
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 annual membership, therefore the membership of your organisation is essential for the sustainable future of this forum. For more information please visit www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands.

GSEM Diary Dates

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

19 October 2011 – Steering Group meeting – Notts – [Ruth Rolls](#) for detail.

27 October 2011 – Green Space Study Visit about community engagement and collaborative working – [Leah Jackson](#) - [More](#)

29 November 2011 t.b.c. - Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network – [Paul Scragg](#) on 01455 255983.

13 January 2011 – Derbyshire Green Spaces Forum – Elvaston Castle – [Ruth Rolls](#)

20 January 2011 – Nottinghamshire Parks Officer Group – Rufford t.b.c. - [Sarah Daniel](#) on 01623 457300.

Other Diary Dates for 2011

8 October 2011 - Here today – Who's here tomorrow? A focus on young people in horticulture – [Institute of Horticulture](#) - London

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

12 October 2011 – FCFCG: EM Networking event – Nottingham – [Marie Wellings](#)

26 October 2011 – DEFRA: Future of our natural Environment – London – [More](#)

31 October 2011 - Funding and finance workshops at the NCVO Trustee Conference – London - [More](#)

1 November 2011 – FCFCG: Simply Governance workshop – Leicester - [Marie Wellings](#)

9 November 2011 – Action for Market Towns: Neighbourhood Planning Symposium –London - [More](#)



I am not an advert

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green space professionals.

23 November 2011 – **GreenSpace conference: Prescribing Green Space** – London – [Caroline Carsey](#) – 0118 946 9068 – [More](#)

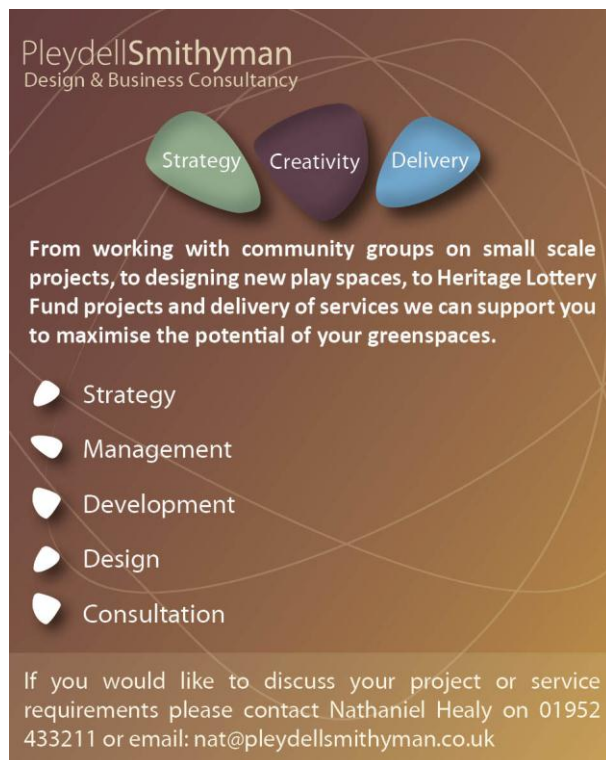
24 November – NCVO: Adapt, Gain, Grow: Sustainable Funding Conference – London - [More](#)

29 November 2011 - Delivering Productive Public Services – London - [More](#)

7 December 2011 – Planning for Parks: The Next Field training course – Birmingham - [More](#)
Discount for GreenSpace, RTPI & IPGS members

15 & 16 December 2011 - Future Cities 2011 - International Symposium – London – [More](#)

18 January 2011 – Planning for Parks: The Next Field training course – Sheffield - [More](#) -
Discount for GreenSpace, RTPI & IPGS members



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National News

Green space health conference coming soon

The next GreenSpace conference, Prescribing Green Space, will take place in London's Mayfair Conference Centre on 23 November. The event, which will focus on how to unlock the health value in parks, will feature prominent GP and new GreenSpace trustee William Bird as keynote speaker.

Places are going fast, email [Caroline Carsey](#) to secure yours.

Peoples' Choice Award winner announced

The Green Flag Plus Partnership, which comprises GreenSpace, Keep Britain Tidy and BTCV, are delighted to announce The Old Station, Tintern, Monmouthshire as winners of the People's Choice Award. [More](#)

Valuing the UK's wildlife and habitats

Two recent research reports commissioned by Defra help reveal the value of the UK's wildlife and habitats, estimating the wildlife covered by the *UK Biodiversity Action Plan* and *Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)* to be worth approximately £1.5 billion per year to the UK.

The 2 reports are: *The Benefits of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England and Wales* and *The Economic valuation of the benefits of ecosystem services delivered by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan*. [More](#)

National Planning Policy Framework: 2 inquiries

The CLG Select Committee launched an [inquiry](#) into the NPPF, including whether it provides sufficient guidance to local planning authorities, the Planning Inspectorate and others, and whether provisions will give local communities sufficient power over planning decisions and sustainable development.

The Environmental Audit Committee launched an [inquiry](#) into the NPPF, which will examine the particular issue of the way sustainable development is addressed in the NPPF.

The EAC will seek to conclude its brief inquiry in time to inform the CLG Committee's inquiry. Submission for these enquiries closed in September.

Best Value Guidance launched

The CLG has [published guidance](#) to local authorities on how to protect voluntary and community groups from disproportionate cuts to their funding.

It revokes:

- *Handling of workforce matters* in contracting,
- the *Code of practice on workforce matters*
- the whole statutory guidance *Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities*, which included general Best Value guidance on commissioning, and
- plans to repeal the two main remaining statutory duties covered in that guidance (the Duty to Involve and the Duty to Prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy).

Government is committed to the principles in the renewed [National Compact](#).

Fatal tree cases in civil courts

From two recent cases, *Bowen and others v the National Trust and Micklewright v Surrey County Council*, the Rural Industries Group of IOSH concludes that it's vital for organisations with responsibilities for the management of trees in public places to have a carefully considered system in place for inspection, remedial work and record keeping. Staff with responsibilities for tree inspection and decisions on remedial work should be trained and competent. [More](#)

Their Tree Safety Management course in October held in Northumberland is fully booked. [More](#)

Open Public Services White Paper

High-quality public services are the right of everyone. The Open Public Services White Paper sets out how the Government will improve public services. By putting choice and control in the hands of individuals and neighbourhoods, public services will become more responsive to peoples' needs. [More](#)

'Diversity' is 1 of 5 key principles highlighted. It opens up public services to competitive tendering. It says public services can be delivered by a diverse range of providers in order to meet peoples' complex needs, increase expectations or ensure that services are tailored.

Council tax freeze

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced new support for local authorities to help them freeze council tax next year. [More](#)

Making Open Data Real

The Open Data consultation paper sets out Government's proposed approach for Transparency and Open Data Strategy, which is aimed at establishing a culture of openness and transparency in public services. They want to hear from everyone – citizens, businesses, public services themselves, and other interest groups – on how they can best embed a culture of openness and transparency in our public services. The deadline for consultation responses is 27 October 2011. [More](#)

Environment Agency helping others to adapt to climate change

Emergency services, farmers, businesses and planners are among those who are being invited

to have their say on new ways to help the country further adapt to climate change.

From October 1, the Environment Agency takes on an additional role as the Government's delivery body in England to help business, industry, local government and the wider public sector adapt to climate change. The role includes overseeing the programme to improve the nation's resilience to climate change. [More](#)

The Environment Agency-led programme replaces and builds on the Defra-funded UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP). To ensure a smooth transition, UKCIP is working as a delivery partner on the programme providing support and guidance on adaptation until March 2012, when the handover is set to be complete.



Government will not build over green belt

Communities secretary reveals new plans to protect British countryside, and cites Dale Farm in planning rules to avoid future problems with travellers' sites. The government will strengthen the green belt, Eric Pickles told the Conservative

party conference on Monday amid accusations it plans to concrete over the countryside. [More](#)

New Homes Bonus on weak foundations?

The New Homes Bonus has been hailed as the answer to the UK housing shortage, but it's not inspiring confidence in housing professionals or the public. [More](#)

What makes a city green?

Our cities are becoming focused on how they can become more green. Many cities now market themselves as "green cities. But what does it actually mean?

There are two clear messages from Centre for Cities analysis. The first is that, somewhat counterintuitively, the urban jungle is actually rather green. And the second is that when looking to strengthen its green credentials, planning policy is local government's most powerful environmental tool. [More](#)

Discussion on councils' role in place-making

Local Government Network of Guardian Professional has gathered up the best bits from their latest live discussion about place shaping.

'Place shaping is not all about community involvement, although crucial, it's also about quality of public space, local facilities and services.' [More](#)

Village SOS funding

Villages across the UK have until 20 October to apply for up to £30,000 from the Big Lottery Fund's Village SOS Active competition and a share of £5 million Lottery cash to create exciting community enterprises that will help to revitalise their area and meet the needs of local people. [More...](#)

Anyone living in a rural village of less than 3,000 people, with an enterprising idea should register at www.villagesos.org.uk where they will find more details as well as an online support network. All they need to do is outline their idea in a quick and easy online form and the best ideas will be chosen to complete a full application for a grant of between £10,000 and £30,000.

Realising Ambition Programme opens

The Big Lottery Realising Ambition Programme opens to application on 13 September. Voluntary and community sector organisations throughout the UK may apply for grants of up to £3 million to support projects that help young people between the ages of 8 and 14 years avoid pathways into offending. [More...](#)

Silver Dreams Funding

The £10million **Silver Dreams Fund** launched by the BIG Lottery Fund in association with the Daily Mail, is its biggest single investment in older people with a £110 million package of Lottery good cause funding. The BIG Lottery Fund aims to help older people manage life-changing events and encourage them to get more involved in their communities whilst recognising the positive contribution older people make to society today. [More...](#)

Improving lives through sport

Sported. is a national charity that provides funding and capacity building support to organisations and individuals that use sport as a vehicle to improve the lives of disadvantaged young people aged 11-25. www.sported.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund consultation

Welcoming the consultation, The Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude said: "The voluntary, community and social enterprise

sector is at the heart of this Government's mission to build a Big Society. The Big Society is about helping people to come together to improve their own lives. It's about putting more power in people's hands, opening up public services and encouraging social action". [More](#)

Kevin Curley, chief executive of the local infrastructure body [Navca](#), has warned, the government must not abandon a promise. In a letter to the Cabinet Office minister, Curley said proposed new policy directions that govern the lottery, being consulted on until 18 November, promises only that Big Lottery funding would go "primarily" to the voluntary sector, whereas previous government documents have promised that all funding would go the sector.

Behavioural insights 1 year on

The Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team's first annual report highlights examples of the application of behavioural insights to policy over the last year, including energy efficiency, health and wellbeing. [More](#)

Defra's Centre of Expertise on Influencing Behaviour has also recently published a related tool to help develop effective approaches to influencing behaviour – [A framework for sustainable lifestyles](#).

Locality Here we stand

This is Locality's position paper sets out their position as a movement and on key issues. It addresses the major challenges they face, including their relationship with the state and with the private sector, public spending cuts, and the Big Society. [More](#)

Let's be friends

The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces has produced a [simple leaflet](#) for people who want to get more involved in their local spaces. It includes tips for starting a friends

group and what your group can do to help improve the area.

Don't forget you can always sign up to the [GreenSpace Community Update](#) to keep up-to-date with the latest resources and funding sources.

Make a Difference Day

The date is Saturday 29 October, with activities running from 22 October until 6 November. CSV's Make a Difference Day, the UK's biggest day of volunteering. [More](#)

Citizenship survey

86 per cent thought people from different backgrounds got on well together in their area, compared with 80 per cent in 2003, according to a Government Survey published recently. However, the survey also found that just 39 per cent of people took part in some form of volunteering in the last year, the lowest level since 2001 and only a third of people participated in civic events such as a demonstration or petition, or contacting a local politician. [More](#)

Spacehive

Spacehive is a new online platform that enables communities to put forward ideas for neighbourhood improvement projects and to share the cost of building them. They are currently in the process of bringing together their pilots - a diverse range of projects including a skate park, orchards, and an outdoor amphitheatre. Contact [Maddie Yuille](#) on 07790 023 361 or register your interest [online](#).

Country Park Network News has a new-look

[Country Park Network](#)

Learning from the MENE survey

The [Monitoring Engagement in the Natural Environment \(MENE\)](#) survey is essential evidence for all green space managers. It tells how people use the natural environment (where, when and for what) as well as highlighting the benefits people feel they get from it. View the [results from the first and now the second year of surveys](#) on the Natural England website.

2011 RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals Results

[View the full list of results](#) online.

Free wildflower seeds for 'in Bloom'

Following this year's successful tree-planting launch, next year RHS will be offering groups the chance to sow wildflowers as part of a nationwide "in Bloom" celebration to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

'Wild about Wildflowers' is open to all registered "in Bloom" and It's Your Neighbourhood groups, as well as RHS Affiliated Societies. Groups can apply for a free pack of UK wildflower seeds to cover an area 10m² for sowing in April 2012. [More](#)

Free farm visits for ELS

Natural England has launched a new service of one-to-one farm visits to help farmers in Entry Level Stewardship get the most out of their ELS agreements. [More](#)

The registration of new town or village greens

This consultation seeks views on proposals to reform the system for registering new town or village greens under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006. Deadline 17 October 2011.

With regard to the Government's commitment, announced in the Natural Environment White Paper, to introduce a [Local Green Spaces designation](#), the consultation presents the Government's case to reform the registration system so as to achieve an improved regulatory balance between protecting high quality green space valued by local communities and enabling the right development to occur in the right place at the right time.

There is no intention to review sites already registered. [More](#)

Natural England Board recommends new National Park boundaries

The expansion of two of England's finest National Parks reached a major milestone today as Natural England's Board agreed to proceed with recommendations to significantly expand the boundaries of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks, increasing their combined area by nearly 500km². [More](#)

IWA 's Campaign Team Puts Funding Message Direct to Leading Politicians

IWA is representing the inland waterways movement at the Conservative and Labour party conferences this year, as part of the Boating Alliance. [More](#)

BTCV Big Green Weekend 21 to 23 October 2011

Deadly foreign diseases threaten Britain's trees [More](#)

Big society policies hampered by civil service, MPs say [More](#)

Make the Peat-Free Promise [Garden Organic](#)

East Midlands Adaptation Network e-newsletter [Wrapper library](#)

Play England open sessions

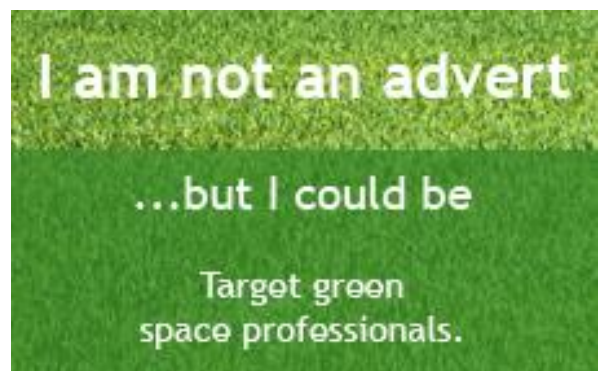
Can you support them by joining them on the 7 November for their annual members meeting (*for members only*), an exciting open session in the afternoon and an early evening celebration of the past 5 years' investments in play? Call [Lyndsey McCullagh](#) on 020 7843 6300.

The benefits of community ownership

Communities that own their assets are better placed to develop and manage services to meet the needs of local people according to research published by the Big Lottery Fund. In addition, the research indicates that community owned buildings or equipment are valued by communities themselves, leading to a decrease in vandalism. [More](#)

Public Services by Design

This is a mentoring programme that helps service leaders and frontline teams meet service delivery challenges, is now calling for new applicants. [More](#)



Participatory Budgeting

This involves local people in deciding directly how part of a public budget is spent. [More](#)

Local News

GSEM would be pleased to add your local news here. Tell us about: What activities have gone well or even lessons learnt. Share your news with our green space network.

Fields in Trust: Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

As the Diamond Jubilee and London 2012 Olympics draws closer, ensuring a summer of celebration in 2012, [Fields in Trust's](#) largest undertaking of protecting open space – [The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge](#) - gains momentum as increasing numbers of Local Councils are nominating sites to protect for future generations, through Fields in Trust's Deeds of Dedication.

Ownership and management of the site *does not* change and with protection comes the advantages of applying for *exclusive* funding through [SITA](#), involvement in Diamond Jubilee [Have a Field Day](#) events and the knowledge that further open space for sport, play and recreation will not be lost to development in your local area.

Since 1992, over 6,000 playing fields have been lost to development, never to return. If you are keen to protect open space for your community, please contact Jamie Leeson, Regional Manager (East Midlands) for Fields in Trust, at; 07525 182414, or Jamie.leeson@fieldsintrust.org

Nottingham in Bloom



Follow the floral trail of 8 sculptures and discover Nottingham's great shops...[More](#)

Family Friendly hotspots named

The purpose of the [Family Friendly Hotspots Report](#) is to identify the best locations in the country for young families to live. The research sought to identify the locations which, according to analysis, offer the ideal mix of family friendly factors such as availability of high quality education and child care, low crime rates, access to amenities and affordable housing including Green Flag Award Parks.

Top 20 from East Midlands include:

- Groby, Leicestershire
- Chellaston, Derby
- Horncastle, Lincolnshire

News from another region

Nature and health in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council's Corporate Biodiversity Group has recognised the health benefits of nature green spaces, producing a leaflet and a report to their Commission of Inquiry on Personalisation. [More](#)

GSEM Update

GSEM aims to help improve learning, knowledge and skills of professionals and volunteers in the sector through sharing regional expertise through it's workshops.

Community Engagement – Huthwaite, Notts – 27 October 2011

Neighbourhoods Green study visit series comes to East Midlands. This study visit, delivered in partnership with GSEM will explore best practice examples of community engagement and open up the discussion amongst professionals on sustainable delivery methods and partnerships.

Next GSEM steering group meeting is 19 October – details to be sent to members.

Conservative MP

The Forum Manager, Ruth Rolls is meeting with Nicky Mogan MP (private parliamentary secretary to David Willets, Minister for Universities and Science) following enquiries stimulated by Green Space's Love Parks Week campaign and GreenLink's Blue Sky Green Space report.

GreenSpace News

View the newly updated [GreenSpace Community](#) Fund Search. [More](#)

Fantastic feedback from the NFPGS conference on World Parks Day

Delegates have praised the first ever national gathering of friends and community groups as 'enjoyable and informative'. Held on World Parks Day, the [National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces](#) (NFPGS) conference attracted in excess of 80 delegates.

A full conference report including all presentation slides and a summary of the workshops will be available shortly to download free online. GreenSpace supported the event, with sponsorship from Big Lottery Fund, Birmingham City Council and Quadron.

GreenSpace National Forum

DEFRA and DCLG presented on Natural Environment White Paper and Big Society respectively, at the GreenSpace National Forum meeting in August. Also discussed was how to harness lost skills from the sector. [More](#)
Forum Manager has circulated notes to GSEM members from this meeting.

It is anticipated that the theme for the next meeting will be changes to planning. The next meeting is on 3 November 2011. The GSEM steering group will discuss what will be reported from East Midlands before the meeting.

GSEM Network

GSEM offers members (and currently others) a service to pose a green space question to other members and sector professional.

Between us we have an enormous pool of knowledge. Sharing your expertise, experience or observations helps others in the sector.

GSEM is exploring with GreenSpace how we can display answers to Network Question from around the country in an accessible and convenient way online.

GSEM Network Question – recent question circulated about grazing livestock in parks and open spaces particularly in urban areas. We have had over 15 helpful responses to this question.

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.

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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