

John Wheatley College

Board of Management

Sustainable Development Committee

Minutes of the Sustainable Development Committee held on Wednesday 19th January 2005 at 3.00pm in Room T26, Easterhouse Campus.

1. Sederunt

The meeting commenced at 3pm and was attended by:

A Inglis (Chair);

F Doyle;

J Brown;

M Grant;

H Dunlop;

A Lockyer (for presentation of Agenda Item 12)

D Thomson; and

I Graham, Principal (Ex officio)

In Attendance

M Lang (for recording purposes only)

2. Apologies

A Kirk

3. Terms of Reference

All members noted and agreed with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Tuesday 30th November 2004

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on 30th November 2004.

5. Matters arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A Inglis discussed his meeting with June Thomas from Stow College (30/11/2004), with regards to the pilot project report "The Integration of Sustainable Development into Education" and the subsequent SQA units that have been developed. He highlighted that any approach could be in partnership with various other bodies, perhaps including GHA, SEG and WOSCOP. Mr Inglis advised that since any approach made by JWC is still in its infancy that a bigger emphasis would be placed on it after the HMIE inspection in February. He informed the meeting that the College had taken out membership with the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC). H Dunlop also stated that World Wildlife Fund was a good website for student materials.

6. Correspondence

(a) Business Industry Update

Members noted the reference to Scotland's first energy efficiency strategy.

(b) SFEFC – Request under Freedom of Information

A Inglis explained that the College had written to the Scottish Further Education Funding Council in relation to bio-diversity. A follow-up letter had now been sent.

(c) SE - Nuclear Decommissioning

Mr Inglis informed the Committee that the Annual Plan for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority had been put out for consultation and this could be accessed through the website (www.nda.gov.uk). The deadline for any comments is set as 11 February 2005.

7. Environmental Management Systems in Universities

F Doyle highlighted the relevance of this document to the running of JWC on a daily basis. Energy Management could be implemented more effectively throughout the College, particularly in respect of switching off lights. A Inglis also backed-up this point and stated that the College is aiming to achieve ISO 14001, which would set clear targets.

8. Stow College – The Integration of Sustainable Development into Education – Pilot Project Report

Mr Inglis outlined the main conclusions from the report by June Thomas (Stow College). He explained that the project integrated sustainable development into various areas of the curriculum and was practiced by their departments. Stow College introduced a new subject to Promote Sustainability, however questions arose in relation to students' perception of how useful and relevant the subject was. D Thomson and F Doyle enquired as to the breadth of the scheme, which would be required. H Dunlop asked them to consider all aspects at the grass roots when writing any such programme, due to the size of the topic. She also highlighted that citizenship would be part of team meetings and added into the pro-forma, to encourage staff to reflect on opportunities to develop sustainability. It was also highlighted that the SQA website can provide guidance, as they have developed a number of subjects. It was concluded that the College should consider introducing any approach at NQ level to allow access for all students and in partnership with local community groups.

H Dunlop suggested taking the SQA descriptor and developing a module to suit the needs of the College. D Thomson agreed, suggesting an integrated approach, to encourage the widest possible range of staff to consider sustainability issues. A Inglis surveyed the members as to who would be willing to work with Stow College to develop a sample or pilot scheme. A Lockyer pointed out that the Business Enterprise Schools Programme would be starting next year and Gary Harkins has been considering being involved in this. It would allow sustainable development to be integrated into learning activities for next year.

The meeting debated introducing sustainable development into the day-to-day running of the college, in the form of recycling. A Lockyer and H Dunlop discussed recycling boxes or collection points for aluminium cans and the safety implications these may have. It was also suggested to extend this idea to wasted or shredded paper from the College.

H Dunlop distributed a Citizenship Events Calendar 2005 published by TES to each Committee member. I Graham suggested that those events of relevance should be highlighted and sent to Lesley Lang to be published in the monthly newsletter.

9. Sustainability & Bio Diversity

I Graham explained to the Committee that this was the last draft of the report before it would be submitted to the Board of Management. He explained the alteration made to Annex 5, as the College now has a statutory duty to conserve bio-diversity. The Committee also agreed to insert a policy of a 3-yearly review cycle, in order to keep the report up-to-date.

D Thomson discussed that staff at the College needed to include sustainability in to their own roles. Mr Graham backed this up and suggested using posters on classroom walls as an opportunity to highlight important issues.

The Principal informed members that the New Build had been attracting interest from a number of parties. D Thomson debated if the progress could be archived in a visual timeline, as it would allow opportunities to develop the curriculum and enhance the student's learning experience. This was agreed by the members of the Committee.

10. SE – Energy Efficiency Strategy and Review of Climate Change Consultation Programme

A Inglis made reference to the two press releases from the Scottish Executive on Energy Efficiency Strategy and Climate Change Consultation.

Mr Inglis went on to discuss the consultation paper on the Scottish Climate Change Programme. He initiated that the paper had asked for responses to be made, Mr Inglis stated that he will clarify with I Graham, whether or not the College will be making any response. Mr Inglis explained that Committee members should contribute any ideas they feel are relevant and they will be submitted if they wish.

11. Buro Happold

Mr Graham presented the conclusions of the meeting regarding funding grant options to the Committee. He outlined the core contracts of the New Build as; Woodchip biomass boiler, Rainwater collection system and, Cooling systems in rooms. The Principal explained the two risks that the College would be put under through implementing the schemes, either losing money or them not working to plan. To address the former, I Graham explained a grant would be received in 2006, but the College must prove that the systems are operational in the same year.

The Principal went on to discuss the glass that would be put in the windows on the south facing part of the building. These would be laminated windows that would eliminate part of the light and prevent the rooms from heating up too much.

I Graham also discussed the potential of windmills on Haghill Road. The Principal explained the design of these windmills and how their operation might allow energy to be generated for the building.

Some members of the Committee raised concerns over the heat in the boiler room, however, I Graham explained that they had hoped to drag the heat out and place it elsewhere in the building, which would also increase productivity of the boilers.

D Thomson inquired as to the deadline for final changes to be made to the building. I Graham confirmed that the design of the building would be flexible and plans could be made without including windmills, as they were not an integral part of the design. However, items such as photovoltaic windowpanes would have to be in early with the specifications.

12. Green Jobs Strategy – Consultation Exercise

A Lockyer discussed the conference she attended on Green Jobs Strategy on 12th November 2004. She explained that the conference was based upon the responses received by the strategy, both at the conference and after.

Ms Lockyer highlighted that new opportunities for Green Jobs had been outlined at the conference. Examples included a first recycling bank for calcium batteries in Central Scotland, and the use of wind energy in the Shetland Isles. The conference also discussed areas of recycling, resource efficiency and the opportunities that the Green Jobs Strategy has to support and develop citizenship.

I Graham highlighted that the New Build project in Haghill would give the College opportunity to put theory into practice and it would be educational in itself, particularly in the construction. He also noted that visitors to the building could follow the College's lead and further develop the ideas for their own benefit.

The Principal also mentioned an upcoming meeting with the Forestry Commission, which the College should see as an opportunity, especially in areas such as 'Green Tourism'.

13. Action Energy – Assessment of Initial Energy Saving Opportunities for JWC

F Doyle explained that the College's energy policy had been put in an attempt to make staff aware of energy saving practices such as; not leaving computers on overnight and, turning off lights and radiators. D Thomson highlighted that there was an inappropriate awareness from staff of the effect of not complying with these practices.

A discussion took place as to the best ways to inform and reinforce these issues. H Dunlop and D Thomson concluded that posters or signs placed around the College may encourage this. Members will look into the alternatives that are available.

14. EAUC Newsletter

A Inglis included the newsletter to inform Committee members of the aims and objectives of the organisation (discussed in Item 5a).

15. Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (HEPS)

A Inglis outlined a number of reports that were available from HEPS website, which Committee members may find useful in their teaching. These have been downloaded and stored in the library. H Dunlop stated she would download these documents and place them in the P:/ drive for easy access.

16. Carbon Trust Ratings

F Doyle had included slides from a presentation on Carbon Trust Ratings he attended. He highlighted that regulations have changed and now energy ratings will be taken for all buildings.

17. Closure

Having discussed all items on the agenda the Chair of the Committee thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 4.45pm.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1 March 2005.