
Minutes

Meeting RIBA Schools Client Forum
Date 5 May 2005
Venue Arup Solihull
Present
Valerie Bragg –Chair (VB) The 3Es Enterprises Ltd
Sarah Curl (SC) Curl la Tourelle Architects
Chris Gilbert- new member (CG) Birmingham City Council
Stefan Jakobek (SJ) HOK
Gerald Mitchell -new member(GM) Manchester Council
David Emmanuel Noel (DEN) Royal Institute of British Architects
Jane Simpson (JS) Aedas
Andy Thompson (AT) Consultant
Shirley Turner (ST) Hampshire County Council
Lucy Watson (LW) DfES

In attendance

David Coley (DC) University of Exeter
Dominic Cropper (DCr) Arup
Terry Dix (TD) Arup
Richard Daniels (RD) DfES
Martin Mayfield (MM) Arup
Anna Tomlinson (AT)
- League for Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers (LECT)

Apologies/Absentees

Dominic Cullinan (DC) CABAL
Mark Dolling –new member (MD) Milton Keynes LEA
Georgina Frank (GF) Wates
Chris French (CF) Consultant
Tim Crabb (TC) West Sussex County Council
Jane Gray (JG) Felce & Guy Partnership
Hilary Graves (HG) Building Research Establishment
Paul Fletcher (PF) Paul Fletcher Architects
Catherine Harrington (CH) Architype
Alan Jones(AJ) DfES
Sally Livesey (SL) Westminster RC Diocese
John Russell (JR) Southwark Diocese
Jane Lock Smith (JLS) Cube Design
Helen Taylor (HT) Architecture plb
Saiyyidah Zaidi (SZ) London Borough of Lewisham

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1.0 **Minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes were accepted

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2.0 **Matters Arising**

SJ chaired the start of the meeting in the absence of VB

2.1 Client Representation

SJ aired his concerns over the need to increase client representation on the forum. He welcomed Gerald Mitchell from Manchester and Chris Gilbert of Birmingham LEAs, new members to the group. Gerald Dolling from Milton Keynes will also be joining the group. Representatives from Kajima and Galliford Try had expressed an interest in joining. SJ will follow up.

SJ

It was noted that e-mail distribution list was now somewhat out of date and urgently needed revision.

DEN

2.2 Aims and Objectives for 2005/6

The aims and objectives for the year were discussed. ST drew attention to wider changes in legislation which are likely to have a profound influence on the future of school design; in particular the Children's Act and its impact on the way LEAs will deliver their services.

The 19th of July meeting, which was intended to focus on changes to the curriculum will be extended to address these issues.

The 22nd of November meeting will now concentrate on issues of school design procurement, emerging LEPs and the realignment of the academy programme.

2.3 Promotion of the Schools Client Forum.

EBDOG

Members remained concerned with the turnout for the meeting and it was suggested that formal links with regional EBD OG representatives may increase attendance. The group will investigate the possibility of staging its quarterly meetings with in conjunction EBD OG. ST to forward details of dates.

ST

The format, including site visits, speaker presentations and invited audiences will need to be discussed in detail. Members supported the idea of have a formal slot in future EBD OG conferences.

Schools Forum Website

Changes are currently planned to the RIBA website. The site will be easier to navigate and find information relevant to the Schools Client Forum. It was proposed that links should be made to the DfES Teachernet and EBD OG sites. DEN is also investigating

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the possibility of televising filmed conferences on Teachers TV and using segments of the events for online video streaming. DEN

3.0 **RIBA June Conference**

Space to Learn: -RIBA June 20th

Using case studies and live demonstrations, the event aims to explore how e- learning, one touch and video conferencing will impact on the future design of education buildings. Invited speakers include Mukund Patel DfES and President of SCALA, Dr Andrew Murray of the British Council, Professor Roy Newton of University of Wolverhampton and William Jefferies of Squire & Partners. Architects.

DEN to forward details of the conference to ST for distribution at the May EBD OG conference.

4.0 **Meeting Focus: Environmental Design of Schools.**

Following a tour of the Arup Campus building, which has been built to explore a new approach to low energy business park environments the group received 3 very challenging presentations.

Martin Mayfield and Dominic Cropper outlined Arup experience in recent Schools PFI projects. They demonstrated examples showing how innovation had been achieved but also expressed concern that the structure of procurement very often led to principles becoming diluted.

Richard Daniels outlined current thinking emerging from the DfES, in particular the forthcoming introduction of Bream Schools methodology for major schools projects and the revision to Building Regulation part L2 which will come into force from January 2006. This is all intended to raise the standards of school environmental design and will prove challenging for design professionals and providers.

Dr David Coley of the Centre for Energy and the Environment at Exeter University outlined their recent research into the school environment. This illustrated how many new school buildings were failing to meet minimum DfES ventilation standards and that many designers were often unaware of the basic principles needed to ensure an adequate environment. He argued that an intelligently designed school would need no fossil fuel and the biggest problem lay with cooling. He also demonstrated examples of acoustic problems created through poor understanding.

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CEE studies have highlighted the need for much greater understanding of environmental design principles among the design profession as a whole, the need for robust design concepts and the need for structures that reinforce the sustainability culture.

Copies of the presentations are attached to these minutes.

The presentations were followed by lengthy discussion. It was the cross sectoral structure of the Schools Forum placed it in a good position to focus future action. It was decided to allocate the September Conference slot to this subject, possibly over 2 days. A steering group was established to move this idea forward. Members are: ST, SJ,MM,RD, SC, DEN VB. First meeting 25th of May. 216 Oxford Street.

5.0 **League for Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers- LECT**

The League for Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers connects teachers and educators throughout the commonwealth. It promotes excellence in education through developing, supporting and promoting:

- International study visits and exchanges
- International collaboration and links
- Information sharing and support
- Sharing experience and good practice
- Enhancement of the status of teachers.

Within the UK we work within its devolved structure and manage international professional development programmes for teachers in the home countries

AT invited members to participate in a new initiative designed to raise achievement in UK schools. Sponsored by the DfES, LECT are visiting a number of commonwealth nations to explore teaching methods and the impact of buildings on learning. Travel and accommodation will be paid for representatives of the forum willing to provide input and share their expertise. AT was advised to contact School Works the OECD Programme for Educational Buildings and the Sorrel Foundation for added support.

6.0 **Date of the Next Meeting**

19th July 2005

DEN-May 2005