

ESEF Cymru
Earth Science Education Forum – Cymru (ESEF-Cymru)
In Conjunction with
the Association for Science Education (ASE) NE Branch
“Geodiversity and Geoconservation -
the Welsh dimension”

4.30pm - 7.00pm, 13 March 2007
Techniquet @ NEWI, Science Discovery Centre
Wrexham, North East Wales

Presentations by
Professor Cynthia Burek
(University of Chester, Chair of NEWRIGS and UKRIGS Executive),
Cathie Brooks and Alwyn Roberts (Countryside Council for Wales) and
Dr Jacqui Malpas (Geodiversity Officer, Clwydian Range AONB)

Displays
GCSE Science and GCSE/A level Geology publications by WJEC and OCR

Unconfirmed
Minutes of the sixth meeting

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from a number of individuals, organisations and members of the Welsh Assembly, including Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM. Ian Lucas MP, Member of Parliament for Wrexham also sent his apologies.

2. Chairman’s introduction:

Chairman welcomed the attendees, gave a summary of the ESEF Cymru and outlined the background to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences (Earth Sciences Group), which is administered by ESEF. The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences meets each month in Westminster when the House is sitting and covers a wide range of Earth Science topics. A list of all meetings held can be seen on the www.esef.org.uk website.

The Chairman invited attendees to suggest topics for future meetings.

3. Minutes of the fifth ESEF Cymru meeting, 12 December 2006 were confirmed as a true record.

4. Matters arising:

[Numbers in square brackets are paragraph numbers from the minutes of the previous meeting]

[4] Welsh Language

- Dr John Davies, Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) gave a brief progress report. Supplementary questions had been sent out and replies would be collated. A draft copy of the report would then be prepared. Funding is being sought to publish the report by ESEF Cymru in conjunction with the National Museum of Wales.

Action: Dr John Davies and Cally Oldershaw

[4] Outdoor Learning questionnaire

- Completed questionnaires had been collected by Cally Oldershaw and sent to Kim Polistina (University of Glamorgan). Cally and Kim will liaise regarding evaluation and further development of the questionnaire. The paper will then be circulated via email to all ESEF Cymru invitees with a request for responses, which will be collated by Cally Oldershaw.

Action: Cally Oldershaw and Kim Polistina

5. Stakeholders' discussion:

Collaborative projects and feedback from ESEF Cymru stakeholders, including key issues and concerns.

- Mike Roberts, Centre for Applied Geosciences, University of Bangor outlined his plans for developing outreach (taking science to the schools) which will tie in with the Wales Spatial Plan. He will prepare a paper, with the intention that it is forwarded by ESEF Cymru to the Welsh Assembly.
- Tony Thorp, Mid Wales Geology Club, noted that the Schlumberger website had short biographical details of a number of scientists, each of which included a few sentences on what had turned them on to science. Tony had made a quick summary of his findings, which tie in with initial findings of the ESEF Cymru outdoor learning questionnaire.
 - Most scientists mentioned a science teacher or school department
 - Next was parental influence - scientist in the family etc.
 - Some mentioned specific clubs- mainly astrology clubs
 - Others mentioned specific events – e.g. Man on the Moon.
- Chris King, ESEF(EW) is leading the ESEF Working Forum, looking into workforce issues, and following the progress of the First Destination Survey.
- Caroline Pollit, Chair ASE NE Region, welcomed the attendees to Techniquest and asked for suggestions regarding encouraging outdoor science, particularly during the summer holidays. She also gave a plea for others in the area to get involved to support science.
- Cathie Brooks, Countryside Council for Wales, suggested some possible objectives for ESEF Cymru (as outlined in her presentation) for discussion at a future ESEF Cymru meeting:
 - Identify why there is so little geodiversity taught in Welsh schools
 - Identify/rectify why many science teachers do not enjoy teaching Earth science
 - Contribute to the promotion of Earth science in the curriculum

- Maintain close links with curriculum development WAG/WJEC where fieldwork is under review
- Co-ordinate with Welsh Bacculaureate
- Lobby WAG for the inclusion of geodiversity in the development of criteria for Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship
- Participate in DfES consultation to illustrate how the Outdoor Manifesto can be fulfilled through geodiversity
- Ensure field-geodiversity resources for Wales are so exciting that teachers will choose to use geodiversity to illustrate more generic topics and acquire skills
- Provide resources closely linked to needs of curricula and teachers
- Lobby for funding to provide geodiversity materials and INSET (in service training) based on identified needs

6. Future programme:

Tuesday 26 June 2007, Cardiff

Venue and speakers' details to be confirmed

- Programme for the next meeting:

4.30 pm – informal networking (tea/coffee)

5.00 pm – 7.00 pm business meeting followed by presentations and discussion

7.00 pm – end

The Chair invited attendees to suggest possible speakers and topics for future meetings. Suggestions should be sent via email to Cally Oldershaw

Action: All

7. Resources

The Chairman thanked those who had given support to ESEF Cymru and invited attendees to suggest ideas as to how they might be able to contribute.

8. AOB

None

- 9. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 26 June, Cardiff. Venue and speakers' details to be confirmed.

Cally Oldershaw
19 March 2006