

Regional Eco-Schools Meeting
Thursday 26th April 2007 at the EWE Centre

Present

Rich Hurst, Paula Jamieson, Claire Fairclough, Kathryn Warrington, Andrea Bishop, Donna Mear and Alistair Wilson

1. Apologies

Nichola Ramshaw, Keeley Metcalfe, Jill Essam, Pam Bullman, Gloria Pearson, Graham Temby, Averil Newsam and Dawn Raw.

2. Minutes of the Last meeting (10th February 2007)

Actions;

- AN mentioned the Association of Citizenship Teaching Conference on 11th June 2007 at Ushaw College, Durham. Attendance costs £150, but people running a workshop would get a reduced rate. Workshops will run for 45 minutes and anyone interested in running a workshop please email Averil on a.newsam100@durhamlea.org.uk.
- RH had asked if anyone had contact information for any leek clubs in the Durham and Darlington areas, RH has had no luck so has cancelled project idea.

3. Review of the National Schools Conference and Encams Info

- This was held on 29th March 2007 at Loughborough.
- RH gave an overview of this conference.
- It was well attended and a worthwhile event
- AW also mentioned the reverse vending machines which helps build funds up for schools and pilots should be going out within the next month. Machines accept used containers for recycling with a percentage of income generated going to the school.
- RH & DE have written a document for Encams on how Eco-Schools link with evidence e.g. Healthy living/ECM etc. Schools now complete SEF and the schools can now use the S3 to complete the evaluation. This document has gone back to Encams and should be coming out this term. Doing this was a good reminder to RH of the original criteria in Eco-Schools.
- Encams have released information on the 'Wombles' through Curry's where you can buy key rings (trolley coins) and this is promoting 'make good use of bad rubbish'
- Switched on Communities Grant Scheme. This looked complicated for the money allocated. (£18k split between 10 schools) There were 50 applications nationally and the competition was very stiff.

4. NESPSS/Other News

- ASDAN & Eco-Schools pupil accreditation schemes. Advantage of this for pupils as this scheme comes with points and credits and also helps the school get awards. This produces specific Environment topics.
- DFES launched the Sustainable School Action Plan in April. This is aimed at LA's and agencies supporting schools. They are bringing out interim targets for 2010, 2015 etc
- Commissioned The Sustainable Development Commission to find how ESD links with ECM. There is a report out next month. Draft looks interesting and RH involved in this. The more this can be promoted within individual areas the better.
- Sustainable Learning Programme. RH contacted by Kane McGuire this has come from funding from DFES capital and supported by BRE, CREATE etc. it's name is misleading as this is regarding energy and water. You can register (RH has done) on www.sustainablelearning.info and this is linked to A-G certificates.
- Food for Life info. Offering a Regional Co-ordinator position. This is to work with 20 schools over a 5 year period.
- Regional Transforming Food Network looking for a catering manager.
- Sustaine. Looking for a regional Climate Teacher to be in post for September 2007. RH met with Sustaine and this job is being funded by flood defence money. It will be working with

schools at risk from flooding and the chosen candidate will get a carbon company car and a £27k salary.

- OWNNE are appointing a new Schools Support Officer £25k and a tender document £20k pilot project working with the schools covering the 8 doorways. This is a one year project.
- All jobs are on the news section of the NESPSS website.
- The Northern Conference. This has been postponed until March 2008. It is still to be held at Leeds and still incorporating the NE, NW and Yorkshire & Humber. RH is still hopeful to get Mr Al Gore as a speaker!

5. North East Year of Action for Sustainable Schools

- RH showed a list of the events for the year of action on the interactive whiteboard. RH asked the group if everyone was happy for this list of events to be put on the website, which was agreed. RH will keep updating this list as we receive information.
- RH mentioned the Solar Car Challenge. The final this year is to be held on 12th July at Nissan. There are 2 categories, design and speed. Teams of 4 with 1 staff member are allowed at the final. All the winners get medals and prizes. This year the first prize for both categories is a class trip for a day at Cassop School, all transport costs paid for. 2nd and 3rd prizes will be vouchers for CAT. Each school that wishes to take part gets 2 kits and information can be downloaded from www.energynortheast.net
- NESPSS Board Meeting was held on 25th April. Dave Smith will be convening an LA representatives, Children's Services meeting being held in Newcastle in June. Already have 5 children's services representatives identified from Northumberland, Durham, Newcastle, Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland.

6. News

- RSPB have booked a training course here at the EWE Centre for 22nd June. Information can be seen on the website. This is to be added to our Year of Action information. ***RH to action**
- Encams assessor training running in May. Please contact AB if you are interested, AB will circulate the agenda ***AB to action**
- Eco Schools are pursuing work with
 - * ASDAN
 - * Schools looking for award schemes, we are looking for schools in this area as examples, and we could build a case study as a region.
 - * RH relying on group's feedback on Eco-Schools.
- KW has been doing feasibility studies on schools in Sunderland; there aim is to get another member of staff. IF KW needs advice she is recommended to speak to people from our group from the different areas.
- North Tyneside now have a sustainability person. Also have a sustainable community plan and a sustainable year of action plan which was devised by the strategic partnership board. RH mentioned that Ray Baxter (working with OWNNE) may be another route into North Tyneside. North Tyneside are now doing bio-diversity.
- Local Area Agreements. These may be an avenue to link sustainable schools and eco schools and charging the schools for the service.
- Event at the Stadium of Light on 17th May for 'Every Childs School Food Matters'. This is aimed at school head teachers and catering managers. The email contact address is administering this is Jennifer.heckels@dh.gsi.gov.uk

7. AOB

- DM mentioned Eco driver lady willing to come up and do a presentation for individual schools to use intelligent metering. Teaching resources are available. DM to email this to NL for NL to forward to everyone. ***DM to action**

8. Date of the Next Meeting

- Thursday 19th July at 10.30am at the EWE Centre.