

**JOINT UK-SWEDEN SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE  
STEERING GROUP MEETING  
TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005 - NEW HALL, CAMBRIDGE, UK**

**Present:**

Ian Davidson (Chair), Emma Hinton (Secretary), Paul van Heyningen, Neil Moore, Andrew Large, Yogesh Kumar, Kerstin Wennerstrand, Åke Iverfeldt, Tony Clark, Kevin Scobell, David Arkell, Pat Bowen, Martin Townsend, Sue Innes

**Apologies:**

Lennart Henriz, Prof. Roland Clift, Tracy Carty, John Holmberg, Stephen Phillips, Erika Gyllered

**1. Progress since launch**

1. Paul van Heyningen reported the following progress since the launch in Malmö:
  - There has been much publicity in the UK and Sweden surrounding the initiative, and since the launch of the website in June there have been nearly 10,000 viewings (up to August).
  - As a result of the launch a new UK-Swedish partnership has been formed between Sustainable Design & Construction Ltd (UK) and LB-HUS AB (Sweden), to produce off-site prefabricated sustainable homes for the UK market.
  - Global Watch (UK) is planning a mission to Sweden to establish pre-commercial/non-trade partnerships to implement best-practice.
  - A workshop organised by the British Embassy on Private Finance Initiative/Public Private Partnerships (PFI/PPP) will be held in Stockholm on 24<sup>th</sup> November.  
**ACTION: Any interested parties should contact Defra if they would like to attend this. (Please could we have names by 14 November)**
2. Åke Iverfeldt reported that Malmö City Council are interested in hosting a Swedish website hub for the initiative, in partnership with IVL, to showcase good Swedish examples of sustainable construction. This could link to the existing website. Potential funding has been identified.
3. Andrew Large said that the Federation of Master Builders (UK) awards this year would include a category for energy efficiency, which could be generate case studies suitable for inclusion on the website.
4. Pat Bowen said that CITB-Construction Skills (UK) has gathered several case studies for the website.
5. Tony Clark circulated the Chairman's report from the Malmö launch. **ACTION: Report to be placed on website.**
6. Kerstin Wennerstrand described a brochure produced by Sweden on sustainable construction for a conference in Tokyo, which referenced the UK-Sweden Initiative. **ACTION: Kerstin to circulate the brochure (already completed).**
7. The brochure also refers to the Dialogue project that Yogesh Kumar is working on, which will create a national competence program and disseminate best practice information aimed at all levels of the construction chain. This could link to the UK work on a Sustainable Buildings Code (see below).
8. Martin Townsend outlined Defra's work on the UK Code for Sustainable Buildings, a voluntary code covering the areas of energy, water, asset and materials efficiency and will apply to all new-build housing from April 2006 and will extend to existing stock in the future. **ACTION: Martin to circulate a summary.**

## **2. Changes to the [www.ukswedensustainability.org](http://www.ukswedensustainability.org) website**

9. It was agreed that the items discussed under agenda item 1 should be added to the website.
10. Sue Innes presented a new interactive form to be used for submitting projects and case studies. **ACTION: Sue Innes to amend form to incorporate comments from the meeting and will circulate for further comments and additions. (Could this be circulated by 10 November?)**
11. Sue agreed to produce a project plan for the website, listing all proposed website changes and dates for delivery. **ACTION: Sue Innes (by 14 November?)**
12. Defra and the Swedish Ministry of Sustainable Development agreed to discuss with Sue and others at Constructing Excellence how best to formalise arrangements for maintaining the website. **ACTION: Defra to arrange a meeting before end November.**
13. Sue agreed to circulate a matrix of UK sustainability tools that she has developed, which she will circulate and update with Swedish tools. **ACTION: Sue Innes (by 21 November?)**

## **3. Publicity and methods to encourage more participation in the initiative and more submissions of joint projects / case studies**

14. **ACTION: Once the website has been updated as discussed above, UK and Swedish partners will write to their contacts with details of the website, encouraging the submission of more projects and case studies.**
15. Constructing Excellence issue a regular e-newsletter, which could continue to promote JUSISC, but the mailing list only covers interested parties in the UK at present.
16. Capacity for interested parties to register on the website, in order to promote any events etc, should be included. **ACTION: Sue Innes to take forward**
17. Constructing Excellence have created interest amongst the British trade press in the initiative. Timing is critical, and since there is a high level of interest now particularly in the UK relating to the new Code for Sustainable Buildings, an article now could have a high impact. Similar interest in Sweden could be generated. Kerstin will discuss promoting the initiative at a meeting with the Swedish construction sector on 2 November.

## **4. Future work and purpose**

18. A number of potential ways to take forward the Initiative were discussed:
  - JUSISC could be promoted at relevant technical conferences and workshops, and amongst Swedish organisations and groups with an interest in the sustainable construction issue.
  - 'Brokerage events' could be planned, with the aim of creating new partnerships by bringing UK/Swedish stakeholders together in a networking capacity. The need to comply with upcoming EU and other regulation could be used to incentivise attendance. Such an approach could be designed to form part of an existing programme of planned events, e.g. EcoBuild. It should focus on specific groups (e.g. window manufacturers) in order to encourage participation from the construction sector, who will need to see a good business opportunity in attending. A range of approaches should be identified to address the different parts of the construction industry, and attention should be focused on engaging with Swedish clients.

- Exploring the availability of EU funding for joint technical projects, e.g. funding UK parties to work in Sweden and *vice versa*.
- Focusing on methods of meeting EU directives as a way of encouraging joint work between UK and Sweden, rather than parallel activity.
- Extension of the SmartLIFE initiative. SmartLIFE have training centres in Cambridge, Malmö and Hamburg, which can be used to exchange best practice. Extra funding could be applied for from Interreg in November 2005 to fund a project relevant to JUSISC, providing an equivalent amount of match funding could be identified (this can include in-kind contributions). **ACTION: Kevin Scobell/David Arkell to follow up and contact other attendees as appropriate.**
- Masters university students from Cranfield University (UK) and IVL (Sweden) could write their theses on JUSISC themes, e.g. comparing the interpretation of EU directives in UK and Sweden. It may be possible to link the UK Code for Sustainable Buildings to Swedish standards, so that it is possible to identify which level of the Code would be equivalent to Swedish best practice.
- JUSISC could be linked to the 2012 Olympics in London, which will showcase sustainable construction and other sustainable development.

**19. ACTION: Defra to lead on producing a paper for the steering group setting out the different options for taking the initiative forward including pros and cons, resources available/required, definitions of success and what intervention is needed when. To be circulated by 18 November.**

#### **5. Future meetings of the Steering Group and follow-up to the Malmö launch event**

- The next meeting will be held on either Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006 or Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2006, depending on availability of Steering Group members. A possible venue would be Gothenburg, Sweden and the Steering Group could meet with the Swedish Environment Technology Council. This meeting will be used to turn the options paper into an action plan, and to identify any budget bids it may be possible to make within Defra, as well as any other funding opportunities. A choice between the January and the March date would depend on the pace of progress in the coming months. **ACTION: Steering group members, particularly those not present at the meeting, to confirm availability on these dates to Emma by 14 November.**
- Potential follow-up events to the launch could be linked to:
  - A forthcoming Constructing Excellence leadership conference, which will have a sustainability theme (this is flexible with regard to timing and format, but would not be scheduled until the second half of 2006 at the earliest)
  - Home Building and Renovation Shows (These include a seminar slot which could be devoted to JUSISC. Several are arranged each year, linked to the Federation of Master Builders)
  - Construction Exhibition in Stockholm, February 2006

#### **6. AOB**

- Tony Clark announced that he would be leaving the Swedish Ministry to join the Swedish Embassy in Beijing for four years. His successor would be announced in due course.