

NORFOLK

Eco-town homes 'still needed'

The government last night insisted its eco-town plans would not fall victim to the credit crunch.

Officials at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have reportedly concluded that only one or two of the 15 shortlisted projects are genuinely viable, according to one national newspaper report.

The government has previously earmarked the former RAF Coltishall base as a potential eco-town site, but recently an alternative scheme at Rackheath, near Norwich, has

emerged as a more popular alternative - with ministers said to be impressed with the plans.

Last night a DCLG spokesman denied claims the eco-town plans were faltering.

"The extra homes of eco-towns are still needed, and the challenge of climate change is not going to fade, irrespective of economic conditions," he said. "We have consistently said we are looking to build up to 10 eco-towns and have made clear that we will shortlist up to 10 potential locations by early next year."

NORFOLK

Police make fresh plea for help with murder probe

By BEN KENDALL
Crime correspondent

A detective leading the investigation into the murder of a 73-year-old paedophile last night pleaded with the public to forget his past, saying: "We cannot allow vigilante rule on our doorstep."

It has now been more than three weeks since Gordon Boon's body was found discarded beneath a pile of rubbish on Norfolk wasteland, but officers are still struggling to piece together exactly what happened.

A man has been arrested on suspicion of murder and released on bail, but Norfolk police's major investigation team admit progress has been slow as potentially key witnesses are reluctant to come forward, apparently lacking sympathy for the registered sex offender.

But Det Chief Insp Steve Strong spoke out to encourage witnesses to speak to the police saying that, no matter what people thought of Mr Boon's past, a dangerous killer is on the loose.

He added: "Whilst I can understand some people's disinterest in this investigation given Mr Boon's history, a murder has been committed and we need to solve this case."

"As things stand a killer whose motive remains unclear is still out there and while they remain at large there must be serious concerns for the public in general."

"If this person has killed once, they may well kill again and there is nothing to suggest that they don't pose a threat to the rest of the community."

"We cannot live in a vigilante society and law and order must be maintained. Whatever the circumstances, we cannot minimise any murder."

Mr Strong added that, as well as being put off coming forward by concerns about Mr Boon's past, some witnesses may be under the mistaken belief that because an arrest has been made, the case has been solved.

He said: "We have identified a suspect but we need as much evidence as possible if we are to bring a successful prosecution and get this



MURDERED: Gordon Boon.

person off our streets."

Mr Boon, of Westwick Street, Norwich, was found dead on October 6 at Rabbit Lane, Great Witchingham. He had been strangled and buried beneath fence panels and a car wheel.

Police say the isolated spot is regularly frequented by dog walkers, horse riders, fly-tippers and couples. They are keen to speak to whoever may have dumped the items used to bury Mr Boon - and have promised immunity from prosecution to any fly-tippers who come forward.

The victim was last seen near the Maids Head Hotel in Norwich on October 3 and it is thought he died that day or the following day.

Property belonging to Mr Boon has since been found in the Eaton Park area and officers would like to speak to anybody who saw him during his final days.

Mr Strong said: "We need to hear from friends, acquaintances or anybody who knew Mr Boon in any way."

"Even if you don't think you have any information that can help, you may have one small detail which could prove crucial."

■ Contact the major investigation team at Norfolk police 0845 4564567 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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