



THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIP POOL NEWSLETTER

No 6

October 2002



This Newsletter follows the last meeting of the BMPP Management Board on 16 September 2002.

DDA Audits

From September 2002 schools and the LEA have new planning duties to increase over time the accessibility of schools for disabled pupils. Schools and the LEA should have in place by April 2003 the first written plans and strategies.

The plans cover:

- increasing access for disabled pupils to the school curriculum.
- improving access to the physical environment of schools
- improving the delivery of written information to disabled pupils.

Schools have received summary information from the DfES dated 10th June 2002. Further information and guidance will be issued by the LEA this term.

Budget Summary Reports

These will be going out to schools within the next fortnight. Laurence Cooper said he was disappointed that the information had not been available earlier as originally envisaged, but Capita had had to divert staff to work on the NCC FIMS system, and in the end, NPS had deployed 6 of its own staff to re-input data. The launch of the data is to be supported by the offer of a personal visit to each school by their Property Surveyor, if the school requests this.

He was confident that the overall fund spend was on target.

NPS Fees

Laurence Cooper went through a number of comments he had discussed recently with the Diss Small Schools Group.

One of the issues concerned NPS fees for building projects. He felt that as contractors' prices are currently so high, schools would be better placed if they allowed for works to be phased over term time, rather than time-tabling the works for the school holidays. He also suggested that schools may wish to negotiate a fixed fee with NPS based on the estimated value of the works prior to the invitation of tenders, rather than a percentage of the final tender price. Some schools have ended up paying more in fees to NPS than they originally envisaged, because of the large jump between the estimated value of the works, and the tender prices submitted by contractors.

Property Surveyors visits

Heads also asked that property surveyors make appointments on a regular basis, rather than just dropping in. Laurence Cooper said that surveyors should book an appointment once per term, but that they will always drop in unannounced where jobs are in progress. He suggested that heads write a note in their Premises Defects Reporting Book asking their surveyor to make an appointment to meet them if they are unable to make contact.

Formula Capital – confused?

Some schools are unclear as to the criteria for spending Formula Capital. Please refer to the guidance notes recently issued by the LEA.

Difficulty in getting your local contractor to take out £5 million insurance ?

The Board and NPS are well aware of the problems experienced by some schools who wish to use their friendly local

contractor who they feel can provide an excellent and rapid service for small jobs, only to find that the contractor concerned cannot undertake work under the BMPP scheme because he is not on the approved list of contractors. The most common reason that he is not on the approved list is that he does not wish to pay the additional premium for £5 million insurance (currently approximately £120). NPS have discussed this issue with Education and Audit, and it has been agreed that if individual schools so wish, the school may pay their local contractors insurance premium so that the contractor concerned meets all the NCC criteria for the approved list. Obviously the contractor will still have to meet all the other criteria, namely possession of either a Sub contractors Tax Certificate or a Registration Card, and a Health and Safety check, which will be carried out by NPS. DFI Audit take the view that if schools do this they should be seen to be getting something in return from their contractor e.g. faster response time, or a discounted day work rate, and the school's Governing Body must agree to such an arrangement.

NASH delegates

Due to other commitments, Cheryl Crawford and Mike Dopson stood down from the Board , leaving 2 vacancies. We subsequently wrote to all BMPP members within NASH asking for volunteers / nominations for the Board. John Roche-Kelly the Head of Heartsease High school, and Brian Pearce the Chair of Govs at Archbishop Sancroft High school have indicated that they are willing to stand. A letter has been sent to all NASH members within the BMPP informing them of this.

Amendment to the Constitution

At the last meeting delegates agreed a slight amendment to the wording of the Constitution to reflect the fact that some of the nominating bodies (in this particular case, the NASH Executive) may not wish to be responsible for nominating delegates to the BMPP. The following was added in to Section 3 (d) :

'If representative bodies decline to nominate delegates to the Board, the Board has authority to directly seek representatives from the sector concerned'.

Contact names

The next meeting of the BMPP Board will be held on Monday 25 November 2002. If you have any comments or concerns which you would like taken to the next meeting, please contact one of the delegates:

NASH delegates

John Roche Kelly - Head
Heartsease High
01603 435178

Brian Pearce - Chair of Govs
Archbishop Sancroft High
01379 852561

SNAPP delegates

Mr Dominic Cragoe - Head
Sheringham Primary
01263 823848

Mrs Carolyn Howard - Head
Tilney St Lawrence Primary
01945 880405

Mrs Catherine Whalen - Head
Mousehold First
01603 427012

Ms Mary Ann Massey - Head
Sprowston Middle
01603 425150

Special Schools delegate:

Mr Malcolm Clayton - Head
Fred Nicholson School
01362 693915

Norfolk Governors Network:

Christine Oakes -High Schools
01842 765913

Mr Peter Rout -Primary Schools
01508 483830

Diocesan Board:

Mr Gerald Ward
01603 881352