

Date for the diary

Wednesday 22 October – for immediate release

Parks for People

18 November 2008

Nottingham Arena

Parks for People, a conference organised by GreenSpace, is taking place on Tuesday 18 November at Nottingham Arena. The conference is in partnership with IPGS and Nottingham City Council, and supported by Glendale. The one-day event will focus on how community groups and local authorities can work together to successfully manage parks and green spaces.

Paul Bramhill, Chief Executive of GreenSpace, said: "It's vital that parks managers and community representatives build strong relationships that enable them to work together to secure a bright future for their parks and green spaces.

"There are some real success stories where communities have significantly contributed to the management of their local green space. This conference will help to draw out what can be learned from these examples, particularly focusing on the possibilities for securing funding and ways in which to best involve all stakeholders."

-Ends-

-Notes to Editors-

- For further information, or to arrange a press pass, please contact:

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To book a place at the conference, please contact:

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- GreenSpace is a registered charity which works to improve parks and green spaces by raising awareness, involving communities and creating skilled professionals. For more information please go to www.green-space.org.uk
- **Presentations will include:**

Communities in control: Charles Woodd, Partnership Delivery Team Leader, Department for Communities and Local Government

The government's recently published White Paper is about passing power to communities and giving real control and influence to more people. Charles Woodd will discuss the paper and its implications for local

authorities and community groups across the country, focusing particularly on how communities can become more involved in managing local services and assets.

GreenSpace Fund: Matt Kelly, Head of Parks and Open Spaces, Preston City Council

This presentation will explore the new GreenSpace Fund, which will encourage local businesses to invest in improvements to their local environment under the corporate social responsibility and climate change agendas. Developed by Preston City Council and supported by KPMG and GreenSpace North West, the fund will offer the opportunity to involve all stakeholders in successfully improving their parks - from community groups to local authorities to local businesses.

Bringing people together: Sarah Royal, Chair and Emma Woolf, Vice Chair, Birmingham Open Spaces Forum

Birmingham Open Spaces Forum works to bring together a diverse range of groups to share knowledge and experience from parks and green spaces across the community. Sarah and Emma will discuss how and why the forum was set up and how much there is to be gained from balanced representation and increased communication.

Managed by communities: Viv Cole, Trust Manager, Warley Woods Community Trust

The management of parks by community trusts offers a way to ensure our green spaces are valued now and in the future. This presentation will explore how Warley Woods Community Trust raises money for maintenance and improvement and how community involvement is fundamental to making this model of management work. It will also reflect on the benefits of a positive relationship with the local authority.

Nottingham in Bloom: Caroline Elmhirst, Partnership Manager, Nottingham City Council

Nottingham has recently been crowned 'Champion of champions' of Britain in Bloom, largely due to the high level of engagement from all sections of the community on the competition. This presentation will explore how the campaign was used as a springboard to increase community engagement, and how this has been sustained beyond the competition.

Engaging communities through art projects: Abigail Downer

Abigail Downer is an experienced artist who has worked in the public realm for many years, with projects developed and realised throughout the UK. In this presentation she will discuss how working with diverse communities on creative projects can help them to engage with the environment and people around them.

The true value of community farms and gardens: Lynn Taylor, Field Worker, Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG)

A recent research paper published by the FCFCG found that the benefits created by community farms and gardens go a long way towards supporting government agendas on health, education, climate change and social inclusion. Lynn Taylor will discuss the findings using practical examples from the Nottingham area, and provide advice on how their work can be applied elsewhere.

Site tours are offered as an alternative to the last three speakers in the afternoon session.