

National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces

The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces is the federation for area forums and networks of Friends groups around the UK. There are over 3,000 such local community groups. Through the Federation we share our experiences, identify and promote best practice, and discuss together a range of issues in order to support each other and improve the UK's parks and green open spaces.

Our aims include:

1. Protection of green spaces
2. Addressing green space deficiencies
3. More resources for green spaces (capital and revenue)
4. Staffing and management issues
5. Full involvement of Friends/Users groups in management of their parks and open spaces

We support each other by:

1. Sharing ideas and experiences about the way we work as various Forums of local groups, & about what is successful (both in terms of the way we organise ourselves and in the way we support our parks)
2. Aiding the development of Friends/Users Forums and networks in all towns and areas of the UK
3. Helping to identify and develop funding for the activities of Friends/Users groups and their Forums and networks
4. Raising the profile of, and conducting lobbying for, our aims

Our activities include:

1. Communication among reps of all Friends Forums and networks
2. Sharing minutes of our Forums and NFPGS meetings
3. Forum reps volunteering to act as contact points for their wider area of the UK (eg. Midlands, Wales, NW, NE, Scotland, SW, N. Ireland, London/SE etc).
4. Holding regular National Federation meetings
5. Encouraging networking meetings of Forums in differing areas of the UK
6. Making links with other similar national organisations and networks with an interest in protecting, promoting and improving green open spaces

Membership: Any Forum or network of local Friends/Users groups, run mainly by and for such groups, have an automatic right to membership.

Structure: We are a constituted organisation, with decisions made by consensus among Forum/network reps attending national meetings of the organisation.

The NFPGS was founded in March 2008 at a meeting of 9 local/town-wide Forums with a combined membership of 398 local Friends groups. Since then more networks have joined, with NFPGS now involving over 1,500 groups. NFPGS was constituted in Feb 2010.

NFPGS regional reps: Midlands: sarah@csvgreen.org.uk London: dmorris@onetel.com

South West: hughholden@gmail.com North West: Christine.hession@btinternet.com

North East: tomcranston@hotmail.com We're seeking reps in Wales, Scotland & N. Ireland.

Environmental charity GreenSpace provides us admin support: community@green-space.org.uk

www.green-space.org.uk/community/nfpgs