
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 funded by organisations annual membership, therefore membership is encouraged. For more information please visit www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands.

GSEM Diary Dates

14 April 2010 - **Steering Group Meeting, Open Meeting and Annual Review** – Sherwood Pines Forestry Centre, Nottinghamshire - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

23 April 2010 – Community Involvement Working Group meeting – Sherwood Pines, Nottinghamshire – Contact Ruth Rolls

7 May 2010 – Derbyshire Green Space Forum – Elvaston Caste – John Holmes on 01773 719 961

13 May 2010 – Funding Working group – Evington Park – Alan Brown on 0116 2232240

18 May 2010 – Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network – NW Leicestershire – Contact Ruth Rolls

20 May 2010 – Northamptonshire Green Space Forum – Wellingborough – t.b.c

11 June 2010 – Nottinghamshire Parks Officer Group - Tim Downes on 01623 463 735

13 July 2010 - **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** - Leicestershire - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

Other Diary Dates

20 April 2010 - GreenSpace Conference – Parks for Youth – Bristol - [More](#)

21 April 2010 – Making Partnerships Work, ETN – Doncaster – shop.btcv.org.uk

22 April 2010 – Climate Change: Effective Communication – London - [More](#)

23 April 2010 – Capita's 6th National – Neighbourhood Management - Central London - [More](#)

26 April 2010 – Bid Writing for Beginners – Spring to Action – [More](#)

18 May 2010 – Strategic Commission Event: Moving beyond Project Funding - [More](#)

27 May 2010 – Protecting Lone Workers in the Public Sector Conference – London - [More](#)

1 June 2010 – IPGS workshop: Environmental Management Systems – London - [More](#)

5 & 6 June 2010 – BBC's Spring Watch Wild Days Out – Helen Sykes on 0115 902 1895

8 June 2010 – GS conference – Saving your service – Birmingham

22-23 June 2010 – PlayFair 2010: Putting play first – Stoneleigh Park - [More](#)

National News

Costing the Earth

On 7 April 2010, BBC Radio 4 interviewed Professor Ian Bateman about the National Ecosystem Assessment [More](#) to find out if it's really possible, or desirable, to put a price on nature. Listen again [here](#).

Inspiring sustainable living fund announced

Environment Minister Dan Norris today announced a £1million 'Inspiring Sustainable Living' fund, available to third sector organisations that help the UK to live more sustainably. The fund is part of the Government's plan to use the power of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to encourage sustainable lifestyles.

The funding will be made available to projects in a range of areas: energy efficiency and usage in the home; waste and recycling; water efficiency and usage in the home; promoting more active travel via walking and cycling; greener spaces and sustainable consumption.

[More](#)

Clever councillors will invest in great green space

As elections loom, a new report on urban parks and green spaces reveals that if people are satisfied with their local park they tend to be satisfied with their council.

Urban green nation: building the evidence base looks at the state of England's urban green space and its impact on people's health and well-being. The report shows the strong link between satisfaction with local parks and open spaces and satisfaction with neighbourhood, which is key to perceptions of council performance. [More](#)

Last chance to enter the 2010 Prime Minister's Award

15 April is the deadline for entries for the 2010 Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award, which recognises excellence in both design and procurement. [More](#)

Advice on trees in towns

The quality and quantity of trees in urban areas has decreased steadily in the last two decades. A new report from the trees and design action group offers guidance on incorporating large trees into developments. [More](#)

Enterprising Britain

Enterprising Britain is a national competition to find the most enterprising place in the UK – a location where enterprise is creating jobs and transforming communities. [More](#)

IPGS announces Environmental Management Systems workshop

The Institute of Parks and Green Spaces (IPGS) has released details of a new workshop designed to introduce the concept of Environmental Management Systems. The one-day workshop, taking place in London on 1 June will outline how the systems can be successfully implemented within a service.

Attendance is £150 for GreenSpace/IPGS members and Green Flag judges, and £175 for non-members. All prices exclude VAT. [More](#)

Influencing and Advocacy workshop due to held in May, has been postponed until September. You can register your interest in the workshop with Sue Spencer on 0118 946 9069 or sues@green-space.org.uk.

Latest round of lottery funding

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) have announced final approval of grant applications totalling £13m for six parks across England through their joint Parks for People scheme.

The six parks to benefit are Bishop's Park and Fulham Palace Grounds, Horniman Gardens,

Victoria Park in London, Brinkburn Denes Park in Darlington, Dunwood Park in Oldham and Burslem Park in Stoke-on-Trent. [More](#)

New levy allows local authorities to gain green infrastructure funding from developers

A new government Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has come into force, allowing local authorities to charge a levy on most types of new developments. The proceeds of this levy are to be spent on local and sub-regional infrastructure, and it is predicted that the new charge could earn up to £700m a year for local authorities by 2016.

A separate report from the Environmental Audit Committee has highlighted the importance of reinvesting this levy in green infrastructure as part of efforts to help the UK adapt to climate change. [More](#)

Ecominds funding deadline brought forward

Ecominds, a grant scheme to help people with experience of mental distress get involved in local environmental projects. The deadline for applications has been brought forward due to high volume of entries to 12pm, Friday 30 April. [More](#)

Financial management help available for small charities and voluntary groups

Community Accountancy Self Help (CASH) is an organisation that provides financial advice and training to small charities and voluntary groups. Its website contains details of training courses, financial information factsheets and other resources designed to help organisations manage their accounts successfully. [More](#)

Role of culture and sport in supporting adult social care to deliver better outcomes

This publication is produced in partnership with the National Culture Forum. It is designed to help understanding of, and engagement with, the social care sector. It is intended to improve the lives of older and vulnerable people by helping the sector engage with the right partnerships and strategic commissioning processes. [More](#)

Flooding Case studies

How can your council work more effectively with partners to manage local flood risk? IDeA has provided several case studies that look at how flood risk partnerships have been set up, how they're managed and how they have won funding and contributed to national policy on flooding.

[More](#)

Culture and sport comprehensive area assessment results

IDeA says the first comprehensive area assessment (CAA) results were published in December 2009. The CAA is very different to the old comprehensive performance assessment (CPA). It is important to understand how it works, and how culture and sport can contribute to it in your area.

The CAA presents an opportunity to demonstrate how culture and sport is:

- making a difference in your community
- contributing to the council's priorities and local area agreement (LAA) improvement targets.

IDeA contains more information and reports.

[More](#)

Local News

GSEM 1st Annual Review

GSEM first annual review will be held on 14 April between the steering group and open meeting from 11am to 12.30pm. Members and non-members are welcome. During the open meeting we will discuss the future direction of GSEM and green spaces sector see below. Lunch provided. Please contact Ruth Rolls to book your place.

1st Green Flag Awards demonstration day

GSEM's first Green Flag Awards demonstration day as a success. It was held at Brixworth Country Park, Northamptonshire on 18 March 2010. Almost all of the 18

participants rated the event as either excellent or good.

Next opportunity to learn more about Green Flag Award scheme, network amongst applicants and judges and share experiences will be on 13 October at GSEM's Open meeting.

Funding deadline

Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund - Leicester – Deadline: 17 Apr 2010
Financial assistance is available for projects and activities that will benefit young people aged 13-19 living in Leicester. [More](#)

Igniting Ambition Festival 2010

The Igniting Ambition Festival 2010 celebrates festival activity across the three counties and cities of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire in a diverse programme encompassing visual art, dance, theatre, music, outdoor arts and spoken word. See the full programme [here](#).

The festival is one of the region's major contributions to the UK Cultural Olympiad. It is the third annual festival in a five year programme that will culminate in 2012 with a region-wide festival of cultural events, inspired by the hosting of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

To order the brochure or for more information please contact the Igniting Ambition team on 0115 989 7565 or email info@ignitingambition.com

The National Forest: a national success story

The report following the recent Parliamentary Inquiry into The National Forest has been published and fully endorses the progress of the Forest, stating that it is successfully delivering tangible environmental, economic and social benefits across 200 square miles of the Midlands. [More](#)

Kids get to know biodiversity in their backyards

Schoolchildren from Derbyshire have learnt all about biodiversity in their backyards, thanks to a project funded by Natural England.

[More](#)

GSEM Update

Review of 2009/10 membership

There are 14 organisations who are members of our GSEM forum. Please see our supporters list on our website [here](#).

Majority of our member organisations are in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. We welcome and encourage more members from other counties within the East Midlands.

Almost exclusively our current membership is from local authorities, we therefore welcome membership from the commercial and voluntary sector organisations as well as regional organisations who may wish to work in partnership with GSEM.

Proportionately the main type of members within the local authority's categories is City Councils. 75% of city councils are members. 50% of county councils are members and lastly 19% of district and boroughs are members. There currently aren't any Parish Council members.

Start of a new membership year

GSEM is calling all existing members to renew your membership now. A form will have been recently sent to help you send us your purchase order number. If you haven't had this or would like further information please contact Ruth Rolls.

If you are interested in joining and would like to find out more information, please contact Ruth Rolls.

Satisfaction survey deadline extended

The deadline for this survey has been extended until Friday 9 April. This is the first survey GSEM has carried to monitor members and contacts satisfaction with the service and

role of GSEM forum. GSEM urges all members to complete this survey. A summary of the results will be fed into the steering group meeting and annual review.

EMRAF High Quality Environment subgroup

GSEM attended the first subgroup meeting on High Quality Environment of East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum in March at EMRA offices.

Community Area Forums

If you are interested or would like to find out more about setting up a community forum in your area please attend the Community Involvement working groups next meeting on Friday 23 April where we'll be discussing this subject.

There will be a presentation from South Derbyshire Council about their Environmental Forum and we will be circulating information and advice from the successful Birmingham Open Spaces Forum. More information about Birmingham Open Spaces Forum please visit their website [here](#).

A Community Area Forum is when representatives from a variety of community groups come together through a common link often geographical to share information, campaign, network and support each other.

GSEM Steering Group and Open meeting

The next meeting on 14 April will be held at Sherwood Pines Forest Centre in Nottinghamshire. The meeting will include an Annual Review from 11am to 12.30pm

The open meeting in the afternoon which is open to both GSEM members and non-members too will provide an opportunity to influence the future work of this forum and green space sector.

Draft agenda - Presentation of the Cultural and Sport Improvement Framework looking into what it has achieved, also into the philosophy about the importance of positioning and performance.

Discussion and thoughts about:

How the green space sector is performing?
How do we measure our sectors deliver of economic, social and environmental outcomes? Can we build our capacity and leadership? Do we need to simplify our infrastructure of improvement tools? Should be working more collaboratively with the Cultural sector?

There will be a session to identify the main drivers of our sector, and then assess our weaknesses and strengths. Through group work, we'll discuss opportunities and where we should focus our work activities for forthcoming years whilst being aware of how we can overcome the treats too.

GreenSpace News

New update in May edition

GSEM Network

Here you can ask our members and our contacts a green space question. Between us we have an enormous pool of knowledge. Please share your expertise, experience or view point with us in order to help others in our field.

No Questions in this edition

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.

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