

Market Drayton Learning Partnership – Stakeholder Forum meeting

Monday 5 July 2016 at Market Drayton Infant School

Minutes

Present: Sam Scott, John Hargreaves, Tim Hayward, Peter Ingham, Kerry Simmons, Sarah Kynaston, Tom Kinnersley, Davina Bridge, Mandy Firth, Catherine Westwood, Fran Derricutt, David Smith, Ros Thomas.

Apologies: John Cadwallader, Jean Bell, Zoe Bentley, Adrian Pembleton

1. Davina Bridge, representing Market Drayton Community Partnership outlined the interest groups working on aspects of the 2012 town plan: The Drayton Arts Festival (held in October half term), environment and climate change (currently focussing on Walkmill meadow), 'incredible edible', and tourism/visitors. TK and KS picked up on potential links to school councils' interest in planting, SS with town museum and heritage trail linking to Clive of India on curriculum, JH to hunt down period costume.

2. Mandy Firth, representing Festival Drayton, described a range of ways in which the centre currently works with our schools to mutual advantage, from hosting art exhibits and the annual calendar event to providing front of house and café experience for students working towards a Duke of Edinburgh scheme award. There are numerous opportunities for developing these links, particularly with older students: Mandy mentioned the centre's Screen Two facility, the Wem Media first project, and the possibility of running a focus group to learn more about young people's attitudes towards and engagement with the centre.

3. Catherine Westwood, representing the county library service, described many ways in which she has linked with our schools, from visits to lead assemblies, judge poetry recitals, and promote the library's popular summer reading challenge, to hosting induction visits, serving as a local history discovery centre, and being a valuable Children's University destination. She also works with the Grove School librarian promoting e-services to students. SS praised her work with EAL parents and children and would like each infant class to visit each year. JH to circulate contacts for web managers at each school so links can be made to special events as appropriate.

4. David Smith, representing the British Legion, re-iterated the intention to involve schools in planning around centenary commemorations for the end of the First World War. SS suggested some students from each school could attend the Remembrance Day ceremony each year and David welcomed this.

5. Frances Derricutt, senior member of the new Grove Student Ambassador team, explained how a group of ambassadors had visited the school councils at both the

infant and junior schools to discuss their views of how links could be developed. She was impressed by both the quantity and quality of ideas, which ranged from joint concerts, drama productions, talent competitions and sports events to a joint read-a-thon, gardening project, cinema club and homework club. The younger pupils particularly welcomed talking with older students, for example on move-up days. KS and TH confirmed this has already been trialled successfully. TK and KS to develop some suggestions and to support FD and her colleagues in further cross-school meetings.

6. Trustees' report to the MDLP's AGM earlier this term was circulated and discussion invited.

7. SS described the current pressure on places at the Infant School and the local authority projection that 4 new primary classrooms will be needed in Market Drayton by 2026. She invited creative suggestions for meeting the demand for places.

8. JH explained the likely consequence of the current education bill going through parliament: that the schools in the trust will be required to become or join a Multi Academy Trust by 2020. He reiterated the position of trustees as given in the report to the AGM – that they would investigate and consider a range of options with the aim of maximising opportunities for furthering the vision of the trust while minimising threats to it.

9. Sarah Kynaston was elected chair of the forum, Kerry Simmons was elected secretary, and Tom Kinnersley was elected to serve as a trustee on the MDLP board as the forum's representative – all by a unanimous show of hands.

10. The next meeting of the forum will be at 6pm on **Tuesday 22 November** at the Junior School.