
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 all green space sector organisations on the mailing list.

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

6 September 2010 – Heads of Service meeting – Evington Park, Leicester – 10.30 to 12noon – Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

7 September 2010 – Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network – Leicester – Bob Mullins on 0116 291 4483

10 September 2010 – Nottinghamshire Parks Officers Group – Rufford Abbey Country Park – Contact Tim Downes on 01623 463 765

10 September 2010 – Derbyshire Green Spaces Forum meeting – Amber Valley – Chris Beal on 01773 570222

22 September 2010 – Northamptonshire Green Space Forum – Barnwell Country Park - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

13 October 2010 – **GSEM steering group meeting , also all day open meeting focusing on Green Flag Awards** – Corby, Northamptonshire - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

Other Diary Dates

3 September 2010 – 10th Anniversary of Woodland Trusts: Woods on your Doorstep – Contact Bryon Campbell on 08452 935 636 or bryoncampbell@woodlandtrust.org.uk

3-4 September 2010 – Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens: 30th Anniversary Conference – Nottingham - admin@farmgarden.org.uk or 0117 923 1800

13 September 2010 – EMRAF High Quality Environment sub group meeting – Contact Patrick Shore on 01623 727600

20 September 2010 – Regional Green Infrastructure Steering group meeting – Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

21 September 2010 – **IPGS workshop: Influencing and Advocacy** – Birmingham – admin@ipgs.org.uk or 0118 946 9069

22 September 2010 - Well London: Open spaces, wellbeing and the Big Society – London - Jude Luckett on 020 7234 9405

13 & 14 October 2010 - APSE national environmental services seminar - [Flyer](#)

National News



Join the campaign
24 July - 1 August 2010

Campaign success

2010 was heralded the most successful Love Park Weeks campaign yet, with over 850 events registered and an estimated half a million people enjoying events in their local parks and green space.

GreenSpace are looking for case studies and photos from the week, so that they can be uploaded onto the website and used for future promotional material. If you had a really successful event and have lots of great images from the day, please email across your stories and images to [Caroline](#) or [Shaun](#) so that a series of case studies can be created.



Continuing to raise the standard

Green Flag Award Plus Partnership are celebrated the overall increase of 21% in the number of Green Flag Award winners in the England in 2010.

Green Flag Award scheme includes the Green Pennant Award and Green Heritage Sites. There has been a particular increase in Green

Pennant awards from 76 to 111; that's a massive 31% increase.

In support of the Green Flag Awards, Communities and Local Government Minister Andrew Stunell MP said:

“The record number of Green Pennants awarded to local people showing what people can do for themselves in their local area is an amazing achievement! They are a model to us all and are real examples of ‘Big Society in action. What I have seen today shows that sometimes the smallest spaces transformed are of the greatest benefit to their community if the community is involved from the start and drive the changes themselves.

I congratulate the park managers, park wardens and the volunteers for their success in being awarded Green Flags and Green Pennants and thank them for their hard work to create urban green places that people enjoy. The increase in the number of applications and winners this year is a very good sign of the Big Society to come.” [More](#)

Green Flag Award Applications 2011

If you are considering applying for one of the Green Flag Awards but are not sure if your site is suitable or meets the standard, then the Scheme Manager is keen to talk to you. A national mentoring scheme has been available for many years where a judge visits your site and offers recommendations. For more information, contact Keep Britain Tidy on 01942 612621 or greenflagawards@keepbritaintidy.org

Applications for the awards open in October 2010 and closes in January 2011.

Interested in being a Judge?

The Green Flag Award Scheme grows in popularity every year, so there is always a desire to recruit new judges. If you have experience in nature conservation, ecology, parks and landscape management, community engagement, environmental issues, horticulture or a related discipline, contact greenflagawards@keepbritaintidy.org

Place Survey scrapped

The Place Survey, one of the largest surveys in Europe carried out by local authorities, has been scrapped by Local Government Minister Grant Shapps to prevent cash being diverted from vital public services. [More](#)

New white paper on the Natural Environment to be published in Spring 2011

A discussion paper entitled “An invitation to shape the Nature of England” has been published by Defra. They are inviting comments and submissions from anyone with an interest in the Natural Environment White Paper to be published next year, as these comments will feed into the White Paper. To comment by 30 October, go to [Natural Environment White Paper](#)

Play England reorganisation

Play England has announced its new structure and programme of work, to ensure that it is best able to represent and support the play sector following the reduction in the value of its contracts with the Department for Education, the removal of ‘ring-fenced’ funding for local play provision and the changing policy context for the play agenda under the coalition government. [More](#)

Tackling floods given boost

A £2 million boost in funding to help local authorities deal with flood risk assessments was announced today by Environment Minister Richard Benyon as part of a package of measures to help prevent and manage future flooding. [More](#)

Richard Benyon also announced that Defra is planning two consultations later this year – one to establish national standards for sustainable drainage systems.

Sustainable Development Indicators 2010

Measuring progress: Sustainable development indicators 2010, published by Defra in mid-July, brings together an extensive range of economic, social and environmental indicators to provide a statistical overview of the country’s progress on sustainable development. [More](#)

Open government: open mapping

A landmark agreement that gives councils and public bodies free access to government mapping data will unleash a wave of fresh thinking and innovation in public services, Local Government Minister Grant Shapps said today.

The Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA) will allow all parts of the public sector in England and Wales to access national mapping data for free, which when combined with digital technology will pave the way for an increase in new apps and websites that can improve public services. [More](#)

New name for IDEA

LG Improvement and Development (formerly the IDeA) supports improvement and innovation in local government, focusing on the issues that are important to councils and using tried and tested ways of working. [More](#)

Big Society red tape purge

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts will lead a new cutting red-tape taskforce to flush out burdens on the voluntary sector Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society, and Mark Prisk, Minister for Business and Enterprise announced today. [More](#)

Updated CIRIA Beach Management Manual

CIRIA (Construction Industry Research & Information Association) has published the 2nd edition of its beach management manual. The manual has been written by leading beach management practitioners and academics. [More](#)

Apple Day celebrates its 21st Anniversary

2010 marks the 21st Anniversary of this popular national event. Apple Day will be celebrated around October 21 in communities, orchards and schools.

Lots of information and support materials to help community groups get the most out of their Apple Day celebrations can be found at [Common Ground](#)

Seed Gathering Festival 23 September to 23 October

The Tree Council aims to inspire everyone to gather seeds, fruits and nuts and grow the trees of the future. The festival starts on the

23 September (the autumn equinox, considered to be the first day of autumn) and continues until the 23 October.

If you are interested in organising an event as part of the Tree Council's 'Seed Gathering Season', go to [Seed Gathering Season](#)

Play England research announced

An ICM survey commissioned by Play England has revealed that the loss of community spirit in Britain is leading to children not being allowed to play outside where they live. [More](#)

'Community Green' published

CABE space has published new research entitled '*Community green: using local spaces to tackle inequality and improve health*'. It examines the impact of the quality of local green spaces on the health and wellbeing of people in deprived and ethnically diverse areas. It shows that providing good quality local green space is an effective way to tackle inequality.

It will be of particular interest to policymakers and others working in local government, social housing and the voluntary and community sector. The full publication can be accessed at [Community Green](#)

Online support for Councillors

CABE Space have launched a new online resource to assist elected members. The '*Councillor's guide to Good Design*' has been published to reflect the coalition government's approach to localism. The guide is designed to assist councillors in influencing the quality of their local area. The guide can be downloaded at [Councillor Guide](#)

Landscape Institute Awards 2010

The LI Awards recognise outstanding examples of work by the landscape profession. The award ceremony will be held on 18th November in London. Further details can be found at [Landscape Institute](#)

CPRE - 'The Rural Challenge' published

'The Rural Challenge' is a series of recommendations to the Government from CPRE's Rural Coalition. The report calls for action now to ensure that our countryside continues to thrive into the future. This is based upon a reinvigorated planning system, in which local communities and councils are empowered to shape their neighbourhoods. The report can be downloaded at [CPRE](#)

Calls for rural evidence to advice on Big Society

Commission for Rural Communities is calling for evidence on contributing to the Big Society to help them to advice Government. Their deadline is 13 September. [Call for evidence](#).

Change to Policy Direction for the Big Lottery Fund

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is seeking views on the proposed wording of a new policy direction for the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) to take into account when it makes its funding decisions on Lottery grants.

Responses to this consultation are invited until 29 October 2010. This consultation is featured on POLICYfinder, GRANTfinder's new policy service, which houses over two thousand policy documents on topics ranging from housing to research and development.

NPFA gets FIT

The new name for the National Playing Fields Association is Fields in Trust.

Fields in Trust (FIT) is the only independent UK wide organisation dedicated to protecting and improving outdoor sports and play spaces. [More](#)

Local News

Raising the standard in EM

There was an improvement in the number of Green Flag Award winners in the East Midland in 2010:

Number of Green Flag Awards: 68 (63 in 2009)

Number of Green Heritage Awards: 1 (1 in 2009)

Number of Green Pennant Awards: 15 (12 in 2009)

For a full list of all the winning sites, please go to [East Midlands Winners](#).

GSEM wishes congratulations to those of you who were successful in winning an award(s). Well Done.

10th Anniversary of Woodlands on your Doorstep

2010 marks the 10th anniversary of Woods on your Doorstep, the Woodland Trust's contribution to the celebrations that took place across the UK to celebrate the millennium. Its aim was to work with 250 communities across the UK to plant new, local, accessible woods that would provide lasting benefits to local people, the landscape and wildlife. By the end of the project, 1.62

million trees had been planted and 2,356 acres of new woodland created, incorporating a range of habitats including wildflower meadows, ponds and open spaces.

Now, after 10 years, those community woods are flourishing. There is a celebration at Top Ardles Wood, Ravensthorpe on 3 September. [More](#)

Big Local Trusts

The Big Lottery Fund in England is investing up to £200 million in 100 – 150 urban and rural neighbourhoods that have been overlooked for funding. The funding is to set up an independent charitable Trust that will support local funding schemes in the targeted neighbourhoods.

50 trusts will be set up first of all and these have been identified. There are 4 in East Midlands and they are located: Lings area, Northampton; Maplethorpe area, Lincolnshire; Warsop, near Mansfield; and Allenton, near Derby. [More](#)

How excel at funding advice

If you have a job or voluntary role which involves you in providing funding advice or information to voluntary or community groups then One East Midlands says this training could be for you. [More](#)

GSEM Update

GSEM Membership subscriptions

Almost two third of last year members have renewed – thank you. If you haven't, please renew your membership soon.

GSEM is a membership organisation and we welcome new members. We are also looking

into other income streams such as partnership work and commercial membership, so Ruth Rolls is interested in hearing from you to discuss what GSEM can help your organisation with.

GSEM Steering Group and Open meeting – Green Flag Award

The Open Meeting will provide a learning opportunity about the Green Flag Award Scheme which includes green pennant award and green heritage site. The morning site visit will include a guided tour of Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods where you'll be able to gain an understanding how a judges carries out the field assessment, what a judges looks for and the questions they might ask. During the afternoon there will be presentations and workshops about the desk assessment including management plans. It will also include an update about the development of the Green Flag Award Scheme.

Autumn advocacy style day

If you are interested in supporting this day, please attend the Funding Working Group meeting on 26 August at East Midlands Council and/or contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

Mapping East Midlands public open spaces

The Accessible Open Spaces study is starting to move from data collection stage to analysis. We are very pleased with the study as we have collected mapping information from 70% of the local authorities in East Midlands. If your authority haven't sent their data in yet please still do so. Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771 for more information.

GreenSpace News

GreenSpace have appointed a new Marketing and Communications Manager – Kelly Caulfield. Kelly joins us from the not-for-profit itSMF. She has also previously worked within the construction and engineering sectors.

Shaun Lowman will soon start as Web Officer for GreenSpace.

Simon Chapman has been appointed as the new regional manager at GreenSpace.

A new team at GreenSpace will focus on policy, research and information, headed by Sarah Moore and assisted by Sarah Cox and Michelle Parker.

Yorkshire and the Humber have recruited a dedicated forum manager. Caroline Schofield started in August in her part-time role.

GS have developed draft Commercial membership structures to be used in the regions.

Institute for Parks and Green Spaces

If there is demand for a particular area of training in, the IPGS team can provide specific tailored training courses as long as there is interest from around 8-10 delegates

For all IPGS enquiries, please contact Stuart Mansbridge for more information.

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.

Eddie Curry is Chair of the GreenSpace East Midlands Steering Group,
eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Simon Chapman at GreenSpace co-ordinates and manages the activities of all of the regions, simonc@green-space.org.uk

If you would like help or require further information, relating to the management of parks and greens spaces and/or the services related to them, please get in touch.

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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