



**Stafford Borough Eco-Schools Network**  
**Notes of the Meeting held on**  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 4.15 pm at King Edward VI High School**

**Present:** Vicky Rees (St John's Primary Academy), Mark Malone (King Edward VI High School), Linda Cooper (St John's Primary Academy), Debbie Hill (Sir Graham Balfour), Colette Mackie (Governor and PTA St Austin's), Karen Davies (SBC), Mark Stones (Perkins Engines Co Ltd), Kristie Charlesworth (Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation Visitor Engagement Officer), Kate McKinney (Stafford BC), Lisa Tiso (Windmill Broadcasting and Eco-Craft Workshops), Sarah Hopkins (Woodseaves Primary), Lisa Maaskant (St Leonard's First School), Brian Hainsworth (LEAF-Linking Environment and Farming), Roger Oldfield (U3A and Sustainability Matters), Gordon Taylor (Walton Priory Middle School), Duncan Coleman (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust), Hilary Hampton (Veolia), Bruce Fletcher (Deputy Head, Walton High School), Andy Stokes (Walton High School), James Townley (Princefield First School).

**Apologies**

Becky Martin (SBC), Angelo Fantauzzi (Home School Link/Early Intervention Officer Blessed Mother Teresa), Alan Alecock (U3A Air Quality Group), Vicky Potts (Oulton First School), Gretel Cooper (Learning Officer RSPB Sandwell Valley), David Waters (St Leonard's Dunston), Julie Flynn (John Wheeldon Primary Academy), Ann Elphick (There is No Planet B! Team), Jacquie Perkins (Weston Road Academy), Matt Long (Freelance Forest School Leader and Community Gardener), Sue Kneill-Boxley (CPRE), Sarah McDonald (Burton Manor Primary), Jo Cranwell (Castlechurch Primary), Catherine Chell (Blessed William Howard), Rebecca Espley (SBC, Environmental Health Officer), Cath Stephenson (SCC Connectivity Support Team/Active Travel).

**Welcome:** Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mark Malone from King Edward VI School for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. Kristie took over the Chair and chaired the meeting while Karen took notes.

Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
<b>1 Notes of the meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018)</b>	All actions have been completed and other matters arising are on the agenda.	
<b>2 'Making Flower Bugs' plus a summer with SWT, Duncan Coleman</b>	Duncan had brought a variety of resources linked to natural play/environment/technology. Members of the group had a go at making attractive 'flower bugs'. Great activities for when it's really wet and also copyright free. Duncan handed out some super literature eg Tree Guide, Wildlife Gardening pamphlet, SWT education brochure. There are upcoming courses/training opportunities for teachers and also a new eco-classroom or 'Eco-Pod' is in the pipeline for Wolseley!	<b>For more info contact Duncan:</b> <a href="mailto:d.coleman@staffs-wildlife.org.uk">d.coleman@staffs-wildlife.org.uk</a> T: 01889 880106 M: 07805 428466
<b>3 Lose The Litter!</b> <b>a) SBC litter campaigns – update, Katie McKinney</b>  <b>b) School Litter Action, Karen and schools</b>	Katie described recent activities relating to the Litter Campaign, with action in Stafford, Stone and shortly, Eccleshall. There is a poster competition underway with some local schools and KS1 and 2 children, accompanied by litter picks. Winning posters will be mad into stickers that will be stuck on litter bins and 'thank you cards' for volunteer litter pickers.  Several schools are tackling litter in various ways eg St John's and KEVI do regular litter picks. The group discussed ways of approaching this and encouraging youngsters to help.	<b>Sarah Hopkins from Woodseaves Primary</b> has lots of farm containers that she has been



<p><b>c) Litter Pickers</b></p> <p><b>d) Plastic Campaign, Roger Oldfield, Sustainability Matters and Stafford U3A</b></p>	<p>Litter bins are very expensive eg £250-300 and prohibitive for schools to purchase. What else could schools use??</p> <p>Some litter problems are linked to the catering arrangements. For instance Chartwell's provide catering to Walton High School (and others) but have lots of single use containers which become litter fast.</p> <p>Walton High School are already in discussions about how to address the issue. A joint approach may be useful and possibly invite a Chartwells representative to a future meeting.</p> <p>Mark from Perkins explained that plastic knives and forks are being removed from the canteen at Perkins!</p> <p>St Leonard's Dunston are composting food waste and St John's Primary are now washing up cups rather than using single use plastic cups.</p> <p>Karen had brought along litter pickers for schools, to help them tackle the litter problem, and each took a pair away. Thanks to Mick Bailey and Streetscene for providing these.</p> <p>Roger explained that SM, Stafford's longest running environmental and sustainable development action group are focussing this year on plastics. He handed out an informative leaflet on the key issues and pointed out some of ways to tackle plastic, including supporting SBC's Blue Bin recycling scheme.</p>	<p>using for planters - which could also be bins?  <b>Contact Sarah, office@woodseaves.staffs.sch.uk 01785 284212</b></p> <p><b>Karen to liaise with Bruce to discuss next steps</b></p> <p><b>For more info or copies of the leaflet contact Roger:</b>  <a href="mailto:rogeroldfield@myphone.coop">rogeroldfield@myphone.coop</a>  T: 01785 664328  October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018  SM AGM  'No to Plastics!'  7.30pm County Staff Club,  Eastgate Street</p>
<p><b>4 Perkins Eco-Awards, our Outdoor Classroom and Wildlife Area, Mark Stones</b></p>	<p>Mark reminded us that the Eco-Awards take place on Wed 6<sup>th</sup> June at Perkins Engines Co Ltd.</p> <p>Ten primary schools will be taking part this year. The competition is to design a stained glass window using recycled materials.</p> <p>There are ten 'free sessions' available at the Perkins' Wildlife Area with hands on activities led by the Wildlife Trust. Three are booked already. Mark may be able to help schools with transport too.</p> <p>There are plans underway to enhance the wildlife area further including extending the boardwalk with sustainable materials.</p>	<p><b>For further info contact Mark:</b>  T: 01785 215738  M: 07483807619  E:  <a href="mailto:stones_mark@perkins.com">stones_mark@perkins.com</a></p>
<p><b>5 Veolia, Hilary Hampton</b></p>	<p>The Veolia Enviro Grant has been changed slightly and will now consist of an annual funding round. The next will be in September.</p> <p>Resources for teachers are still available but will be revamped shortly to include a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) slant. They also aim to encourage more girls to get involved with Science and Maths.</p> <p>Hilary is also working on the creation of a wildlife garden with</p>	



	<p>colleagues. Hilary may be able to help schools with transport to Four Ashes, as this is often a problem. Hilary is able to give teachers a tour and perhaps we will arrange an Eco-Schools Network Meeting here in September. It is 11 miles away. Colette said she had an 8 seater mini-bus that could be made available. Hilary reminded the group that she can visit schools free of charge too.</p> <p>There was some discussion about recycling 'issues' some schools are experiencing. Hilary has sent the following message:</p> <p><i>'Here is the information for schools who are having problems with their recycling collections and what they need to do if they want to set up a collection service.</i></p> <p><i>If the schools want to report missed collections, they can do so via the SBC contact centre (<a href="#">Missed Collection Online Form</a> or by calling 01785 619402).</i></p> <p><i>If the schools don't currently have recycling provision and want to set up the service, they will need to speak to Becky Martin at SBC (&lt;<a href="mailto:rjmartin@staffordbc.gov.uk">rjmartin@staffordbc.gov.uk</a>&gt;).</i></p>	<p><b>Consider future meeting</b> at Four Ashes</p> <p><b>Schools experiencing issues</b> with their recycling service, please see info – hope you can follow this up.</p>
<p><b>6 Greener Travel to School inc 'Air quality outside local schools' Roger Oldfield, 'National Campaigns' and 'What the County Council is doing'</b></p>	<p>Roger updated the group on the local air quality campaign led by Stafford U3A with support from SBC and SCC. Measurements are being undertaken and we will report back to the group as the project progresses.</p> <p>This Week is Walk to School Week and is one of several campaigns to promote greener, active travel, run by Living Streets.</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council's Connectivity Support Team are engaged with schools in several ways eg: Staffordshire STARS (promoting active and sustainable travel) Walking Buses (supported by SCC School Travel Advisors) WOW (Walk on Wednesdays, or Walk Once a Week) Bikeability Training which can be accessed by all schools free of charge!! Air Quality, an additional School Travel Advisor is being advertised currently, to work in Air Quality Management Areas in SCC and Stoke on Trent.</p> <p>There was discussion about new housing developments which do not seem to have adequate cycling/walking infrastructure. There was discussion about wider strategic issues and the need to plan for and facilitate green, active and sustainable travel.</p>	<p><b>Please see attached item</b> from Cath Stephenson with further details</p> <p><b>Karen to invite Cath</b> to the next or future meeting</p>



	Karen updated the group on SBC work to promote cycling in schools. SBC have provided robust Public Cycle Pumps in High Schools and also cycle parking hoops/racks and scooter parking in several schools.	
<b>7 News from SBC Karen</b>  <b>a) SBC Eco-Schools Eco-Grants 2017-18</b>  <b>b) Sponsorship and Grants</b>  <b>c) Eco-Action Day</b>	<p>Karen reminded the group that all schools who have received grant funding for projects this year will be sent a Report Back Form in early July and this must be returned by the end of the term – or else!!!</p> <p>Sadly this is likely to be the last set of projects to receive funding through this grant. Debbie from Sir Graham Balfour commented how fantastic the grant has been in enabling positive work with students and real impact. Karen had collated a 'Sponsorship and Grants List' with a wide range of possible sources of help. Lisa from Dunston suggested adding Jaguar Landrover.</p> <p>This lovely annual event run by the Eco-Schools Network and funded by SBC is for school eco-warriors will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at Wolseley Centre. Karen has 12 schools booked in and 136 children. Some great activities are planned!!  <a href="https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sustainable-schools-in-stafford-borough">https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sustainable-schools-in-stafford-borough</a></p>	<p><b>Karen to send out forms, late June/early July</b></p> <p><b>Karen to attach Sponsorship and Grants List – all schools to send any additional contacts for Karen to add to this by Fri 8<sup>th</sup> June please.</b></p>
<b>8 Elliott the Eco-Bat</b>	Sarah reported that Elliott had been really busy at Woodseaves Primary. He has watched caterpillars turn into butterflies, helped make planters out of farm container, helped create a wildflower meadow and supported the assembly in school all about composting. The bat has now gone to Walton High School!	<p><b>Bruce or Andy</b> to from Walton High School to report back at the next meeting  <b>Karen</b> to update Elliot's webpage asap</p>
<b>9 Cannock Chase AONB SAC Officer – who I am, what I do and why!</b>	Kristie Charlesworth's job is to help protect the most ecologically sensitive parts of Cannock Chase (the Special Area of Conservation, or SAC) esp to minimise additional pressures expected due to the increase in housing development in areas surrounding the Chase. She is keen to work with schools, potentially setting up training courses and producing resources in the future. She discussed with schools what kind of resources they might need and find helpful.	<p>Any more ideas for Kristie?  Contact:  <a href="mailto:KCharlesworth@staffordbc.gov.uk">KCharlesworth@staffordbc.gov.uk</a>  T: 07580 846929</p>
<b>10 Brief updates from schools</b>	<p><b>Burton Manor Primary (Sarah by email)</b>  'Hi Karen, I won't be in attendance unfortunately but hope to be regularly there from September. We have been busy organising a new path to the eco area, creating a stained glass window for Perkins, litter picking and most importantly</p>	



achieving our SILVER Eco schools award! The Burton Manor Tree Tribe have worked their socks off to achieve this. A very proud moment. Thanks, Sarah’.

**Oulton First School (Vicky by email)**

‘What a shame I can’t come on Thursday, it looks like a fun packed evening. We have a football tournament to attend and as PE coordinator I have to be there. Gardening club has proved as popular as ever this term and the pond area is now well underway- including pond plants! After half term we will get plants around it and install the furniture and equipment. The ordering of the greenhouse will happen soon! We had a photographer from Tesco in last Thursday taking pictures of the Sensory garden and gardening club. There should be articles in the Sentinel and the Stone Gazette soon. My Forest School training days have now been completed and I’m busy completing my portfolio, so that we can begin our Forest School programme in the Autumn term!  
All the best, thanks, Vicky’.

**Weston Road Academy, Jacqueline**

‘Apologies Karen, I was fully intending to come to the meeting, but just have too much on this afternoon. We’ve had an email this week to say we have secured the lottery funding of £4,700 for Forest schools from September – second time applying. Matt has been brilliant working with groups of pupils in the garden’.

**King Edward VI (Mark)**

We have been busy working on the Outdoor Classroom and gardening. We have litter problems but I often litter pick with students to keep on top of it. We’re really happy to have Public Cycle Pump from SBC and this has been installed by the main bike shed an is being promoted regularly.

**Woodseaves, Sarah**

We’ve loved having Elliott the Eco-Bat who’s been so busy with us (see above). As well as all these things, we’ve also done Bikeability training.

**St Leonard’s (Lisa)**

School was involved in There is No Planet B! and we are planning to improve the pond area. We have received help from Jaguar Landrover. We are really keen on eco!

**Sir Graham Balfour (Debbie)**

We have done Bikeability. We have received funding from Wickes. We took part in Learning Outside the Classroom Day! Eco-Club is very busy. Our Nurture Groups really benefit from eco-activities and the support of the SBC eco-schools eco grant.



	<p><b>St Austin's (Colette)</b> We are now getting on well with the new eco-group. We have a 'pre-loved uniform system' now. This happened due to so much lost property.</p> <p><b>Blessed William Howard (Catherine by email)</b> 'With our SBC eco-grant we have purchased new lidded recycling bins which has helped children recycle easily. We have placed our lovely Cycle Pump outside the main entrance to school – very prominent and popular. Thanks SBC'.</p> <p><b>St John's (Vicky and Linda)</b> As mentioned above we loved the 'TINPB! workshop on plastic which has resulted in decision to avoid plastic cups. We are working with Karen on an exciting new Solar PV project supported by Stafford BC as part of 'We Love Littleworth'.</p> <p><b>Walton Priory Middle School (Gordon)</b> We've had Bikeability at school and we are running Bike Fix it sessions with the tools purchased using the SBC eco-grant. A really great practical initiative. We are planting vegetables and flowers and KS 2 are doing cooking with veg we've grown.</p> <p><b>St John's Primary Academy (Vicky and Linda)</b> We are so busy. We have an energy project going on, improving energy efficiency and installing solar PV, working with Karen and SBC. We are also putting a cycle parking space at the front of school. We have also been litter picking.</p> <p><b>Princefield (James)</b> We participated in the Duracell Big Battery Hunt, have been building a Bug Hotel and we are busy recycling. We have created an 'Under The Sea' project board.</p>	<p><b>This could be replicated in all schools, let's think how..</b></p>
<p><b>11 Brief Updates from Organisations</b></p> <p><b>Windmill Broadcasting, Lisa Tiso</b></p> <p><b>LEAF, Brian Hainsworth</b></p> <p><b>RSPB Gretel Cooper</b></p>	<p>Lisa reminded us that if your children have written stories don't forget they can be read out on Windmill Broadcasting!</p> <p>Victoria Park 'Great Get Together' Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Come along and enjoy this, or join in and help run an eco-stall!</p> <p>Brian explained that LEAF 'Work to inspire and enable sustainable farming that is prosperous, enriches the environment and engages local communities' . <a href="https://leafuk.org/">https://leafuk.org/</a> There are some great resources for schools.</p> <p>Some great resources from the RSPB as well as local sites. Gretel's detail's in last notes.</p>	



<b>12 AOB/Extra info/Dates!!</b>	<p><b>NEW Teresa May's 25 Year Environment Plan</b> Lots of references about children and schools engaging with nature, tree planting, the benefits of the natural environment for health and wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Red Hen Rehoming</b> Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June, Gnosall Details from Karen</p> <p><b>Springwatch 'Wild Academy'</b></p> <p><b>Tools Shed</b> Tools for free for schools (see attached sheet)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan</a></p>
<b>13 Date of next meeting</b>	<p><b>Next meeting:</b> <b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 4.15 pm</b> <b>venue TBC</b></p>	<p>Agenda items to <b>Karen</b> by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July please</p>

### Blue Recycling Bin – Yes Please!

- Cardboard (flattened)
- Aerosols (eg shaving gel, polish and deodorant - must be empty)
- Plastic bags (must be empty)
- Wrappers (food, cellophane and cling film)
- Foil (food trays and tin foil)
- Cans (food and drink)
- Glass (bottles and jars)
- Plain Greeting Cards - no glitter or embellishments eg Bows
- Plastic bottles (eg milk, soft drink, yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and household cleaning fluid bottles, shampoo, bleach)
- Waxed cartons (eg juice, soup and milk cartons)

### No Thanks

Biros and Felt Pens, Bubble wrap, Buckets, Christmas Decorations, Coat Hanger, CDs and DVDs (discs), Computer Floppy Disks, Costume Jewellery, DVD/CD cases, Deodorant (roll on), Disposable Drink Cups, Disposable Cutlery, Empty Plant Containers, Flower/plant pots, Hot Water Bottles, Hosepipes, Household Waste Bins, Lamp Shades, Pet Beds, Plastic Furniture, Polystyrene (Expanded), Spectacles, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste Tubes, Plastic Toys, Tupperware, Videos and VHS, Washing Up Bowls.

