



Stafford Borough Eco-Schools Network Notes of the Meeting

Thursday 17th June 2010 at 4.15 pm at Yarlet School

Present: Karen Davies (Stafford BC), Kate Russell (SCC), Emma Ray (SCC, WRAP project), Julie Smith (St Michael's, Stone), Leslie Howe and Rob Deaville (St Leonard's, Stafford), Edward D-S (Cooper Perry); Ian Reybould (Yarlet), Charlotte (Student, Weston Road High School), Gordon Taylor (Stafford Sports College), Graham Peake (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust), Patsy (Yarlet School).

Apologies: Richard West (Penkridge Middle School), Chris Jones (SCC Waste Management), Richard Trout (SCC, WRAP project), Karen Bryan (Barnfields, Stafford), Jo Perry (Staffs Wildlife Trust), Sue Searle (All Saints Bednall), Mel Spooner (Milwich pre-school).

Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1. School Ponds	<p>Yarlet School have 'discovered' a pond in their grounds. They have been working hard to enhance it as an asset for biodiversity and have been improving access and safety on-site to enable it to be used as an educational resource, for both Yarlet pupils and other schools.</p> <p>A bird hide has been installed, along with several bird boxes; access routes have been opened up and water quality tested. Pupils have already become involved in a multitude of activities at the site. The school has worked with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Graham Peake was on site to talk about the project to the Eco-Schools Network, advising on practical conservation work, curriculum links and encouraging the group to do some pond dipping. One member of the group netted a smooth newt, which was very exciting!</p> <p>Please get in touch with Ian Reybould, Head Teacher at Yarlet School if your school would like to visit the pond/plan a field visit</p> <p>It is possible that the site could be a candidate NI 197 site.</p>	<p>All Schools</p> <p>KD to discuss with Ian and Graham</p>
2. Minutes of Last Meeting (22/4) Matters Arising	<p>All issues covered in agenda.</p>	
3. National	Eco-Action Day	

Indicator 186 - To support, promote and raise awareness of the Eco-Schools network

This took place on June 16th (yesterday) at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust HQ, at Wolseley. It was aimed at Eco-Committee members as a thank you for all their efforts. Ten schools and over a hundred children attended. Feedback has been very positive.

The programme included three sessions/workshops:

- 1 Quantum Theatre environmental production
- 2 Renewable Energy Workshop delivered by Marches Energy Agency
- 3 Mini Beast Hotel building, by Graham and Lindsey from Staffs Wildlife Trust topic.

A Litter Free Lunch Competition was held and schools achieved very low litter generation. Each school was awarded a bird feeder, plus supply of wild bird feed, to congratulate them on their waste minimisation efforts.

All children took home an 'eco-goody bag' containing pens and pencils made from recycled materials (kindly provided by SCC Waste Team), a Fairtrade chocolate bar (provided by SBC) and two low energy light bulbs (provided by MEA). Schools also took home their Mini Beast Hotels, which looked super!

The Network felt the event is really valuable and are keen to repeat it next year.

Updates from schools

St Leonard's Stafford (Lesley):

Conservation work parties continue at the school on Saturdays. The garden has been prepared for planting. The school is focusing on root vegetables, which should be easier to maintain across the summer holidays. Recycling and composting efforts continue. The solar panels and ground source heat system to heat the Greenhouse is about to be officially launched. Lesley acknowledged support from SBC. The school aims to demonstrate innovative ways of reducing its carbon footprint, combined with food growing and healthy eating messages.

Weston Road High School (Charlotte)

The school has a Green Flag for its Eco-Schools work but since the key teacher left eco-work has declined. Charlotte hopes to encourage School Council members and staff to establish activities again, initially working on the greenhouse and pond area.

Stafford Sports College (Gordon)

There is a garden that requires attention and will be a focus of eco-efforts. Eco-Schools activity has recently been re-launched with around ten children keen to be involved. Recycling and energy reduction will also be tackled.

St Michael's, Stone (Julie)

The veg patches are now full. Pond dipping has been taking place. The school is entering Stone in Bloom, as well as a Stone Sunflower Growing Competition. The 'my money week' project has an eco-theme

KD to write thank you letters.

KD to send out short evaluation-feedback form.

and the school has been working with FACE through whom a local farmer has been in to school. The SWT food miles world map has also been obtained and used in school.

Yarlet (Ian):

The school has been focusing attention on reviving the pond. The wildlife pool, set within the school's 33 acres of grounds, has excellent conservation and educational value. Ian is keen to welcome other schools to use it. Please contact Ian if you would like to follow up this super offer.

Karen asked if the school was looking at other areas of environmental impact eg energy and waste. Currently this area has not been considered so there is great opportunity to make progress here.

Cooper-Perry (Edward): the school attended Eco-Action Day. Classes have been growing vegetables and sunflowers. They have also raised money to install two fabulous outdoor classroom areas. Children have also been doing willow weaving during Art Week and have packed shoes boxes to send to disadvantaged children overseas.

So many great things going on in schools!!!! Don't forget to enter this year's Green Awards – launch day imminent! Check out www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd

News from Elliott the Eco-Bat (our mascot!)

Elliott has been at Yarlet since April. Ian has updated his diary, which features some of his activities there, particularly helping at the pond.

Elliott has gone home with Karen to be mended. Gordon has got his diary in readiness for Elliott's spell at Stafford Sports College. is diary have now gone to Yarlet until the next meeting.

Update and info from Stafford BC (Karen)

Current activities on sustainable development and climate change can be viewed at <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/live/welcome.asp?id=156>
Do have a look – lots going on and lots of info!

- Derrington Low Carbon Community project continues, including: submitting funding bids for a range of energy measures at the Village Hall, submitting a planning application for solar PV, undertaking community consultation; Promoting led Health Walks and Healthy Heart Exercise night; arranging benches to be installed along the Greenway; organising a Local Food Festival to be held on 11th Sept.
- SBC annual **Green Awards** now launched soon (check out www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd !!!). Please enter. Deadline 23rd July.

KD to send Ian details, useful contacts

KD to arrange speaker/s on waste and recycling in schools for the next meeting

Karen to mend Elliott

Karen to update blog when Elliott comes back from Gordon

ALL schools or other



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with and supporting work of various partners • Karen gave out a 'Beginners Guide to Pond Dipping' hand-out, summarising key issues when setting up a pond dipping session. • Sebastian from the SBC Climate Change and Sustainable Development Team has recently left the Council. All those who had worked with him were keen to express their thanks and best wishes. • On behalf of the Group, Karen thanked Ian for hosting this meeting at Yarlet School. • Karen reiterated that any schools should contact her or other members of the Network, if they have any questions, need support, or signposting to other useful contacts/resources. <p><u>Staffordshire Update from Kate Russell (SCC)</u></p> <p>Kate summarised her role, which is to support Geography teaching, promote the Sustainable Schools initiative and Eco-Schools, manage Martin the ESD support teacher. Kate is hoping to encourage Governors to get more involved with sustainability in schools. Kate encouraged schools to enter the 'Learning Outside the Classroom Awards' – see www.lotc.org.uk</p> <p><u>Update from the Wildlife Trust</u></p> <p>There's always such a lot going on! Check the webpages at: http://development.morganwyliehosting.com/projects/staffordshire-wildlife/page/home</p> <p><u>Update from Emma, SCC Waste Management and WRAP</u></p> <p>Useful web pages: www.wastebuster.co.uk and http://www.recycleforstaffordshire.org/ Or contact Emma Ray or Richard Trout 01785 276536, 07773 791084 emma.ray@staffordshire.gov.uk Richard.trout@staffordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Chris and Emma are still looking for news stories or case studies for the Recycle for Staffordshire webpages – do contact them if you want to share your story! A new 'communication programme' re waste, recycling, litter etc is beginning shortly – we will find out more at the next meeting.</p>	<p>organisations</p> <p>KD to pass on thanks and best wishes to Sebastian from the group</p>
<p>4. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>Thursday Sept 23rd at 4.15 pm at St Leonard's Primary School, Stafford</p>	<p>KD to send map Agenda items to</p>



	<p>School location at this link: http://www.st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk/</p>	<p>Karen by 10th Sept please</p>
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