
Our mission is to provide a united voice dedicated to promoting, advocating and lobbying for the regeneration and sustainable future of quality green spaces throughout the East Midlands.

This News and Information bulletin is produced by Ruth Rolls, GreenSpace East Midlands forum manager. Its objective is to support GSEM members. It is currently also circulated free of charge to other green space sector organisations.

The work of GreenSpace East Midlands (GSEM) is mostly funded by organisations annual membership, therefore membership is encouraged. For more information please visit www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands.

GSEM Diary Dates

24 November 2009 – Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network meeting – Hollycroft Park, Hinckley - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

4 December 2009 – Nottinghamshire Parks Officers Group – Rufford Abbey Country Park - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

13 January 2010 – **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** - Derbyshire - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

22 January 2010 – Community Involvement Working Group meeting – EMRA offices - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

18 February 2010 – Funding Working Group meeting - Rufford Abbey t.b.c. - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

10th March 2010 – Training Working Group meeting – Nottingham t.b.c – Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

Other Diary Dates

23 November 2009 - Making Landscape Matter: A spatial framework for the East Midlands - [More](#)

1 December 2009 – Play England’s the next step consultation event – West Midlands – [More](#)

3 December 2009 – Regional Seminar on Culture and Sport Planning Tool – Newark Town Hall - [More](#)

11 December 2009 – Regional Network Meeting for the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies – Riseholme College, Lincoln – [More](#)

10 February 2010 – EMRA’s Environment Advisory Group meeting – EMRA offices – Contact Alison Hepworth on 01664 502 599

24 February 2010 – Play England’s Community Play Seminars – Birmingham - [More](#)

23 to 26 February 2010 – CABE Space leaders programme – near Bradford - [More](#)

2 March 2010 – GreenSpace Conference – t.b.c

National News

Grants for renewable energy and energy efficiency

The Co-operative Enterprise hub is now seeking applications from co-operative enterprises that have identified a co-operative solution to tackle climate change. They are looking for practical applications in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

Please contact **Angela Davies on 0161 246 3020** to discuss your proposal. [More](#)

Woodland creation through carbon funding

Inteligreen Limited and Forest Carbon are in the early stages of a couple of offsetting/planting projects with local authorities, three in England and one in Wales. They have been in touch with East Midlands Regional Assembly and their contacts about potential projects with local authorities in this region.

For more information contact Nick Price, Inteligreen on 0778 959 6944. Forest Carbon website [More](#)

Country Parks Accredited Scheme

Natural England launched the scheme in August 2009. It identifies and recognises sites that deliver the core facilities and services expected of a Country Park. Rufford Abbey Country Park is the first in the East Midlands to receive this accreditation.

Country Park managers are being encouraged to apply to the accreditation scheme. [More](#)

Country Parks Network

Is now live! This network is supported by Natural England. It exists primarily as a networking opportunity for practitioners interested in, or managing, country parks or related sites delivering similar functions.

The network provides web pages that:

Highlights sites registered with the network as calling themselves a country park or delivering the functions of this type of site and shares good practice, policy guidance and relevant news

Members also receive by e-mail updates highlighting relevant news and developments. Anyone can join the network. [More](#)

Gardens wanted

The Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme(HBGBS) are seeking new host gardens for their one year traineeship programme.

For more information or an expression of interest form, please contact Fiona Dennis at fiona.dennis@english-heritage.org.uk.

Grey to Green

CABE Space launched their campaign *Grey to Green* to shift funding and skills from grey to green infrastructure.

CABE Space say that, green infrastructure could be a powerful tool to help towns and cities to adapt to climate change and improve public health. Yet decades of under-investment in green space services mean there is an urgent need for more people, with the right skills, to manage this living landscape, and turn green features and spaces into a functioning network. CABE Space launched the position statement [More](#) and associated briefing note entitled 'The Green Information Gap' to support the campaign. [More](#)

Travel Award 2010

Applications are invited for 2010 The Lady Allen of Hurtwood Travel Awards. The aim of the award is to offer candidates the opportunity to travel and broaden their professional experience which they can then apply to their work with children.

Application deadline is 31 January 2010. [More](#)

Playwork Partnership 2010

Playwork Partnership Professional Development Programme has a variety of course between now and March 2010. [More](#)

Embedding the Play Strategy – next step

Over 50 people responded to the consultation on Play's England latest strategy. The consultation deadline has passed and Play England are busy analysing the responses before producing guidance for government approval. A final publication is expected at the end of the year. [More](#)

Play Indicators

Play England have published local play indicators, developed to support both top-tier and second tier local authorities in assessing and managing their own performance in providing play opportunities to local children. [More](#)

Tree 'O' Clock

As part of National Tree Week, BBC Breathing Places invites partners and audiences to join in setting a new Guinness World Record for planting the most trees in one hour in multiple locations. Their aim is to plant a million trees, beating the current record of 653,143 trees. The main event will be 11am to 12noon on Saturday 5 December 2009. [More](#)

Call for case studies

New Local Government Network have been commissioned by CAFE Space to carry out new research into the different ways green space services are structured and organised and how this impacts on the delivery of this service. The research will run until March 2010 and will aim to examine around 8 case studies drawn from local authorities and social landlords.

The project will consider a range of examples including innovative practice in green space service delivery and aim to examine how services are adapting to rapidly changing budgetary and political contexts.

NLGN will be selecting cases according to different examples of organisational structure

and service performance. Participants concerned to raise challenging issues can be assured that anonymity can be applied to any/all cases.

Please email Rhona Gaynor with your suggestions RGaynor@nlgn.org.uk. If you have any further questions about the project Rhona would also be happy to answer these.

CAFE Space leader programme 2010

Next year event will be held at the Marriott Hollins Hall in Basildon near Bradford, from Tuesday 23 February to Friday 26 February.

38 people from 149 different organisations have attended the leaders programme since 2006, with 99% rating it as good or very good in their feedback.

There is a call to Local Authorities who have never been before to attend this one in 2010. [More](#)

Local News

Trust takes awards for tree planting partnerships

Tree planting partnerships involving the East Midlands-based Woodland Trust on have moved up a gear – and scooped two national awards.

The Woodland Trust's newly planted and publicly accessible Gorsefield Wood on the edge of Oakham, in Rutland, not only won the 2009 East Midlands in Bloom Award for the 'Best New Permanent Landscape' but helped the town capture gold in the national Britain in Bloom judging.

Gorsefield has become a vital part of Oakham life, providing invaluable on-the doorstep green space for healthy exercise and for children to play – including outdoor classroom facilities for the adjacent Brooke Primary School.

With specific funding earmarked for Nottinghamshire, landowners of all types are encouraged to contact the Woodland Trust as it continues in its aim of doubling native woodland cover in the UK.

Such a partnership approach from the Woodland Trust represents a cost effective delivery mechanism for landowners of all types – with a new leaflet focused on local authorities on the benefits of woods and trees for people and the environment.

For more detail, see the Woodland Trust's new 'Plant Your Own Wood' area on its web site. [More](#)

Making Landscape Matter: A spatial framework for the East Midlands

Natural England is leading the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in England. It is important for all organisations to consider how their own strategies will impact on the landscape and seascape in order to play a part in helping to implement the Convention's aims and objectives.

The Regional Landscape Partnership is hosting a regional seminar based around the theme of landscape as a spatial framework to promote the work which has been recently undertaken in the region.

GSEM members and associates are invited to this free event. [More](#)

Consultation on the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment

On Monday, 2 November, the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment was officially released by the East Midlands Landscape Partnership for consultation for a period of 6 weeks, until 11 December 2009, and your comments are sought

Reports can be viewed or downloaded from the Natural England East Midlands [website](#).

£10 Cycling investment in East Midlands

The Government's Cycling Demonstration Towns, the Peak District National Park and sustainable transport charity Sustrans are set to benefit from a £10m package of cycling improvements, Transport Minister Sadiq Khan announced today. [More](#)

Switched On

Switched on is a project driving ICT in the East Midlands forward. It is fully funded by BIG Lottery to help fund third sector infrastructure organisations in the East Midlands through ICT health-checks and ICT Workshops.

To take part or find out more, please contact Andrew Tristram or Linda Hooton on 01623 819160 or email admin@purplezebra.org.uk

Volunteering Bloom

Derbyshire Dales has been recorded as the area with the highest number of volunteers in England. [More](#)

Volunteer Awards

The Grantham Canal Society was one of ten voluntary groups across England that were recognized for helping to sustain the waterway and engage more volunteers by British Waterway at their annual presentation ceremony.

According to BW, last year volunteer-led projects contributed over 16,000 volunteer days to the promotion and upkeep of the waterways.

GSEM Update

GSEM has joined **Breath of Fresh Air partnership**. The event programme for next couple years is already set but the partnership is keen to make its aims sustainable. It is hoped that GSEM's involvement will encourage parks and green spaces to organise events with a Cultural Olympiad theme. Suitable events will be able to use the BoFA logo and the official Inspire Mark as well as listing on the BoFA planned website.

GSEM have been invited to join **East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum's** High Quality Environment working group.

GSEM attended the **Northamptonshire Environmental Network**; although they wish to keep contact with GSEM they feel they aren't suitable representatives of purely parks and green space departments. The forum manager will look into setting up a County Forum in Northamptonshire next year.

GSEM has been in correspondence with **Lincolnshire Senior Cultural Officers Group** and will be attending their next meeting in January 2010.

GSEM attended the **Allotments Regeneration Initiative's** inaugural Allotment Officers Forum meeting in November at Abbey Park in Leicester.

GSEM Membership - Thanks to all have paid their membership for 2009/10. We have 14 members. This is 29% of local authorities in East Midlands. We also work in partnership with a government advisory body. Thank you also to the four local authorities who have signed up to a three-year commitment.

Membership Renewal - Letters have been sent about renewing your membership for 2010/11. This is circulated now as many organisations are currently organising their budgets for next year.

Letters have also been sent to potential members and will be followed with an encouraging phone call from the forum manager later in the year.

A CLG contribution for this financial year enabled the forum to increase the forum managers post from part-time to full-time. This contribution will be greatly reduced next year so membership is essential to continuing success of the forum and this full-time post.

GSEM Steering Group and Open meeting

October's meeting saw Richard Welburn from Leicester City Council hand over the role of GSEM Forum Chair to Eddie Currie from Nottingham City Council. The vice-chair role is still available; please contact Ruth Rolls for more information.

During the open meeting, presentations were provided by from Michele Walde, Green Flag Award Training and Development Officer, Karin Aberg from Derby Arboretum, Val Leivers from Rotary Club of Sherwood Sunrisers, as well as James Coles and Sons Nurseries our lunch sponsors. We would also like to thank The University of Lincoln for their hospitality and use of their lovely Lincoln Room in Riseholme Hall within the college campus.

Ruth Rolls provided basic analysis about the distribution of the regional GFA winners. This analysis, minutes and some of the presentations are available within the members section of GSEM website.

January 2010 Open Meeting - Please let Ruth Rolls know your preferred topic .

Funding Working Group

Results of the Funding working group have highlighted a slight increase in capital funding and a moderate increase in services, facilities and land ownership, with revenue funding continuing to fall between 2002 and 2007 in the East Midlands. Managers are looking to a variety of income streams and pressure can only increase with the public spending cuts predicted as a result of the recession. Witnessed by park managers, the recession has also seen more visits to parks and green spaces. There is more recently evidence to support the health and other benefits quality green spaces provide to the community.

There is even more reason to come together now and to try and resolve these funding issues. The working group at their next meeting will be discussing organising an advocacy day for elected members and key partners such as PCT and Play England. At this

event we intend to officially release the funding report and demonstrating through case studies the many benefits green spaces provide to our communities.

The final funding report will be circulated to GSEM members and survey participants. It will also be downloadable from the members section of the GSEM website in December 2009.

The working group will also look to organise a Training Day for parks and green spaces officers.

The working group is also collecting case studies for the report (deadline end of November) and to place these on the website for information sharing.

If you would like to get involved with this funding working group please contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

GreenSpace News

Shaun Lowman, Communications Assistant now started and he is GSEM's main contact for any website updates. A new Events Officer and Executive Assistant has been recruited Caroline Carsey replaces Jessica Reid.

There's a new website for the international partnership Parks For Life. [More](#)

GreenSTAT: Developing an abridged version in consultation with clients and the London Parks Benchmarking Group (LPBG) over the next year. GreenSKILL: Now available for organisations to use, please contact Stuart Mansbridge for more information.

GreenSpace Fund: Preston pilot is now well underway, linking to the LSP and using their Environment Working Group as the local decision-making board.

Quality Manual: Developing the approach for the QM, linking to the GSNF, LPBG, GFA. Sarah

Moore is interested obtaining a copy of local authorities Quality Standards Manual, which monitors delivery of the Grounds maintenance contracts. Any examples would be greatly appreciated! A National Benchmarking Survey is planned to roll out next year, as London have gifted GreenSpace their survey.

Michelle Walde, Green Flag Award Training and Development Officer is currently holding Mystery Shopping training events.

During the GreenSpace National Forum in November, the main topic of discussion was the IPGS Health Policy Statement. There were also presentations from Department of Communities and Local Government and Natural England about their main projects and areas of work.

Contact us

Ruth Rolls – GreenSpace East Midlands forum manager – rrolls@gsem.org.uk or 01604 807 771 or 07553 406 884.

There are other regional forums across Britain. These are supported by Sarah Moore, GreenSpace. Contact 0118 496 9065 or sarahm@green-space.org.uk

If you would like to subscribe to this monthly news and information bulletin then please email rrolls@gsem.org.uk and write 'subscribe' in the subject heading. Likewise, if you would like to unsubscribe, please email writing 'unsubscribe' in the subject heading.

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