
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

- 10 June 2010 – Community Involvement working group meeting – Sherwood Pines - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771
- 11 June 2010 – Nottinghamshire Parks Officer Group - Tim Downes on 01623 463 735
- 6 July 2010 - **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** - Leicestershire - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771
- 12 August 2010 – Funding working group meeting – venue t.b.c. – contact Ruth
- 20 August 2010 – Community Involvement working group meeting – Evington Park – 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 – 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

Other Diary Dates

- 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**
- 15 June 2010 – EM Allotment Officers Forum – Nottingham – Sanja at Sanja@farmcity.org.uk
- 17 June 2010 – Northamptonshire Environmental Network – Josie Batman on 01604 838044
- 22-23 June 2010 – PlayFair 2010: Putting play first – Stoneleigh Park - [More](#)
- 24 June 2010 - The Needs of Tomorrow: the role of your organisation – NCVO and Young Foundation – London - [More](#)
- 25 June 2010 - Getting down to business - Local Action on Food – London - [More](#)
- 2 July 2010 – EMRAF annual conference: Rural people shaping rural communities – Eastwood – 01623 727600 or pbaker@rcan.org.uk

2 July 2010 – Climate Change: Effective Communication course – London - More

GSEM Update

Review of 2009/10 membership

14 organisations were members of our GSEM forum last year. Please see our supporters list on our website [here](#). About 5 members have renewed so far. Membership is by annual subscription (April to March) so if you haven't already please renew your membership now.

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 summary

This was held over the end of March and beginning of April via a questionnaire attached to an email message.

There was overall satisfaction with GSEM service delivery and roles where survey respondents had also been participants. The most appreciated services were the circulation of latest news and information delivered particularly through the bulletin but also the website, county forums, working group mail outs. They thought this and networking will be the most useful service in the forthcoming year. They also thought the key areas for the forum and sector to concentrate on in the future were promoting, lobbying and advocacy to the public, politician and influential people. Just over half welcome more training opportunities. Other areas for the forum to work on, is becoming more involved with the cultural sector and demonstrating the relationship between local green spaces and strategies and green infrastructure networks and strategy plans.

Equality and Inclusion discussions

The community involvement working group are discussing this topic and hearing presentation from the Forestry Commission and Natural England during the afternoon.

The morning meeting will discuss the future of community involvement, the different delivery approaches and measuring performance against LAA and NI targets.

Meeting is on 10 June at Sherwood Pines, Nottinghamshire between 10am to 3.30pm. Lunch is included

Also, there will hopefully be case studies available soon on the GSEM website illustrating difference community-area forums, their own experiences of establish and supporting these.

GSEM Steering Group and Open meeting – International Year of Biodiversity

In July meeting we will be trialling a new format. The open meeting will be all day

whilst the morning steering group meeting will run simultaneously.

The Open Meeting will provide a learning opportunity about Biodiversity and the International Year of Biodiversity. The morning site visit will include a guided tour of Watermead South in Leicester where you'll be able to hear about the wildlife and visitor management practices as well community involvement work. The afternoon will include presentations about land owners management responsibilities towards conserving and increasing biodiversity.

Autumn advocacy style day

An advocacy type day is being planned by GSEM funding working group, where elected members and assistant directors can learn about the contribution green spaces make towards our social, environmental and economic priorities and also explore from several case studies to pros and cons of different funding and service delivery models.

This will be a top quality event and we will look to work with commercial supporters to make this day possible.

If you would like to be involved in the discussions and organising of this day then either contact Ruth Rolls or attending the next meeting on 12th August.

Forum Managers brief update

Ruth Rolls spoke about the Green Flag Award Scheme as a national quality benchmark standard at RTP1 CPD course on Protected Species, Landscape Framework and Access on 19 May at University of Leicester by invitation from Natural England.

The Forum Manager continues to work with Breath of Fresh Air partnership to explore ways of ensure the partnership has a sustainable future enabling it to achieve further still.

Also with East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum sub-group on High Quality Environment who

are currently devising the implementation plan.

Ruth Rolls has been sharing her work with other regions such as the Satisfaction survey, nomination proceed for recruiting chair and vice chair, and writing a case study on the Green Flag Award Demonstration Day.

She has written a draft GSEM forum Action Plan 2010 /11, which will be shared shortly.

National News

Green Next Practice Programme

Innovation Exchange is calling for third sector organisations to contribute to their Green Next Practise Programme, which will cover environmental issues and particularly focus on altering public services in making the U.K greener. Potential ideas should be expressed by 2 June 2010. [More](#)

How strong are your neighbourhoods?

Find out how empowered your local neighbourhoods are – and what you can do to help – with this new empowerment mapping tool for local councils and their partners.

[More](#)

Focus on Forestry First

Welsh Assembly Government/EU funded three year project solely for the trees and timber sector within Wales, concentrating on forestry businesses first.

Through the project businesses can:

- have training plans drawn up free of charge
- access up to 100% funding for training courses
- maintain and access training records through the secure project database

[More](#)

Winning the Contract

A free online public procurement course helping small organisations bid for public sector contracts.

'Winning the Contract' is part of a series of initiatives by the Office of Government Commerce and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to make procurement accessible. The course is aimed at anyone responsible for business development within their organisations and will help delegates:

The course takes a maximum of four hours, to be completed at the convenience of the delegate. Once registered delegates have six months to complete the course. [More](#)

Designing a 'fit for the future' organisation: online conference

Cutting costs while preserving pivotal frontline services is motivating many councils and their partners to redesign their organisations. Yet some 70 per cent of change initiatives fail to deliver their objectives. Join an interactive, online two-day conference to gain understanding of organisational redesign, share success stories and participate in debate. [More](#)

New Local Nature Reserve Guidance

Local Nature Reserves in England: A guide to their selection and declaration outlines the purpose, selection, establishment and declaration of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

It gives examples of how to provide high quality access to the natural environment in green spaces close to people's homes, and includes case stories of LNRs showing a variety of sites with different emphasis on use of the site including learning, accessible biodiversity and urban situations with access for all. The booklet encourages the promotion and declaration of more new LNRs. [More](#)

Nature Nearby

Natural England believes that everyone should have access to good quality natural green space near to where they live, ie. 'Nature Nearby'. This provides a broad range of benefits to people and the quality of their lives, covering all the ecosystem services we depend on.

Nature Nearby - Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance is aimed at parks and greenspace practitioners and their partners, particularly decision makers, planners and managers of green space. It describes the amount, quality and visitor services of accessible natural green spaces that we believe everyone is entitled to, and provides advice on how they can be delivered. [More](#)

Launched Lantra Job Shop.

Free Trial – Call for Participation from Employers. Employers can advertise full time, part time, work experience and volunteering positions on Lantra Job Shop and be matched against suitable students using the National Student Database.

To participate in the free trial and for more information email: rob.lloyd-jones@lantra.co.uk

New Chief Exec at Charity Commission

Sam Younger CBE has been appointed as the new chief executive of the Charity Commission and will replace Andrew Hind at the helm of the independent charity regulator from 1 September 2010. [More](#)

Fancy a Big Lunch?

Imagine a summer's day on which millions of us, throughout the UK, sit down to have lunch together in our communities - in the middle of our streets, around our tower blocks and on every patch of common ground. The food, entertainment and decorations we will have grown, cooked or created ourselves. It'll be a day to break bread with our neighbours, to put a smile on Britain's face.

Well, imagine no more. The BIG Lottery Fund is supporting The Big Lunch and invites you to celebrate with your community on Sunday 18 July. [More](#)

The RHS Alan Titchmarsh Award 2010

The RHS campaign for school gardening has been re-launched for 2010. The award has been set up to encourage and support schools who have reached level 4 on the campaign's benchmarking scheme, offering them £250 in

vouchers to further improve and develop their garden. [More](#)

WREN's grant schemes deadline

Applications are still being accepted for Waste Recycling Environmental's main and small grant schemes for community projects that maintain or improve a public park or other public amenity. The next round of applications closes on 30 June 2010.

WREN is a not-for-profit business that helps benefit the lives of people who live close to landfill sites by awarding grants for environmental, heritage and community projects. [More](#)

Local News

Support for Green Pennant in East Midlands

Part of the Green Flag Award® scheme, the Green Pennant Award® is a national award that recognises high quality green spaces in England and Wales that are managed by voluntary and community groups.

The Award is the national standard for quality parks and green spaces and gives voluntary and community groups the opportunity to promote their site, celebrate their hard work and enhance funding bids. Each site is judged on its own merits and suitability to the community it serves.

Applications are on an annual basis, Alex Hewins the East Midlands Green Pennant Advocate can advise groups on suitability of sites for the award and the application process.

Contact Alex for more information or to arrange a visit: a.hewins@btcv.org.uk, tel: 0116 2553515. [More](#)

Voting for a new JAC

Green Flag Award Scheme judges will shortly be receiving notification of who are the nominees for the role of East Midlands representative on the Judges Association Committee.

Can you offer a placement?

Nottinghamshire YMCA, Future Jobs Fund Programme Manager covering Nottinghamshire in the East Midlands is looking for employers who would be interested in hosting a Future Jobs employee placement within land based industry businesses or organisations, particularly environmental conservation, horticulture and landscaping.

Future Jobs employees must be aged 18-24 (in some areas we can recruit over 25s), they must be unemployed and have been in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance for between 6 and 9 months. Placement employees are employed by the YMCA and their wage costs are covered through the programme; they work 25hrs per week.

Nottinghamshire YMCA is seeking to establish up to 10 placements with suitable employers in the North Nottinghamshire area including Mansfield, Ashfield or Worksop areas. Please Lesley Ann Towl on 0777-580-4745 or lesley.marston@mansfieldymca.org.uk

New chef at Losehill Hall

Janet Duncan is making great additions to the menus at Losehill Hall; one of the UK's leading training providers for the countryside, green space and environmental sectors. She sources local Peak District ingredients and supports local farmers and suppliers.

Losehill Hall in the heart of England, is based in the stunning Peak District National Park and part of the National Park Authority. [More](#)

Northamptonshire County Council consultation

The Control and Management of Development DPD covers general issues relating to granting permission and then controlling the development afterwards; subjects covered: Heritage, Waste, Environment, Quarrying, Conservation, Planning, Countryside and Mineral Extraction.

Deadline for this consultation is 22 Jul 2010 and the result date is 22 October 2010. [View Consultation Details](#)

Using social media

8 July, 10am – 2pm, Nottingham Contemporary

This workshop aims to help you understand and share good practice in the emerging world of social media, including Facebook, Twitter, blogs, websites and Flickr. For more information contact us on 0115 8722963 or email enquiries.em@biglotteryfund.org.uk.

Inland Waterways Association seeks Trustees

IWA seeks nominations for people to stand as an elected trustee (five places available). Nominations are also sought for the posts of region chairman for East Midlands Region (to serve until 2013 AGM), North East and Yorkshire Region (to serve until 2013 AGM) and South West Region (to serve until 2012 AGM). All nominations should be submitted, in writing (i.e. by post or e-mail), to the Chief Executive or Company Secretary at IWA Head Office by no later than 85 days before the AGM (i.e. Friday 2nd July).

GreenSpace News

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

GreenSKILL: Now available for organisations to use, please contact Stuart Mansbridge for more information

Green Flag Award: Michelle Walde (GFA Training Officer) says they have trained over 100 new judges. The training this year moved from a one day to a two day course. If you are not already a Green Flag Judge you can apply on the Green Flag Website [here](#).

GS have developed a **pricing structure for Town and Parish membership** which is being trialled in the South East.

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

GreenSTAT Abridged version of the park and open space questionnaire is being developed for launch this summer. For details, see below.

For those who attended the **CABE Leaders Programme**, there is still the opportunity to gain half price Full IPGS membership for one year. Please contact Stuart Mansbridge.

GreenSpace National Forum Update

The last meeting in February included a presentation from Martyn Allison, IDeA on positioning green space services, highlighting the importance of being able to evidence performance to improve positioning of the green space service within an authority. See slide below describing the drivers to positioning and delivering services below. The National Forum Action Plan is being amended to reflect this key area of work.

Quality Manual Update –

Regarding developing the quality manual (QM) for grounds maintenance standards, the intention is to develop the manual in line with the development of the GFA Whole Service Award pilot and following their timescales. The London Benchmarking group and North West Steering Group will be consulted throughout its development. Consultation nationally and requests for photos will take place over the summer and the first draft will be produced by October 2010 to coincide with GFA cycles. There is still some debate about the range of photos to be included in the manual, a more comprehensive photo set is required by some members. Meanwhile if anyone would like to comment or send photos, please email sarahm@green-space.org.uk

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

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