



Society of Biology 'Biology: Changing the World' Stakeholder Meeting 2

4th April 2014, 10:00 – 13:00

Charles 2, Charles Darwin House, 12 Roger Street, London, WC1N 2JU

Meeting Report

Attendees

The event was free to attend and open to all, and was advertised on the Society of Biology website, and promoted through social media and emails to the membership. The event had 21 attendees, ranging from interested individuals, to member organisation contacts. Over six member organisations of the Society were represented at the meeting.

Presentation on 'Biology: Changing the World'

Natasha Neill, executive officer at the Society of Biology, gave a presentation to attendees on the project, explaining that the project had been developed over the past twelve months, and had successfully achieved funding from both Heritage Lottery Fund and BBSRC.

The project had arisen from initial discussions between Dr Mark Downs and Prof Doug Kell, then Chief Executive of BBSRC regarding blue plaques for biologists. In researching blue plaques, and discussions with Heritage Lottery Fund, the importance of wider engagement was made clear. The project was then developed to include an educational resource, public engagement activity and digital output to more broadly celebrate biologists.

The project would be delivered by a project manager and officer, based at the Society of Biology. 40 regional volunteers, who would receive training, would then support the project across the UK by donating half a day of time, and 6 regional consultants would be contracted to focus on schools engagement for 3 days each.

Group discussion on education resources

The group discussed the educational resources that would be formed as part of the project for 7-11 year old students. The group commented that:

- The value of the activity should be is cross curricula learning with targets and goals
- That it could look at the journey of a scientist and what impact they have had to allow people to see scientists as normal



- That the teacher audience should find the resource accessible and it should also be tested
- Teachers with the Primary Science Quality Mark could be involved, as could the PSTT and the ASE and STEM Ambassadors
- The resource should be user friendly and downloadable with links to other subject included
- The group commented that the age range had two different needs from 7-9 year olds and 9-11 year olds and that this would need to be considered
- Demonstrator videos would be useful to show teachers how the resource might be used in a classroom
- Broad concept could be used at the start, and this could link to a task which would then link to a scientist
- The effect on the world before and after could also be looked at
- Practical experiments could be a good link for the project
- A mechanistic model like LEGO or a skeleton could be used for a hands on activity
- Lesson plans would need to be editable by teachers for personalising
- Could involve some sort of trip, or a wall display for teachers to personalise how close 'places of science' are to their location.

Group discussion on event ideas

The group discussed the two events for the project and commented that:

Launch events

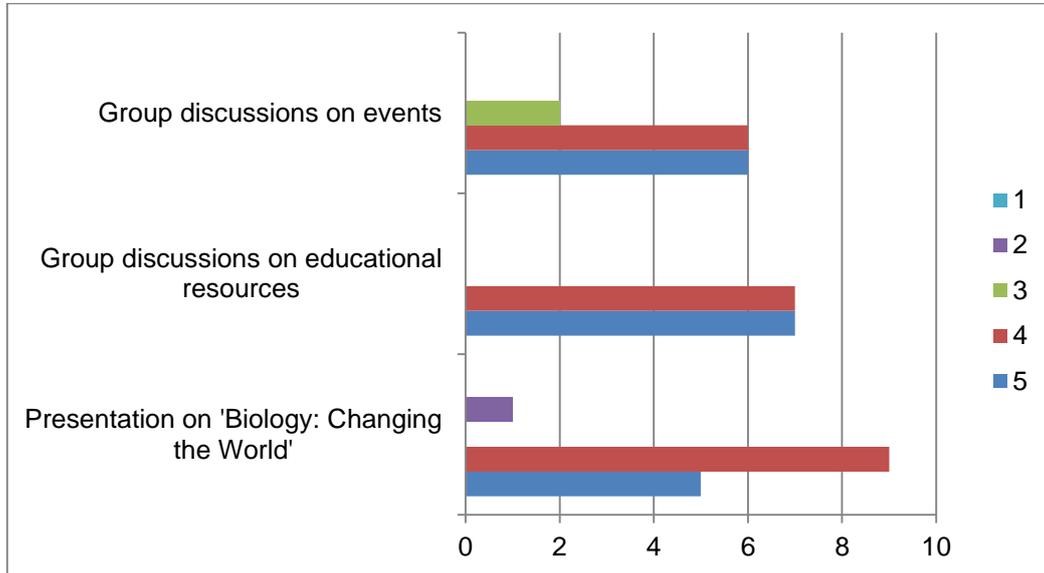
- Media involvement is key
- London event could focus on some sort of discussion around types of science or scientists
- Could display competition entries – some sort of poster competition

Unveiling ceremonies

- Should look to use local schools
- That they should be staggered to give each the attention it deserves
- Branches should be involved

Feedback and evaluation of the meeting

The group were asked to feedback on the content of the meeting, so that future stakeholder meetings could be improved. Attendees were asked to score each aspect of the meeting from 1 – 5, with 1 being not useful and 5 being useful. The results from attendees can be seen below.



Attendees were also asked for comments regarding the most useful aspect of the day, and anything that should have been added, or could be improved.

Attendees felt the meeting gave a good opportunity for hearing opinions from other societies and exchanging ideas about the project. Attendees felt that the meeting could have been improved by inviting teachers, providing information on the current curriculum and providing post it notes for the groups to document their discussions.