



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE NORTH EAST

NESPSS AGM

Monday 19th October 2009

The CasteGate Centre, Melbourne Street, Newcastle



Present

Aidan Doyle, Newcastle University/RCE
Alistair Wilson, Newcastle City Council
Andrea Carling, Groundwork North East (South Tees)
Anne Clark, Newcastle City Council
Averil Newsam, OWNNE
Ben Jewell, SUSTAINED
Bill Kirkup, NE IEP
Carol Ashworth, GONE
Carole Robson, Gateshead Council
Chris Maines, D3Associates
David Etheridge, Durham County Council
David Malone, Real Food Works
Fiona Knox, Scotswood Natural Community Garden
Francis Hinton, NEEN/NESPSS Trustee
Hugh Clear Hill, Northumberland County Council
Joanne Taylor, Hartlepool Borough Council
Joyce McCarty, North Tyneside Council
Katy Standish, John Muir Award
Krista McKinzey, Science Learning Centre NE
Laura McTaggart, North Tyneside Council
Mandy Roberts, Northumberland National Park
Mike Tones, NESPSS Chair
Nick Butler, DCSF/DfT, Darlington BC
Paul Flynn, Food for Life Partnership
Paul Haverson, D3associates
Peter Bell, North Yorkshire County Council
Phil Macari, NEST
Philippa Hughes, SUSTAINED
Rebecca Pritchard, CLG
Rich Hurst, NESPSS Coordinator
Rocco Graziano, Hartlepool Borough Council
Sarah Brierley, Northumberland County Council
Steve Ashton, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust
Steve Robson, Association of North East Councils

1. Apologies

Jennifer McDermott, Hartlepool Borough Council
Sue Hoare-Leather, Health Improvement Strategy (Obesity) Durham PCT
Sally Preston, Science Learning Centre North East

Jeff McCloud, One North East
Becky Earnshaw, Direct Schools North East
Ron Rooney, Durham County Council
Kath Hull, TVOWC
Kathryn Warrington, Sunderland City Council
Brian Simpson, Middlesbrough Environment City
Paul Green, OWNNE
Dave Smith, GONE

2. Minutes of the last AGM

These were circulated for information

3. Matters Arising

Please note that the accounts this year are covering 18 months.

No matters arising.

4. Annual report

- Transferred to the networking part of the event.

5. Statement of accounts

- Please note that on Page 8 of accounts, this figure does not include the DCSF funding which is allocated outside of NEEN/NESPSS accounting systems
- This funding is now in its 3rd year, this is not a huge amount of money towards regional coordination of sustainable schools.
- Money has been spent on 2 banners (as displayed) and 2 events one in North Tyneside and the other in Darlington.
- Enormous thanks given to Rich Hurst for keeping the accounts in order.

Accounts accepted.

6. Election of Board Members.

- Rich Hurst went through list of board members.
 - Mike Tones
 - Rich Hurst
 - Sally Preston
 - Frances Hinton and
 - Steve Gater.
- Frances Hinton announced that she wished to resign from the board. She has been a board member for 20 years. Mike Tones thanked Frances for all her support over the years. Frances has played a fantastic role for the board.
- All attendees were in agreement to approve the remaining board members again.
- Mike Tones then briefly gave an overview of the roles of the board
 - RH mentioned that representatives from Schools North East, One North East and the North East Assembly attend the Board but are not trustees.

- Carol Ashworth explained how GONE use NEEN/NESPSS as a tool to help deliver and drive regional work in the North East.
- At a point of critical mass need more support for this group now. More trustees are needed to help shape what happens in the North East.
- Steve Ashton and Andrea Carling voiced their interest of being on the board. These were both seconded.

7. AOB

- Fiona Knox asked about funding. Carol Ashworth replied saying that there is at least another years funding from DCSF of £25K (plus this year an additional £15K for curriculum based activity)
- Mike Tones mentioned the Global Dimension and LOTC, which are other curriculum areas which could be used to strengthen
- Frances Hinton commented;
 1. There is a strong history in North East of environmental networks, so the region has always been strong.
 2. This is a great opportunity strategically. Last few years have pulled together, it needs a wider group to bring the networking together.
- Mike Tones stated that the work is a School Improvement Strategy. So much evidence to show it works and this message needs to get out! A big job to be done.

End of AGM at 5.45pm



NESPSS Networking Session Notes

19/10/09

Overview

- Rich Hurst gave a short overview presentation of Sustainable Schools Framework.
- Mike Tones (NESPSS Chair) gave a review of the North East Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Schools activity during the reporting period (Oct 07-March 09):
 - Sustainable Schools isn't being engaged with everywhere but where it is, it's very effective
 - Funding → DCSF → Regional Coordination
 - Sub Partnerships;
 - Eco Schools
 - Forest cluster
 - OWNNE
 - Regional School Food and Health Network
 - NE Rural Dimension Partnership
 - Growing Schools Initiative
 - Think food and farming, Climate Change Schools Project, Solar Car Challenge. These are all regional initiatives. All part of raising achievement agenda.
 - Pilot corporate approaches- 6 LA's over 2 regions. Sharing good practise. Listening to young people is very important. Reports available on the NESPSS website www.sustainableschools-ne.org.uk

Presentations

- Andrea Carling Education Officer for Tees Valley, Groundwork North East
Andrea gave an overview presentation of her work and explained the new Groundwork structure and its operations. Available to download from: <http://www.sustainableschools-ne.org.uk/latestnews.htm>
- Averil Newsam from OWNNE.
Averil also gave a presentation (available to download from <http://www.sustainableschools-ne.org.uk/latestnews.htm>) then handed out a case study on Cochabamba (Bolivia) for individual table discussion. It was commented on that water is a likely cause of conflict in the future. Rich Hurst remarked that water is not seen as an issue in the North East, due to it being plentiful and moderately cheap. The World's problems are not seen. Averil contactable on email address averil.newsam@ownne.org

Corporate Approaches

- Progress reports from the 3 LA's developing their corporate approaches to Sustainable Schools were delivered

- A national conference on Monday 22 March 2010 in Newcastle is being arranged, all information from the participating six authorities will be fed back to a national audience from LA's and other organisations that support schools will be invited.
 - Each NE authority involved then gave an update on their progress to date
 - Redcar & Cleveland
Andrea Carling detailed R&C's aims, outcomes, events, activities, case studies, schools, corporate strategy
 - Durham
David Etheridge presented their approach. Development activities are split into 3 sections; schools, LA departments and partners/corporate. David talked about the 'outcomes to date', 'the Durham strategy', and the 'Draft Durham Promise'
 - Newcastle
Alistair Wilson gave an overview of Newcastle's progress. There are 120 schools in Newcastle registered on their enviro schools programme. The draft corporate strategy will also be on their website. Alistair detailed their outline, corporate strategy, activity mapping and communications,

MT thanked everyone for their presentations and emphasised in his view the key outcomes from the session:

- strategy
- partnership
- communications

Attendees then enjoyed a buffet and the opportunity to informally network.