

**North East Forest Education Initiative Group**  
**Wingate Family Learning Centre**  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 07**

**Present**

Rachael Richardson, Alison Nutter, Sarah Dinning, Anne Robertson, Rich Hurst, Richard Gilchrist, Emma Hawthorne and Brendan Callaghan.

**Apologies**

Alex Lister, Jeff Searle and Ian Robinson

Rich Hurst chaired the meeting in Alex's absence.

- Forestry Commission now named North East England region (no longer Keilder District)
- Kate Jones from NECF will be back in September from maternity leave, if not Emma will oversee education role.

**Matters Arising**

- BC → funding of research. BC has funds to support FEI. **Action** AL & NECF to meet with Brendan Callaghan to discuss a brief for research. Any research to be available on accessible database

**Training**

- Real Care Ltd hoping to be trainers

**Archimedes Team**

- Handout distributed at meeting and available on NESPSS website.
- Conference 2007 is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Joan Allom may go depending on price and where

**Bridgewater Courses**

- RH gave out handout
- Scan form and add to website **\*RH to action**
- No other training opportunities known at present.

**Other Environmental Play Courses**

- One in Torquay in November → National Play Conference. Attached to mins on NESPSS website page
- 2 day event at Aviemore, Scotland, Alison looking for info, will forward if she finds it.

**Real Care**

- Looking to become trainers for Forest Schools in the NE perhaps in partnership with Bridgewater want outreach
- Possibly look at Northumbria University to accredit
- Level 4 Forest School course at Preston (Lancashire University)
- Bridgewater are looking to develop training for trainers in the future

**Northumberland**

- Would like information on opportunities for student teachers to get outdoor learning in teacher training at the regions Universities.
- Don't know what the Universities are doing

**Future Projects**

- Suggestion by RG to produce a website so that interested parties come to us rather than us having to search for them.

Suggested Website domain: [www.forestschoools-ne.org.co.uk](http://www.forestschoools-ne.org.co.uk)

- Would FEI pay for training? Or use Brendan's funding or perhaps a student project. ?
- **Action:** include in discussions with BC.

- Webmaster role could rotate round the group.
- **Action:** RH to contact Carol Ashworth at GONE about Teacher training.

### Year of Food and Farming

- The regional steering group are keen to map existing food and farming projects during Sept 07- July 08. attached with these notes are two pro-forma's, one to map existing planned activity and one to 'pitch' new ideas for the regional group to source funding

### Funding Opportunities

- Northern Rock Foundation may provide opportunities.
- Big Lottery (Education) → hard to reach learners, outside classroom etc. Check out and add to minutes **\*RH to action**
- Local Groups can access Strategic Partnerships funding.
- Wingate Woodland improved by funding from NRF via LSP & Liveability funding

### District Play Strategies

- Environmental learning has to feature, access to play in whatever is there
- Funding available per capita. Easington looking at Play Rangers (with an Env. Emphasis)
- Has to be strategic
- **Action:** All partnership members to investigate opportunities in their localities

### Any other Business

- None

Slightly damp tour of the Wingate site and local woodland by Alison. A fabulous resource for the school/ family centre and local community.

Followed by short presentation of the Year of Food and Farming aspirations by RH

### **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

To be held at West Boldon Environmental Education Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1-4pm.  
Agenda and directions to follow in September.