**Pennbury eco-town role-play**

Listen to the highlights of the eco-town debate on the BBC Leicester website at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/leicester/content/articles/2008/06/17/big_debate_eco_town_feature.shtml>

Make a note of the main arguments given in favour of or against the proposed eco-town development.

You are now going to play a character in a role-play of a planning meeting to discuss whether either of the two proposed developments shown in Resource 8 should go ahead.

You will have time in your groups to formulate your arguments and to devise questions to ask the other groups. Use the resources & OS map to help you support your arguments.

**Residents of Oadby**

Oadby is a pleasant affluent suburb to the south east of Leicester. It is popular with families because of its good schools and large houses within easy commuting distance of Leicester city centre, whilst also being surrounded by rural countryside.

You represent a cross-section of residents of Oadby. Most of you are nimbys opposed to the plans because you enjoy having the countryside close-by. However, a few of you may be in favour of the development because it will provide affordable housing.

**Residents of Stoughton & Little Stretton**

Stoughton is a small village about 4 miles from the centre of Leicester. It has a population of only 300 people, 35% of whom have lived in the village for over 20 years. There are no services or bus routes to the village so residents rely entirely on cars for transport. Little Stretton has fewer than 100 residents.

The villages lie within the area designated for the development of the new eco-town. Many people in these villages are opposed to the proposed developments, whilst others may see the benefits of improved services and affordable housing.

**Members of the Leicester Aero flying club**

The Aero flying club was formed over 100 years ago. It has been based at its current Leicester airport site since 1951. The club has over 500 members and it organises regular social events at the club house. Both proposed developments would require the flying club to be relocated.

**Conservation organisations**

Many organisations are opposed to the development of greenfield sites for environmental reasons. Leicester does not have a Green Belt around it, but a large part of the proposed new eco-town site is designated as a Green Wedge which means it is “managed to retain its diverse and distinctive landscape and biodiversity”. Organisations such as the Leicestershire Wildlife Trust, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, the RSPB and Butterfly Conservation trust all want to put their arguments forward at this planning meeting.

**Leicestershire County Council**

Like all councils in England, Leicestershire County Council is under growing pressure from the government to build new houses to meet the demands of a growing population. The council’s population projections indicate that around 4,000 new homes need to be built **each year** in the county to meet this demand.

It hopes that 60% of these houses can be provided by redeveloping brownfield sites within its urban areas, but realises that the other 40% will have to be built on greenfield sites, either as urban extensions on existing settlements or as completely new developments such as those proposed in Resource 8. You need to convince the meeting that the eco-town is a good idea.

