



Threemilestone School pupils swap the classroom to become masterplanners for Langarth Garden Village.

Please [click here](#) to view a short film about the school's visit

Skate parks and play areas, a nature reserve, shops, cafes and take aways, a zoo, lots of trees and green spaces, and even a train station are just some of the ideas put forward by Year 5 pupils at Threemilestone School as they swapped their usual lessons for the opportunity to become masterplanners for the proposed Langarth Garden Village.

The primary school will be a close neighbour to the Garden Village, and with the site due to be developed over a 20 year period if planning permission is granted for the project later this year, at least some of the pupils are likely to live and work at Langarth in the future.

"We want to make sure that our vision for Langarth fits with what these future residents would like to see included in the Garden Village"

explained Adam Birchall, Cornwall Council's Head of Sustainable Development.

"During the coming months we will be inviting other schools across Cornwall to visit the site, but as Threemilestone School is our nearest neighbour we wanted them to be the first to see the latest plans and to give us their views and ideas."

"We also want to highlight the opportunities for future employment at Langarth, both in terms of helping to actually construct the new houses and other buildings, and working within the community in shops, offices, cafes, pharmacies, etc. There is currently a severe skills shortage in construction and we want to show young people the range of different roles and responsibilities available in the industry when they start to think about their future careers."

The first part of the programme saw the pupils visiting Govenors, the iron age hill fort which has now been protected for future public use as a result of Cornwall Council's involvement in the Garden Village project. With archaeologist Peter Herring on hand to provide information about the historic Round, the youngsters were encouraged to think about how the people would have lived and worked at the site more than 2,000 years ago.

The focus then moved to the new interim link road where the children became the first members of the public to walk down the road which will provide access to the new primary school and the first homes to be built during phase 1 of the development. The construction of the link road is the first major infrastructure

project to be completed at Langarth, leading to some interesting discussions with the children on the need for sustainable transport links, including footpaths and cycle routes, bus services and the previously mentioned train station.

The site visit ended with a tour of the tree nursery which has been created to help grow the 55,000 new trees which will be planted at Garden Village during the life of the project. The first 500 oak saplings were planted at the tree nursery earlier this year, with more trees due to be planted during the next planting season. As part of their involvement with the scheme, all 61 pupils were invited to put their names on copper tags. These tags will be attached to the first trees planted at Governs.

The second part of the programme saw the pupils return to their classrooms where they worked with the project team to develop their ideas for the Garden Village site.

“The pupils certainly came up with some fantastic suggestions, including a pet shop where lonely people could go to buy pets to keep them company; a multi faith space; leisure activities, including BMX tracks and virtual reality spaces; lots of parks and green spaces; sweet shops (and dentists), as well as hotels, swimming pools, all kinds of houses and schools ” said Adam Birchall.

“The team were a little surprised by one group who suggested providing 18 different take away outlets but it was great to hear all their ideas and see their drawings about how Langarth could look in the future.

“It was also great to have the opportunity to talk with them about how to create a new community, and get them thinking about how they could be part of constructing the homes they might then live in and their future work places.

Year 5 teacher Chris Somerfield, is delighted at the opportunity to involve Threemilestone School pupils in the Garden Village project. **“Our children will be the people who will potentially be buying these houses and living on the Langarth site in the future and so it is important for them to be involved and have their ideas heard and shared ”** he said. .

“One of their main concerns was the need for more trees and so it was great to hear of the plans for providing thousands of new trees at Langarth. They are looking forward to seeing trees with their name tags on the site in the future”.

“Visiting the site certainly also opened their eyes to a whole new world of jobs, including in construction, planning and the architectural side of things. The children also came up with an impressive list of construction jobs themselves, including geologists and archaeologists. We also talked crane drivers and delivery drivers as well as whole range of other possible jobs which might be available”.

Year 5 pupil Eva was excited to have the chance to visit the site before the start of any work and says it is somewhere she would definitely think about living in the future **"I think it going to be amazing there "** she said.

For Lyra it is essential to retain as many fields and green spaces as possible and ensure that the new homes are eco-friendly; while Johann also wants to see lots of trees, together with parks, and Lucas felt there should be a hotel surrounded by trees on the site.

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