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Planning and social sustainability

Uses of social sustainability in master plans of Swedish municipalities

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1.Introduction

Climate change, global crises and alienation are a few of the problems that the world faces today. According to Katz et al (2007) sixty percentages of the world's inhabitants will be living in cities by the year 2030 and this creates a need for rapid urbanization. A city's development and growth is of great importance in order to create good living conditions for all citizens. In Sweden many municipalities believe that the way to create this is by urban planning "based" on sustainability. Over the last fifteen years the term sustainability has been used in different areas of urban development (Bergström et al, 1996).

In 1972, 113 member countries participated in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. During the conference economic, social and human health development was discussed, which, lead to the idea that human environment is affected by environmental issues. The United Nations Environmental Program was established during the conference, which suggests that research work, and development should be carried out in a manner to promote "sustainability" (Aksell, 2003:67).

Social sustainability is widely accepted by many researchers as an important dimension of sustainability but there is no agreed or clear definition of the term (Dempsey, 2009). The term sustainability is found almost everywhere in today's society and in a many different situations and scenarios. Sustainability is a term that has been internationally discussed and developed over the last fifty years. Issues regarding health, the environment and social problems have been the focus of many international conferences since 1970, where politicians have been attempting to solve the problems being created in our societies. Attempts to improve environments have been discussed at different conferences that the United Nations has arranged. During the Rio conference the local community's role was one of the debated topics as the participants at the conference claimed that citizen participation was one of the most significant factors that contribute to a sustainable city. They argued that physical change in a society often affect the inhabitant's lifestyles and discussed the need for cities to be planned with great care (Pettersson, 2005).

In 1987, the former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland created a report. The purpose of the report was to prepare a document for reaching global security in the United Nations for its member states and the name of the report is the Brundtland report. The two aspects ecology and economy, which, normally would not be linked together, were discussed in

the report. Poverty and other social aspects were also mentioned and their connection with the environment was further discussed (Aksell, 2003:68).

Regarding the social aspects of sustainability, there is a declaration on social development, which the member states of the United Nations have endorsed. The declaration claims that humans should be the main focus when it comes to “improving” social sustainability. In order to promote social development a number of commitments must be included in the declaration. The commitments focus on and aim at many different goals such as: trying to promote the goal of full employment, promoting social inclusion and to eradicate poverty (Utrikesdepartementet, 1996).

The knowledge and results from these reports and international conferences regarding sustainability has been assimilated by Swedish municipalities into their local master plans. Swedish cities are developing according to guidelines stipulated in their master plans which they state supports sustainability. These guidelines are supposed to discourage cities from using resources in ways, which can cause problems for future generations. Cities are even competing among themselves to assess which city is the most “sustainable”.

The road towards sustainability, which is described in the master plans, differs slightly from one city to another. However there are usually three different dimensions that are discussed in most master plans: economy, ecology and social sustainability. According to Katz et al (2007) sustainability can only be “achieved” by promoting several dimensions simultaneously and different dimensions must be analysed and planning must be carried out together with other officials in the city to create a sustainable society.

Another factor that is encouraged in urban planning is citizen participation. Researchers debate that in order to “create” a sustainable city the inhabitants and the local community need to be part of the process (Pettersson, 2005). Some claim that laws and regulations are very important for city planning, but it is only with the help of local decision-making, and dialogue with citizens and organizations that the city can maintain long-term sustainability. The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (2010), state that:

Municipalities have the overriding responsibility for the development of the society including city planning as stipulated in the Plan and Building law. This means that they should strive to offer good living conditions for all citizens and companies throughout the municipality. An important aspect of this

responsibility is to insure that the planning process will be carried out in a democratic manner so that citizens can participate, that they are informed and have the chance to influence the process (Statens kommun och landsting, 2010:2).

Researchers debate that sustainability can only be “achieved” by promoting activities within three defined dimensions which need to be analysed in the planning process, together with knowledge from different people. They discuss that the process of creating a city, which is sustainable, can therefore in some cases be seen as a big planning puzzle and unique for just that city’s conditions. As sustainability involves so many dimensions according to these researchers the subject becomes very complex.

1.2 Aim and research questions

In today’s society the term sustainability is used in different situations and can differ in meaning according to the context it is used within. Everyone and everything wants to be “sustainable”, but does everyone use the term in order to achieve this goal or only because the term has grown in popularity and acceptance? It is impossible to study the term sustainability in urban planning today as the term is so widely used. This thesis focus predominantly on the term social sustainability and show how the municipalities work with and describe the term in one of their most important documents, the master plan.

I have chosen to investigate:

How do Swedish municipalities construe “social sustainability” in their planning, and what could this imply for planning practices?

1.2 Thesis outline

This thesis consists of six chapters. This thesis outline concludes chapter one which also consists of an introduction and presentation of aim and research question. Chapter 2, *Theory and method* initially presents the thesis’s scientific approach and continues with a presentation and explanation of the meaning of a discourse. Discourse is the analytic method, which is used in this thesis. The following chapter will explain the meaning and significance of analysing text. Discourses are also often highlight power perspectives and based on this the next chapter presents an overview of power, knowledge and conflicts. The last sections of this chapter presents the approach, analysis implementation and scientific and reliability variables. In

chapter 3, *Sustainability* presents the background of the term Sustainability and the Bruntlands report and also describes the meaning with the term more detailed. Chapter 4, *Social sustainability* presents the main topic of this thesis, social sustainability. This chapter describes “the meaning” with the term and all aspects which are claimed to be associated and related to the term. Thereafter in chapter 5, *Social sustainability in master plans* I analyse the five chosen municipalities and investigate how Swedish municipalities construct “social sustainability” in their planning, and what this could imply for planning practices. The chapter starts by presenting sustainability and how it has been highlighted in the municipalities, followed by a section of social sustainability. As there are many aspects within social sustainability I will also describe the different conflicts in the city and also the citizen’s role in the master plans. In the next and final chapter, chapter 6 *Conclusions and reflexions* I try to answer the research question, present my conclusions and reflexions regarding the thesis.

2. Theory and method

This chapter presents both the thesis's theoretical perspectives and the methodical approach. The reason for this is that in a discourse analyse the theory and method are integrated, and cannot be separate. This thesis therefore presents the theory and methods in the same chapter. Initially this chapter begins with a presentation of social constructivism, which is this thesis scientific approach. Thereafter the analysis method will be presented, discourse analysis continued with a description of knowledge and power and how they relate to discourses. This chapter will also include a description of textual analysis; this is because a textual analysis is one of the key elements of this thesis's discourse analysis. The chapter finishes with some sections which clarify the other aspects of my method, such as the approach of the thesis, implementations and scientific and reliability variables.

2.1 Scientific approach

This thesis will attempt to analyse and discuss the master plans according to the social constructivist approach regarding reality and science. Social constructivism is described as a theory of knowledge, which assumes that knowledge does not spontaneously develop within an individual but as a result of interaction with other human beings. It is claimed that knowledge is formed through language. Social constructivism attempts to describe how different social constructions have been developed, and how they work together and is presented (Alvesson & Sköldberg, 2008). Wenneberg (2000) presents Berger and Luckmann's model, which has three different dimensions where one of the dimensions tries to describe social constructivism. Wenneberg (2000) means that social constructivism can be used different ways. Social actions are seen as being socially constructed. This means that the social decisions of a human are social constructed and not decided by the environment. A figure is presented beneath showing a translated version of the model:

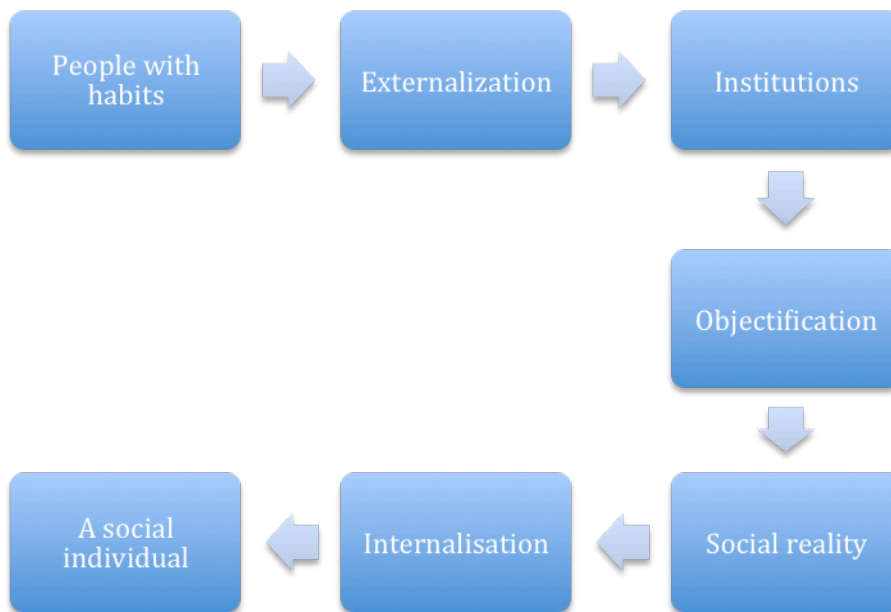


Figure 1, The Berger & Luckmanns model, of social constructivism Adapted from: Wenneberg (2000)

Social interaction is what Bryman (2011) believes create social phenomena and that social phenomena are constantly under revision. Berger and Luckman claim that institutions are the base of the community and that society is a human product. As time passes the institutions become a more natural and integrated part in the lives of human beings (Wenneberg, 2001). Humans play a large role in reality even if they do not realize it themselves. Today's reality is something the younger generation is learning by discovering the social patterns and the different institutions embedded in society. The process of children learning is an everyday process-taking place at for example school and at work. Berger and Luckmann conclude therefore that humans are a social product (Wenneberg, 2001).

Berger and Luckman states that social phenomena grow stronger as the relationship between society and the individuals grow. By exchanging knowledge between individuals a collective image of a society is created. This shared knowledge is sorted and categorized with the help of language and social processes. They claim that it is through language and social processes that humans form an image of the world they live in and their view of reality. According to Berger and Luckman (2003), humans may have different opinions and thoughts about the society but people tend to live according to what is sociably accepted within our culture.

Social constructivism is based on four points of departure according to Burr (1995):

1. Knowledge is the first focus area, which means that researchers should be critical to

obvious knowledge and look at knowledge about the world from different angles and approaches. Everyone has a different view of the world.

2. The second focus area is the cultural and historical premise, which means that humans are the result of both aspects; both the historical and cultural affect humans view of the world.

3. The relationship between knowledge and social processes is the third premise. Which consists of the way our perceptions of the world are created and maintained. With the help of social processes and also the struggle of knowing what is right and wrong.

4. The final premise: the fourth premise is the relationship between social action and knowledge where some actions are accepted and others rejected in modern society (Burr 1995).

According to Winther Jørgensen & Phillips, social constructivism means that one should be critical to all given knowledge as knowledge is always imbedded in its own context. True knowledge can only be achieved with the help of social interaction. When these common truths are shared they both promote and limit an individual's actions (Winther-Jørgensen & Phillips, 2000). They state that language is of great importance in the social construction of the world (Winther Jørgensen & Phillips, 2000). They mean that society is a human product and that humans are a social product.

2.2 Discourse

This thesis is constructed by undertaking a discourse analysis. I will now explain the meaning of this analysis method. Fairclough (1992) created a three-dimensional model for studying discourses where the three dimensions are stated as being, social practice, discourse practice and text. In this thesis the focus will be limited to textual analysis, as a discourse focuses on text and different expressions (Winther Jørgensen & Phillips, 2000). The reason for this is because this thesis is based on the analysis of different documents. Discourses are claimed to be the best analytical tool for this kind of investigation involving reading texts. Discourses investigate texts by reading them in a specific ways. Börjesson and Palmblad (2007) state that:

Discourses build on obstacles, worlds, senses and social relationships
(Börjesson and Palmblad, 2007:10).

Discourses have many different names, such as for example discourse theory and discourse analytical traditions. Different generations have used different discourse terms and according to Börjesson and Palmblad (2007) no matter which kind of analytical discourse method or theory is being used there are always assumptions about reality that must be considered. One of the assumptions is that knowledge is socially constructed and cannot therefore be reflected objectively. Haajer however claims that:

Discourse is defined here as an group of ideas, concepts, and categories through which meaning is given to social and physical phenomena, and which is produced and reproduced through an identifiable set of practice (Haajer, 2005:300).

Discourse have been analysed by many researchers and there exists no consensus on a definition for discourse or which elements that are needed for a discourse to take place. Alvesson & Sköldbberg (2008) claim that discourse has a narrow definition, which can be defined as text, the use of language, and the meaning of the texts. Börjesson and Palmblad (2007) debate that language in correlation to discourses creates the social reality we live in and experience and also limits our thoughts regarding different situations. In the book "Diskursanalys som teori och metod", Winther-Jørgensen och Phillips presents three different types of discourses, discourse theory, critical discourse analysis and discourse psychology. The three types however have the same point of origin as they claim that our way of speaking is not neutral but reflects the world around identities, our social relations and us without playing an active role in the creation and modification of them (Winther-Jørgensen & Phillips, 2000: 7). According to Winther-Jørgensen and Phillips (2000), critical discourse analyse is a mixture of many different analytical discourse theories, which share the same five basic assumptions.

The first assumption is that all critical discourse analysis should be seen as a fundamental form of social practice that work in positive ways in the social world, by producing text and interoperating them. The aim with the critical discourse is to highlight the discourse linguistics dimensions regarding cultural and social happenings. Secondly a discourse plays an important role in the social construction and world, both by changing and constructing social conditions and characteristics. The third assumption is that all types of critical discourses use linguistic text analyses of the language use in the social empirical context. The forth assumption claims that the critical discourse analyse increases the power relationships in different social groups. The aim is to contribute to a more equal society and work for changes that benefit social

sustainability. The fifth assumption is that the discourse is not objective in any way but instead more critical in a way that aims for better changes (Winther-Jørgensen & Phillips, 2000).

Fairclough (2010) means however that a discourse cannot be defined unless the society's different relationships are analysed. Bergström and Boréus (2012) agree with Fairclough's (2010) thoughts and claim that a discourse must always involve a power perspective.

Johansson (2005) claims that identity is an important aspect of discourse and that every time something is presented there is much more than arguing, presenting, explaining etc. Johansson (2005) states that what is actually happening is identity creations.

Neuman (2003) explains that a discourse analysis can be seen both as a method and as a theory that are linked together. According to Neuman, discourse analysis can be used in several different analyses as it is based on a number of scientific disciplines. Bergström & Boréus imply that the common themes of these analytical tools are that they all provide methods of studying discourse and focus on what governs societies (Bergström & Boréus, 2005). According to Burr (1995) a discourse analysis is necessary in order to categorise knowledge and to arrange our lives.

Foucault is often mentioned when discussing discourses and is seen to be the most likely founder of the term (Neumann, 2003). Foucault claims that discourse is defined as:

The entire practice that brings a certain kind of opinion (Foucault in Bergström and Boréus (2006:309).

According to Bergström and Boréus (2012) a discourse must always include a power perspective. Power is not related to any specific subject but refers to the relationships between different humans. The fight for power can cause limitations in the planning process for some participants but also opens up possibilities for discussion (Bergström and Boréus, 2012).

Foucault claims that both power and knowledge must be present in a discourse as they affect each other and work together:

Power and knowledge directly affect each other; there is no power relation without the correlative constitution of a field of knowledge, nor any knowledge that does not presuppose and constitute at the same time power relations (Foucault, 1971:27).

This report is going to examine and investigate how municipalities claim to work towards social sustainability in their master plans by using the method discourse text analysis. There are different plans, some of which are legally binding and others that are not. One kind of a plan is in Swedish called “Översiktsplan”, which could be translated as master plan. The urban planners are the creators of the master plan. They work after the goals and regulations that has been decided by the local politicians (Isaksson and Storbjörk, 2005). The goals and the frameworks, which the politicians create, are based on PBL, the planning and building laws in Sweden and it is these documents that the planners should interpret and understand. Normally one of its goals is for projects to be socially sustainable and aim towards sustainability (Isaksson & Storbjörk, 2005).

A textual analysis could be described as an analysis, which investigates the components in a text. The reason for this choice is that compared to other textual analysis, the discourse analysis is said to be a much wider model with different components. These different components have the method of studying discourses in common. The approach is claimed to be based on the meaning and the language used and that it leads to communications made in an active and critical process that is created through the social context (Bergström & Boréus, 2005).

The analytical discourse is based on a constructivist point of departure where the language plays a large role in both presenting and representing reality. They are however never merely an intermediate mirror reality but these linguistic summaries also creates reality (Börjesson, 2003). A discourse analysis assumes that it is the language which moulds the documents and can thereby be used as a method when investigating any type of social document. The method focuses on what is claimed and what is done. There are no right way in creating discourses in terms that there is no right way in starting and ending a discourse. This analysis form is both complex and critical.

2.3 Analysing text

A discourse textual analysis is carrying out differently than other textual analysis. When doing a discourse textual analysis there are certain analytical tools that are used such as control, interaction, metaphor, ethos, choice of words and grammar. These tools were created by Fairclough (1992) (in Winther Jørgensen & Philips, 2000:87) and the tools are meant to help us understand and show how the discourse occurs in the text. Beckman (2007) means that

different textual analysis describe different methodological approaches. When using a discourse textual analysis it is important to understand words and that many words have different meanings and can be interpreted in different ways. According to Beckman (2007) it is important to place the words in the structure of thought that the reader is in, due to the fact that some terms are unclear or have different meanings.

Inter subjectivity is a problem as the term discourse is hard to define and can lead to different choices and interpretations of the language. Bergström and Boréus (2000) do not see this as a problem when using an analysis template. The template attempts to provide clarity. They mean that it is through the grammar of the discourses that ways of creating identities and social relationship are revealed (Winther Jørgensen & Phillips, 2000). Affinity for example is also an important term when analysing a text. Affinity can either be high or low and it is considered high when authors use words such as for example “will” and “have to” when claiming something and it is low when using words as for example “could” and “some”, in the same kind of claim (Winther Jørgensen & Phillips, 2000).

In a text an object or situation can be described in different ways using different words and when analysing a text it is therefore very important to not only search for one word or term, but also synonyms (Jørgensen, 2000). According to Jørgensen it is important to read a text several times. As the analysis is being carried out it is important for the researcher to be open to new statements, this is because when empirical material is processed, according to the researchers, that knowledge and discourse manifestations can be identified (Jørgensen, 2000).

2.4 Power, knowledge and conflicts

Another important term within discourse analyses is power according to researchers. Foucault (1971) for example states that regardless if the discourse presents any type of opinion or sensitive information there is often a power perspective if more than one actor is involved. Foucault (1971) also explains that there is no point in investigating any unspoken, underlying truth about the nature of reality, because this does not exist and that the only thing that could possibly explain or interpret reality is discourses. Foucault (1971) also saw discourse as beyond human control and that they occur randomly and separated in time. Alvesson and Sköldberg (2008) mean that Foucault’s thoughts about the relationship between knowledge and power are central when studying a text.

What is mental illness and not can be determined with a discourse. The discourse is thus superior to the concept of power because power is not a single concept but only something that arises in relation to something else. According to Foucault (1971) social patterns and rules can help us to maintain a balance of power.

The normal functions of society are reproduced through institutional actions, which in some cases work as barriers. It creates complications regarding the work of creating an integrated city, a city which offers equal resources to all citizens regardless of who you are or where you are born etc. According to Bergström and Boreus (2000) it is not always negative to create barriers. They give us the chance to create methods on how to bring the walls down. It gives us a chance to challenge and face our limitation. It is important for us to understand discourse as it controls us and cause's changes within us. It can create a power factor, which demands us to face knowledge and facts in order for us to take part in the discourse. Foucault however saw discourse as a power that could limit our possibilities to act in a situation. He meant that there existed only one sort of discourse in every epoch and that it changes of time. He thought that it was important to follow the changes in discourse over time and analyse the reason for the change (Bergström, 2000) (Jorgensen et al, 2000). Forester however stated that discourses decides which stories tell what, and what stories that become available, which questions that are asked and by who, when and where. Forester implies that power and discourses affect one and other. Critics however mean that even if citizens are given the chance to take part in the planning process there will still exists a power struggle during the process between the different actors (Forester, 1997ff).

Conflicts as well as power should be analysed in planning according to Flyvbjerg (1998). He means that conflicts are often seen as something destructive, but they cannot be ignored or neglected, as they are part of a democratic society. To have freedom is having the chance to have different opinions. He mentioned further that the more democratic a society are, the more conflicts the societies can tolerate and believes that discussion between interest groups must be encouraged (Flyvbjerg, 1998). He also claims that it is through diversity that we can be creative and tackle planning from different angles (Flyvbjerg, 1998). In order to solve conflicts there needs to be a dialogue between all participants in the planning process. This contributes to a more democratic participation for all and opens up possibilities to discuss the future from different points of views (Lidskog, 2005).

According to Foucault the discourse also creates different exclusion scenarios. Discourse

does not only promote dialogue between people but can be used in ways to keep certain people or groups outside the planning process. Foucault means that the power develops through the different relationships between people and that people in a discourse a subject take a certain position or role.

2.5 Approach

I intend to conduct a discourse analysis, when investigating the master plans. There are different plans, laws and strategies that need to be followed. In Sweden there are special plans that are required of the municipality when planning. There are different plans and some are legally binding and others are not. This master plan covers the entire municipality and is not legally binding. The plan's purpose is to show how the municipality should plan with its land and water. It is also required to show how the municipality plans to protect the environmental and cultural protected areas. Although the plan is not legally binding it has to be kept updated. The plan also sometimes works as a basis for decision-making.

The premise of this analysis is to investigate to whom the municipalities presents information and with whom they communicate and work with to achieve social sustainability. This analysis will be investigated by the reading of the master plans according to three different focuses. These different focuses are:

1. Search for the term sustainability and see what the planners write about the term in general.
2. Where in the master plan planners mention the term social sustainability.
3. An analysis of the master plan and try to see if they talk about social sustainability in the master plan without actually mentioning the terms sustainability or social sustainability.

I choose to use the municipality's master plans as my primary data because the plans are very important within urban planning and solving conflicts within the city. Master plans are plans, which extend over several years and shows the municipalities will as regards to use of land and water. The plan is supposed to presents the municipality's goals and plans. All municipalities are required to have a current master plan, it however is not legally binding but is often used as the basis in different decisions within planning processes.

I choose to limit this thesis to only investigate five municipalities, more specifically Sweden's largest municipalities Malmö, Gothenburg, Stockholm, Uppsala and Västerås. The reason for my choice is based on the limited time on me is to conduct this thesis. The choice of the municipalities is based on an expectation that they are all similar in ways but still very different and I want to see how they construct "social sustainability" in their master plans. I also choose them because I wanted to investigate large municipalities, which are quite similar in size, and population and then this was the best choice based on my decision to only research Swedish municipalities. The master plans were read several times. During the first reading colour was used to code and categorize the plan. I then choose to search for the terms; sustainability and social sustainability. New documents were then created and all terms involving these texts were copied to the document; one document for sustainability and one for social sustainability. After having read the plans for the third time I tried to read between the lines and search for places where they might be discussing or presenting social sustainability but without using the actual terms themselves.

According to Kvale and Brinkman (2009) the choice to categorize does not necessarily need to be done before the analysis starts but can change during the time. It was by using three different steps that I created the analysis. These steps are: coding, thematising and summarizing. Coding means categorizing and naming expressions, patterns and prominent features. Creating a conceptual framework, which can be the starting point in an analysis, is the purpose of coding data (Hjerm et al, 2014). According to Winther Jørgensen & Phillips (2000) the coding is done by keywords and dichotomies. This is important when doing a discourse analyse because it helps to limit contradictions that that can be found in the text. When thematising an investigation is undertaken to study the relationship between the different codes and to thematise them. Four different themes are normally used in such cases, which are: individual equality discourse, discourse normality, individual discourse and power discourse. The theme should be chosen according to the research question. Winther Jørgensen & Phillips (2000) mean that discourses also can be considered as an analytical term and due to this limitations need to be done based on both the research question and also the aim. The summarization is the result of the different patterns and interpretation of them (Eriksson Barajas et al, 2013).

2.6 Analysis implementation

In order to create and carry out an analysis I have analysed the different texts and by using a code method this analysis has been made. According to Hjerm, Lindgren & Nilsson, (2014) coding is a way of expression and finding patterns in texts. The different patterns then become categorized. Texts and their meaning being such a large part of this report made the choice of the coding method a natural one, due to its purpose being to work as a conceptual framework. Coding is based on keywords, common assumptions and also dichotomies. Coding based on a dichotomy is a good complementing method to the discourse analyses according to Winther Jørgensen & Phillips (2000) because it creates and separates inconsistencies in language. Different terms have been focused upon during this analysis. These are:

- *Attractive*
- *Safety*
- *Barriers*
- *Living conditions*
- *Population growth*
- *Green spaces*
- *Participation*
- *Availability*

In order to structure this thesis clearly the discourse sets strategic boundaries according to the research question and aim, as a discourse also can be seen as an analytical tool (Winther Jørgensen & Phillips, 2000). The terms also work as a helpful tool in structuring the analyses. According to Eriksson Barajas et al (2013) a discourse outcome can be limited based on the one analysing the material. They also claim that both the coding and the research question can come to affect the outcome (Eriksson Barajas et al, 2013). The analysis should include many different quotes, which works towards the discourse method (Eriksson Barajas et al, 2013).

2.7 Scientific and reliability variables

In order to demonstrate this study's scientific credibility this section of the thesis will present and discuss if this thesis is valid and discuss its reliability.

2.7.1 Reliability

In order to secure this study's reliability the focus of the analysis was kept on sustainability. When discussing a wide term like sustainability it is important to make sure that the chosen quotes and the analysis are associated with the research question. The quotes works as an important part of the analysis by giving the readers a chance to see how the text was interpreted and the chance to create their own interpretation.

The quotes I have chosen to highlight in my thesis were chosen due to their correlation to both the major topic of the thesis being sustainability and to highlight the different master plans various ways of presenting their view on sustainability and their work towards a socially sustainable city.

In order to avoid misunderstanding the municipality's words, I have chosen to present highlights that were carefully selected, which do not correspond to a larger context but can be analysed and interpreted independently. An attempt will be made not to influence the reader of this thesis in any specific manner. Different people produce and are effected by different social discourse techniques which are affected by a person's social standing, sex, age or political preference. How we are influenced by information from one person from a certain social class, or age or political preference is therefore different to how we would perceive the same information from a different person of a different class or gender or age. Therefore in a discourse analysis we must always analyse who the informant is and the relationship between himself and the audience (Winther Jørgensen & Phillips, 2000).

2.7.2 Validity

The studies plausibility and validity is attempted to be as reliable as possible by using other and older research in the theory to compare with and find correlations. According to Eriksson et al (2003) the validity is measured based on empirical roots, the assessed based on rigor but also the result. The validity of the thesis is also based on how well the thesis links back to the research question and how well the different choices in the thesis have been clarified. By using several quotes throughout this thesis an effort has been made to exclude as many misinterpretations as possible, this being an important part when constructing a discourse analyses (Bergström & Boréus, 2000). The aim of this thesis is not for it to contribute with any new knowledge but to show the use of the terms in five chosen municipalities today.

3. Sustainability

Social sustainability is the topic of this thesis and also one of three claimed aspects of sustainability I will therefore in this chapter, present sustainability, background, the other two claimed dimensions aspects and sustainability's "meaning".

3.1 The Bruntland report

1987, the former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland created a report. The term sustainability was presented for the first time in the Brundtland report and was accepted by the United Nations. According to the report the definition of the term is as following:

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs (Quoted in: Aksell, 2003:68).

During the 1990 s a discussion regarding where the momentum that should guide the sustainable development should come from. According to (B. Potter et al, 2008) a term alternative development was implemented which aimed at developing the non-industrial communities in order to cope with the problems such as for example exclusion and poverty. The local inhabitants through a "bottom- up" strategy controlled this development. This strategy means that development should be based on the local inhabitants knowledge and willingness instead of the officials' knowledge and the so-called "top-down" strategy. The sustainable livelihoods framework was also created during the 1990s, which was a framework, which consisted of ideas of how the local society should and could work towards a sustainable city.

3.2 The term sustainability

The concept of sustainable development has many different definitions but is generally seen to consist of the three dimensions social, environmental and ecological (Borg 11). The "normal" way of presenting sustainability is as shown by figure 2 beneath:

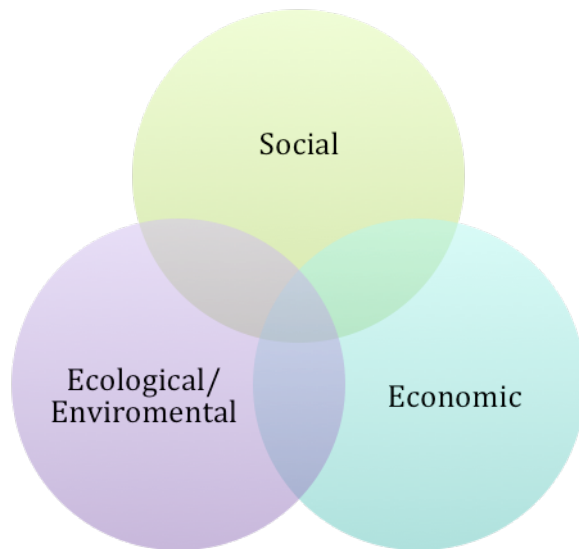


Figure 2, The Sustainability model Adapted from: Björneloo (2007)

According to Hopwood et al (2005) however all definitions of sustainable development rests on our own social and individual perceptions of reality. Since sustainable development has many different meanings and definitions the way to sustainability and the end product could differ from city to city.

Initially I will briefly introduce the other two aspects, which are often is seen as parts of sustainability.



The ecological dimension means that all living creatures and nature, the ecosystem and the biodiversity must to be protected and preserved and that this should be the approach in order to protect the future. Social development includes subjects such as for example health, a good living and safety.

The economical dimension however means that the economic growth should increase but must not affect the environment negatively. The different resources have also to be used in an effective and long-term manner (Aksell, 2003).

Most countries have different goal words such as sustainable development in hope of solving the different environmental conflicts. In 1992 during a United Nations conference a program by the name of Agenda 21 was presented. The purpose of Agenda 21 is to solve environmental problems at a local level. The program mainly consists of environmental goals on both local

and international levels. The main goal with the program is to improve and create a good environment until the 21-century (Corell & Söderberg, 2007).

In 1998 an investigation showed that out of all the Swedish municipalities 97% of them had started some kind of development towards encouraging involvement of the citizen within the local Agenda 21 work. Through fairs, information material, advertising etc. information was spread out to the inhabitants in the municipalities. Involvement of young people have been attempted and encouraged through various forums (Naturvårdsverket, 2010).



The economic aspect can in short be explained as a development that does not jeopardize the long-term economy. One of the major focuses within economical sustainability is to contribute to stable macroeconomic conditions. The reason for this is because it creates and enables better functioning economy characterized by dynamism, flexibility and growth.

Some also claim that a well-functioning economy is characterized by dynamism, flexibility and growth and that a stable macroeconomic conditions means balanced public finances (Svedberg, 1999).

3.3 Sustainability

According to Frenning and Ståhl (2011) the purpose with the concept “sustainability” is to seize the different possibilities that come with the challenges and problems with the increased urbanization. Others however think that the sustainability term is to generalize development and natural processes that cannot be seen in isolation from the economic and social structures. Others like Corell and Söderberg (2005) believe that the fact that the term is unclear without clear definitions is an advantage because it opens up possibilities for own interpretations of the concept.

Good living habitats and creating sustainable development are two areas, which many cities strive for (Godschalk, 2004). According to Roseland (2012) sustainability is mentioned particularly when talking about the earth and the human beings and their future. Today people have different lifestyles and living conditions and this contributes too many different local problems, which needs to be seen into in order to achieve sustainability. There are also wishes

among city planners to find and apply appropriate development strategies in order to reach these goals (Godschalk, 2004). But Olsson (2012) mean that some people claim that the term sustainability is not something that can be measured but works as a greater tool for visions and that the term today is associated with a kind of ideal world. The term could be described as a term, which shows a perspective of a possible future (Olsson, 2012). Flexibility and capacity to adjust to new and different situations is also an important part in achieving sustainability according to (Olsson, 2012). Another part of planning and social sustainability whereas flexibility and capacity to adjust is needed is according to Nyström (2003) the urban planers role and means that they have a large responsibility to work as an intermediary between the different interest groups in the city. This is important because the urban planner needs to be aware of all the actors' wishes in order to try to create a "good" city for everybody, a social sustainable city. Khakee (2000) claims that it is also important that the urban planner is be aware that political restrictions can sometimes create barriers in the planning processes. Its not only important that the different interest groups in the city cooperate, all aspects of included and mentioned in correlation with sustainability needs to be able to work together in balance. Managing to keep the aspects of planning in balance is a task that many municipalities find difficult. How to achieve sustainability is not easy and there is no way to know if and when a city is sustainable (Sanne, 2006). There is no given "game plan" how and where to start the work process of creating and aiming for sustainability (Sanne, 2006). Cooperation across boarders is also important and Hedenfelt (2012) mean that a city cannot become sustainable if the rest of the world is not aiming for the same goals of becoming sustainable. The reason for this is because all cities are linked together in a global system. Nyström (2003) however mean that the work with sustainable development should occur at a local level to get the best result. This could be implemented in all of the three main aspects but perhaps the social is the aspect that would benefit most at the local level since the other two perhaps are regulated by other things like e.g. "Miljöbalken" (Environmental code) or bigger economic investments that could be distributed at a national level.

In order to keep the cities sustainable aspects in balance the planner's work according to laws and goals that have been decided upon by local politicians. These goals make a framework for the planners to work within. In order to do so they must interpret the politician's intentions with the goals. The planner then presents proposed plans to the politicians within these frameworks for the politician to make the final decision. An example of such a goal is social sustainability (Isaksson & Storbjörk, 2005). A politician states what is to do be done, and within this context

the planner decides how it is to be carried out. Therefore the development in the city is the results of the efforts from both parties; the planners and the politicians. During the 1980 more and more interest was focused at ecological sustainability. The Brundland report was widely discussed and the term sustainable development became an important goal for many planners during the nineties (Wirén, 1998).

The cities many components, actors, authorities and residents and the work of creating cooperation and balance is not an easy task. According to Campbell (1996) all cities must find their own solutions appropriate for their own circumstances, in order to prevent imbalance between aspects and possible conflicts between them. All conflicts cannot be solved but this should not stop the planer from aiming for sustainability (Campbell, 1996). Figure 3 illustrates the three different aspects Campbell believes needs to be in balance in effort of reaching a sustainable planning.

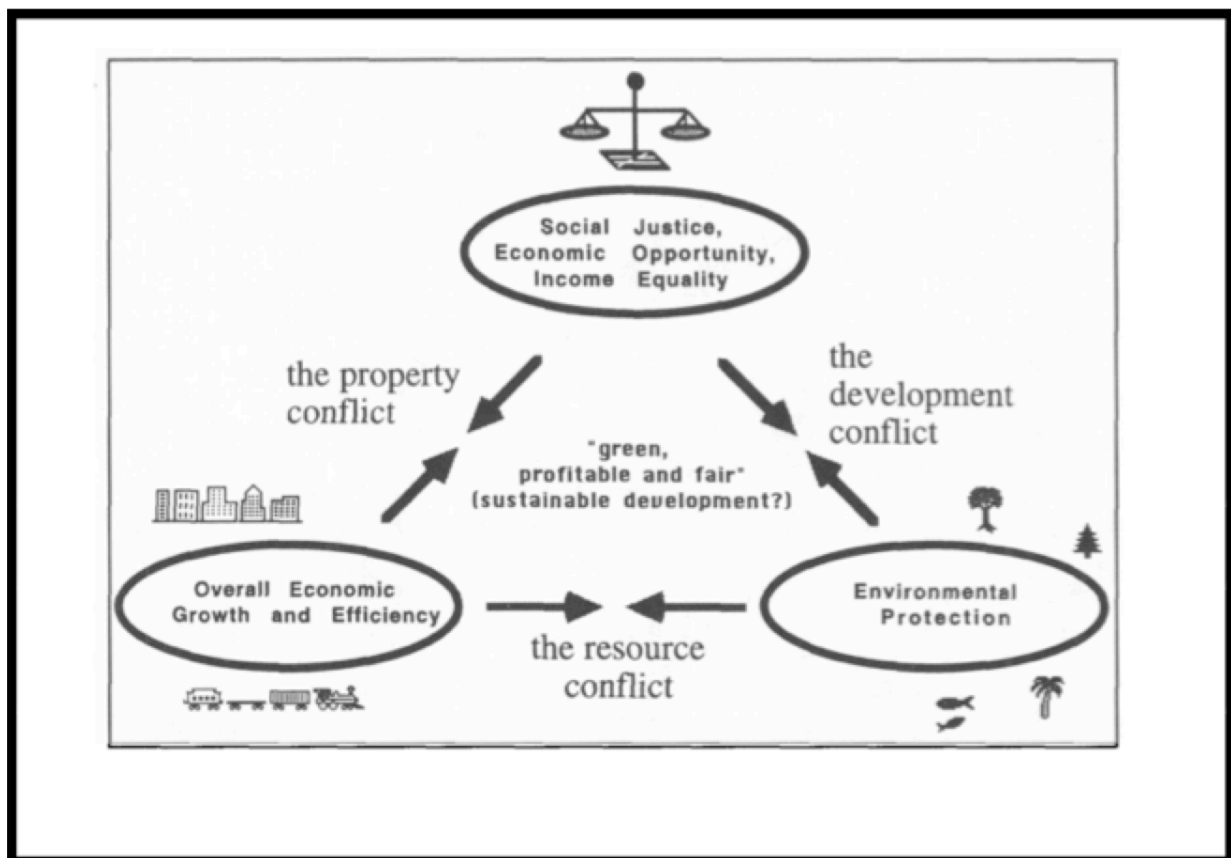


Figure 3, Conflict model. The illustration shows the Campbell 1996:2 triangle model of the different possible conflicts.

The first conflict is the resulting conflict that occurs due to different people's views on the use of a property. A tenant for example views the property in a different manner than the landlords, he wants a cheap but good service in the building, and the landlord wants as high a rent as possible and stable tenants. This conflict is complicated as neither part can win as they are dependent on each other; no tenant results in no rent, no landlord results in no housing. In a democratic society even though property is own by individuals the state makes sure through legislation that the society's needs are fulfilled. A new conflict is created, the needs of the individuals versus the needs of the property owner and not forgetting the needs of the society (Campbell, 1996:297ff). Even in this conflict the different actors are dependent on one another. A property owner needs a stable growing society where he can make money, but does not want a state that legislates too harshly and raises the tax.

Society wants the state to take advantage of its natural resources but at the same time save the nature and its resources for future generations. This is called the resource conflict. This conflict arises often when the city wants to expand into new non built areas. The city needs to grow, but at what cost (Campbell, 1996:297ff).

The third conflict, the development conflict is the hardest conflict to solve, according to Campell (1996). How can we develop a society that supports the social needs of its people, preserve the environment, and create economic growth. This creates a need for balance. If the society offers property that is too extravagant people cannot afford to live in it. If the property is too shabby, disease can flourish. Resources must be used optimally (Campbell, 1996:297ff). One way to create equilibrium between the three main aspects, according to Campbell (1996), is not to romanticise the past and the way things were, it should be to look at the future rather than the past since it is irreversible. To proceed with the urban development should be to promote environmental working in different fields and to try to resolve different conflicts in the best way possible. The concept should be clearer and more specified and it should perhaps not be tossed around lightly in every situation. This is important if the planner is to learn from the conflicts that had arisen during the planning process (Khakee, 2000).

3.4 “Problems”

The general problem with term sustainable development is that the concept is vague and could mean different things to different departments and institutions. The “original” term was referring to the environmental aspect but has lately adopted the social and economic aspect as

well (Johansson & Khakee, 2008). The three aspects could be compared with a triangle where there are tensions between all of the three and where in an idealistic world the urban planners should stand in the middle and try to weigh the aspects equally. However, that is not the case in a real life situation since there are always different interests involved and in many cases the urban planners are executing plans to clients who have predetermined goals (Campbell, 1996). But Hopwood et al., (2005) however mean that the term sustainability, with its many different definitions and rests on normative principles. Because the term has so many different definitions makes it is hard to say how sustainable something actually is. Wheeler and Beatley (2009) agree there are no clear method for measuring sustainable development. Combinations of different measurements are necessary in order to ascertain a complete picture of sustainable development.



4. Social sustainability

After having presented and discussed the term sustainability in chapter three and the other included aspects I will now present the thesis main topic, which is social sustainability. When talking about sustainability the social aspects are often seen as less important when compared to the other two aspects, economic and ecologic. The reason for this is due to the fact that the social aspect is weakly substantiated theoretically (Lehtonen, 2004:199). Nevertheless this chapter will try to present some of the different definitions of the term and also present some of many aspects, which many researches and agencies argue to be associated with social sustainability.

As mentioned in the previous chapter social sustainability, is generally seen as one of the three aspects within sustainability. Social sustainability has grown to become an increasingly central term even though it does not receive the same attention as economical or ecological aspects of development. As earlier mentioned social sustainability focuses on issues such as welfare, and issues that normally are not illuminated in the same way as ethical and cultural issues (Hutchins & Sutherland 2008)

The social aspect of sustainability has many different definitions and Dempsey (2009) claims that even though the social dimension is widely accepted there is no not agreed or cleared definition. Susan Fainstein (2005) however discusses city development and talks about the social sustainability aspects and social justice. She claims that the terms sustainability, democracy, equity, growth and diversity relates affects to each other. Fainstein defines social sustainability as a question of achieving the conditions necessary to promote social communities. According to Fainstein social justice is a “key” aspect in social sustainability. The term social justice Fainstein defines as human rights and needs, fair living conditions, justice to overcome structural disadvantages and other aspects, which are socially desirable (Fainstein, 2005). When planning a city it is important to distribute resources equitably in order to achieve social justice (Dempsey, 2009). Some examples are that all humans should have the same rights when it comes to use and accesses to housing with good standards, public services and available green spaces. Other aspects which “defines” social justice is when there is no discrimination of people which prevent them from participating, politically, economically and

socially and when there is no social exclusion (Dempsey, 2009). Christer Sanne (2004) believes that using the term social sustainability can solve problems such as for example discrimination and poverty. Some social “problems” that are not highlighted can, according to Sanne (2004) work as an obstacle in the social development. The “problems” which, does not create barriers Sanne (2004) explains and also describes her associate and her view of social sustainability:

Social exclusion, unemployment, dependency of money from the social services, addiction, sickness, poor education, abused children, how young people can find work, young people with no daily activities, segregation, discrimination, repression, criminality, violence and robbery, corruption cultural fragmentation and ignorance, communication difficulties, egoism verse careerism, lack of responsibility, flaws in morality and justice, development towards regional urbanization contra sparsely populated regions, poverty and global social gaps between people (Sanne, 2004: 2).

As mentioned before there are a number of different “definitions” of sustainability and Elias (2009) defines and believes that social sustainability is reached when a society is dynamic and stable and fulfils the inhabitant’s basic needs. Olsson (2012) however means that the term is established but that there is a lack in a general definition and claim that social sustainability works as a guideline but not as a term. Olsson explains that the reason for this is because social sustainability includes the future and is there for dependent on the standards, which are perceived desirable, and the existing values.

Länsstyrelsen (2010) believes that in order for the cities to achieve sustainability all the social aspects found in the city need to be integrated in the planning processes. When the city stands before changes and when creating a new master plan all knowledge regarding the social questions should be used and included. In order to be able to gather as much knowledge as possible Länsstyrelsen (2010) believes it is important to have a good cooperation with other council officials. In Sweden it is the Swedish administration office called Länsstyrelsen who are in charge of working as a link between different organizations such as for instance municipalities, the inhabitants and the government. The regions administrative board follows the goals that have been set by the government. Their task is to coordinate the regions different interests and development, set goals for the region and to control that planning takes place according to the law. Larger regions have separate departments for the different aspects of sustainability (Länsstyrelsen, 2010). The administrative board works towards social

sustainability by following the municipality's work within a variety of areas such as housing, national health, questions of discrimination prostitution etc. (Länsstyrelsen, 2010). As mentioned throughout the thesis several different researchers associate and include many different aspects with social sustainability and these are part of Länsstyrelsens (2010) work to try to keep in balance. In the following chapter some of these aspects will be presented.

4.1 Aspects of social sustainability

Crabtree (2006) claim that aspects, which are needed in order to “achieve” social sustainability, are good living conditions regarding the social community. Good living conditions Crabtree (2006) describes as a community where excluding does not exist and claims that it is a challenge to meet the requirements of social justice. Some of the aspects within social justice are freedom, fair living and conditions for the people and in order to claim social justice all aspects needs to be achieved (Crabtree 2006). The resources in the city also need to be equally distributed in order to prevent issues such as discrimination or exclusion and in order to reach social justice. Access is also seen as the key to measure social justice, access refers to access to culture, green spaces, public service etc. If the society does not pursue actions towards social justice, the society can experience conflicts and anxieties. Research has shown that cities with a good welfare that works towards equality work and are more effective than cities with low welfare and that are unequal.

According to Boverket (2010:44) there are five different themes that need to be taken care of in order to achieve social sustainability. The use of Boverket as a source is based on the fact that municipalities tend to rely on and trust this authority. The authority Boverket stipulates the Swedish building regulations and gives guidelines and follows up different plans within the municipalities. When presenting these themes Boverket (2010), mentions the word safety repeatedly a term which they define as:

Safety is about emotions, something that is very difficult to influence and change but the emotions are often tied to places. By changing these sites, you may also affect some of the feelings that are strongly associated with unsafeness (Boverket, 2010:3)

The five different themes are:

- Holistic approach (Helhetsyn) -

A holistic approach is not only necessary but should be seen as the natural way of referring to all different aspects of sustainability. The reason is that all aspects affect one and other in different ways. In order to achieve social sustainability the holistic approach needs to be applied when planning the city. Planning strategies should be utilised that strive towards a good welfare for the citizens and satisfy their social needs together with the aspects of sustainability. The welfare issues include many different interests, which need to be addressed so as to prevent them from creating different conflicts between one and other (Boverket, 2010:9ff).

When building new areas or when changes are made in the city it is of great importance that gentrification is considered. Much thought and analysis must be carried out regarding how the new areas could affect the citizens. The holistic approach also helps the exclusions and works in ways that prevents segregation (Boverket, 2010: 51).

- Variation (Variation) -

One central part of social sustainability is variation and variety of living alternatives; such as rental apartments, houses, ownership, condominium and tenancy. A separation of these different living forms can contribute to homogeneous neighbourhoods and would not work in favour of establishing social sustainability. There are many correlations between workplaces, access to service and the city along with other aspects and housing segregation (Boverket, 2010:9).

A strategy of supplementary building is a strategy, which works against segregation in ways of trying to attract financially strong investors to the resource poor areas to create a variation in the households in the city. There are many other strategies and most of them have both positive and negatives consequences. One of these strategies is converting the rental units to condominiums. The problem, which can occur with this strategy, is that areas with many low income citizens are normally not as attractive to other citizens looking to buy an apartment in the area. In the long run this can cause the crowding out of the resource poor households. Variation in the city does not however only refer to households but also about dividing and creating a variation of functions within the society (Boverket, 2010:9ff).

Places which are sparsely populated and where there is limited movement are experienced as being unsafe. How a place is experienced changes also according to the time of day and the month of the year. All citizens need to continually experience a sense of safeness within the whole city. This means that places within the city must fill their functions all hours of the day and throughout the whole year (Boverket, 2010:22).

- Relations (samband)-

A physical cohesive city is seen as a great way of creating conditions for a social cohesive city. This is often fixed by linking together peripheral and often enclave built residential environments to the more central parts of the city. This can be achieved partly by building up different neighbourhoods, partly by increasing opportunities and inputs incitement to move in and between different parts of the city, thereby creating new opportunities for meetings between people. Meetings are assumed to reduce alienation and promoting integration (Boverket, 2010:41).

The city's various properties; surfaces, layout, design etc. have different effects on each other. The street network in a city has a great impact on the feeling of safety in humans. A well-planned urban structure makes it easier for people to orient themselves within the city and contributes to greater feelings of safety. The city's design also affects peoples' perception of safety and security. Control and visibility are key words in urban planning. Vegetation density and height for example are two characteristics that affect our experience of security; a bush cut short is less threatening than a dense high bush, which prevents our ability to view the surrounding area. A clean city, where the vegetation is maintained, promotes feelings of security while dirty, poorly maintained environments, are perceived as being unsafe. Water, railway lines and roads need to be crossed in cities. Subways are sometimes built for city citizens to cross such barriers. Subways are often perceived as being unsafe places as our ability to have visibility around the area is limited. Solutions, such as better lighting must therefore be implemented in order to increase feelings of security (Boverket, 2010:19).

- Identity (identitet) -

The theme identity is about feeling proud and having self-esteem even when living in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighbourhoods. In today's society media affects our

perceptions of different neighbourhoods by creating negative reputations in the press which increases bad self-esteem in the people living in these disadvantaged areas (Boverket, 2010).

Different events and activities can create solidarity and increase the identity in the area. These activities work especially well in socially deprived areas because then are associated with something positive. Citizens have something positive to talk about and the focus on the social issues and problems becomes smaller. Culture, history and special events are also positive for identity and works in ways that make inhabitants relate to them (Boverket, 2010).

Natural and attractive meeting places also create ways of identification. Parks, public areas and other common places can also work in strengthening the social life. These public places along with many other can lead to an increased attractiveness in the area. Restoring areas in need also increase the feeling of safety and togetherness. Architecture can also work as a way to relate and identify areas and also work as meeting places and landmarks (Boverket, 2010).

- Influence and interaction (inflytande och samverkan) -

In order to try to fulfil the wishes and demands in the city it is important to gather information from different groups. Participation is an important part of planning the city. Many municipalities encourage forms of citizen dialogue in their city planning processes and other developmental projects. Experience has shown that the goal of the project together with descriptions of what is hoped to be gained is important to be expressed to participants for dialogue and traditional communication technique to be successful. All different kinds of place visitors must be involved in the dialogue; not only the people who live there but even the other visitors such as shop owners and council workers. Research has shown that it is positive to develop a direct dialogue with the citizens where the citizens are located and early in the process. One must not assume that citizens will seek out information through traditional channels but must take place where the citizens are located (Boverket, 2010).

The conditions for trade and commerce are related to the municipalities planning and can be improved by changes in the physical environment. The greatest improvements are possible when cooperation is achieved when property owners, organizations of commerce and the municipality work together. Municipalities can even affect feelings of security by supporting the establishment and maintenance of communal and private forms of social services and commerce and even within poorer parts of the community (Boverket, 2010).

The city creates emotions, which are experienced by citizens as they take part in the daily life within the city. Certain emotions are negative such as the feelings of insecurity in certain areas within the city. In order to identify these emotions that the city provokes it is important to have citizen participation in the planning process. There are many different ways to involve citizens' participation. The city of Malmö, for example, made various city tours with citizens and photographs were taken and areas visited that people perceive as being unsafe (Boverket, 2010:65).

After having initially presented some aspects of social sustainability and Boverket's definition of what aspects are necessary this next couple of chapters will present some other aspects of social sustainability that some might say is the "larger" and greater aspects of sustainability.

4.2 Densification

Densification of a city cannot be seen as a planning goal but needs to be highlighted in order to achieve other goals such as the goals to reduce social segregation and better use the town's resources. A compact city can affect the city both positively and negatively, one possible effect is that it can contribute to cultural diversity and increase the economical sustainability with the city. One positive consequence of many people moving around into an area is a feeling that the city is alive and safe. Hearing and seeing other citizens in the area promotes feelings of security within the citizens. More people in an area lead to higher levels of social interaction (Breheny, 1996). The "ideal" scenario for a compact city is the mixed city, which means a city with a mix of schools, homes, stores and health facilities, a city that offers the citizens all that they need to lead their daily lives (Europeiska gemenskapernas kommission, 1990). A compact city can help to encourage different groups in the city to coexist according to the Europeiska gemenskapernas kommission (1990). Research has shown that densification increases in a compact city, as does the larger use of cars in the city. Public transport is an important aspect in a compact city. When and if this happens it is important that the city offer citizens an alternate form of transportation instead of the car which is a better choice for the city (Gunder, 2006).

A compact living is not always a living situation that all citizens have actively chosen, it is in some situations forced on certain citizens. A positive effect of densification is that it sometimes opens up possibilities of living areas for people of different ages and social class. A compact city also uses fewer resources than a sprawled city, which means that the ecological

footprint is minimised (Gunder, 2006). SCB (2010) claim that the densification of the city occurs at the cost of the city's green areas which according to Boverket (2004) is not okay as the authority mean that the cities green spaces are valuable for the city and contribute to better living conditions. Urbanisation can create a feeling of crowding, increase the noise in the city and reduce citizen's chances of having a private life (Boyko & Cooper, 2011). Another possible negative outcome of a compact city is increased stress levels for the inhabitants. The reason for this is because a compact city can cause congestion in the city, which can lead to a more hectic lifestyle (Malmö stad, 2010). As the city becomes more compact more people move into the area and use the facilities within the city. This creates a pressure on the city in terms of increased demand on community services, maintenance of green areas and transportation (Boverket, 2007).

After have gone through the aspects densification the next chapter will present the aspects which some researcher believes is the most important one, life qualities. The chapter will present different definitions of the term and the included factors.

4.3 Life qualities

According to Bell & Morse (2008) the citizens and their needs are the base for sustainability. There is no point in planning for a sustainable city, which jeopardizes the inhabitant's quality of life. Life quality can have both positive and negative effects on the inhabitant's physical and mental health (Region Skåne, 2012). As the cities grow larger and become more compact the housing situation becomes more and more unstable (Jansson et al, 2012). The urban green spaces and parks are according to Chiesura (2004) contributes to good life quality.

There is a long tradition internationally of measuring the inhabitant's welfare, using different social indicators, knowledge and interest of life quality indicators. In Sweden however this use is limited and many countries today agree that the traditional measurements of welfare do not give a complete and genuine picture of the citizen's quality of life (Fors, 2012). Plan and building law, PBL 1§ is one of Sweden's laws that regulate the municipalities work towards a society with good social conditions, good and sustainable living environments, equality in the society etc. for the citizens of today and for the future generations. Measurement of welfare is difficult according to Brülde (2003) due to cultural differences and people having different ideas on what a good quality of life consists of. There have been many attempts to measure life

quality but today there is still no “accepted” definition of life quality. The World Health Organization however chooses to define life quality as following:

An individual’s perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns. It is a broad ranging concept affected in a complex way by the person's physical health, psychological state, level of independence, social relationships, personal beliefs and their relationship to salient features of their environment (World Health Organization, 2015).

Even if many say that life quality cannot be measured an attempt was made in a report from 2011 regarding welfare measurement in the OECD countries. The report means that the indicators, which should be used when measuring life quality, are the following:

1. Income and economic prosperity
2. Work and Employment
3. Living conditions
4. Health
5. Balance between work and leisure
6. Education and skills
7. Social network
8. Civic engagement
9. Environment
10. Personal security
11. The subjective well-being

According to OECD (2011) all of these indicators together provide a comprehensive picture of the inhabitant’s life qualities. In his book, ‘ Teorier om livskvalitet’, Bengt Brülde discusses life quality and the meaning of life quality. He means that life quality is an individual experience and that everyone has different definitions of what makes life worth living. According to Statens offentliga utredningar (2012) There are ambitions for the citizens and their needs to be the main focus for city development and the reason for this being to make a natural and dominating term and part of social sustainability, planning and different planning processes.

Other aspects which claims to be a factor of good life quality in the cities are cultural experience, sport activities, shopping possibilities is some other aspects, also contributes to better life qualities. University, international contacts, and research facilities are some other aspects, which do not only increase life qualities but also contributes to the cities competitive advantages (Kotler et al op cit, 1999). The use of green spaces is another factor that some claim contributes to better quality of life. Some of the positive effects of green spaces and parks in the city are the reduction of traffic noise and better air quality (Bolund & Hunhammar, 1999). Chiesura (2004) emphasises on the points Bolund & Hunhammar (1999) presents in their report and mean that parks also offers the inhabitants a place in the city that offers a place for relaxing, fresh air and a place to get away from possible daily problems and issues. Availability to green spaces has been proven in a Swedish study to have a clear correlation to the inhabitants of the cities stress level (Stigsdotter & Grahn, 2003).

Another factor that has already been touched upon some of the chapter before is participation. In the next chapter a more thorough description of the participation is going to be presented.

4.4 Participation

According to Rydin & Pennington (2000) a city cannot become sustainable without involving and engaging everyone in the city. Studies have shown that a good participation among the inhabitants contributes to invaluable knowledge and a greater understanding among policy makers about the needs and concerns among the actors, which has shown can come to lead to better decisions. The inhabitant's knowledge is irreplaceable and is a key tool for the urban planners and their work with the city (Rydin & Pennington, 2000). According to Nyström and Tonell (2012) the city needs to focus at solving the inhabitant's needs and in order to do this the urban planners should look to the inhabitant's experiences and knowledge. It is also important that citizen's take part in the decision-making in order to achieve a social sustainable city. Nyström and Tonell (2012) mean that citizen's participation also contributes to an increased understanding of different identities in the city. PBL regulates and controls the majority of the decisions made in the municipality regarding developing the city. As mentioned before all cities are required by law to present how the municipality plan should use land and water in the municipality. In the year of 1987, changes were made in the PBL in order to increase the citizen's participation. The municipalities received more freedom to plan which gives them

greater possibilities to both meet and monitor the citizen's needs better (Boverket, 1998). The aim of these changes were according to Henecke and Khan (2002) to reach acceptance from the citizen for the plans and to legitimize the plan decisions.

The citizens have according to PBL at least two months to state their opinions about the master plan when it is created. All documents, including the master plans must be made freely available to the citizens (SOU, 1999:113). In order to embrace participation SOU (1996) claim that it is not only through availability but also through urban planners and mean that urban planners need to work more towards listening to citizens and in the best cases live in the municipality themselves. The planners should put more emphasis in citizen participation is in order to solve local problems and their citizen's needs then urban planning need a better knowledge of the local culture in the city (SOU 1996). Fainstein (2005) however claims that responsibility should also come from the inhabitants themselves to "reach" a social sustainable city with good welfare.

5. Social sustainability in master plans

This chapter will present the analysis and I will start by investigating how the term sustainability is highlighted and discussed in the master plans continuing with an investigation of how the term social sustainability is presented and incorporated in the same plan.

Many aspects need to be taken into consideration in order to “create” a sustainable city. Malmö claims that the “approach” for this should be structures as:

Planning should be planed using a holistic perspective of the city in order to plan the public areas as a democratic arena, through the design and placement of squares, parks, streets and other functions, and by always taking into account aspects such as gender equality, security, accessibility, public health and justice (Malmö, 2014:22).

5.1 Sustainability

After having analysed the master plans it became clear that all the five municipalities mention the term sustainability, but only one of them, Västerås, has a “definition” of the term sustainability which does not refer to any other researcher or authority:

Sustainability is something that is resilient and can be used for a long period of time. A sustainable society is robust and can stand against the demands from constant change originating from its environment. Sustainable development implies making good use of our resources both now and in the future. This means for example to economize with our land, to reduce greenhouse gases and use the qualities, which exist in Västerås today and utilize those investments, which have been made. A sustainable society provides the conditions needed for citizens to have a good daily life, feel security and provide social contacts together with the chance to change their environment (Västerås, 2012:12).

Continuing the analysis I would like to highlight that the majority of the master plans either begins with or mentions at the start of their pans their vision of developing a sustainable city with balance between the three aspects social, economic and environmental elements. In the master plans the municipalities refer to what needs to be improved and different goals that need to be fulfilled in order to “achieve” sustainability. They also highlight their aim in planning

both for today's society but also the future. This is some of the examples of how the municipalities start their master plans:

Malmö should be an attractive and sustainable city socially, environmentally and economically (Malmö, 2014:6).

The major goal of the master plan in Gothenburg is that the city should develop in a sustainable manner and the plans shows how this is to be achieved (Gothenburg, 2009:5).

Economic, social and environmental sustainability are obvious goals for the development of Malmö (Malmö, 2014:5).

It is not really that important for the municipalities to share a definition of the term, but on the contrary it is positive that each municipality has a local and own definition of sustainability according to their needs and conditions and how they interpret the terms. A municipality that differs from the others is Gothenburg, which does not have their own definition but uses the Brundtland's commission's definition of sustainability, which is the following:

Social development which takes into account our present needs without creating problems for coming generations to meet their needs (Gothenburg, 2009:38).

The choice Gothenburg makes by reproducing Bruntlands commission's definition makes one wonder why they have done it? If Social sustainability cannot be measured why use their guidelines? The statement that the commission makes regarding not creating problems for the future can also be seen as abstract statement as nobody can see into the future. Therefore it is also questionable why to have the same aim as the Bruntlands commission. Defining something can imply that there is a hidden agenda or power perspective. Stockholm claim that the master plans aims development towards a sustainable city, which is explained as following:

The Master plan is also a very important strategic document for the city as it points to four development strategies for the city if a sustainable development is to be achieved and the strive towards its long term goal of a city of world class (Stockholm, 2010:2).

But one can come to wonder who or which groups that has the power in the city, are all the inhabitants equally “satisfied” and if there is no way of measuring social sustainability one can wonder how can Stockholm claim that the master plan has an important role.

As Bergström et al (1996:19) states the term sustainability has different meanings in different situations. Each municipality names sustainability and chosen different variables to be developed in order to achieve sustainability in their municipality. The municipalities have different needs and have worked towards sustainability in their own tact. Therefore it is only natural that each municipality has its own “game plan” to achieve sustainability. Corell and Söderberg (2007) sees an unclear term as something positive and claims that it is good that each municipality has the possibility to make the term their “own” according to their situation. There is no “game plan” or specified document stating how to achieve sustainability. According to Olsson (2012) none of the municipalities can possibly know if they are sustainable or how to become sustainable, as it cannot be measured. Continuing Olsson (2012) means that sustainability is only a guideline. Olsson (2012) mentions guideline, but for whom? As the municipality is the “dictionary” for the inhabitants regarding the happening, plans and aim the master plans should include sections, which specifies their choice of aims and the chosen areas, which will have extra focus. Out of the five municipalities only Malmö comes close to contributing with this information but the municipality however, includes a short presentation of some background and base information about sustainability whereas they say:

The three aspects of sustainability affect each other and are dependent on each other. None of the aspects can be achieved without that activities are carried out in the other two. In there is no functioning eco system then it is impossible to achieve economic and social sustainability (Malmö, 2014:15).

The municipality’s choices of definitions and how much they decide to specify can come to lead to many different consequences such as for example exclusion, politicians lacking knowledge, unequal cities and so on. As Campbell (1996) argues, all the municipalities’ aspects can come in conflict with each other and its first when a balance between them all is achieved that the municipality can “suppose” that they are planning towards what many other researchers claim is sustainability.

After now only briefly presenting a short summary of how the different municipalities present and discusses the term sustainability the analysis will now continue with a more specific and deeper analysis of the reports main topic social sustainability. The reason to why I only presented a short section of sustainability is due to the fact that social sustainability is a part and aspect of the head term sustainability.

5.2 Social sustainability

Malmö states in their master plan that:

A socially balanced city should also be a city, which provides equality. This means equality in justice, democracy and the possibilities of taking part in decisions, women and men should have the same power and chance to form the society and their lives. Everyone's different experiences needs and prioritisations should be reflected in the city's planning (Malmö, 2014:15).

As Malmö state there are many different experiences that take place in the municipalities and therefor all municipalities have to acknowledge the different preconditions and what can be seen clearly from the different master plans is that all of them have different complementary documents which more specifically regards the questions of needs and improvement areas and specifying the strategies they will use to succeed: Stockholm, for example, has a strategic document which points out four areas of development and improvement.

After reading the different master plans several times I discovered some words that I found to be appearing more often namely: attractive, safety, barriers, living conditions, availability, population growth and green spaces.

Attractive (attraktiv) -

The word attractive can be found in all of the analysed master plans, which I have studied and they occur and are mentioned in similar ways. The different municipalities mention attractive housing, nature and cultural values, park and green areas, public transport and attractive cities. What none of the master plans present however is a definition of what they mean with the word attractive. Definitions are general lacking throughout all the master plans. They do not mention for whom the city should be attractive, An example on how the municipalities use the word attractive in their master plan is presented beneath where I show a short section from Gothenburg's master plan:

The nature and cultural values are to be highlighted and contribute to a attractive and sustainable Gothenburg threw especially valuable and irreplaceable nature, cultural and landscapes values preserved, to life and a better availability (Gothenburg, 2009:37).

Safety (trygghet) -

The term safety as many terms has many different definitions but in this context it will be meaning and standing for feeling safe, safe cities and neighbourhoods. Gothenburg has carried out much work towards making the city feel safe and is still carrying out new activities to achieve this goal. Safety is an important element in Gothenburg that has had an impact in the physical planning and the municipality means that the way to create a safe city is through urban planning and by connecting and building each part of the city closer together. Gothenburg explains it as following:

If we are ever going to succeed in making a safe, multicultural and exciting town where everyone feels welcome then the city must have a more common goal. We must integrate all city sections with each other (Gothenburg, 2009:14).

Uppsala writes about safety in almost the same manner as Gothenburg and adds the fact that safety should be something for everybody, and should be a shared feeling and be independent of other aspects like for example age, gender or ethnicity. Uppsala also brings up cars and traffic as a large contributory factor in the perceived safety. The municipality has the goal of:

Speed limits for cars are reduced in city canter and inhabited areas in order to increased traffic security for pedestrians. Increase the feeling of well being in the areas and improve the cities environment (Uppsala, 2010:53).

Uppsala also includes safety as a basic condition for good living conditions. They have invested in safety housing which is a new form of housing for older people who feel anxious or insecure in their usual dwelling. Västerås means just like Gothenburg that a safe city is aimed for in the city planning. The masters plan of Västerås mean that safety is a large part of sustainability. According to Västerås safety is perceived from person to person depending on age, gender, education, background and life situation. Another aspect which Västerås believes

create a safe city is natural movement in city and that bike and walking roads links together different areas. The more movement there is during throughout the whole day the safer the city is perceived. The master's plan of Västerås also claims that an environment, which is perceived as, secure, safe, and available, is usually recognized as safe by the majority of the inhabitants.

Barriers (barriärer) -

Barriers are mentioned in the master plans in a number of manners but mostly they are mentioned regarding physical barriers. These barriers are mentioned as the cause of people segregation and the city and the affinity between the cities different areas. In other words you could say that the municipalities talk about barriers as a problem and as something that makes situations harder. This is my interpretation of the term barriers in the different master plans, this because none of the five municipalities have a definition of the term in their master plans.

Uppsala has specific goals regarding barriers and one of them is mentioned as following:

To improve inhabitants access to beach and swimming areas, to break down barriers and obstacles while promoting walks for pedestrians and cyclists- to parks nature areas and areas of recreation (Uppsala, 2010:66).

All the different analysed municipalities seem to have the same view when it comes to barriers and what is needed to eliminate them in the best possible way. Stockholm describes barriers and strategies to work with them as a part of the long-term goals whereas Malmö along with the other municipalities do not mention which type of barriers that exist or any goals involving them, but claim it is necessary to involve it constantly in the planning. The chosen municipalities as earlier mentioned are the five largest cities in Sweden, which means that public transport naturally becomes an important key due to the many inhabitants in the city. Public transport is something that all of the five municipalities agree on can partly eliminate some barriers, as good public transports makes all parts of the city available. In Stockholm there are many areas which are poorly integrated with the surrounding neighbourhoods and the public transport system, and this works as a large barrier which the city is working on to remove.

Malmö however is unique in the sense and situation and talks about barriers not only as physical barriers but also mental and means that the city needs to improve spontaneous

meetings between the inhabitants in the city from different neighbourhoods. They prioritize in creating a more socially cohesive Malmö. They plan to achieve this by making Malmö more attractive by creating new road in the city, which hopefully creates more movement and meeting places. Uppsala and Västerås agree that barriers are a huge problem and go on to solving them in different ways and prioritize different solutions. Uppsala prioritizes the ecological and social values in correlation with the green spaces when it comes to working with wiping out the barriers. Västerås focuses on searching for knowledge about the everyday life and local conditions in order to trying to develop their city without any barriers.

Life conditions (livsvilkor) -

Life and the different qualities are mentioned using different terms in the different master plans, terms such as vitality, living habitat, everyday life, life qualities and lifestyle.

The five municipalities agree with Susan Fainstein's (2005) thoughts regarding city development and social justice. They believe that one of the most important aspects regarding the inhabitants and their life and life quality is the strive towards social justice. Fainstein (2005) includes life conditions as one of the most important aspects of social sustainability. All five master plans place also emphasises on Dempsey's (2009) thoughts regarding justice and tries to create as good life qualities as possible. These qualities should be appealing to all the cities citizens, no matter their age or gender etc. Due to the face that life quality is a personal manner and everyone has different wishes and needs in the city there are many different aspects and wishes the municipality's needs to study.

Malmö's master plan mentions life conditions in more detail than the other master plans studied, Malmö means that the physical environment is the framework for social interaction and is thereby the most important thing to develop. In order to achieve a good life for the citizens that it is of great important that the city has social balance and good living conditions (Malmö).

Even though Malmö mentions and discusses living conditions, Västerås makes a clear statement regarding living quality and the correlation to social sustainability:

Social sustainability means the chance of having a fulfilled and good social life. Different groups in the society have different needs which need to be met. There are different needs in the population due to differences in the standard of living within different parts of the community. Man and women live to a

certain degree in different environments (Västerås, 2012:13).

Västerås also includes a clear strategy of their way of achieving social sustainability. Malmö's master plan, which involves life quality in many parts of the plan but does not really define it as clearly as Västerås, which mentions the term less times but makes good and clear definitions of the different terms and their aims and goals.

What the municipalities all agree on is that the master plan is important when it comes to creating guidelines and directions for the cities and how to create cities that can offer good living conditions. Malmö explains it as following:

City planning should support activities, which diminish inequalities in conditions of live and health between the inhabitants of Malmö and strive towards giving everyone the chance to a good daily life. City planning should work towards new work vacancies and the possibility for more inhabitants to support themselves which should lead to increases in the welfare of its inhabitants and diminish the social differences in the city (Malmö, 2014:39).

What can be seen as confusing is that even though Malmö mentions in the master plans the importance of creating good life qualities they also mention that there are also many aspects regarding social sustainability and life qualities which cannot be affected through the master plan. They do not mention what aspects they mean however.

According to Malmö it is easy to have a good lifestyle and everyday life when the city is compact and easier to get around in. The inhabitants of Malmö are also encouraged to take own initiative in order to increase their life quality. Malmö's thought regarding the inhabitants taking their own initiative is positive according to Fainstein (2005) who means that responsibility from the inhabitants improves the society's welfare.

Art, music, culture, sport, innovatory and conservation are other keys Malmö uses to increase the life quality for Malmö. The municipality has also come to realize that large differences in the living conditions between the inhabitants affects the city negatively by affecting the cities attractiveness and can also influence the social and economic situation negatively (Malmö).

A good life for the inhabitants according to Malmö involves workplaces, to have somewhere to live, feeling safe, opportunity to good education and health care. The opportunity to take part of cultural activities and participation in decision-making are also import aspects in creating good

life qualities.

Other aspects, which are important for the inhabitants and their living condition, which all municipalities agreed upon, are access to parks and green spaces, which also can encourage physical activity, town squares and streets.

Population growth (befolkningstillväxt) -

Population growth is often a topic in documents regarding sustainability. A poor population growth creates many consequences for the city. All modern cities strive to become larger and more popular. A population growth can contribute to more taxpayer which helps the economy of the city but can also become a problem if there are no jobs or living possibilities for the inhabitants.

All five municipalities' mention that they aim and work towards stimulating a continual increase in population. Gothenburg talks about growth and regional expansion as a topic together whereas Stockholm mentions population growth more specifically and points out specific areas that need extra attention and work. Stockholm also means that their identity is a large key in their population growth as the city is the capital city of Sweden.

More inhabitants in a town usually mean an increase in the number of vehicles. To have access to a car on a daily basis is a necessity for many people and it gives the owner a certain feeling of freedom. Cars however are also a city planning problem. They need room. Cause noise pollution and accidents. The streets connecting the areas together also create barrier which need to be crossed (Västerås, 2012:13).

To build a compact city gives it more resources and is more energy efficient than a city which is sparsely populated over a large area. It enables the inhabitants of Malmö to choose a more sustainable lifestyle (Malmö, 2014:19).

A compact city in the central part of the region supports a sustainable development in the surrounding areas due to the possibilities of commuting into the city. The city must therefore continue its planning to strengthen central Stockholm (Stockholm, 2010:34).

Green spaces (gröna ytor) -

Green spaces and the ecology are often mentioned as a part of sustainability and as earlier mentioned the ecology has large impacts on the social sustainability. Gothenburg aims to create conditions to save and conserve the bio diversity.

Stockholm has goals for the cities development to link together the city environment, attractive park and green spaces and new and improved public transports in a sustainable way. Stockholm also believes that a green space contributes to new meeting places and better living conditions. Uppsala claims that the green space also contributes to good clean air, good microclimate, and storm water storage and to reduce climate changes but mainly the green spaces are important for the social values. Uppsala states in their master plan that the municipality constantly needs to work at the cities green areas. Västerås claim following in there master plans:

An attractive city environment, which is sustainable and healthy, is both compact and green. The more people living in the same space create a need for development of and establishing new green areas. Those nature areas and living environments which are especially desirable for the cities plant and animal live should be encouraged, protected and developed. Availability to green areas is to be increased.

Västerås mean that green spaces needs to appear safe in order for the inhabitants to move and visit the places during all parts of the day.

All municipalities are according to Boverket (2010) going at planning the city correctly when they try to keep the city linked together without any barriers. Boverket (2010) also believe that green spaces are a great way of solving many of the cities different problems such as for example, availability, safety and creating new meeting places.

The master plan is a very important strategic document for the city as is focuses on four different development strategies which lead towards a sustainable development which is one of the cities long term goals as set down in Vision 2030, which sets a goal for Stockholm as being a world class city (Stockholm, 2010:19).

Participation (deltagande) -

Gothenburg means that communication is one of the key aspects in planning a city,

communication between the inhabitants and the different actors. Gothenburg informs in their master plan that most of inhabitant's participation takes place when a new plan for the city is created and that this is regulated by chapter four in PBL. Malmö agrees with Gothenburg and mentions following in their master plan:

A city is strengthened if citizens participate and it is therefore important to stimulate activities that encourage participation in change processes (Malmö, 2014:7).

Malmö has also made investments whereas they aim for new forms of cooperation between the state, other stakeholders, citizen participation and the municipality and they mean that the different investment activities are of great importance for the city's future. Malmö also claim that the city has positively affected citizen's participation and that it is crucial that the work to improve and strengthen this participation must go on. Malmö also see sustainability as the obvious and the only way of planning and this is how they state this in their master plan:

In Malmö sustainability is the obvious path for urban planning and decision making (Malmö, 2014:9).

Malmö also see themselves as a brave municipality due to the fact that they try new techniques and environmental friendly solutions. According to Malmö they have over a long period of time been open to changes and new ways of planning towards becoming sustainable. They also state that they aim to encourage the interaction between all the players and participants.

Västerås states that their master plan has been conducted in dialogue with the inhabitants but there is no further explanation of how and who participated. Uppsala also mentions that their master plan has involved a dialogue with inhabitants, but is more specific in presenting how this process was carried out. They present the process as follows:

The work had been carried out in an open discourse between citizens, work places and organisations. A number of open meetings for citizens have been held under the spring of 2009. Much work focused on outgoing communication was carried out during the period November 2009 to January 2010 when the public consultation was underway. This involved several open meetings, information rallies, meeting with different interest groups, the publishing of information in the media, making of videos and blogs on the internet (Uppsala, 2010: 3).

Stockholm mentions the dialogue but describes it more in a futuristic manner, something that will happen, instead of a dialogue that has happened. They mention however that their master plan is supposed to work as a basis for a continued dialogue with Stockholm's inhabitants. Stockholm also sees participation and dialogue with the inhabitants as one of the keys in gathering the inhabitant's knowledge, which is of great importance in the work towards a sustainable city. Stockholm has even included a separate chapter in the master plan called Dialogue and cooperation where they very carefully present their approach to dialogue and interaction with residents. Stockholm also means that spatial planning influences the participation of the cities inhabitants in the different planning processes. A city also becomes more socially sustainable by increasing the participation according to Stockholm.

Malmö informs that in order for them to achieve the social goals they need all participants to work together. The municipality also mean that this cooperation should not be limited but instead be a natural part of all steps of the planning processes. The reason for this is according to Malmö because it opens up possibilities for creative solution making and a local engagement and a possibility to share knowledge.

Availability (tillgänglighet) -

Just like many other terms in the master plans there is no clear definition of availability. The term is however used often in the analysed master plans. The cities in general want to be seen as available in all kind of different aspects but mainly available in terms that everybody can take part in what the city offers and not exclude any kind of inhabitant according to their background or status in the community. All the master plans mentioned they want to be available but they mention different improvement areas to encourage availability. Stockholm struggle and works a lot with making the city available trough the tram and the public transport system and means that this is one of the cities largest challenges. This is how Stockholm highlights this in their master plan:

One of the greatest challenges for regions and for the master plan is to increase accessibility in the transport system but minimizing the effect on the environment (Stockholm, 2010:8).

Malmö works at making the city available by mixing the kind of people and their movement through the city and also making it safe and possible for them to do that. Uppsala mentions that they want to improve the inhabitant's availability to green spaces. The aspects, which have

been presented and discussed along with some other aspects are basically what the different cities use as methods to encourage available. But with no definition when do you know if something is available?

Some researchers state that social sustainability cannot be measured but Elias (2009) however claims that social sustainability is reached when a society fulfils the inhabitant's basic needs and when the city is stable and dynamic.

Many different aspects and factors regarding sustainability and the associations with the term have now been presented. This thesis has only presented some of all possible existing aspects, involved, stakeholders etc. and despite this I have presented, what can seem as a lot already. Many of the aspects also are also associated and controlled by individual's private opinion and having said this I will in the next chapter present different conflicts which can occur between all these "included parts" of social sustainability.

5.3 Conflicts in the City

It is when different interests compete and affect one and other negatively that conflicts occur. Campbell finds (section 3.3) that different conflicts can occur between all the aspects of sustainability. One might say that if all the aspects of sustainability do not work together and in ways that affects each other positively they instead create conflicts and barriers to achieving sustainability. According to Bergström and Boreus (2000) it is not always negative to build walls between people as it gives us the chance to create methods on how to bring the walls down. If an area in a city for example is perceived as unsafe this will result in less natural movement in this area. If the movement reduces, there are high odds that the area after a while becomes segregated from the other parts of the city and this area becomes unattractive.

As mentioned before many of the aspects of social sustainability that are included are based on individuals' feelings and needs such as for example the aspects safety and life quality. These aspects are perceived subjectively from person to person and different conflicts can occur if only some of inhabitant's needs and wishes are fulfilled. Everyone's needs must be satisfied in order to reach social justice.

In some cities the aspects themselves can result in conflicts and in other cities they can work in the cities favour. Population growth for example has a different effect on Västerås which mean that the growth correlates to an increased use of the car, whereas Stockholm means that they

can manage the growth and that their commute system can manage it. Within management organization including municipality's properties such as efficiency, rationality and that they take into account and follow laws and rules are expected. These properties can come in conflict with each other (Petersson, 1994).

Due to the fact that planning processes starts with a decision from the municipalities politician's the municipality's master plans can seem a bit passive. The master plan shapes and is decided on based on regulations and directives from both the municipality's politicians and the states directives. Based on the analysis of the five municipalities I do not think that the different conflicts are highlighted enough and I believe that this is an important aspect, which could contribute to a better participation from the inhabitants of the city. Even if planning is a technical and formal process it still should be a process, which includes everybody and is understandable for everybody regardless of background. Another situation, which can cause conflicts, is in regard to officials and their knowledge. These conflicts can occur when and if the officials have different professional knowledge and judgments. The municipalities' chosen politicians do not always have either the time or knowledge which is required to fulfil the inhabitant's needs which also can be a start of a conflict.

A major part which has not only being highlighted as part of some possible conflicts but also throughout this whole thesis is people, inhabitants of the municipalities, individuals, humans, etc., a aspect which has many names and includes many. This aspect has come to show in the thesis when presenting other aspect as a linked together part. I will therefore in the next chapter present the role of the citizen in the master plans.

5.4 The citizen's role in the master plan

As mentioned before the citizens of the city has been mentioned repeatedly thought-out the thesis and mentioned in combination with for example life quality, the importance to highlight they basic needs and the importance of the citizens participation.

Initially the inhabitants of the city can be considered limited as they have few possibilities to take part and express their opinion and get their voice heard. The citizen's knowledge needs to be taking in and absorbed by the municipalities, which Malmö (2014) claims both strengthen the social sustainability. As Johansson (2005) claims there is almost always another dimension that is hidden when something is presented and that one of the dimensions creates new identities makes one understand the importance of actually allowing the inhabitants to take part of the

planning process and letting them create the cities different identities. This needs to be taken into account according to Boverket (2010:22), which sees identity as one of the five different themes, which are necessary in order to, achieve social sustainability.

The citizens in the municipality all have different background and the master plan needs to be a clear and easy for everybody to understand, regardless of background. The only municipality, which, I thought gave a little effort in trying to better explain, was Malmö who mentioned:

The three aspects of sustainability affect each other and are dependent on each other. None of the aspects can be achieved without that activities are carried out in the other two. In there is no functioning eco system then it is impossible to achieve economic and social sustainability (Malmö, 2014:15).

Malmö gave a little background information but in the different master plans there has shown to be different focus aspects, which they aim to develop further. But what the municipality does not present is why the municipality focuses especially on only certain aspects within sustainability. I believe this important in order to encourage the participation of the inhabitants and also can come to affect the citizen's faith in both the urban planners but also the politicians. As the inhabitants can work as a connecting link between "social sustainability's" all includes aspects the availability and clarity of the master plan can prevent the participation and can affect the politician's knowledge, this as exchange of knowledge is important. Exchange of knowledge is also important because there can occur difficulties for the planner in putting him or herself in someone else's situation and understanding how citizens will have their area developed. Some planners does not work in the municipality for which they plan for and therefor they need to put themselves in the citizens shoes in order to get a clear picture regarding what the citizens think is for example good life qualities, which areas are perceived as unsafe etc.

After now have investigated and analysed the municipalities and how they constructs social sustainability in the master plans and this could imply for planning practices. I will now in the next and last chapter highlight my concluding thoughts and remarks regarding the outcome of this thesis.

6. Conclusion, thoughts and remarks

In this chapter, the last chapter I will present the conclusion from the thesis and also present my thoughts regarding social sustainability.

6.1 Conclusion

The analysis in the previous chapter demonstrates that all the municipalities begin their master plan by mentioning that they want to plan their city in a sustainable manner. How the five municipalities chose to initiate their master plans are all really similar, they all mention that they aim to plan for the cities sustainably by working on the economical, ecological and social aspects. They municipalities presented these aim by differently by using different words.

After reading various papers and books about sustainability it has also been made clear that sustainability often is related to planning for the future but how can we plan for the future when we cannot know or anticipate the future and their needs. Sustainability is also a term that according to many cannot be measured. Prizes and awards are being handed out in today's society example the most sustainable city. But if there is no clear way of measuring this how can the city know if they are even heading in the "right" direction.

After having investigated and analysed the term social sustainability and its use in the Swedish municipalities I have learnt that all aspects, which are included, correlate to one and other. Life quality, which is highlighted as one of the major aspects, has for example correlations with many of the other included aspects. The inhabitant's life qualities are affected by population growth in the ways of possible stress increase and the effects on the green spaces and parks which is an important part of the inhabitant's well being. It also correlates to all of the other aspects that have been mentioned in this thesis. I think the same pattern of correlations can be found in all aspects, they affect each other. All aspects need to be linked together and all of them are necessary, I believe, based on this investigation, that the key aspects, which "control" and "steer" the municipalities way towards a social sustainable city are the inhabitant's and their opinions. I base this on the fact that the main focus and aim of social sustainability is normally to see to the inhabitant's needs, life conditions and social justice.

Other than linking together all of the claimed aspects of social sustainability, the term cannot be "achieved" only by urban planning, but urban planning "opens up" the "possibilities for achievement". Social sustainability I believe can be seen as a puzzle, whereas all the pieces

represent different aspects, which are necessary. Social sustainability can thereby not be “achieved” without a “team” effort from all different operators, inhabitants and the municipality. It cannot be achieved by a single development or change in the city but a single development or change in conjunction with other aspects or developments can come to have great affects on the social sustainability. The “team” also works in how they contribute to share both knowledge and experience. Physical changes can also come to have great impacts on the availability, meeting places, and the safety in the city among with many other aspects, all these aspects which claims to “influence” the social sustainability. The term safety shows why social sustainability does not really have a clear definition. Safety is a feeling, which all humans have and the same goes for the term social sustainability. For some inhabitants one aspect is more import than another and if a city does not work towards certain aspects then some people may well experience the city as social sustainable whereas others may not.

Social sustainability and its many different definitions are known for being vague and unclear but as many researchers such as Fainstain (2005) for instance believe the basic and most well-known definition of the term is to fulfil the inhabitant’s needs and rights. And as mentioned before all cities have different conditions to offer from the beginning and I think therefore it is expected for the five municipalities that have been investigated to define the term quite differently. I also believe this is a good thing because it opens up possibilities for the municipalities to make the term “personal” and relatable to their specific conditions, needs and areas which need be looked into and developed further.

I think more attention should be aimed at the inhabitants and their opinions. Social sustainability is something that I believe is assessed by the inhabitants. I think that questions like: Are you pleased in the city, are your needs fulfilled, do you feel safe in the city, do you feel that some areas of the city are not integrated with the rest of the city among many other questions needs to be asked. In the end it is the inhabitants of the city that are going to be affected by the cities’ different developments and it is they who must live and experience the city every day. Gothenburg for example makes a claim (see chapter 5.1) where they say that they hope to continue developing sustainably. Their choice of words make me wonder; if stating that they wish to continue on the same path does that mean they are pleased with the direction of their development today. How do they know that they are heading in the right direction? And when did they become sustainable?

6.2 Thoughts and remarks

After reading though the five different master plans many times I do not think they are clear enough, I think they all are lacking explanations. The language and choice of words I believe work as a barrier and do not increase the chance of participation from the citizen's side. Social sustainability is a large puzzle as it includes many aspects. I think the investigated municipalities still have many areas, which can be improved upon, and made clearer. Areas, which I believe are lacking, are:

- To better market and the clarity of the master plan

I believe that in order for the inhabitants to take part and be participants in the planning processes the master plan has to be clear for everybody regardless of background and I also think that the master plan is not branded enough and is not easy for the inhabitants to get a hold of. Today, inhabitants are offered involvement in the decision making by taking part at consultation and new plans and when creating new master plans. I however think that the majority of the inhabitants do not have enough knowledge about the planning processes and that the majority of the cities citizens have never taken part in a consultation meeting and that most have not even looked at a master plan or knows where the advertisement regarding date and place for consultation meeting are.

One of the possible solutions to these conflicts could be to “lay as many cards” on the table as possible and for them to be visible for everybody in order to include as many citizens as possible in the planning processes. I believe that if the participation is from many different “kind of people”, with different backgrounds, knowledge etc. it will increase the acceptance for the plan as it will reflect the views from different types of people in the city. If these do not solve the conflicts I believe it will be a helpful process towards a solution.

- To better present the municipalities choices

As mentioned earlier the analysed municipalities all have chosen to put more effort and work into specific aspects within social sustainability but none of them really specify why the areas have been chosen.

- To develop collaborative opportunities

As this thesis has come to show all, including parts of the city, inhabitants, officials etc. , need

to work together. The collaboration also increases and affects participations positively. In today's society the municipalities do not present any other opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchanges besides the consultation meeting. I think this is an aspect which they should always aim to try to improve. The city includes everybody and many different types of groups and wishes which also means that everybody should work together in order to try to create a city for everybody and a city that everybody is pleased with, a socially sustainable city.

- To do more investigations and evaluations

In regard to this thesis I believe that social sustainability is based on the inhabitants and their opinions I think there should be more opportunities whereas the municipality gather information from the inhabitants, information regarding their wishes, opinions and their vision.

- "Free zone"

City planners should have a "free zone" where they can work without the intervention of politicians. The reasons for this are that it produces a more efficient and rational planning. All decisions do not need to be made by politician but can be delegated to the local planners. Lundquist analyses the planners roll from a democratic positions and means that an important role for every city planners is to point out to politicians when they are attempting to make decisions which do not follow the law (Lundquist, 1998).

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Figures

Figure 1, The Berger & Luckmanns model, of social constructivism Adapted from: Wenneberg (2000)

Figure 2, The Sustainability model Adapted from: Björneloo (2007)

Figure 3, Campbell (1996:297) *Urban Planning and the Contradictions of Sustainable Development*, *Journal of the American Planning Association*