

## Regional Eco Schools Partnership Meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at the EWE Centre

### Present

Rich Hurst (EWE Centre Co-ordinator), Claire Fairclough (Durham County Council) Julie Fulton and Helen Cheetham (Durham Wildlife Trust), Jason Martin (Groundwork East Durham), Kirstin Unwin (Groundwork South Tyneside), Gloria Pearson (RC National Healthy Schools Prog), Brian Simpson and Brian Yule (Middlesbrough Env. City), Andrea Bishop (Groundwork South Tees), Alistair Wilson (Newcastle C.C.-Enviro. Schools), Ben Grant (Newcastle C.C.), Nichola Ramshaw (Groundwork East Durham), Mike Tones (Durham County Council) Steve Ashton (Tees Valley WT), Nikki Lamb (EWE Centre Admin)

### Apologies

Andrew Cartwright (GONE), Pam Lovell (Education Advisor Northumbrian Water) Caroline Jackson (Groundwork Northumberland), Clare Lowe (Tees Forest), Jill Essam (Harehope), Steve Bhowmick and Rachel Ford (N.E.Assembly), Kirsty Wilkinson (D.C.C), Graham Temby (Harrowgate Hill Primary school, D'ton) Steve Graham (Encams), Kath Hull (TOWC) Keeley Metcalfe (Hartlepool B.C.), Carl Watts (R.S.P.B.). Clare Ross (Gateshead M.B.C),

### News

- RHu passed round information regarding a MA in ESD which is being offered at York University. Qualified teachers will get up to 45% reduction off the fees and there are free rail tickets being offered. Anyone interested should contact James Pitt directly via email on [jp24@york.ac.uk](mailto:jp24@york.ac.uk) the deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006.
- RHu mentioned the "Leading for the Future" Conference held last November in Newcastle. The next conference is due in November 2007, the aim is to work together with the North West area and Yorkshire and Humber area to create a "Northern ESD Conference Programme". RHu passed round a draft Outline proposal and asked everyone for comments.

### Discussion re Draft Outline Proposal;

- Schools are not connecting links to the curriculum, schools need guidance and support from LA's and other organisations
- MTo reported that many schools aren't aware of the pressure points and are not aware of the future inspection requirements. The S3 self evaluation tool will not be used if schools don't know about it!
- Need an integrated approach focusing into the Conference next Nov 2007. All activities can be reviewed then from the 'Year of Action'. The programme will include a broad range of CPD activities running up to the conference.
- This could be a sales exercise to sell to DFES if we can do it well! DFES may fund some regional activities. Regions need to make a strong case and raise capacity among schools.
- Sharing expertise across areas towards high quality support, there is a need to work with new people.
- GPe was concerned that it is hard to get Head Teachers out of the school and a 2 day event will be very expensive. RHu commented about the DFES subsidizing and there were 60 heads at the last conference. This time we are trying to engage new schools and the SIPs (these are the key delivery people we need to market to)
- JMa asked how much is this about selling ESD to previous Head Teachers and how much is it about capacity building? It was agreed that we can tailor this to how we think we can best deliver it. JMa wondered if we can get feedback from the 60 head teachers who

attended first. MTo suggested that we could hold a special meeting to clarify the barriers. BYu thought that we should approach all the non-attending schools to find out their barriers.

- We need to push this ourselves, really ramp it up for maximum effect. Everyone was asked to think about this after the meeting and email any ideas back asap to NLa on [n.lamb100@durhamlea.org.uk](mailto:n.lamb100@durhamlea.org.uk) **\*Action Everyone!**

MTo mentioned the launch of the Manifesto for Education Outside the Classroom on 28<sup>th</sup> November in London. They are asking for as many endorsements as possible on the manifesto. The Draft should be ready in 2-3 weeks. If anyone who thinks they or their organisation could endorse this, please keep in touch **\*Action everyone!**

MTo also briefly explained the Sustainable Schools Framework and how people learn through real-life activities. Through first hand experiences, pupils reassess their and values that can lead to behaviour change.

RHu explained how to use the NESPSS website; [www.sustainableschools-ne.org.uk](http://www.sustainableschools-ne.org.uk)

- More links/sub-partnerships are welcomed!
- N.E. School Grounds Partnerships - RHu still trying to get a meeting group together, please get in touch with him or NLa if interested
- Growing and Cooking section- Regional 'Cook it' events mentioned in Middlesbrough on 19/9/06 and in Newcastle on 20/9/06. GPe stated there are 96 'Cook-It' clubs enrolled, via schools, youth clubs, pupil referral units, special schools etc. Each 'Cook-It' club is awarded £2000 each.
- GPe also mentioned the Beacon of excellence schools, 12 across the N.E. GPe to forward this information to RHu **\*Action GPe**
- RHu asked if anyone has suggestions for potential beacon schools on each of the Sustainable Schools Doorways, can they forward these suggestions to him. **\*Action everyone!**
- BYu referred to the 'Design of the Times Festival' which is a year long festival being held in the N.E., then will be held in other areas of the UK [www.dott07.com](http://www.dott07.com)
- MTo mentioned a 'Year of Food and Farming' is being organised for either 2007 or 2008.
- If anyone has any events that can be added to this website, please let RHu know

### Year Of Action

We currently don't know what is coming from the DFES regarding this and don't know the outcome of the consultation. JFu had heard that biodiversity was not going to be given it's own doorway. RHu suggested a N.E. Year of Action and further consideration lead to the following options.

- **Dummies Guide to SSF**
- **Branding strap line - school competition  
- Prize**
- **Tees Valley Seminar for Heads etc**
- **Enhance links - Local Healthy Schools Partnerships in local authority areas.**
- **Collate National Education Event weeks and link these into our actions**
- **Plan activities around doorways**
- **N.E. Conference 6mths prior to Northern ESD Forum**
- **CPD for teachers**

### Next Meeting

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2006 1.30pm-4pm at the EWE Centre (with mince pies)