

Environmental education network meeting

Monday 9th February 2015

Theme: Transport

Present: Anna Singleton (Sustrans), Colin Cheney (Bikeability LCC), Katie Westacott (Walk to School, Living Streets), Amy Morgan (Get Walking, Keep Walking, Ramblers), Janet Dyer (Fit4Business, Sustainable Transport LCC), Lee Jowett (LCC), Sue Pears (Avenue), Jenny Mackow (Avenue), Steve Massey (Overdale Juniors), Sarah Hearn (Rolleston), Sarah Eames (Sandfield Close)

Lee welcomed and thanked presenters and school staff for attending. He explained this was the third environmental education network meeting which is themed – this being travel and transport. The presenters were welcomed and introduced themselves along with attendees of the meeting.

Anna Singleton – Sustrans ‘Bike It’ project Email: anna.singleton@sustrans.org.uk

Anna runs the Bike It project and is employed by Sustrans. She is based at City Hall, Leicester. Schools have targets for increasing how many students (and staff) cycle as well as reducing car journeys. Schools typically work with her for 1-2 years, with regular visits including bike skills and bike rides. Her target areas are around the Narborough Road corridor/New Parks/Western/Humberstone Road. She can help with a variety of things including route planning and cycle lanes.

Schools can work towards the Bike It Mark. Copies are available from Anna. **Reminder that the Big Pedal is 2-20th March.** Schools can still register even if they don't participate in Bike It <http://bigpedal.org.uk/> In April 2015 Anna will start working with a different area of the city.

Colin Cheney – Leicester Bikeability Email: Colin.Cheney@leicester.gov.uk

Colin works on Bikeability skills which provide free cycle training for Leicester students in Y5-Y8. The training ranges from helping beginners get going to riding safely on the roads under supervision. He is working with 61 primaries, which amounts to 3600 students. There is no capacity at the moment for extra schools, but for those interested – spaces will be available from September 2015.

More information available here <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/transport-traffic/transportpolicy/fit4business/initiatives-for-schools/leicester-bikeability/>

Katie Westacott – Living Streets - Walk to School Email:

Katie.Westacott@livingstreets.org.uk

Katie runs the Walk to School initiative in Leicester. This is a student led initiative which can support Eco-Schools through monitoring and evaluation. She works across the city. There are a number of things which Katie can support with including Strider the mascot, engagement with parents/carers, Living Streets monthly activity packs (themed such as journey through time). There are also opportunities for walk and stride, so even if students live outside catchment drop off points away from school can be arranged. Also, walking maps can be created.



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Events to highlight: May 18th 2015 – Walk to School Week starts
May 19th 2015 - Happy Shoe Day
October 2015 – International Walk to School Month

In March 2015, Katie's role will change to increase working with parents and community in some areas.

There are also road safety officers who support with road safety and safer travel to school. They can also support primary schools with Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs).

Lyn Rowe lyn.rowe@leicester.gov.uk (primary schools)

Judy Hall judy.hall@leicester.gov.uk (secondary schools)

Amy Morgan – Ramblers - Get Walking, Keep Walking Email: amy.morgan@ramblers.org

The aim of the programme is to increase walking as part of day to day urban life.

The audience is generally 16+, but they have been trialling after school, parent and child groups. Fosse Primary is a good example. Events generally last for 6 week blocks, resources are given. Participants get walking packs and pedometers and a log book and the idea is it gives them a story of where they went.

Children's packs have been created, which are themed – involvement can be at any age. Schools can be involved as much as they want – linked to themes, assemblies etc. Or just promoting it. All volunteers are DBS checked and covered by the ramblers insurance.

They are constrained by the same areas as Sustrans – however areas are changing in the future – so don't be put off.

Website is available to all. Register at www.ramblers.org – then find a route (login for free) and then Leicester Routes. There are other things on there.

Janet Dyer – Sustainable transport across Leicester and Leicestershire

Email: Janet.Dyer@leicester.gov.uk

Several websites available to support this:

www.walkit.com – Urban walking route planner.

www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk – support for more sustainable transport in Leicester and Leicestershire.

<http://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/sustainable-travel-challenge/> - Track your sustainable journeys for the opportunity rewards and prize competitions.

The next meeting will be at Leicester **Botanical Garden – Thursday 12th March 2015** 4.00-5.30pm. Refreshments from 3.45pm. The theme is **outdoor learning**.



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