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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 all green space sector organisations on the mailing list.

The work of GreenSpace East Midlands (GSEM) is funded by annual membership, therefore your membership of your organisation is essential for the sustainable future of this forum. For more information please visit [www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands](http://www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands).

### GSEM Diary Dates

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

8 July 2011 – Nottinghamshire Parks Officer Group – Rufford – Tim Downes on 01623 463735

11 July 2011 - GSEM steering group meeting – Notts – Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

July/August - Funding, performance and evidence workshop – Notts – t.b.c

8 Sept 2011 – Managing our heritage of public green spaces workshop – Derbyshire– Ruth

20 Sept 2011 – Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network – Bob Mullins on 0116 291 4483.

23 Sept 2011 – Derbyshire Green Space Forum – Ilkeston – Ruth Rolls

Manage plans and field assessments workshop – Leicestershire – t.b.c

### Other Diary Dates for 2011

22 June 2011 - Invaluable Infrastructure, Enabling Development and Innovation – London - [More](#)

28 June 2011 - Your Window on the Web – London – Charities Aid Foundation - [More](#)

29 June 2011 - **Influencing and Advocacy workshop – IPGS** - Bristol - [More](#)

5 July 2011 - The Third Sector in 2011 – Funding and Delivering the Big Society – London - [More](#)

4 – 7 July 2011 - Playing into the Future – surviving and thriving -International Play Association – Cardiff - [More](#) – Fully booked

7 July 2011 - Biodiversity Summit – Free – University of Northampton - [Vanessa Bradley](#)

15 July 2011 - Food and Spatial Planning: How planning can support a healthy and sustainable food system conference - London - [More](#)

23 – 31 July 2011 - **Love Parks Week** - [More](#)

12 October 2011 -Investigating The Future for Charitable Giving and Fundraising: The Implications of the Giving White Paper - [More](#)

## National News

### Natural Environment White Paper launched

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have launched the Natural Environment White Paper which recognises the role of green space in delivering multiple benefits to local communities. [More](#)

The Natural Environment White Paper is a bold and ambitious statement outlining the Government's vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years, backed up with practical action to deliver that ambition.

Nature is sometimes taken for granted and undervalued. But people cannot flourish without the benefits and services our natural environment provides. A healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing.

There are four themes, the one of most relevance to open spaces departments is *reconnecting people and nature*. A case study on volunteering is given of a 'Friends of' group that has been awarded a Green Flag Communities Award (Pennant) who look after a local nature reserve near York. [More](#)

### A plain English guide to the Localism Bill

This guide describes the main measures of the Localism Bill under four headings. It is designed to give an overview of the Bill in conjunction with the document Decentralisation and the Localism Bill: An essential guide. It replaces the version published in January 2011. [More](#)

### Big Society Newsletter

The purpose of the Big Society Newsletter is to get the Big Society debate going and to use it as a channel to listen and engage with DCLGs partners. It also includes articles letting people know what is happening across the country in

relation to the Big Society. If you would like to be added to distribution please e-mail your contact details to

[BigSocietyIdeas@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:BigSocietyIdeas@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

If you would like to have an article included in a future edition please contact Cherron at [Cherron.Inko-Tariah@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Cherron.Inko-Tariah@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

### Play England takes another step towards independence

At the very lively meeting on 14 June members of the Play England council voted unanimously to take the next steps towards setting up an independent Play England charity. NCB has provided a great home for Play England, formerly the Children's Play Council, for many years and members welcome NCB's commitment to supporting this move, and recognised that final decisions on any transfer of assets to a new charity would be for the NCB board and dependent on the new business plan.

### New era for waterways

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) has submitted its detailed response to Defra's consultation document – A New Era for the Waterways – on the Government's proposals to transfer the canals and rivers managed by British Waterways into a charitable body. [More](#)

### Giving White Paper announced

The Government recently announced in the Giving White Paper it is to invest £40m in volunteering and social action over the next two years, including:

- The Volunteering Match Fund will match private donations to voluntary groups pound-for-pound and will be worth around £10m per year.
- The Volunteering Infrastructure programme, worth £42.5m over four years, this programme will provide brokerage and support services to volunteers.
- The £10m Social Action Fund will support new incentives for people to give,

such as 'complementary currencies' that offer people credit for volunteering.

- Over the next two years, Youthnet's national database of volunteering opportunities will get over £1m from the Cabinet Office, Department for Work and Pensions and Department of Health. [More](#)

### **A World Without Play research**

This report is part of a wider enquiry conducted by Play England and the British Toy & Hobby Association (BTHA) for the **Make Time to Play** campaign, on the impact of play deprivation on children, families and communities. [More](#)

### **Consultation on built environment design support (includes green spaces)**

Significant legislative and policy changes to the planning system, and CABEs merger with the Design Council, has provided a unique opportunity to rethink how to best support good design in the built environment. [More](#)

### **Design in Planning workshops**

The Localism and Planning team at the Design Council are running a series of free Design in Planning workshops over the summer. For local authority planners, these seven events across England will explore localism and design in the context of themes from community engagement to economic growth. [More](#)

### **Neighbourhood planning front runners**

Local planning authorities in England are invited to apply for grants under the Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners scheme. The grants are to be used to help local planning authorities gain insight into how the provisions for neighbourhood planning are likely to work in practice following commencement of the Localism Bill. Closing date is 8 July 2011. [More](#)

### **Children 'getting weaker' because they don't climb trees**

A study reported in the journal *Acta Paediatrica*, which compared tests of 10-year old children's muscular strength in 1998 with

those in 2008, found that children today have less muscular strength than children a decade ago. [More](#)

### **Government launches New Welfare to Work Scheme**

The replacement to the New Deal, Employment Zones and Pathways to Work programmes has opened, with contracts delivered by voluntary sector groups.

Private sector and voluntary organisations have been awarded seven year contracts on a payments-by-results basis to help unemployed people find work. [More](#)

### **Playday**

The first Wednesday in August is Playday, the national day for play. On Playday and throughout the summer, children, young people and communities get out to play at hundreds of locally organised events to celebrate children's right to play and to highlight the importance of play in children's lives. [More](#)

### **The Great Tree House Challenge is now open!**

If you are a community organisation that has a vision for a potential tree house, a plot of land and bags of drive then please be as creative as you like and tell The Great Tree House Challenge us about your dream Tree House, a tree house that will serve a genuine need in your community and that can be built in a sustainably. [More](#) or [treehouse@octoberfilms.co.uk](mailto:treehouse@octoberfilms.co.uk)

### **Join in the debate on green laws**

What do you think should happen to the 159 regulations relating to biodiversity, wildlife management, landscape countryside and recreation? Should they be scrapped saved, or simplified? Visit the Red Tape Challenge website to give your [views](#).

### **Urban Oasis: love or lose?**

Groundwork has been passionate about great outdoor places for three decades. They're not alone – many of their friends working for local authorities, voluntary and community organisations or corporates feel exactly the same.

They think the start of the new financial year in April is likely to see the budget for parks and public spaces getting cut to ribbons. The Urban Oasis campaign was launched on Valentine's Day to remind people to think about what going to the park, nipping down the rec or walking in the woods means to them.

If you've got an Urban Oasis now you need to love it, or you could lose it. How you can support your Urban Oasis

- Please [sign up](#) to add your voice to the campaign
- Download the **Do Some Good** app for your [iPhone](#) or [Blackberry](#) to share your favourite Urban Oases and the reasons you love them (Android and Ovi versions coming soon)
- Explore these pages to learn why our urban green spaces are so important
- Spread the word using the sharing options at the bottom of the page.

### My Urban Oasis - Interactive Map

Everyone has an Urban Oasis that they love. They are as varied as the reasons we love them: parks, plazas, nature reserves, BMX tracks, allotments, skate parks and playgrounds.

Share local knowledge, find these hidden gems and get recommendations from the people that know them best? Thanks to Orange that's exactly what is being created - with a little help from you. [More](#)

### Free trees for communities

Help celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee by supporting The Woodland Trust's campaign to plant 6 million trees across the UK. Go online to buy a sapling for your garden or

request a free tree pack for your school or community. [More](#)

### Consultation on regional economic performance indicators underway

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is seeking feedback from businesses, charities, government departments and academic institutions on reforms to the Regional Economic Performance Indicators.

The consultation is running from 24 May to 31 August 2011. [More](#)

### The value of green space reaches a premium

A major new study by The UK National Ecosystems Assessment (NEA) aims to put a price tag on a range of economic, health and social benefits provided by the natural world, which are usually taken for granted, to make the financial case for protecting nature. [More](#)

### Valuing Nature

Valuing Nature is a new network to help decision-makers put learning from the national ecosystem assessment into practice. [More](#)

### Taking a View on Landscape Value

The Living with Environmental Change-accredited "Character and Quality of England's Landscape" initiative is aiming to generate a better understanding of landscape value across England and how it can be assessed at a strategic scale.

Using a new approach that combines landscape character with ecosystem services, the findings will help policy-makers, at national and local level, not only safeguard England's landscapes but also improve the quality of the goods and services they provide. [More](#)

## Chris Packham's view

It's time we start recognising benefits received from ecosystems, before we wake up one day and find these vital green oases have disappeared altogether. [More](#)

## Evaluating Access to Nature

Work on the Access to Nature programme evaluation is progressing. Two annual overall evaluation reports have been produced, plus one case study summary. [More](#)  
Some case studies of projects funded by this grant are detailed [here](#).

## First ever Community Gardening Volunteers Map launched

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is launching the first-ever, easy-to-use web page for people looking to get involved in community gardening activities.

The site features a map showing volunteering opportunities around the country. Nearly 15,000 groups and schools involved in *RHS Britain in Bloom*, *RHS It's Your Neighbourhood* and *RHS Campaign for School Gardening* are included and they are always looking for volunteers. [More](#)

## Walking for Health update

The 4th update covers progress on funding, hosting of WfH and communications. [More](#)

## Locality

Locality has been formed through the merger of British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres and the Development Trusts Association to create the country's leading network of community owned and led organisations. They are a company limited by guarantee. [More](#)

The Asset Transfer Unit is now being led by Locality.

## Local News

### Woodlands in My Backyard 2011

Steeping Stones Project and The Woodland Trust are working together to increase woodland cover in Leicestershire. The partnership is looking to fund proposals for tree planting on either publicly or privately owned land that should have some wider community benefit.

The 2010/11 WIMBY scheme saw over 3700 trees planted over an area of about 4 hectares, that's about 6 football pitches! [More](#)

### Green infrastructure advice sheets

Six advice sheets giving guidance on how to make use of the content of the 6Cs GI Strategy are now available on the 6Cs GI webpages. These include:

1. Introduction to GI and the 6Cs GI Strategy
2. Developing Core Strategy policies and actions involving GI
3. Including GI in master plans and development briefs
4. Designing and creating ecological networks
5. Integrating GI within Core Strategy Infrastructure Delivery Plans
6. Integrating GI into related strategies

There is also a Powerpoint presentation on the same topic, with user notes and good practice examples. [More](#)

## GSEM Update

### GSEM membership subscriptions – only a few days to take up early bird offer

15% discount is available to encourage applications for 3-years subscription paid in advance – offer open until 30 June 2011. [More](#)

Thank you to members for renewed their membership for 2010/11 showing support for the sector and the role GSEM play.

GSEM is a membership organisation. 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.

### Steering group meeting

The forum's next steering group meeting will:

- Adopt action plan 2011/12
- adopt new terms of reference
- discuss joint strategic needs assessments on health, and
- appoint steering group voluntary roles.

The meeting is Monday 11 July, Loxley House, Nottingham. GSEM members are welcome, please contact Ruth Rolls to attend. Brief papers will be sent to GSEM members in advance.

### Influence the sector

Voluntary roles are available within the GSEM steering group. These were previously advertised but due to low response thought to be down to the time of the year, these are being advertised again. Roles include:

- Chair,
- Vice-Chair and
- general steering group member.

These roles influence and steer the business and direction of the forum and involves attending a quarterly meeting. It is an important time for the green space sector and through the national forum and other networks we converse with DCLG and other government departments. The organisation you work for also is required to be a GSEM member.

### Big Society talk

Ruth Rolls spoke at the West and East Midlands Cultural Improvement Partnership 'Big Society' Conference on 9 June as well as organising two green space community case studies to speak: namely Warley Woods, Sandwell and Great Houghton Pocket Park, near Northampton.

Conference presentations will shortly be available on website. A Big Society discussion paper with link to recent research will be circulated to members only.

### Black Environment Network

Ruth Rolls gave a talk about the value of neighbourhood green space and the work GreenSpace is offering nationally. Discussion during the workshop was very enlightening. The presentation will be available on website soon.

### New workshops series

Skilled and knowledgeable staff are key to delivering quality green spaces in a challenge economic time. GSEM recognises the reduced training budgets and work demands on staff, at the same we know there is a wealth of professional knowledge amongst our teams across the region.

So GSEM is developing a series of workshops to help you share your knowledge and experience as well as networking with other professionals. A reasonable price will be charged to non-members, this is to help cover cost of organising the day.

### Funding, performance and evidence

July/ August  
Nottinghamshire  
Local authorities  
Details to be confirmed

### Managing our heritage of public green spaces

8 September  
Elvaston Castle, Derbyshire  
£45 plus VAT – lunch provided  
Presenters include: Derbyshire County Council, The National Trust, Heritage Alliance and Green Flag Plus Partnership.

### Management plans and field assessments

end of September

Melton Country Park, Leicestershire t.b.c.

£40 plus VAT – lunch provided t.b.c.

Exercises under the professional guidance of an experienced Green Flag Award Judge

### Big society, stronger communities and the natural environment

October

Nottingham t.b.c

£50 plus VAT – lunch provided t.b.c

Presenters from a variety of

### Developers contribution, land management companies and sustainable management

Northamptonshire

October/November

£20 - £30ish

Site visit, talk and debate

Day to be confirmed.

Have you or your colleagues got knowledge, skills or experience you willing to share with others on topics such as play areas, churchyards, community engagement, marketing, and interpretation? Why contact Ruth Rolls to explore organising a workshop.

We would like to gather your thoughts through an online survey about theme for workshops and general satisfaction of GSEM services - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSEM-future-events-survey>

## GreenSpace News

### GreenSpace policy responses

The Policy and Research team at GreenSpace are busy advocating for its members and the parks and green spaces sector.

They have responded to many releases in 2010 and 2011, as detailed [here](#).

Forthcoming releases that GreenSpace are planning to respond to are:

DCLG: Abolition of RSSs – Summer 2011

DCLG – Right to Reclaim – Summer 2011

DCLG – Planning reform paper – Summer 2011

DCLG - Plans for a new designation of green spaces (will be part of the new National Planning Policy)

Cabinet Office – Public Service White Paper – due out May 2011 (This white paper is the result of the Cabinet Office consultation ‘public service reform plans’) Delayed, now likely to be end July 2011

### Love Parks Week stories wanted

Support the campaign that calls for a continued investment in green spaces by organising and registering your events held on Love Parks Week 23 – 31 July 2011. The website is ready and provides further information, promotion tools and for events to be registered. [More](#)

Events currently registered:

Derbyshire	2 (1 week-long event)
Leicestershire	4
Lincolnshire	6 (out of EM region)
Northamptonshire	0
Nottinghamshire	3
Rutland	0

If you need help uploading your events please contact Ruth Rolls.

Did you meet your loved one in park?

Have happy childhood memories?

Did a park inspire a significant change in your life?

We'd like to know the real stories about local green spaces. Contact [Caroline Carsey](#) on 0118 946 9068.

### Community Network Project 2011

The findings from the Community Networking Project 2011 have now been compiled with the main findings and Interim Report due out in June. The results show the encouraging progress by community groups since 2003 when the last research was undertaken.

## Comprehensive Spending Review Survey

The green space sector reacted quickly to our request in March for information on 2011-12 budgets following the review. 63 responses in three weeks allowed us to present initial findings to Communities Minister Andrew Stunnell. Main findings can be downloaded from GreenSpace website. [More](#)

The initial results are also presented within the *Inspiration in challenging times: green space sector unites* report April 2011, which gives the highlights from the CABE Space leaders conference. [More](#)

In order for us to finalise our report it is vital that we receive further responses. Please spare 15 minutes to complete the online survey. [Here](#)

## Green Places - March edition preview

[Green Places](#): The only monthly magazine dedicated to planning, designing and maintaining green spaces

## Institute for Parks and Green Spaces

29 June 2011 - Influencing and Advocacy workshop – IPGS - Bristol - [More](#)

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 GSEM members and 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 the sector.

GSEM Network Question - No question

## 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.

[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](#) and write 'subscribe' in the subject heading.

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