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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.

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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](http://www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands).

### **GSEM Diary Dates**

18 March 2010 – The 1<sup>st</sup> Green Flag Award Demonstration Day – Brixworth Country Park – To book please contact Ruth Rolls

14 April 2010 - **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** - 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 – Contact Ruth Rolls

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

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

### **Other Diary Dates**

16 March 2010 – East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network meeting - [More](#)

19 March 2010 – Creating Child Friendly Communities regional conference – Nottingham – Free - [More](#)

23 March 2010 – Play England’s National Conference – London - [More](#)

30 March 2010 – CABE’s People Changing Places event – York - [More](#)

12 April 2010 – EMRAF’s High Quality Environment subgroup meeting

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

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

23 April 2010 – Capita’s 6<sup>th</sup> National – Neighbourhood Management - Central London - [More](#)

11 May 2010 – Institute of Parks and Green Spaces – Influency and Advocacy workshop – Birmingham - [More](#)

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

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

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

## National News

### **New research on green skills**

CABE Space have just published a new report called ‘Green Space skills 2009 – national employer survey findings’.

In July 2009 CABE, in partnership with English Heritage, commissioned Pye-Tait Consulting to carry out research to identify the total size, scope and labour market status of the green space sector in England. [Here](#)

### **Satisfaction with parks and play areas**

Tellus4 survey was published in February. The survey includes the results for NI199, the national indicator which measures children and young people’s satisfaction with parks and play areas in their local area. [More](#)

### **People make play**

The report ‘People Make Play’, calls for more staff play provision – adventure playgrounds, after-school play programmes and play rangers schemes in parks – because they successfully engage children and young people most at risk of offending or anti-social behaviour. [More](#)

### **Follow Love Parks Week on Twitter and Facebook**

Love Parks Week 2010 will take place 24 July - 1 August. As planning gets underway, the campaign is making the most of social networking to spread the word. The Love Parks Week Twitter feed and Facebook page have accumulated hundreds of fans as GreenSpace looks to promote the benefits of our parks and green spaces online.

Love Parks Week is one of a number of park related Twitter feeds, as the green space sector embraces new technology. Other

notable examples include Greening the UK and Wolverhampton Parks. There is no need to register to view Twitter updates, although interested parties can register for email updates about the campaign through [www.loveparksweek.org.uk](http://www.loveparksweek.org.uk).

### **Playday 2010! guide now available**

Published by Play England this comprehensive guide is now available to support anyone who wants to celebrate Playday 2010! on Wednesday 4 August. [More](#)

### **Lloyds TSB Foundation increased income**

Lloyds TSB Foundation announced its increased income for 2010 as £25.24m and is delighted to confirm that this higher level of funding will be sustained for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

The independently run Foundation supports charities that help disadvantaged people play a fuller role in the community and over the last five years has made grants totalling over 100m. [More](#)

### **Designing child-friendly communities**

A new film and website about Play Shaper will help local authorities and their strategic partners understand their role in creating child-friendly communities through a range of measure including planning, design and policing. [More](#)

### **The People's Millions 2010 - now open!**

The People's Millions - the popular partnership between the Big Lottery Fund and ITV - is now open for applications for 2010.

You can win up to £50,000 to improve your local area. They welcome new and original ideas that will make life better for people where you live. You could also be on ITV this November, competing for viewers' votes.

The deadline for entries is 12pm on 14 May 2010. [More](#)

### **Embedding the Play Strategy**

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published new guidance that aims to help local authority senior executives, strategic planners and their partners to improve local play offers by embedding everyday opportunities for healthy, active play within top-level strategies for children, communities and spatial planning. [More](#)

### **Funding Central**

Funding Central is a free smart website for all third sector organisations, including community groups, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs. [More](#)

### **Children's Play Information Service (CPIS)**

CPIS is the national information service on children's play based at the NCB library. CPIS holds information on all aspects of children's play, including play theory, research and practical guidance.

CPIS is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Big Lottery Fund through Play England. [More](#)

### **Culture, sport and CAA 2009 results**

The IDEa has published a study considering the implications for culture and sport of the 2009 CAA results. The report and accompanying data describes how culture and sport features within both the area and organisational elements of CAA. Find out how culture and sport has contributed to your CAA results. [More](#)

### **Efficiency Exchange CoP goes live**

The Efficiency Exchange community of practice (CoP) is the place to share your concerns, challenges, triumphs and knowledge about creating efficiencies in local public services. Join today to download useful resources, post questions and good practice stories, and sign up to a Twitter feed. [More](#)

### **5-days paid leaving for volunteering**

Stuart Etherington, chief executive of NCVO, set out his vision of the 'good society' and the roles the voluntary sector and government should play to make this reality to more than 650 delegates at the body's flagship annual conference.

As the UK's largest umbrella body representing the views of more than 7,500 charities, NCVO's [manifesto](#) is an important document for all political parties. [More](#)

### **CJS Focus on volunteering is now on line**

It carries details of a large number of voluntary positions in the countryside, conservation & environment sectors. There are 20 pages of fascinating articles, information, and contacts. [More](#)

### **Discovering Places change of date**

The Discovering Places Board reviewed the plans for the project and discussed in detail the continuing uncertainty around the date for the General Election and the possible impact on any activity.

The Discovering Places Board therefore considered other dates for the launch to take place with the maximum opportunity for press and public attention and participation. The Board has agreed with LOCOG that this will be best achieved by using the platform of the London 2012 Open Weekend (Friday 23 – Sunday 25 July 2010) to launch Discovering Places.

If you would like any additional information please contact our Project Co-ordinator Catharine Bull by emailing her on [c.bull@heritagelink.org.uk](mailto:c.bull@heritagelink.org.uk).

### **Tree Preservation orders**

This leaflet is written for the benefit of tree owners, the general public and amenity groups, and answers some of the most common questions about tree preservation procedures. It is for guidance only and is not a statement of the law. [More](#)

## **Consultation paper on a new Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment**

This consultation seeks views on the proposed *Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment*, which sets out streamlined and consolidated planning policy relating to: 7,9,17 and 20. [More](#)

## **Grey to Green**

This CABE Space publication 'Grey to Green' will fuel a debate about whether this is smart, given the dangers of climate change and the opportunities to improve public health. It also reveals the urgent need for more people, with the right skills, to manage the living landscape of our towns and cities. [More](#)

## **Boost in green careers**

More than half of urban local authorities took on green space apprentices last year, offering a boost to the 'Skills to grow' strategy addressing the shortage of skills in the green space sector. [More](#)

## **Local News**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Green Flag Awards demonstration day – still spaces available**

GSEM has organised the first Green Flag Awards demonstration day in the region at Brixworth Country Park, Northamptonshire on 18 March 2010.

This is a learning opportunity to find out about the scheme's criteria for the green flag award, green pennant award and green heritage site's, how desk and site assessment are marked from two experienced Judges and the latest plans for the scheme.

There will be presentations in the morning, followed by lunch and then site visits in the afternoon. It is a free but booking is essential. There are still some spare places for last minute bookings.

For more information please contact Ruth Rolls, GreenSpace East Midlands Forum

Manager on 01604 807 771 or [rrolls@gsem.org.uk](mailto:rrolls@gsem.org.uk).

## **Saving Peak District Moorlands**

Seventy-five per cent of the world's heather moorlands are in the UK. However, pollution, overgrazing and wild fires have damaged large areas.

Several organisations in the Peak District National Park are trying to restore and conserve the moorland habitat. As part of the Festival of Social Science organised by the Economic and Social Research Council (12-21 March 2010), the Peak District National Park Authority in Partnership with the National Trust and Moors for the Future is running a walk and a series of talks for the general public and local countryside professionals to share the research, practical techniques and successes of moorland restoration. [More](#)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Northamptonshire Green Space forum meeting**

GSEM organised the first Northamptonshire Green Space Forum meeting, which was kindly being hosted by Corby Borough Council at East Carlton Country Park and supported by Lockhart Garratt on 25 February.

16 people attended. It was deemed a success and another meeting is planned for 20 May in Wellingborough. Minutes and presentations are available on the GSEM website within the members section.

### **Regional Sustainable Development Indicators**

Regional sustainable development indicators were published in late February to help provide an overview of economic, social and environmental issues in each region.

Some of the highlight for East Midlands are: The East Midlands had the joint highest household waste recycling rate of the regions in 2008-9. The region had seen the greatest improvement in the proportion of river lengths of good water quality (biological and chemical river quality) since 1990. The populations of woodland birds had increased

and the employment levels in the East Midlands were higher than the England average. The East Midlands had seen the largest increase in the proportion of children walking and cycling to school.

The proportion of pensioners living in low-income households before housing costs was the highest of the regions. The proportion of new dwellings built on previously developed land and density of new dwellings were amongst the lowest of the regions. [More](#)

#### **New 6C's GI Development Co-ordinator to cover maternity leave.**

Sharon Jefferies commenced her maternity leave on 26 February 2010. Maternity cover will be provided by Greg Phillips, previously with the River Nene Regional Park in Northamptonshire. Greg is expected to take up the maternity cover post mid to late March 2010.

#### **6Cs Draft GI Strategy and Action Plan Consultation October-December 2009**

35 separate responses were received with thanks. Chris Blandford Associates have been re-commissioned to make the necessary changes to the Strategy and will commence work in March 2010. The Strategy Steering Group are due to sign-off the final version mid-May 2010. A formal launch event will follow and further updates will be made available on the 6Cs GI website and circulated via the 6Cs GI news bulletin. [More](#)

### **GSEM Update**

#### **Working Groups**

##### **GSEM community involvement**

The first draft of the community involvement survey report is completed and available to view on the GSEM website. Deadline for comments was 24 Feb but this has been extended to 1 April. Please send your comments to Ruth Rolls, Forum Manager.

The working group will shortly look into collecting case studies for this report.

#### **GSEM funding**

The final draft of the funding survey report will be endorsed at the next steering group meeting in April.

The working group is developing an action plan whilst also working on planning an Advocacy Day for elected members and key stakeholders and a Funding Training day for open space managers.

#### **Accessible open spaces study**

All local authorities have now received a letter from GSEM about this study. GSEM are working with Natural England to create a regional map providing statistical analysis of the provision. The letter requests information about maps on the publicly accessible open spaces that your local authority manages, ideally in GIS format.

It is important that these letters are actioned or queries sought from Ruth Rolls as this project needs to move swiftly on to the next stage. Therefore if you haven't sent your GIS dataset or licence information to Ruth Rolls yet, then please do so very soon.

**GSEM Membership** - Thank you to the local authorities who have renewed their membership for 2010/11. Thank you also to the four local authorities who have signed up to a three-year commitment. This contribution helps the forum to go from strength to strength and provide our green spaces sector with a united voice.

29% of local authorities in East Midlands are members. We also work in partnership with a government advisory body.

A Department of Communities and Local Government grant enabled the forum to increase the forum managers post from part-time to full-time in 2009/10. This contribution will be greatly reduced next year.

For the forum to survive and continue to employ a full-time forum manager, it is

essential that existing membership is maintained and many new members join.

Local authorities are facing difficult times and it is more important than ever before that we demonstrate our effectiveness at working together, developing best practice and showing leadership in how we manage our green spaces that directly contribute to the health, sustainable communities and other agendas.

Membership renewal reminders will be circulated shortly, as well as membership information to potential members.

### **GSEM Steering Group and Open meeting**

The next meeting on 14 April will be held in Nottinghamshire and GSEM are open to offers from organisations willing to host this meeting.

The meeting will include an Annual Review.

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.

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?

Join a workshop to identify the main drivers of our sector, and then assess our weaknesses and strengths. Through group work, 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 April 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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