

1.2.8 Views of stakeholders on Wiltshire College environmental impacts

Document Control

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Author:	Guy Beards	Date	10/7/09
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Students

A meeting between the Environment Co-ordinator, Student Representatives (including the College's Student Environmental Representative) and a Student Liaison Officer took place in Salisbury on 30th April. The meeting discussed the requirements of students for information, and how to maximise involvement.

The student representatives expressed specific concern for issues that were visible to learners and in which they could participate, maximum visibility and ease being the watchword. They supported the idea of utilising student work and activities within the College's environmental systems, examples quoted including art work for posters, and more generally opportunities to contribute and have ideas heard. There was concern that apathy and cynicism could undermine such efforts, and it was made clear that effective feedback would be needed to build credibility.

Of the environmental issues discussed, the provision of recycling bins, with appropriate promotion on their use and feedback on the amounts of material recycled, was considered the highest priority. They were also concerned about the selection of energy efficient PCs, and PCs being left on when not in use. On a related issue, the amount of packaging on food sold at outlets within the College was considered a problem.

Issues such as the contributions to global warming caused by wasted energy were considered important, but difficult for students to evaluate; finding ways to reward for reduced energy use was proposed.

On travel, car use was considered too difficult to change in the short term but improved cycle security was considered an inducement.

The potential to incorporate sustainability issues into induction and learning programmes was also discussed. Significant variation between courses was apparent, but it was considered that these matters should be included in induction, and in courses where practical.

An ‘environment week’ was suggested to publicise sustainability, with a noteworthy speaker, music etc.

The student representatives made it clear that the provision of appropriate learning facilities was a higher priority, and it is important that expenditure on environmental issues is not seen to be to the detriment of individual student achievement.














At the 2009 Wiltshire College Festival of Culture a survey of participants included the following information:

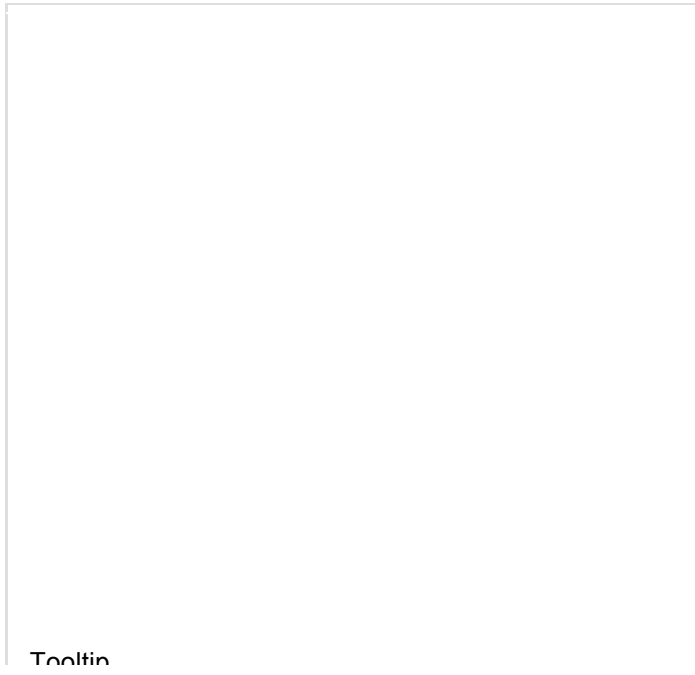
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EnD Festival of Culture - Multiple Response

Which of the following best describes the culture at Wiltshire College? Tick all that apply

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Outcome	%	#
 Respects the individual	8.30%	40
 Friendly	12.24%	59
 Focussed on success	6.85%	33
 Safe and secure	6.64%	32
 In touch with the outside world	6.02%	29
 Open and transparent	3.53%	17
 Environmentally responsible	3.32%	16
 Healthy	5.39%	26
 Mature and responsible	5.81%	28
 Creative	8.30%	40
 Culturally diverse	7.88%	38
 Fun	7.47%	36
 About helping people	7.05%	34



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do their best		
■ Socially responsible	7.05%	34
■ None of the above	1.87%	9
■ Not answered	2.28%	11
Total	100%	482

Times presented	91	Times answered	80	Min weight	0
Max weight	0	Mean weight	-	Median weight	-

This survey will be repeated of future Festivals of Culture, allowing comparison.

It was agreed that Student Representatives will be invited to join the College Sustainable Development Committee at a meeting on 10 July 2009 (minutes available).

Staff

During environmental briefing meetings employees have shown strong interest in improving the College's environmental performance, and many are keen to put forward ideas for improvement. A form of suggestion scheme is required to harness these ideas.

Key issues raised by staff have so far centred on recycling, waste minimisation and travel between College sites.

Staff will be consulted through briefings and 'Staff Room' dedicated web pages.

A detailed consultation with staff at all sites was conducted during Staff Development Week 14 – 17 July 09, and the results incorporated in the environmental management plan.

Learning Skills Council and OFSTED

LSC policies highlight pressure for Colleges to become more sustainable. They have identified four directions that we should concentrate on:

- Leadership and Management
- Teaching and Learning
- Building and Estates
- Community and Business.

OFSTED have stated "By embedding sustainable development into every aspect of our work, through our corporate and service planning, we will become a more efficient and effective organisation which can make a more valuable contribution to

local communities and society at large.” (Ofsted’s Sustainable Development Action Plan 2008-2009).

Ofsted will be inspecting/including Sustainable Development as part of the Common Inspection Framework. This will be contained within Key Question 5 – Leadership & Management. Also to be contained in Teaching & Learning – How does the college inform learners of environmental impact? It will also relate to Every Child Matters.

Awarding Bodies

Many awarding bodies include elements of sustainability in their syllabus and learning aims. For example, The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) policy is to “ensure that the curriculum supports sustainable development” (quote from QCA website: http://www.qcda.gov.uk/libraryAssets/media/qca-08-3586_sustainability_implementation_plan.pdf accessed 20th July 2009).

Neighbours

Complaints from neighbours have centred on noise, particularly from the Hall of Residence at Salisbury, and student behaviour (students gathering around homes to smoke at Trowbridge) has been an issue. Graffiti has also been a problem.

Governors

Roger Powell and Guy Beards are to brief and consult Governors on 30th September 2009.

Local Authority, Regional Development Agency etc

Suppliers

The main suppliers to the College are being consulted on sustainability issues as new contracts are negotiated. For example the views of waste disposal contractors were sought during tendering in July 2009, resulting in modification of the College approach in a number of areas, including separate versus mixed recycling bins, and potential uses for redundant items.

Commercial customers

