:

Activists from #BuildHomesNow

Coalition partners from #TakeBackTheCity

Hugh Ellis (Policy Director, Town & Country Planning Association)

Our vision for Mackie's is to create one of Europe's most sustainable and inclusive, community housing projects which will demonstrate how our communities can build their own future.

Our vision will be built on 6 principles:

1. **Co creation in design** with communities working with professionals to design their own future
2. **Local employment and skills** to ensure that the development process helps build local skills and keeps investment in the local community. The final design will create local workspace and opportunities for home working.
3. **A healthy place** to ensure our community prioritises walking and cycling, access to parks and gardens and opportunities for growing and exchanging local food.
4. **A climate ready place** to ensure that our community will be zero carbon and, if possible, energy positive. It will use sustainable urban drainage and green spaces to manage flood risk, create urban cooling, and enhance biodiversity.
5. **An inclusive place** to ensure our new community is open to everyone, meeting the needs of diverse people across their whole lifetime by ensuring a mixed community, with emphasis on shared community meeting spaces.
6. **A self-managed community** framed by a model of long-term community stewardship, so that the homes and assets will be used for benefit of residents over the long term.

Our neighbourhood will reflect our local design heritage, while also an exemplar of sustainable technology. It will be founded on securing social justice for everyone.

It will be the beginning of the kind of transformation which Belfast will need if it wants to be a modern and cohesive city in a changing climate.

We have an ambitious vision, but European cities are already changing fast to meet climate, health and inequality challenges.

Mackie's will be Belfast's prototype.