

Environmental Task Group

Tuesday 6th June 2018

Estates Boardroom

1. Welcome and apologies

Present:	School/Dept
Prof Colin Reid (CR)	Prof of Environmental Law (Chair)
Trudy Cunningham (TC)	Environment & Sustainability Officer
Margaret Wyllie (MW)	Hospitality Services
Derek Mitchell (DM)	Energy Manager
Jim McGeorge (JmcG)	University Secretary
Nick Helps (NH)	Safety Services
Mark Stephenson (MS)	UoDIT
Karen Brough (KB)	Estates

Apologies:

Stewart Kerr, Sean (President of DUSA); Aidan McColgan, Becky Myles; Aileen Corral

2. Minutes of last meeting and Matter Arising.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with several points noted – for ease of reference many of the matters raised at this point of the meeting are noted along with the substantive discussion later:

- CR noted that we are again missing student representation, which is very disappointing. TC noted that she has sent 3 emails to DUSA and their non-participation is an ongoing frustration.

Action: CR/JMcG to send reminder to student union executive.

3. Progress Report

Water Coolers:

There are now 145 plumbed-in machines on campus, with 2 further ones imminent in Levels 4 & 5 of the Tower. TC manages plumbed-in water coolers. A survey of the usage of bottled water machines is to be carried out in School of Nursing & Midwifery, 11 Airlie Place but one bottle may last a month. There are no dates on the water bottles or indication of when they were opened but they should not be used after 30 days for fear of contamination. TC feels that she is struggling to get this message over to staff. For offices with very low usage TC suggested a water filter jug kept in the fridge. It would be useful to have statistics for departments using 1-2 bottles a month, to discuss whether could they come up with an alternative plan.

Plastic/Food Waste:

Six external waste bins for food waste only have been rolled out on campus. Every bin has been contaminated with inappropriate matter.

Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) will be working with us on a food trial in September; a student intern will be employed for 6 months to analyse student food diaries.

TC is liaising with cleaners, and across our 250 mini kitchens, 100 caddies have been deployed, with more to go out over the next few weeks. There has been one complaint about the smell. TC commented they are fairly small caddies and emptied most days. TC to monitor caddie usage, smells and contamination rates

Action: TC to contact DUSA to run a joint campaign. TC to get feedback from cleaners and staff

Litter Pick/Blue Lid Cull:

A competition was held recently for a Litter Pick/Blue Lid Cull, and Tobi Wood from UoDIT won a £10 voucher and a PG student won a £5 voucher. 17 bags of general rubbish were collected in one hour. The plastic water bottles distributed to everyone leaving DUSA at night and their lids are a major contributor, but DUSA will not get rid of bottles with separate blue lids due to the increased cost of alternatives. Many are left unopened and scattered full around campus, and the “green machine” sweeper is unable to pick up full bottles. TC has offered to assist with costs, e.g. of placing a water fountain in DUSA. More must be done to find out the costs of the bottled water supply, investigate alternatives (e.g. recycled bottles or those without separate lids) and possibly negotiate another deal. The “war on plastic”, cutting our single use plastic waste, creates an opportunity to involve students and launch a campaign.

Action: TC to contact DUSA.

UoDIT:

DM reported that the savings in electricity consumption from the IT network migration was expected to be less than 5% and the sub-metering was inconclusive, certainly showing no great savings.

The shut-down of personal computers in Estates at 7pm (after a warning) had worked well; the next step is to contact UoDIT for rollout to other departments. MS said that this can be incorporated into Windows 10

Action: MS and TC to take this further

MS said Windows10 is to be rolled out to students in the summer, a separate rollout for staff to follow. Network upgrades continue at Ninewells, Life Sciences and QMB and was very recently successfully rolled out in Dentistry.

Energy Projects:

Energy Projects/Salix - Phase 3:

Work in the Matthew Building levels 5 & 6 is partly complete with additional installation to be done in the summer. AW is currently working on the refurbishment of Matthew for LED lights and controls; this is mingled with other works.

Energy Projects/Salix SFC- Phase 4:

Works to be completed by July 2019 are the installation of 85kw of photo-voltaic (PV) generation at the Crawford Building Installation, and LED lighting for Campus and in the Medical Sciences Institute. A consultant has been appointed in relation to security lighting.

Action: DM to chase.

NH reported an issue arising from a student suffering from sensitivity to a subliminal flickering in the LED lights in the Library. The issue had been passed to Mark Webster and consultants. Considerable testing and adjustment had been required to remove the flicker.

Action: MW/NH to ensure fittings are checked.

At the Micro Macro Building at the Botanic Garden there has been no meter reading taken since December 2016, but the next is required very shortly.

Action: DM to contact the Dean of Architecture about arrangements for the building now that the project leads have left the University.

Electric Vehicles and Chargers:

The University got a new van in April, on a 4 years lease with free maintenance from Transport Scotland. Maintenance on the electric vehicles is 80% less than on standard vehicles but it has been noted that they wear out tyres more quickly when heavy laden. The electric vehicles save the University thousands of pounds in purchase, fuel and maintenance costs.

EV chargers:

Dundee City Council (DCC) have a new Rapid charging station in Aimer Square Lochee, another in Princes Street is to be operational in July and one in Queen Street Broughty Ferry will be operational in September. The rapid charge takes 1 hour, fast charge takes 3 hours.

<https://drivedundeeelectric.co.uk/in-dundee/>

Signs are required for staff so that they do not exceed the maximum stay at a charging point; this is an ongoing problem, to be kept under review. Any wholly electric vehicle in Dundee can park in any DCC carpark free as long as they register first. This does not apply to hybrids.

<https://www.dundee.gov.uk/service-area/city-development/roads-and-transportation/electric-vehicle-parking-within-dundee>

More charge points could be installed if the power supply from the Micro-computer Centre were retained.

Action: TC to discuss with project manager.

Cycle projects:

The Tower is getting a new cycle rack, to fit in beside the new ramp. Outside the BSI allotments a new shelter is being made, due to an ever increasing demand.

A full Travel survey will be carried out later this year. An audit was taken more than 2 years ago to measure cyclists entering campus, but as well as increased cycle usage there has been a massive increase in single occupancy cars, which we need to discourage.

TC has attended a DCC meeting for a new Travel Active Hub on the Waterfront, costing £1.4 million, with lockers, hire bikes, a bikes café, mechanics etc. Building work starts later this year.

There is a possibility of a Navigogo app trial in Dundee and St. Andrews next year, at St Andrews, Dundee and Abertay Universities. The app links taxi sharing and calculates amount each pays; experience is that students loved it, allowing students to share a taxi and split the fare. Details here: <https://www.the-espgroup.com/project/navigogo/>

Bikes can be hired at train station from ABELLIO but only by those who have pre-registered. Hire bikes are also available on campus and at City Quay from Electric Bikes Scotland.

The Cycling Forum is taking DCC to task about its transport budget. DCC's Cycling Strategy states that 5% of the transport budget is to be spent on cycling improvements and infrastructure. DCC is to improve the Docks cycle path and to take over maintenance from the Ports Authority; ID passes will no longer be required. Funding for this is coming from the Sustrans Community Links Scheme.

Procurement

BM sent apologies. The Water Cooler Framework agreement had been reviewed after 5 years. TC and BM decided that the best option was to stay with the current provider which was cheaper than others and there had been no price increase in 5 years, as well as good call out and maintenance services.

Grounds

More benches are required around Campus, to help improve the environment. There was a possibility of these being presented as gifts, but it would be useful to have a policy on this and on any plaques to be attached.

Action: TC to speak with Rose Jenkins.

4. Energy and Climate

Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen have city wide adaptation plans and TC has applied to Sustainable Development Scotland for funding to set up a city partnership with DCC, Abertay University, and Dundee & Angus College to write an adaptation plan for the city. £10K funds are available, and TC is quite hopeful.

There is still no action plan in the risk register for climate change risks for the University.

Action: TC to speak with Rose Jenkins

Carbon Management Board

Since this has lapsed, CR and JMcG need to speak with Rose Jenkins about the appropriate structure. We need to find a smaller and more manageable way to ensure annual reporting and high level support to implement and accept changes.

Action: DM to speak initially with Rose Jenkins/JimMcGeorge to discuss what the structure should be.

5. Botanic Garden & Grounds

There is currently no Curator in post. TC is managing the new allotments at BSI. New locks are being fitted and students and staff starting work in June. There is a competition for all students in residences to name the site.

The allotment beds have all been allocated: 1 bed for CAHID to bury (non-human) bones, 2 beds allocated to postgrads, 1 bed to research team, 1 bed to Life Sciences Staff, 2 beds to the Botanic (for GROW Observatory experiments) and beds for the Gate Church carbon reduction project. Beds will be allocated to each of the student halls once the new semester starts. TC Has arranged for gardeners young and old from the Gate Church to come down to the allotment and help, holding 1 or 2 workshops.

There is an edible garden, with fruit trees and bushes. There is a picnic area with power and water (which could be used for World Picnic Café events). The site is all coming together and it will be fully inhabited by the middle of September. There are to be 2 sheds – one for Botanic and one for groups. TC is to buy sweeping brushes for paths. Water is available.

The ownership of the beds run from September -September for one 1 year. There are to be general rules set up, including requiring the use of organic products, and there will have named key holders.

There is no fencing because of costs and funding is required.

– TC to meet with Bob Sutherland (Head Gardener).

Action: TC to speak to AMC about funding for edible garden fencing

Maintenance and litter on campus

Some areas, such as the front of Scrymgeour, are in need of tidying before Graduation.

All calls on grounds maintenance as well as repairs should be directed through the Estates Helpdesk.

Cigarette stub ends remain a problem and it takes 12 years for these to degrade. We need to educate all staff and students. More bins are required beside the Library.

Action: TC to contact Raminee Pieris on anti-litter and related messages during Welcome week.

6. A.O.B.

JMcG stated that senior management recognised that the work of the Task Force did make a difference and the results were noticed around the campus. There was a willingness to support big projects and those involved should just come forward to ask for support.

JMcG reported there seemed to be an increase of individual printers in his section when we should be pushing to use network printers.

Action: TC to check with Banner/Procurement.

The Chair thanked TC for all her hard work as always, and KB for her note-taking.

9. Date of next meeting

A date at end of next Semester is to be confirmed.

Action: TC/CR/AMc