



**NEEN/NESPSS Annual General Meeting and Networking Event 2008
Blackfriars Restaurant and Meeting Rooms, Friars Street, Newcastle
Wednesday 3rd September 2008, 4-7pm**

Attendees

Mike Tones, NEEN Chair/DCSF
Rich Hurst, Secretary & Partnership Coordinator
Dave Smith, Trustee/GONE
Sally Preston, Trustee/ Science Learning Centre North East
Frances Hinton, Trustee/ Consultant
Neil Alderman, Treasurer/ Newcastle University
Andrea Carling, Groundwork South Tees
Hugh Clear-Hill, Northumberland County Council
Alun Davies, Gateshead Borough Council
Rebecca Earnshaw, Schools North East
David Etheridge, Durham County Council
Ben Grant, Newcastle City Council
Penny Gulliver, One World Network North East
Andy Haddon, Joseph Swann Institute, Newcastle University
Ann Johnson, National Healthy Schools Programme, GONE
Bill Kirkup, Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership
Mick Marston, National Federation of City Farms and Gardens/ Soil Association
Krista McKinzey, Climate Change Schools Programme, SLCNE
Claire Morris, Durham County Council
Averil Newsam, One World Network North East
Kathryn Warrington, Sunderland City Council
Alastair Wilson, Newcastle City Council
Brian Yule, Middlesbrough Environment City

Apologies

Carol Ashworth, Children and Learners Group, GONE
Aidan Doyle, Newcastle University/ RCE North East
Colm Doyle, Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
Janet Easley, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Ian Findley, North East Processing Industries Cluster
Philippa Hughes, Sustaine
Kathryn Hull, Teesside One World Centre
Pam Lovell, Northumbrian Water
Alice Massey, Consultant
Kevin Patrick, Lantra
Tom Warburton, One North East

2. Minutes of Last AGM

Were circulated for information.

3. Matters Arising

No specific matters arising but Mike Tones gave an overview of the situation since the last AGM.

The strategic regional approach to supporting sustainable schools has taken a leap forward. The Board has moved NEEN into a being a strategic body rather than a membership organisation engaging with key partners such as GONE, SLCNE, One North East etc. The work is still in its early stages and there is much more to do.

4. Annual Report & Financial Statements

Mike Tones explained the annual report which was circulated to attendees covering the period September 06 - September 07.

There are three main elements of the activity:

- Increased interest and support from DCSF for Sustainable Schools
- Modest source of funding to support regional networks across England
- NEEN/NESPSS/GONE working in partnership

Practical activity includes the development of the sub partnerships listed in the annual report and the linked developments and projects.

The main source of the funding for NESPSS is from DCSF via GONE. The accounts show funds charged to activities that happened in the time period, so although funds in the bank looks healthy, the balance sheet shows a truer picture.

Rich Hurst highlighted to the attendees that many of the recent activities that NESPSS has been engaged in such as the Northern Sustainable Schools Conference and the regional market research did not take place in the period covered by this report. The funds also did not come to NEEN but were managed by GONE and GOYH.

Discussion

Questions were asked about the involvement of the Environmental Education Advisors Association listed in the report and the level of support of support offered for Eco-Schools in the region.

The challenge for NESPSS is how to engage LA's effectively. They are determining their own priorities more and more and do they see Sustainable Schools as a priority area of work. It was noted that because it is a cross cutting agenda it does not sit within one department/service and it could easily be poorly supported if not championed by key officers.

The new school Self Evaluation Form (SEF) specifically mentions Sustainable Schools and the soon to be published guidance on Learning Outside the Classroom will affect change of practice in schools and LA's.

Also noted that there are opportunities for Local Authorities and schools to gain support from third sector organisations who can bring funding with them from a variety of sources eg. Global dimension activity across the region and Eco-Schools delivery in Tees Valley.

5. Election of Board Members

Two members of the Board are stepping down:

Neil Alderman -treasurer

Robin Casson

Mike Tones thanked them for their contribution. New Board members are not being formally requested however if people are interested in joining the Board they should put forward their expressions of interest, nominations will then go the Board who will vote. Neil Alderman highlighted that NEEN is no longer a membership organisation and the reformed Board are trying to influence strategic decision making.

Any Other Business

None

Meeting closed at 5pm.