

### **Subsidised places available for community groups at Park in the Credit Crunch**

GreenSpace's next conference, Parks in the Credit Crunch, will take place on 17 February 2009 in London. The conference, which will explore how to secure funding for parks and green space in an uncertain financial climate while utilising their existing resources to the full, is organised in partnership with IPGS.

Topics explored at Parks in the Credit Crunch will include how to find and secure alternative sources of capital and revenue funding, how to maximise the value of volunteer time, how to attract corporate sponsorship and volunteering, and how to market parks and green space to attract increased investment. This one-day conference will feature a packed programme of presentations, case studies and site tours and will provide delegates with a range of practical guidance and advice that can be applied in their own parks and green spaces.

There are a limited number of subsidised places, priced at £90.00, available to registered GreenSpace Community Network members and those in full-time education. To find out more and book your place, please call Jessica Reid on 0118 946 9068, email [events@green-space.org.uk](mailto:events@green-space.org.uk) or go to [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk).

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### **The Green Flag Award scheme is crucial in raising the standards of our parks and green spaces**

Communities and Local Government is committed to the Green Flag Award Scheme, which is crucial in driving improvements in the standards of our parks and green spaces. To ensure its continued success, we have followed an extensive EU-approved procurement process for the award scheme contract for the next three years. A preferred bidder was selected at the end of June 2008 but a challenge to the process has led to this contract award being delayed. CLG has been and remains totally committed to ensuring a fair and effective procurement process, and we are working hard to ensure a quick resolution and will award a contract as soon as possible.

In the interim period, the current Contractor, the Civic Trust, will be running the Scheme on an agreed basis because we want to maintain momentum so the scheme can continue its important role to help drive up the quality and standards of our parks and green spaces.

Finally we want to thank those who have key roles in helping deliver this important scheme, for example the Green Flag Advisory Board, Judges Association Committee and all judges, for their hard work and continued support and to all applicants for their patience whilst we complete the procurement process.

If you would like any further information regarding this e-alert, please contact:

[Debbie.Kafka@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie.Kafka@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

[Rose.Waddilove@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Rose.Waddilove@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

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### **The Glass-House Community Led Design**

Our 'Play by Design' course is for community groups involved regeneration projects which include designing an inspiring play area. On this course you will learn at how design affects the quality of play, how to engage with children and incorporate their design ambitions, and you will create an action plan for your play area that can be taken back to your local community. The next course will run March 9 - 11, 2009. This course is free for members of community groups.

For more information please visit: <http://www.theglasshouse.org.uk/>

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East Midlands Green Infrastructure  
**FEBRUARY / MARCH 2009**

EMDA and environmental partners are holding a series of events in five different areas with the intention to provide specialist support and mentoring for District Councils and other hard to reach authorities in the East Midlands. These are authorities who currently have no GI support. This series will also ensure delivery of Green Infrastructure with both regional and local governmental and non governmental organisations. We hope you will be able to attend your nearest seminar.

**Northamptonshire and Rutland**

11th February, Rockingham Castle

**North Nottinghamshire**

25th February, Nottinghamshire County Council Assembly Rooms

**North Derbyshire**

2nd March The Avenue Learning Centre

**West Lincolnshire**

5th March The EPIC Conference and Event Centre

**East Lincolnshire**

19th March, The White Hart Hotel, Boston

At each event, the morning seminar will provide an overview of GI in the East Midlands, strategy and policies and presentations will be based around exemplary projects and local GI case Studies, relevant to the area. The afternoon presentations will cover key issues affecting the sub-region, partnership working and governance and there will training workshops covering GI tools (Landscape Characterisation ECA&GI), EMDA's new toolkit and other ranges available. There will also be an opportunity to network with colleagues to discuss GI partnership working and there will be an introduction to a new website area.

For more information please visit: [www.emgin.org](http://www.emgin.org).

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**Cambridge's exercise-on-referral scheme**

Most areas have some form of 'exercise-on-referral' scheme, but few are as well-established as Cambridge City Council's 'Start-Up' programme. With nearly 400 people seen each year, the project has a great track record of getting people active and keeping them that way.

Exercise-on-referral schemes have become commonplace across the country. The idea of a GP or any other health professional prescribing more activity for their patients is seen as an important way of preventing ill-health. The Department of Health (DH) acknowledged this in 2001. It gave guidance recommending local government and the NHS to work together to set up such schemes.

But Cambridge City Council was already pioneering the way forward with its own project. 'Start-Up' was launched in 1995 and is now one of the most established exercise-on-referral schemes in the country.

Over the first few years, the scheme saw between 150 to 200 patients a year, but that number has now doubled.

Participants are assessed by an instructor at the start of the 12-week programme and given tailored exercise regimes. Follow-ups are then done at the half-way point and at the end. They are given a choice of what they want to do from a range of activities at five different sites. These include everything from swimming and gym work to low-impact aerobics and home exercises.

For more information please visit: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=9242795>

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**Moor Quarry Rights Ended**

The Peak District National Park Authority has received confirmation that permission for quarries near historic remains on Stanton Moor has been formally rescinded.

The DCLG last week confirmed a revocation order withdrawing permission for Lees Cross and Endcliffe Quarries, close to the Bronze Age Nine Ladies Stone Circle on the moor near Matlock.

In 2004, the High Court upheld the authority's stance that the two quarries were dormant and work could not commence under the terms of 1952 permission.

For more information please visit: <http://www.planningresource.co.uk/bulletins/Environment-Bulletin/News/875319/Moor-quarry-rights-ended/?DCMP=EMC-EnvironmentBulletin>

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**Towards an excellent service for parks and open spaces (TAES)**

Towards An Excellent Service (TAES) for parks and open spaces enables you to benchmark your service against a model of excellence and to plan improvements.

Adopting this approach can assist in improved user and staff satisfaction, efficiency, the delivery of parks and open spaces that meet users needs and increased recognition for the parks team within the authority.

For more information please visit: <http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=2212>

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### **Levy delayed until Autumn**

Regulations to introduce the community infrastructure levy (CIL) will not be finalised before the autumn, it has emerged.

The DCLG said it is looking to consult on draft regulations in the spring but the powers will not come in until October at the earliest. The Planning Act 2008, which was passed at the end of November, provides the primary legislation for CIL.

For more information please visit: <http://www.planningresource.co.uk/bulletins/Planning-Resource-Daily-Bulletin/News/873710/Levy-delayed-until-autumn/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

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### **Half of councils will spurn levy**

Over 50% of authorities are unlikely to implement the government's proposals for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), according to research.

The levy, introduced under last year's planning legislation, will be set by councils in accordance with infrastructure plans.

The new tax will be an optional tool for authorities to recoup money although there appears to be doubts from authorities over whether they should, or can, use this opportunity to introduce a charge to fund infrastructure associated with development.

For more information please visit: <http://www.planningresource.co.uk/bulletins/Planning-Resource-Daily-Bulletin/News/874858/Half-councils-will-spurn-levy/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

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### **Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council: providing jobs for people with learning disabilities**

This initiative is about finding ways to create employment opportunities within the public sector for people with learning disabilities. There is an extremely high level of unemployment within this group. Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council is leading by example in addressing the issue.

If you are from an East Midlands green space which has experience to share on this issue, please let us have details; perhaps by completing our case study template (see attachments for template and guidance)

For more information please visit: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=9215620>

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### **Government response to the Communities and Local Government Committee report on the provision of public toilets**

The Government welcomes the Select Committee's report on the provision of public toilets and the recognition and support it gives to the action we have taken to improve public access to toilets.

For more information please visit: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm75/7530/7530.pdf>

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### **Natural Play Event**

Natural Play Event, Rufford Country Park, Notts. on 12 March, 2009

**See attached flyer and booking form.**

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### **Derbyshire BioDiversity News letter – winter 2009**

For more information please visit: <http://www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk/news/files/DBNvol5%20issue%201.pdf>

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**Children's Play Update – January 2009**

The Children's Play Update is a monthly round up of news, information and events for the play sector in England. It is produced by the Children's Play Information Service in coordination with Play England.

For more information please visit:  
[http://www.ncb.org.uk/dotpdf/open\\_access\\_2/childrens\\_play\\_update\\_cpis\\_0109.pdf](http://www.ncb.org.uk/dotpdf/open_access_2/childrens_play_update_cpis_0109.pdf)

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**Remember to use our website for information on current issues, minutes of meetings, job adverts and resources and much more. Let us know of any comments you may have on the website or suggestions for items to be included.**

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New names have been added to our network. If you are one of these it is because you are believed to have an interest in Green Space issues in the East Midlands. Currently network contacts receive News and Information, notice of related meetings, case study information and can participate in network consultations – some of these services may be restricted to GreenSpace East Midlands paying members in the future, but are currently free. If you or any established contact no longer wish to be included, please notify us and your name will be removed. If you have colleagues who would like to be included, please ask them to forward their contact details.

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