

Aston University

Sustainable Aston Working Group

Notes of the meeting held on 24 September 2012

Present:	Lucy Bastin	Rebekka Heitmar
	John Blewitt	Professor Helen Higson (item 4(iii))
	Andrew Bryers	Kathy Hopkin
	Alan Charters	Victoria Johnsen
	Stuart Cooper (Chair)	Carole Parkes
	Jake Delaney	Peter Quaife
	Peter Hedges	Peter Shearer

In attendance: Julie Ottley (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Helen Pattison.

2. Membership

No nominations had been received for Chair of the Group and this would be discussed at the next meeting.

It was noted that Kenny Park would be replacing Peter Hedges for EAS and that Carole Parkes had replaced Christopher Brewster for ABS.

It was agreed that Graeme Hayes would be approached as an additional representative for LSS.

SC

The students from the MSc Social Responsibility and Sustainability would be invited to join the Group.

CP

It was agreed that students from other Schools could also join the Group.

ALL

3. Notes of last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting, held on 2 May 2012, were confirmed.

4. Matters arising

(i) EcoCampus

The Platinum audit which had taken place in May had raised a few issues and these had now been followed up. It was anticipated that once the notes of the Annual

Environmental Management Review were submitted, the Platinum award would be granted.

(ii) Birmingham Centre for Business Ethics (BCBE)

The Centre was now established at Aston Business School and the first event, in conjunction with Thrive, was taking place on 27 September 2012.

(iii) Sustainability in the Curriculum

Professor Helen Higson in attendance for this item.

Professor Higson informed the Group that she was currently writing the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy and, for the first time, it would include a large section about sustainability and social responsibility. A draft would be circulated in the next few weeks.

(iv) Go Green Week 2013

This would take place 11-15 February 2013 in alignment with national People and Planet Week.

It was agreed that consideration should be given to going back to the previous format of themed days.

VJ

5. **School Reports**

ABS had launched the DL MSc Social Responsibility and Sustainability and six students were enrolled.

LHS had a successful summer scholarship with a recycling theme. It may be appropriate for the student to give a talk during Go Green Week.

VJ

LHS would be doing their litter picking activity in week 4 or 6 and Jake agreed to advertise this more widely to other students.

JD

Victoria reported that a new recycling campaign would be launched in the next couple of weeks and that all buildings would then have recycling bins.

6. **Environmental Management Review**

See separate notes

7. Other business

(i) Aston's ethical framework was currently under review and this would establish a policy setting out the principals of ethics in the context of the University with sub-policies for specific areas.

(ii) Rolf Jucker was visiting on 2nd October 2012 to talk to people interested in sustainability in the curriculum.

(iii) Andrew was holding a training session for wet lab staff and members should contact him for more details.

(iv) Victoria had been invited to join the University Wellbeing Committee.

(v) The Chair expressed sincere thanks from the Group to Peter Hedges who was standing down after being involved with the Group since its inception.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be arranged for November.

JO