

THE DART VALLEY LEARNING TRUST
Annual General Meeting held at KEVICC
on 25 February 2015

Present: Andrew North (The Co-operative Group) Chair, Alan Salt (Principal), Kate Wilson, Carole Whitty, Roger Foord-Evans, Tim Friese-Green, Lee Friese-Green

In Attendance: Teresa Lakeman (Business and Development Manager) Marie Trant (Secretary)

Apologies - were received from Chantelle Norton, Tony Whitty, Jet Kamphuis

1 Andrew North welcomed every-one to the meeting.

2 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 January 2014 were approved.

It was noted that members were disappointed with the level of support for the Stake-holder forum.

3 Receive the Accounts 01/08/2013-31/07/2014

The accounts were showing a balance of £5,741.322. There were no expenses.

It was proposed that the accounts be accepted.

4 Trustees' Report

1. Introduction

This report to the Annual General Meeting is prepared by the Chair of the Dart Valley Learning Trust [the Trust] on behalf of the Trustees. It covers a period of change for the College and the Trust which has meant that slow progress has been made in the development of the Trust which will be addressed by the Trustees in the year ahead.

The Dart Valley Learning Trust is a single school Trust

The Trust warmly welcomed a new Principal – Alan Salt – who is reviewing the College vision with Governors and Trustees. I should like to place on record our thanks to Kate Mason, the Principal of the College to September 2014, for her significant contribution to the College, including to the establishment of the Trust.

The Trust draws Trustees from its members, Governors, the College leadership and partners of the Trust. In the year under review, the Trustees were:

Roger Foord-Evans – Governor

Rick Gaehl – Chair of Governors to April 2014

Patrick Gotellier – Falmouth University [Trust partner]

Jet Kamphuis – appointed by the Stakeholder Forum from March 2014

Kate Mason – College Principal to 31st August 2014

Andrew North – from the Co-operative Movement [Trust partner]

Alan Salt – College Principal from 1 September 2014

Carole Whitty – Governor

Tony Whitty – appointed by the Stakeholder Forum from March 2014

Kate Wilson – Chair of Governors from April 2014

Chantelle Norton from Transition Town Totnes [Trust partner]

2. Membership

The Trust welcomes members in a number of constituencies. As at 1 January 2015, membership stood at:

61 Students

19 Employee members

43 Parent members

30 Community members

2 Community groups.

Over the year, membership has grown and the Trust needs to grow membership and would welcome the support of existing members in achieving this aim.

3. Activities of the Trust

The Trust has undertaken a number of activities over the year in review. However, Trustees feel that the Trust has become bogged down in some areas and Trustees are looking forward to the [coming](#) year and the development of a new College vision, from which the Trust will be able to renew its priorities, working to achieve its part in the success of the College.

a) Land and assets

One of the roles of the Trust is to hold the land and assets used by the College for the purpose of education. The final transfer has not taken place from Devon County Council but the Trust is the beneficial owner of the land and buildings used by the College. Our Solicitors, which support the transfer of the land and assets of a number of co-operative trusts, have described this as one of the most complex they have dealt with because of the various land packages involved and historic leasing arrangements. We are inching towards the successful transfer which should finally be achieved in the next couple of months.

b) Bringing co-operative values to life

Trustees have contributed to the conversation between the Governors, Principal and the Trust on what the co-operative values mean to the College and how these will be brought to life. The College has been living the co-operative values in a number of ways, some of which will be outlined later in this report.

A number of co-operatives are operating in the College, led by students, in the following areas:

Craft

Garden Growers

KEVICC Folk Club

Press Team

Science

Student Learning

Visual Arts

Recycling

Branding

These are great ways of bringing co-operative values to life.

The College has been making greater use of co-operative learning methods. [Professional learning sessions on cooperative methods began in 2014 with CPD on Kagan methodologies.](#) Staff have [continued this with work in 2014-15 on learning trios, where three teachers at a time jointly plan and evaluate lessons.](#)

These initiatives help show how co-operative values make a difference in the College.

c) The Trust Forum

One of the ways in which the voice of members is heard in the Trust is via the Stakeholder Forum. There are few examples of best practice of how co-operative trusts fora operate and so the progress has been slow in a number of Trusts.

To help develop a solution which worked for the Trust, a Stakeholder Forum was established from members who put themselves forward for election. An election was unnecessary as there were fewer candidates than positions on the Forum. Therefore, Jet Kamphuis, Kate Paxman, Polly Morrow and Tony Whitty formed the Stakeholder Forum and chose to develop a membership drive amongst the constituencies they represent. Jet Kamphuis and Kate Paxman represent parent member, Tony Whitty community members and Polly Morrow staff members. As the Forum can elect Trustees, Jet Kamphuis and Tony Whitty joined the Trust Board.

Elected Forum representatives advise that this approach has not proved particularly successful to date and the Trust Board is looking at how it can work with existing Fora in the College to help develop a more successful Forum.

d) Site development

A long-standing aspiration of the College has been to move to a single site. Proposals were in development by the Local Authority as long ago as 2009 but have not been implemented due to a shortage in funding following the cancellation of the national Building Schools for the Future programme at a change of government. To examine what was possible, the Trust and Governors jointly established a Project Board, in December 2012, to review the options appraisal originally undertaken at the request (and expense) of Devon County Council and to examine and make proposals on immediate priorities where the current facilities were falling short of requirements.

Work has been carried out, by the College's retained architects to ensure existing land allocations have been maintained with the planning authority. Over the time in which the Project Board was in existence, early work was undertaken, with South Hams district Council and Devon County Council, to feed into the subsequent decision of Devon County to enlarge both St John's and The Grove primary schools (thereby removing the need to consider further the provision of a primary school on the KEVICC site).

The Project Board undertook a significant amount of activity looking at how outdated and end of life sports facilities could be re-provided as in curriculum delivery terms it is the most pressing facilities issue. A number of applications for funding have been submitted to, for

instance, Sport England and England Hockey but all major bids have so far failed due to a lack of clarity over location.

A number of technical surveys have been undertaken to support the development of sports facilities and a feasibility study completed in respect of changing the preferred location of sports facilities to the current lower school site (Elmhirst). A decision to seek planning consent for the re-provision of the College All Weather Pitch was finally made by Governors in November 2014.

The Project Board also commissioned the development of proposals for the expansion of the Work Skills Centre and the installation of more photo-voltaic cells – the latter would be loan-funded.

Project Board members have recommended expenditure in order to support this work and the cost of this has been met in entirety through College funds.

When the Trust was established the charitable aims of the Trust enabled a considerable one off rates rebate and the full cost of all work recommended to Governors by Project Board members has been met through the use of this rates rebate provided to the College. A summary of the expenditure, agreed as needed by Governors and processed through the College's normal finance systems, is contained below:

[Summary of actual expenditure processed through the DVL T cost centre within the College accounts](#)

[2012/13 Total of £12,513](#)

[2013/14 Total of £46,533](#)

[2014/15 Total of £30,618 \(to January 2015\)](#)

[Total expenditure](#)

[April 2012 to January 2015 £89,664](#)

[Expenditure has related to a variety of areas of work \(surveys, reports etc.\) but the bulk of expenditure has been incurred in relation to the following specific areas:](#)

[Retained architects work on development plan and general advice, including supporting monthly Project Board meetings £19,460 \(Trust Board approved amount originally £21,000 for 12 months\)](#)

[Lower school site feasibility study £25,433](#)

[Total funding endorsed \(Governors meeting Nov 2013\) was £26,000](#)

[Sheepfield site £15,940](#)

[Full Governing Body approved funding of £30,000 \(Nov 2013\)](#)

[Renewal of planning consent for the Z shaped field £7,191](#)

[Preparation of drawings and information for information event £5,688](#)

4. Looking forward

The development of an updated vision for the College will help the Trust in determining its work for the coming year. Undoubtedly, these priorities will include growing membership (the Trust is proposing an amendment to its Articles to help achieve this), the development of the Stakeholder Forum and further work to secure the re-provisioning of sports facilities. This will be undertaken in partnership with the Governors, with which the Trust has to have a symbiotic relationship.

In standing down from the Trust at the AGM, I should like to thank all of those who have contributed to the work of the Trust, since its establishment, particularly Teresa Lakeman, the Business Manager, and Marie Trant, our Secretary

5. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the Trustees Report should be sent to every member of the household – if they were co-operative members.

Falmouth University representation to be discussed at the next meeting of the Trust as no representative had been attending the meetings. However, Teresa reported that Falmouth University had guaranteed all KEVICC students who had attended the Foundation Arts course an interview onto their degree course.

As the interim forum had failed to get people involved Jet and Kate Paxman had attended a meeting with the parents Association to encourage more membership of the forum but no interest had been forthcoming. Jet advised that she would be standing down from the Stakeholder Forum and members wished to thank Jet for her contribution to the Trust Board. Alan stated that the College were undertaking a review and hopefully the Co-operative Trust would be a priority. He also felt that he would like all parents and students to automatically become members of the Trust. This could be agreed at a future meeting.

Andrew hoped that the membership would be taken forward.

Alan thanked Martin Walker and Kat Fennell for their support with the Young Co-operatives.

5 Retirement of Trustee

Andrew North tendered his resignation.

Carole thanked Andrew for his work as Chair of the Trust and wished him well for the future.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm.

