



North East Eco Schools Partnership Meeting

Thursday 9th October 10.30-12.30pm

At the EWE Centre, Esh Winning Primary School, Durham.

Present

Rich Hurst, NESPSS

Andrea Carling, Education officer, Groundwork South Tees

Ben Grant, Newcastle City Council,

Tony Turnbull, Sustainable Communities Coordinator, North Tyneside MBC

Laura McTaggart, Sustainable Development Unit, North Tyneside MBC

Kathryn Warrington, Sunderland City Council

Stuart Plane, Sustainability Coordinator, Easington Community School

Helen Douglas, Easington District Council

Melanie Wallace, Enviro Schools Office, Newcastle City Council

Wendy Wilson, Groundwork Northumberland

Mandy Roberts, Northumberland National Park

1. Apologies

Krista McKinzey, Ann Johnson, Hugh Clear Hill, Cherie Kemp, Kay Mills, Frances Hinton, Susan Stewart, Judy Summerson, Nichola Ramshaw, Claire Morris, Steve Ashton, Kath Hull

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 95% of R&C Schools registered with Eco Schools, the list can be seen on the Groundwork South Tees website www.groundwork.org.uk/south-tees
- BG to update the group at the next meeting re Monkchester Nursery/Walker link
- BG to remind AH re climate change film to hopefully show at future meeting

3. DCSF national recognition schemes

- RH handed round copies of the original document for group to look at. The document is downloadable. RH asked everyone to download copies, find the mistakes and get to know the document www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools
- RH commented that there are a few mistakes in the document. All work on this document was contracted out to Encams. Paul Flynn Regional Food for Life coordinator has commented on the mistakes too.
- Overall, this is a useful document, but be aware of mistakes as some of the diagrams have the logos in the wrong places! Read text to get the right info.
- WW asked if any feedback has been made, RH hasn't as yet, but will do ***RH to action**
- RH is very interested in feedback from group and welcomes ideas on how to best promote this to schools etc;
 - Group agreed this document is very useful, lovely to read. BD commented that the chart is good
 - RH wonders why travel planning has not been included. This is being queried by the Regional Travel Planning Coordinator.
 - AC thinks they have missed a really good opportunity here
 - RH asked how we can take this forward. Has anyone promoted this already? AB will be, but she will have to download copies first.

Actions required:

- RH suggested that an awareness event may be a good idea for the region/areas. The group agreed that this would be useful.
- RH has links with all groups mentioned, except young peoples trust no links.
- RH thinks local authority events should be kept within areas. No links to governors (National Governors Association) RH asked the group to create links with governor associations in their own areas ***All to action**
- RH suggested a spring term event; RH will take this to the NESPSS board in November. RH asked if anyone knows nice venues (up to 50 people) to let us know ***All to action**
- Paul Flynn from Food for Life will give any schools support if required. Paul is employed through the Soil Association and can be emailed on pflynn@soilassociation.org or contacted through the Food for Life website
- RH mentioned the Sustainable Schools poster which he has available with the S3 performance matrix tool on one side. This is far less daunting than the original document and an easier way to engage schools. This is also available off the teachernet website. RH asked the group to take one.

4. Teaching Awards –Sustainable Schools Award

- This is funded by DCSF
- 4 schools to be awarded
- 9 regional winners and then 1 overall National winner.
- Cassop Primary in Durham won last year the national prize.
- This year there are no NE finalists, Leeds is the nearest school. None of the NE schools met the criteria this year, but RH couldn't get anymore
- Teaching awards.com.
- RH was sent the criteria and eligibility information which he handed out
- 1st March 2009 closing date for next awards.
- We can nominate schools who we think should apply through the website. RH asked everyone to promote its existence through schools or look directly at criteria and nominate schools. Please all promote ***All to action**
- This is a prestigious award! Please promote as best as you can. We should be championing this work.
- RH doesn't know who the judges are (National or local)
- RH will put some of this information onto the Sustainable Schools website. ***RH to action**
- RH is unsure if you can nominate your own school.
- HD commented that often key work is done by classroom assistants or support workers, so they should be considered as well as the teachers. The Sustainable Schools Award is for the whole school though unlike the other awards which are for specific members of staff.

5. Eco-schools LA models pilot update

Andrea Carling – Gwk South Tees

- Andrea explained the background to receiving neighbourhood renewal funding.
- The R&C Eco-Schools Partnership received £15k to pay for AC to advise schools.
- They were more successful in 2006 £80k and 2007 £80k. This funding finished in March.
- Now Groundwork UK and Toyota pilot £8k a year to work with 5 schools in a cluster. AC started by having 'speed dating' event.
- AC explained the schools involvement, all to silver and 1 to green flag. Another applying for green flag now.
- Climate Change trailer highlighted from Global Links. This can be bought in for £850 a week (less than £100 each if ten schools chip in) more info from <http://www.globallink.org.uk/exhibitions/cc/index.php>

- Next step local food and links
- Yr 2 – Toyota funding - 5 schools again, 2nd green flag, £4k from Supergrounds too. Also converting an old brick yard to play area.
- Recently formed R&C Sustainable Schools Group. Healthy school and planning involved wanting to hold a youth conference so have been working on teacher, bursar + governor training too.

Kathryn Warrington - Sunderland

- 18 months ago Sunderland started looking at funding (RH, GED and AC helped).
- Working since January, 19 schools wanted to participate and contributed £1k each.
- Funding through strategic investment budget applied for £2500 and got funding.
- This is not the same as Local Area agreements.
- Children services contributed £15k too.
- 25% time allocated by KW 75% by Groundwork. Still in its infancy compared to R&C. SLA have been signed, minimum of 12 days of time to 2012.
- Still £10k short but hoping to get this next year.
- Children Services area involved which is good. Eco schools been linked in.

Ben Grant

- BG mentioned their Eco Schools support through 'Enviro' schools. With this schools don't contribute financially. This has led to very positive publicity for the Council and is working well.
 - RH thinks we are doing really well in this region. The Ideal would be to have all 12 authorities with strategies in place
 - Regional list of eco schools ***RH will ask if we could have a list.** There is a big difference between schools being registered and actually doing work. It is very important for schools to renew their green flags! Support is essential, especially during BREEAM work and this is all very challenging for authorities.
 - RH mentioned North Road Primary at Darlington launching their new school build design with a focus on sustainability design features.
 - RH also told the group about the Esh Winning Primary School rebuild, it is hoped this will be rebuilt as the most sustainable school in the country! RH asked the group for good examples of new builds. KW mentioned Hetton Lyons primary school rebuilt. KW will forward details to RH
- *KW to action**

6. NESPSS

Local Authority Corporate Approaches

- RH knows of 1 application, Newcastle will also be applying. RH will be on the panel assessing next Friday. Support is available if anyone needs it!

Sustainable School - Global School Event

- Atlas, OWNNE & NESPSS are supporting this event on Wednesday 12th November at the Castlegate Centre, Newcastle. This day event is aimed at LA people and schools and costs £50 including lunch
- All information is on the NESPSS news page
- Speakers include David Gardner from QCA, Anne Humble HT at Monkchester Nursery, Mike Tones from DCSF and Dave Smith from GONE. If you know of anyone please pass this information on ***All to action**

Future NESPSS strategy

- Broader sustainable schools partnership. RH asked if anyone received email re this event. AC to let RH know. ***AC to action**
- The partnership needs to be kept updated with ideas, a rolling developing partnership.
- The ANEC Green manifesto was launched 2/3 weeks ago. A pdf download available on www.northeastcouncils.gov.uk

Schools North East

- This is funded by One North East
- Its aim to highlight how schools in the region do and could develop the region from an economic and cultural viewpoint, linking to strategies such as the regional economic strategy and the skills agenda.
- RH is meeting Becky Earnshaw (Director) and will update the group at the next meeting

6. Updates from members

Newcastle (BG)

- BG mentioned the participatory budgeting process.
 - Local people vote how to spend funding in their area.
 - This has been piloted in Newcastle.
 - £45k to spend on a park.
 - The children and the wider community voted on play equipment etc.
 - Been a very interesting process
 - Team went directly into schools and 2 community groups, dog walkers at 7am etc. park at bottom of Heaton, called Iris Brickfield Park
 - Now looking at expanding this process.
- BG told group about a regional schools event next year in Newcastle at the Centre of life on 25th June. BG will forward more details re this. ***BG to action**

North Tyneside (TT)

- TT explained how North Tyneside now has specific cabinet member & a sustainability team.
- A lot of school interest.
- TT met with strategic director and cabinet member.
- Theme this year from schools on sustainability, so this is a start on links with schools.
- Setting up sustainable champions in the schools too.
- RH asked if TT can give an overview of this at a future meeting. ***TT to action**

Easington (HD)

- HD explained the Pride of Easington.
- More secondary schools interested.
- Easington School has a green flag.
- In February a hip hop band is coming, there will be 2 shows for yr 9 + 10's and a pack will be produced.
- Got funding until March 2010.
- 3 in post, possibly may spread countywide in future..

Northumberland National Park(MR)

- MR mentioned a project called 'climate proof' in the Cheviot Hills re climate change. Mandy looking at urban links and how schools could link.
- MR also explained the 'green exercise' group. This group champions green spaces and exercise. There is a gap from the education area. This is a unique group. Would RH attend? Or can we suggest anyone else. The meetings are held quarterly. RH mentioned Ann Johnson, Regional Healthy Schools Manager. RH would be happy to attend. RH also suggested Schools NE director Becky Earnshaw

Rich Hurst

- RH mentioned the LOTC launch and Ofsted launch. Bad practise better than nothing for LOTC! Also a new website; www.lotc.org.uk
- 'Out and about' new resources also available for support + advice. Bigger changes e.g. the new badging scheme. Quality badge next year and the H&S revamp early next year. Visits will be based on activity not the venue from now on. Should make life easier for the schools.
- New site from Growing Schools called www.renewableworld.org.uk lots of lesson plans and resources
- www.travelbuster.org.uk website on how to get to and from school, travel plans, quiz etc!
- NEPIC run awards programme for schools, 'enviro' award for Primaries and Secondary's. 28th November closure for Secondary's, 15th December for Primaries. Links on NESPSS. Schools endorsed, need 2 sides of A4. Winning schools receive £2k prize, whole school or group 750 words on how to spend. if anyone knows a school the link is on the news page of the sustainable schools website

7. A.O.B.

None

8. Date of the next meeting

- Wednesday 25th February 10.30 am -12.30 pm