

4th Steering Group Meeting for the Joint UK-Sweden Sustainable Construction Initiative (JUSISC)

21 March 2006, Stora Björn, Drottninggatan 21, Stockholm

DRAFT Note of Meeting

Present:

Björn Dufva (chair) (Swedish Ministry of Sustainable Development)

Liz Blackshaw (Cambridgeshire County Council)

Pat Bowen (CITB - construction skills)

Roland Clift (University of Surrey)

Ian Davidson (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs UK)

Trevor Graham (City of Malmö)

Heidi Hautahärvi (British Embassy, Stockholm)

Lennart Henriz (JM Construction, Sveriges Byggindustrier)

Sue Innes (Constructing Excellence UK)

Åke Iverfeldt (IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute)

Yogesh Kumar (Bygga/Bo dialogen)

Paul van Heyningen (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs UK)

Kerstin Wennerstrand (Swedish Ministry of Sustainable Development)

Introduction and apologies

1. The Chair welcomed the delegates to Stockholm. Apologies had been received from Neil Moore (Skanska UK), John Holmberg (Chalmers University) and Arne Elmroth (Lunds Technical University). It was explained that Tony Clark's replacement would start in September 2006.

Approval of the Minutes from the 3rd Steering Group Meeting

2. The minutes were approved without comment.

Progress since launch

3. The following developments were described:
 - the Initiative had been publicised at construction-related events, including the Nordic Construction Exhibition in Stockholm, February 2006, and by UK Minister Elliot Morley at meetings with European partners
 - the Swedish Ministry was discussing the possibility of establishing a secretariat for the Initiative with the City of Malmö
 - Andrew Large described the Energy Efficiency award at the recent UK Master Builders of the Year Award, and suggested that the winner (the Earth Dome project) could be used as a case-study on the website. It was also suggested that a link to Sweden could be established by having a Swedish member of the board of judges in future years

ACTION: Andrew Large to get permission from the award winners and contact Sue Innes about creating a case study.

ACTION: Andrew Large to put person responsible for energy efficiency award in touch with Defra re: possibility of including a Swedish judge in future.

- Paul van Heyningen drew attention to the recent changes announced to Part L (conservation of fuel and power) of the UK building regulations and progress with the Code for Sustainable Homes
- Other international initiatives were mentioned including the Finnish-led Marrakech Taskforce for Sustainable Building and Construction and the UNEP Sustainable Building and Construction Initiative, both launched in February 2006, and agreement in the Nordic Council to increase cooperation on sustainable construction.
- Åke Iverfeldt drew attention to the recent creation of a *Passiv Haus* centre in Sweden, which would improve cooperation on low-energy housing

ACTION: Paul van Heyningen to pass details of the UK *Passiv Haus* centre to Åke so that links can be made.

Changes and update to the website

4. Sue Innes described the contract between Constructing Excellence and Defra to improve the JUSISC website (www.ukswedensustainability.org), which included: a new design with a more specific identity; greater detail and consistency in existing case studies and addition of further case studies; a “news” section and the establishment of a quarterly newsletter from the end of March; populating the “lessons learned” page; addition of forms to allow registration of interest and submission of case studies and joint partnerships; and translation of all pages into Swedish.

ACTION: Sue Innes to deliver agreed changes to the website by end of contract June 2006, and keep Steering Group informed as changes are implemented.

5. More input was required from Steering Group members to populate the website. It was agreed that developments such as those above should be described on the website

ACTION: All Steering Group members to respond to monthly requests for input from Sue Innes. Sue Innes to investigate setting up a on-line forum for input and discussion between Steering Group members.

Publicity and methods to encourage participation

6. Liz Blackshaw and Trevor Graham described relevant activities in Cambridge and Malmö, including the LifeSTYLE project, recently approved for EU Interreg funding, which focussed on encouraging the use of renewable energy in construction through partnership between the cities of Cambridge, Malmö and Hamburg. The project would receive match-funding from Defra specifically to support elements that aimed to stimulate new joint UK-Swedish

partnerships and carry out dissemination activities to promote and extend cooperation.

ACTION: Liz Blackshaw to send details of the LifeSTYLE project to Steering Group members and discuss with Sue Innes how to represent the project on the JUSISC website.

7. Trevor Graham said that there had been a great increase recently in UK commercial, public sector and academic interest in technical visits to Malmö, demonstrating the growing profile of sustainable construction in the UK, and the potential commercial opportunities.
8. Liz Blackshaw suggested that a communication strategy was needed for the Initiative which considered channels of communication other than the website. Pat Bowen agreed and said that studies by CITB had shown that different channels were need for different parts of the industry. He raised the possibility of publicity related to the World Cup.

The Way Forward for the Initiative

9. Paul van Heyningen described the first paper for this item. The Initiative continued to receive political support and stakeholder interest, but few joint UK-Swedish partnerships had emerged since the launch. Resources available from the Steering Group were limited. Defra and the Swedish Ministry felt that the original aims of the Initiative should be retained with the improved website as the primary means of delivery, in addition to the LifeSTYLE project and further meetings including a possible EU Ministerial conference in 2008-09.
10. Lennart Henriz said there needed to be an incentive for industry participation. From his company's point of view, this would be guidance on the environmental aspects of their work and the key areas and tools on which they should focus their attention.
11. Åke Iverfeldt commented that it was necessary to agree on exactly what we wanted to achieve before discussing the methods. If new joint partnerships were wanted, then the Initiative should be a broker. Roland Clift said that a meta study was required to frame the issues that needed to be addressed. He suggested that the relevant UK Research Councils and Swedish research agencies should be approached about funding a joint programme. Trevor Graham felt that supply chain analysis of the gaps in the UK and Swedish markets was required. Sue Innes explained that Constructing Excellence collected a large amount of relevant data and statistics.
12. Andrew Large suggested that a trade fair would be the best way to stimulate new partnerships. With sponsorship and charging fees for exhibitors, this could probably be cost neutral, although some pump-priming funding might

be required. It was agreed that this idea should be pursued, initially through attempting a pilot as part of Constructing Excellence's East Anglia (England) regional conference already scheduled for 12 June 2006, with cooperation from the LifeSTYLE project. Other regional or national trade fairs could be explored, including in the South East England region as the South East Regional Development Agency had a strong interest in the Initiative.

ACTION: Sue Innes, Liz Blackshaw and Trevor Graham to work together to put together a pilot UK-Sweden trade fair at the June conference, reporting regularly to the Steering Group

ACTION: Andrew Large to put FMB contacts with experience in organising trade fairs in touch with Constructing Excellence

ACTION: Swedish Ministry of Sustainable Development to investigate the possibility of holding a larger trade fair in Sweden in 2007, and report back on progress at the next Steering Group meeting.

13. The UK and Swedish Ministries felt that value could be added to the Initiative by collating information on high-level policy aims, regulations and performance targets in the UK and Sweden and linking these to activity on the ground. This would have two aims: (1) to provide UK companies with the information they need to work in Sweden and *vice versa*; and (2) to learn lessons and share best practice between the two countries in translating policy aims and targets into action.

14. Kerstin Wennerstrand described the second paper for this item. There was a need to agree responsibilities and timings within the steering group for delivering the outputs of the Initiative. The following was agreed:

ACTION: Sue Innes to:

- collate information to display on the website (see para 5 above)
- send the first JUSISC newsletter (if possible through the JUSISC website) to all of the Steering Group members' contact lists and ask those who wish to receive further updates to register their details. This would provide an official JUSISC contact list.
- circulate an already created JUSISC flyer to the Steering Group for comments to be used as a one page information sheet to be distributed at future conferences etc.

ACTION: Defra and the Swedish Ministry to consider how to collect and disseminate information about policy targets, legislation and regulations in the UK and Sweden, and report back at the next Steering Group meeting.

ACTION: Kerstin Wenersrtand to draft a short questionnaire to ask stakeholders what they would like to see from the Initiative, within practical limits, and circulate to Steering Group members for comment. This could then be distributed along with a future newsletter to the contact list.

Date and location of next meeting

15. A provisional date of 22 September was set for the next meeting, to be held in the UK, exact location to be confirmed but probably South East England.