
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

For diary events please contact [Ruth Rolls](#) on 01604 807 771 unless otherwise given.

7 January 2011 – Derbyshire Green Spaces Forum meeting – Pleasley Vale, Mansfield – 1.30pm to 3.30pm

12 January 2011 – **GSEM steering group meeting , tbc** – Nottinghamshire - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

14 January 2010 – Green Flag Award Demonstration Day – Shipley Country Park – 10am to 4pm

19 January 2011 – Northamptonshire Green Spaces Forum meeting – NCALC offices – 10 am to 12noon

24 January 2011 – Heads of Service meeting – Evington Park, Leicester – 10.30 to 12noon

Other Diary Dates for 2011

3–16 January 2011 - *Stargazing LIVE* - [More](#)

18 January 2011 – Federation of City and Community Gardens: Regional Gathering and training event – Coventry – [Marie Wellings](#)

18 January – Developing local outcomes framework for culture and sport - The Curve, Leicester – 1.30pm to 4.30pm - [More](#)

27 January - Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace – Talk Action – London - [More](#)

16 February – East Midlands in Bloom workshop – Belper, Derbyshire – [Irene Bates](#)

23 March - Redesigning Local Services: Change for the better – London - [More](#)

13 April - Health and Safety Reform: A Common Sense Approach – London - [More](#)

National News

Blue Sky Green Space launched

The Blue Sky Green Space report outlines the many benefits that a diverse range of quality green spaces bring, covering health; communities; economic and environmental value. It is backed up by firm facts and figures and will prove an excellent resource. [More](#)

Green Flag Award deadlines approaches



Award application deadline is 31st January 2011. [More](#)

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.

For more information, contact Keep Britain Tidy on 01942 612621 or greenflagawards@keepbritaintidy.org

Public Satisfaction linked to awards

Green Flag Award parks are delivering more of what the public wants compared to parks that are not flying the flag according GreenSpace.

When a survey of 16,000 park users asked how satisfied they were with their chosen park, more than 90% of Green Flag Award park visitors said they were very satisfied or satisfied, compared to only 65% of visitors to non-Green Flag parks. [More](#)

Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

Launched by Fields in Trust in June this is an exciting new programme to create a permanent grassroots legacy as a tribute to HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Challenge aims to protect 2012 outdoor spaces for sport, play and recreation by 2012 and to encourage participation in both physical activity and community volunteering on these protected sites. Fields in Trust is working with Local Authorities and other landowners all across the country to achieve this ambitious target and is looking for engagement and support from relevant organisations.

[Website](#) or [email](#) Helen Griffiths. Derbyshire Green Space Forum will be discussing the challenge at their next meeting.

Localism Bill unveiled

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles today (13 Dec) announced a package of powerful new rights for communities to challenge services and preserve local assets.

The new Community Rights measures are yet another leap towards localism and the decentralisation of power from Whitehall. [The Localism Bill](#) will enshrine in law rights for community and voluntary groups to draw on when determining what happens in their local area.

UK Government Strategy for Public Health recognises quality green space

'Healthy Lives, Healthy People' provides a welcome recognition of the importance of the quality of the environment within which people live on their physical and mental health. This is supported by evidence which shows that proximity to good quality green space can help to make physical activity and contact with nature part of everyday life, with clear consequential benefits to health and wellbeing. The Strategy commits the UK Government to looking at the role that trees, woods and other green spaces can play in promoting better health and wellbeing. [More](#)

Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard Scheme

Local authorities in England are invited to apply to become [Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard](#)s. DCLG is looking for a dozen places - rural and urban, prosperous and in need of regeneration - to give the greatest insight into how neighbourhood planning will work in practice. Applications should be submitted by 5pm on 14 February 2011.

New guidance on public asset transfer of public open spaces

CABE and the Asset Transfer Unit have published new guidance for local authorities and community groups on the transfer of parks and green spaces. [More](#)

Community-led spaces: a guide for local authorities and community groups provides practical advice on the issues to consider. It contains advice on putting together a business case for transfer, governance, finance and communications, with checklists for both local authorities and community groups throughout.

Making the case for trees

The Forestry Commission has launched a new publication aimed at highlighting the benefits of trees in urban areas. The document aims to inspire people involved in planning policy and practice to become champions and advocates for trees. [More](#)

Forest Research website promotes importance of green space

Forest Research has launched a website to promote the importance of green infrastructure. It was launched on behalf of the Urban Regeneration & Greenspace Partnership, which promotes green space initiatives and best practice. Users can tap into green space projects and resources, best-practice guidance, case studies, evidence notes, toolkits and models. URG partnership members include Forest Research and its parent, the Forestry Commission, Natural England, Defra and the Homes & Communities Agency. [More](#)

Public service reform views sought

The Government today invited experts, public service managers and providers of public services to submit their ideas for public service reform. Their views will help shape the Government's Public Service Reform White Paper, announced in the Spending Review, which will be published next year. [More](#)

Love Outdoor Play – do you have an iPhone?

Earlier this year Love Outdoor Play was lucky enough to win a competition which will allow volunteers to map places to play in the UK on

an iPhone. If you are in the UK, have an iPhone and would be up for mapping some playable places, they would like to be able to contact you with more information as we get it. [Email](#) them.

Free range children

Play England has launched a [Manifesto for children's play](#) and is calling for policy makers to make play a priority. [More](#)

Voluntary and community sector survey

Play England has designed a short online survey for voluntary and community sector organisations to gauge what challenges lie ahead for them and the support that they will require. [More](#)

Health and Safety Reform

Public Sector Events says the compensation culture in which we live has stimulated overzealous enforcement of health and safety laws, laws that were originally designed to be applied within dangerous workplaces, but which are now often applied in the playground, office and the wider community. The need to redress the balance within the health and safety sector has never been greater, and therefore, the Coalition Government has prepared a review to bring back some proportionality to health and safety issues. [Event](#) on 23 April.

'[Common Sense, Common Safety](#)' is a report by Lord Young of Graffham to the Prime Minister following a Whitehall-wide review of the operation of health and safety laws and the growth of the compensation culture.

Oral History Project

In 2010 FCFCG was awarded a grant to research and document the development of the movement over the last 50 years. This one year Heritage Lottery funded project focuses on the physical, social and cultural heritage of city farms and community gardens since the 1960s.

The first 20 projects qualify for part funding for the event. There is up to £300 available to run a witness seminar, for more information contact [Tracy Craggs](#) or on 07986 710 213.

The Edible Garden Show 18 – 20 March 2011

For anyone passionate about grow your own, home produce or rearing livestock and poultry keeping...The Edible Garden Show is THE ultimate Grow Your Own event. Taking place at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. [Read more.](#)

'Women and work' grant

Grants are available for training courses for up to £600, if you're interested please visit www.lantra.co.uk/WomenandWork. The grant scheme closes in March 2011.

Local News

Developing local outcomes framework for culture and sport

Councils and their partners need to be able to show that investment and action is making a difference to people's lives. Culture and sport, perhaps now more than ever before, must demonstrate the contribution the sector makes to better outcomes for individuals, communities and places.

These practical half-day workshops will:

- introduce the outcomes framework for culture and sport
- explain how it can help you at a local level
- demonstrate how to create your own local framework.

The [outcomes framework for culture and sport](#) has been developed to assist local authorities and other culture and sport providers measure and evidence the contribution that culture and sport provision makes to their local priorities and outcomes.

18 January – The Curve, Leicester – 1.30pm to 4.30pm - [More](#)

‘Shrink to Grow’ seminar

Cultural Improvement Partnership East Midlands recently held their ‘Shrink to Grow’ seminar at Leicester Tiger ground. Download presentation and associated papers [here](#).

New Land Management Company

Lockhart Garratt recently facilitated the establishment of the [Priors Hall Management Company](#). This is the largest active development within the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth Area. The open space at Priors Hall is central to this vision - over 50% of the final built area of the site will be open space, from formal parks to conservation grassland, woodland, rural parkland and hay meadows.

As part of the management, they have attracted significant grant funding to the project to offset creation and management costs, including woodland funding from the Forestry Commission and agricultural subsidy from the Rural Payments Agency.

Wildlife in the City

This is a 3 year partnership initiative between Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Nottingham City Council. The project is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. [More](#)

GSEM Update

GSEM Membership subscriptions

Thank you, almost all of last year members have renewed for 2010/11 showing support for the sector and the role GSEM play. We also welcome the Forestry Commission to GSEM.

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

Reform our service

At the next steering group meeting, GSEM will be looking through proposed changes to the Terms of Reference and scope of work, in light of the need to ensure the forum sustainable future and in order to make it more effective in achieving it's charitable aims. GSEM members will be circulated papers for comments in advance. If you are interested in more information please contact [Ruth Rolls](#).

Green Flag Award Demonstration Day

Planned for 14 February at Shipley Country Park, this event aims to be suitable for all green space managers and organisations who wish to improve the quality of their spaces whether they are parks, community gardens, cemeteries, nature reserves, university grounds, playing fields etc.

The day draws on the expertise and experience of a GFA judge with 14 years as well the experiences of a friends of group who won last year a Green Pennant Award (now called Green Flag Communities).

To book your place before 9 February or to receive further details, please contact [Ruth Rolls](#).

The Economic Challenge! 10 November

Presentations and associated paperwork are now available on the [GSEM website](#).

GSEM is interested in organising several seminars in 2011. We therefore welcome future conversations about potential topics and partnerships.

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

Power to Parks: delivering without compromise

The conference report can now be purchased from GreenSpace's website for a reasonable charge of approx. £35. [Email](#). This is the first time conference reports are available in this way and the aim is to share the learning with those who weren't able to attend. [Conference](#)

Love Parks Week dates announced

Following the outstanding success in 2010, GreenSpace has announced the dates for 2011, as 23 – 31 July 2011. The website is ready to provide further information and register your events. [More](#)

Be sure to make most of this national annual campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the importance of Britain's parks and green spaces and the central role that parks play in communities across the country and calls for continued investment and support for these valuable assets.

Play cuts signify community loss

GreenSpace on behalf of its members and partner organisations have responded to the Department for Education regarding Playbuilder funding review. [More](#)

Happiness Index: good for green spaces

As we all know, green spaces have an immense impact on our overall happiness. Not only do they impact our health, fitness and emotional wellbeing, they also contribute to our communities, air quality, nature, freedom and our children's sense of adventure and independence - the list goes on.

GreenSpace's latest [editorial](#) commends the happiness index recently proposed by the government. We urge access to high quality green space to be added to the happy list of indicators. In order to get the importance of green space recognised and onto the happy list we encourage our members and supporters to pass on, use or copy the editorial above.

We also suggest completing (and circulating) the short online [survey](#) compiled by the Office for National Statistics, which asks what matters most in people's lives and what is important for measuring the nation's wellbeing.

Those who feel that local parks and green spaces contribute to their overall health, wellbeing and happiness must communicate this opinion. [More](#)

National Federation of Park and Green Space

GreenSpace has set up a new web page for NFPGS who were formerly known as the National Open Spaces Forum. The NFPGS is a UK network of area-wide community forums. It exists to promote, protect and improve the UK's parks and green spaces by linking together all the friends and users forums and networks throughout the country. [More](#)

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.

Question1 –

Can you offer assistance to Peter Floody, Corby Borough Council on the following questions?

Litter bins

Vandalism is an obvious issue with litter bins in woodlands. Do we have any successful projects where an innovative approach has triumphed over the vandals and arsonists. We are looking to install a number of litter bins in wooded areas (75 hectares) any guidance / test cases would be helpful with either ideas / products. Also what has been the feed back from the public if indeed litter bins have been removed from woodlands if the cost has been too high to continue.

Low key lighting

We are also looking to install low key lighting on a 440m woodland walk joining two leisure facilities. We do not want to light it as an urban street but would like to provide an element of lighting for safety and security purposes. The stretch is through semi natural ancient woodland. Again guidance or good practice would be very helpful.

Woodland entrances

We are keen to establish an attractive and welcoming entrance to the woodland through the installation of a "gateway" feature which encourages people in and reflects the heritage of Corby. Do you have any examples of

similar features and whether they have been successful.

Please send emails direct to [Peter Floody](#), Principal Community Services Officer, Corby Borough Council, but I would be grateful if you could cc me in so that I can help others who may raise these questions in the future or call him on 01536 464687.

ParksMatch

ParksMatch is a website designed to help you find solutions to a green space or parks related problem and also share stories of your success. Categories include: Sustainability and climate change; conservation and heritage; community involvement; play; leadership and team management; funding and financial management; and Apprenticeships. Funded and supported by CABE Space and run by the Institute of Parks and Green Space, [ParksMatch](#) encourages you to share green space skills across the country and create mentoring projects.

Contact us

[Ruth Rolls](#) – GreenSpace East Midlands forum manager –01604 807 771 or 07553 406 884.

[Eddie Curry](#) is Chair of the GreenSpace East Midlands Steering Group and is Head of Parks and Open Space at Nottingham City Council.

[David Parker](#) is Vice-Chair of GreenSpace East Midlands and Lead of People and Access at Natural England.

[Simon Chapman](#) at GreenSpace co-ordinates and manages the activities of all of the regions

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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