

GreenSpace East Newsletter Issue 2

August 2010

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Partners

Natural England

The creation of a wildlife haven at an Essex school has earned it a top wildlife gardening award. Natural England's Big Wildlife Garden website gives advice and tips on wildlife friendly gardening, for families, allotment holders and community groups. [More](#)

Play England

In June, Play England announced a proposed reorganisation in the light of the imminent reduction in the value of its contracts with the Department for Education for 2010-11, the removal of 'ring-fenced' funding for local play provision and the changing policy context for the play agenda under the coalition government.

Play England is also asking for individuals, organisations and politicians to endorse their manifesto for children's play. Follow the link below to find out more and show your support. The same link also links to a recent report entitled 'Give Them a Break' by Cath Prisk of Play England (January 2010 - TES Connect). The report refers to case studies and explains the importance of outdoor play time and provision for young children at school. It asks for more up-to-date national guidance and invites you to comment. [More](#)

CABE

The latest articles from CABE focus on the future and the school environment. The headline 'leave your mark not a blot'...outlines how the new coalition government's commitment to localism will demand closer attention to the design and quality of our urban places and green spaces.

The 'love your caretaker – the key to a greener school' initiative explains how schools need to train up and support their site managers in delivering sustainability in the management and maintenance of school buildings and grounds. This can also be used as a basis for projects for children to learn about the issue from their immediate surroundings. 'Green Day 2010' was launched by CABE to encourage participation by primary and secondary schools in June/July 2010. The Henry Moore Primary School in Harlow, Essex is one of the schools that took part.

Latest news/articles from CABE. [More](#)

Shorts

Open Meeting highlights the need for change in service delivery

GreenSpace East's second Open Meeting in July at the Ramada Hotel, Bury St Edmunds, was 'a great success and provided a new perspective on the approach to providing services in the future. The presentation by Martyn Allison of Local Government Improvement and Development highlighted the changes needed to meet the challenging times ahead of us.

The presentation is now on-line. [More](#)

Half a million support Love Parks Week

2010 saw the most successful Love Parks Week campaign yet, with over 850 events taking place and an estimated half a million people visiting parks throughout the country. [More](#)

Report highlights influence of parks on wellbeing and satisfaction

A new report published by CABI Space has highlighted the role of parks and green spaces in enhancing people's health, wellbeing and overall satisfaction with their local area. The report, Urban Green Nation, aims to highlight the importance of parks and green spaces for local communities as well as informing future investment in parks and green spaces. [More](#)

Faculty of Public Health report outlines park health benefits

A new report by the Faculty of Public Health has provided further endorsement into the health benefits of parks and green spaces. Endorsed by Lantra and Thrive, 'The Great Outdoors: How Our Natural Health Service Uses Green Space To Improve Wellbeing' says parks are essential to our mental wellbeing. Nature's impact on mental conditions in children such as depression or Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), has shown to be more effective than prescribed drugs because of the physical activity involved in outdoor leisure activities. [More](#)

Are you wild about plants?

Conservation charity Plantlife has launched a project to celebrate wild plants across England. The project, Wild About Plants, is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. Online resources include habitat guides, which are useful ways of finding out about local wildflowers and habitats, as well as suggestions for family expeditions to get young families outside and exploring the natural world together. [More](#)

Parks and Open Spaces Benefits

A successful park or public space can be the making of a place. An unsuccessful one can help to ruin it. Ninety-one per cent of people say that parks and public spaces improve their quality of life. Over 40 per cent of us visit our local green space each week.

Urban green space encourages biodiversity, promotes healthy lifestyles, aids economic uplift and combats the effects of climate change. Successful public spaces promote popular and cohesive communities.

We need to place parks and public spaces at the heart of sustainable development. Good design, management and maintenance are essential to ensure these spaces are fit for purpose and meet everyone's needs. [More](#)

Amenity Forum releases guides for pesticide users

The Amenity Forum has launched a series of best practice guidance notes on key issues around the use of pesticides.

Covering water protection, handling and storage, equipment testing and public areas, the notes are being widely distributed throughout the sector. [More](#)

England's coastal path: the journey begins

Natural England publishes methodology for developing all England coastal path

The way in which the all England coast path will be created was announced today by Natural England as it published its Coastal Access Scheme. The Scheme has now been approved by government meaning that work to implement the coastal path can now begin in earnest. [More](#)

Rights of Way - A Big Step Forward

Report highlights a new way ahead for old public rights of way. Representatives of the key national interests in public rights of way united today in delivering a ground-breaking set of recommendations to Government designed to improve the law and procedures concerning old public rights of way. [More](#)

The Land Trust

Members might find this organisation of interest. [More](#)

Events

Influencing and Advocacy

21 September 2010: Birmingham

This course, a popular success at the recent CABE Space Leaders Programme, is designed to enhance your influencing skills, help you to become an effective advocate and have a lasting and positive impact on the people you work for and with. [More](#)

Events on East of England NNRs in 2010

The list below provides details of events being held on National Nature Reserves in this region during 2010. [More](#)

Funding

The People's Millions is now open for applications

ITV's The People's Millions, funded by the Big Lottery Fund (BIG), is offering grants to projects aiming to improve local facilities or help people get more out of their local area. Groups can apply for grants ranging from £20,000 - £50,000 before the deadline on 14 May 2010. [More](#)

Improving community spaces

Groundwork's Community Spaces programme is open to applications for grants from £10,000 to just under £50,000 until January 2011. The programme helps community groups in England create or improve green open spaces to enhance people's quality of life, and has an online eligibility test. [More](#)

Biffaward small grant funding now open

Biffaward currently has two grant schemes aimed at community groups. Community groups are invited to apply for grants of between £250 and £50,000 if their project can make a difference to a community facility and enhance communities and biodiversity. [More](#)

HLF suggests creative thinking when seeking funding for Management Plans

Dew Bennelick of HLF says "we at Heritage Lottery Fund are keen to encourage creative thinking. Whilst we don't fund stand-alone management and maintenance plans we might be able to help with certain elements such as understanding the design history, the ecology and how people use and enjoy the site. Outside of our main Parks for People programme which is primarily for whole park projects (£250,000 to £5 million), we do have smaller programmes such as Your Heritage and Young Roots. Through these programmes (which both fund up to £50,000) we can fund projects that help people learn about, look after and celebrate their heritage. Our website has details under 'how to apply' and we can fund activity only projects which could include teaching people/volunteers how to gather evidence and survey features to help produce the information that could then be used by your team to write a management plan which would then have in-built community engagement. Just

an idea. If you wanted to take the idea further I suggest you check out our website and then call our local HLF office for a discussion with one of our Development Staff. [More](#)

Resources

ParksMatch

ParksMatch has been launched and it provides a useful resource to the sector. ParksMatch is a forum site where you can post requests for advice, offer help or share success. Others can help either by posting answers or offering support such as the chance to shadow one of their staff or learn how they approached and resolved a similar issue. Try it now! [More](#)

MAGIC

MAGIC was the first web-based interactive map service to bring together environmental information from across government. Partnership working has ensured that MAGIC has provided a sustained operational service to an extensive and diverse range of users far exceeding its original objectives and expectations of stakeholders. [More](#)

Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission has dedicated web pages for the East of England. It carries a great deal of resource information relevant to Local Authorities in the Region. [More](#)

Show Case

Chelmsford Borough Council and Maldon District Council's Outdoor Gym initiative

The Mid-Essex PCT wished to generate interest in the physical activity undertaken by the local population, but does not own or operate fitness equipment for general use by the public, which role is within the remit of local authorities and private sector operators. The value of parks and green spaces in promoting personal health and well-being is increasingly recognised, so a natural enhancement was for the organisation to provide outdoor gym equipment, to be available for use free of charge. Outdoor gyms provide equipment that the whole community can enjoy for free, without the need to book a session in advance or purchase any additional specialist equipment. They enable residents to exercise and have fun whether they're out walking the dog or enjoying the park with friends and family.

A joint procurement exercise was led by Chelmsford Borough Council that also benefited Braintree and Maldon District Council residents. The PCT funding (£40,000 per authority) was for low impact, resistance based equipment suitable for children and adults (including older people) that offers users cardiovascular, tonal and well-being exercise. Two sites in each district received 13 items of equipment, plus instruction signage and bases. Typically this equipment included a health walker, cross trainer skier, chest press, push hands yoga worktop, and waist twist machines amongst others.

Representatives from Chelmsford Borough Council and colleagues from Braintree District Council, Maldon District Council and the PCT evaluated bids and tested a range of equipment first hand at sites around the country where outdoor gyms have already been installed. Having chosen the supplier and required equipment colours, arrangements were made by each authority for installations to take place. The equipment and signage was installed during February/March 2010 and each authority has received positive feedback from enthusiastic users.

Chelmsford Borough Council Love Parks they are the best!

Judging by the overwhelming response we've had to this year's 'Love parks...be safe' summer festival in Central Park, Chelmsford, there's no doubt that quality events in the park are considered a fantastic way to spend your time in these days of austerity.

As ever this annual event remains ever popular and hosts a range of attractions for the whole family. It is also used to promote the various community services the council and other agencies offer.

Amongst the fun and general feeling of well being we did introduce a serious element to the proceeding in that we enticed people to fill out a short questionnaire offering the chance of a reward to the person who got their details pulled from the draw of people completing the questionnaire. Aside from giving us feedback on how elements of the festival were received and what we could do to improve future events it also gave us an insight into to what people think of their local parks. Feedback tells us people felt such a good event should have been advertised wider and that in future they would like more stalls and refreshment stands and more rides for the kids. A reoccurring theme was 'more of the same please'. [More](#)

The Woodland Trust

Can you plant a new wood?

The Woodland Trust is calling for a massive increase in tree planting across the UK with a new campaign entitled 'More Trees, More Good'. its aims are an ambitious picture of what the charity hopes to achieve over the next 50 years. Our vision is a "UK rich in native woods and trees enjoyed and valued by everyone". We know we cannot do this alone, so we are hoping to work with Landowners Companies and Local Authorities many who are sympathetic to our vision to achieve this.

The simple act of planting trees unleashes a host of benefits: in just 12 years they become beautiful woodland, home to a vast array of wildlife and places where children can play, adults reflect, birds and plant life flourish and communities come together. They lock up carbon, are a natural defence against flooding, provide shelter from the elements and offer a sustainable supply of eco-friendly fuel." The benefits of woodland creation already feature in the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan, which was published last summer, and the 2009 'Read Report' on the role of UK forests in combating climate change. Most recently, under Defra's Climate Change Plan, a designated Woodland Carbon Task Force will encourage large scale private sector investment in woodland planting.

Cllr Michael Chater, Chairman of NALC, said: "The National Association of Local Councils is proud to be a supporter and partner of the Woodland Trust campaign 'More Trees, More Good'. Local councils and communities are acutely aware that trees and woodlands make for a more sustainable, environmentally friendly and attractive place to live for people. So it is absolutely right that NALC wants the 'More Trees, More Good' campaign to be a success and would like all local councils to get involved with it."

'More Trees More Good' offers a range of support to enable individuals and organisations to plant their own trees:

For larger tree planting schemes, there is a team of expert advisers who will make site visits to offer guidance on planting trees and accessing government funding. For smaller schemes, the Trust works in partnership with landowners by supplying expertise and sharing some of the costs through the Morewoods programme. For schools and community groups, the campaign provides free or reduced-price tree packs.

A public opinion survey commissioned by the Trust and completed this month shows that 72% agree the UK needs more trees.

If you feel you can help or want to talk with someone to see ways in which we may be able to work together please contact John Brown Regional Development Officer at johnbrown@woodlandtrust.org.uk or phone 08452 935 732 or click [More](#)