
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.

18 January 2011 – Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside network – Oadby – Contact Simon on 0116 257 2839

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

24 January 2011 – **GSEM steering group meeting** – 1pm to 3pm - Leicestershire

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

14 February 2011 – Green Flag Award Demonstration Day – Shipley Country Park – 10am to 4pm

Other Diary Dates for 2011

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

19 January - 2%ers Network - East Midlands Council – Melton Mowbray - [More](#)

25 January - Campaigning in a Changing Environment – NCVO – London - [More](#)

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

1 February - First Steps in Social Enterprise – Voluntary Action Rutland - 0115 871 4760

1 February - Can we afford not to adapt to climate change? – LG Group – London - [More](#)

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

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

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

29 March - Welfare, Employment & Skills 2011 conference: Big Society in Action: The Role of the Third Sector in Employment and Skills – London - [More](#)

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

National News

Royal approval

In the Queen's speech she shared her view of how communities can be strengthened through sports and games.

'In the parks of towns and cities, and on village greens up and down the country, countless thousands of people every week give up their time to participate in sport and exercise of all sorts, or simply encourage others to do so. These kinds of activity are common throughout the world and play a part in providing a different perspective on life...' [More](#)

CABE: Seven ingredients for success

[Managing green spaces: seven ingredients for success](#) brings together evidence to assist green space managers, corporate decision-makers and advisors in deciding the future of services. It sets out seven 'ingredients for success.' It also outlines the resources that green space managers can draw on to describe the critical services that green space provides to local communities.

The research was carried out for CABE between 2009 and 2010 by the New Local Government Network (NLGN).

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](#)

The executive summary was circulated to Ministers in October 2010. The full report will be launched shortly through The Bench, GreenSpace's e-bulletin. The report is downloadable from the website and information can always be updated and amended as new evidence comes to light.

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.

Giving Green Paper

The Cabinet Office has published the Government's initial ideas for building a stronger culture of giving time and money. The ideas aim to start a national debate on our society's attitudes to giving.

The [Giving Green Paper](#) proposes a new role for government as a facilitator of giving, making it easier for philanthropists, volunteers and charities to form partnerships.

Call for authorities to consult communities

DCLG has issued an [invitation](#) to local authorities under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. Councils are being asked to consult their communities on how they would like to improve their local area.

Big Society Award

The [Big Society Award](#) has been created to recognise individuals, groups or organisations that are demonstrating the Big Society in their work or activities. Anyone, including people who benefit from the group, organisation or individuals activities, may make a nomination.

Do you know about CASE?

CASE is a joint programme of strategic research lead by DCMS in collaboration with Arts Council England, English Heritage, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Sport England.

[CASE](#) aims to strengthen our understanding of how best to deliver high quality culture and sporting opportunities to the widest audience, generating positive outcomes for society.

Valuing culture: a new report

[Measuring the value of culture: a report to DCMS](#), is a report by AHRC/ ESRC DCMS fellow Dr David O'Brien from Leeds Metropolitan University, in which he assesses the different approaches to generating economic values associated with engagement in culture and sport, to reach conclusions aimed at ensuring the sectors understood the needs of Government departments to demonstrate value for money, and the ways that are acceptable.

BES grant deadline approaches

The Public Engagement Grant is provided and administered by the British Ecological Society.

The fund is designed to support schools, museums, libraries, individual researchers and

community organisations promoting the importance of ecology in a wider context.

Max. grant £2000. Deadline 15 January 2011 - annual rolling programme. [More](#)

Not your traditional government report

The Behavioural Insights Team has been established by central government to explore other methods than the 'Traditional' tools, including legislation and regulation or fiscal measures – tax and spending, to encourage provide incentives to people to behave in certain ways.

They therefore hope that the fresh approach that ['Applying behavioural insight to health'](#) document brings will spark new ideas and innovation across local communities.

Love Parks Week twitters again

If you have a Twitter accounts don't forget to follow Love Parks Week 2011 @loveparksweek and GreenSpace @greenspaceuk.

Residents can now see where council funding goes

As part of the Government's commitment to transparency, ministers have taken steps to demystify the complex formula grant funding system by publishing further analysis of the way in which central government funding will be distributed per resident around country. [More](#)

The Big Tree Plant

The Big Tree Plant aims to encourage people and communities to plant more trees in urban and residential areas. The five year campaign will encourage local community groups to plant and care for trees in their neighbourhood, particularly in areas that don't have many. The Big Tree Plant partnership brings together civil society partners and conservation organisations, working with Defra and the Forestry Commission. For more information on

how to get involved visit [The Big Tree Plant website](#).

Additional funding to prepare for floods

£21million worth of [grants to help councils](#) protect and support their own community when managing flood risk has been confirmed by Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman.

'More money for flood defence but green spaces are the solution.' Michael Parr, The Land Trust in recent separate press release.

Recent research from the Centre for Cities

[Grand Designs? A new approach to the built environment in England's cities](#)

Ageing well? A good place to grow old

This self-assessment tool has been developed to help councils and their partners consider and take steps to address the needs of its ageing population in order to build 'a good place to grow older'. It is simple, quick and easy to use, and has been designed so that older people can get involved.

Budget allocations for DEFRA confirmed

The [budget allocations](#) for Defra and its arms length bodies for the next financial year were published in December.

Indicative allocations for each of the remaining years of the Spending Review period have also been published.

The allocations are for resource spending, which covers programme and admin costs. Some capital budgets have also been confirmed. The remainder of Defra's capital budget will be confirmed early in 2011.

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens requests members thoughts

DEFRA are keen to find out more about private farmers renting land for allotments or for community food growing. If you have a similar project please contact [Marie](#) on 024 7667 5211.

The Department for Communities and Local Government would be very grateful for any assistance in promoting and raising a clear awareness and understanding of the Community Right to Buy. Do you have a good case study around asset transfer, please send them to [Marie](#) with asset transfer case study in subject title.

The federation has recently updated the Farm Registration and Livestock Movement guidance documents for the [Get Your Hands Dirty](#) resource, whilst written specifically for school farms, the information is equally useful for any community farm.

New Social Enterprise Network

The Guardian has recently launched its own [Social Enterprise Network](#) - a hub of information for social enterprises and a place they can engage in debate around issues the social enterprise sector faces, ask questions and get advice.

First Draft of New Waterway Charity Objectives

A first draft of the possible charitable objectives for the [New Waterways Charity \(NWC\)](#) was presented at the British Waterways Annual Meeting on the 2nd December 2010.

Measuring tourism locally

Tourism will need to work hard to position themselves in the new Local Economic Partnerships. To help you, Visit England has recently published guidance with the Office of National Statistics (ONS) on measuring the impact of tourism locally. [Tourism Analysis and Guidance](#)

Pillars of the community: the transfer of local authority heritage assets

English Heritage and a number of other organisations have joined forces with the Asset Transfer Unit to published guidance on transferring heritage assets. [Pillars of the community](#)

Local News

Demonstration Day in Derbyshire

Places are booking fast for the [GSEM Green Flag Award Demonstration Day](#) on 14 February at Shipley Country Park. Book now if you manage public green spaces and care about their quality.

A decade combating Climate Change

The East Midlands was the first region in England to achieve 100% support for the Nottingham Declaration, launched in 2000, from all 46 Councils in the East Midlands and the Peak District National Park Authority.

Authorities across the East Midlands will publish public statements outlining what they have done – and will be doing – to tackle the causes and consequences of global warming. [More](#)

Green spaces at community forums

The Coalition government is considering creating a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities, and Leicestershire County Council wants to hear local people's opinions on this matter.

Residents are being encouraged to get involved in the debate over what should happen to their local green spaces by attending their local community forum.

For [further information](#) please contact [Derk van der Wardt](#) on 0116 305 7581.

Greenwood success in Ashfield

The Greenwood Community Forest Partnership has [published reports](#) outlining its achievements over the last three years. These include projects to transform underused and derelict land into wildlife rich woodlands and green open spaces, whilst helping local people to get involved, enjoying and caring for green spaces on their doorstep.



Developing a local outcomes framework for culture and sport workshop

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.

[A guide to developing a local outcomes framework for culture and sport](#)

Festive funding from Reaching Communities

Festive funding for Mansfield's Oak Tree Lane Estate will help bring out neighbourhood spirit this Christmas as it receives over £221,015 from Reaching Communities.

New activities will be set up including working with the community conservation group for the

local Site of Special Scientific Interest and reviving the local football team. [More](#)

Defra funding continues

Defra have recently announced that it will continue to fund the national Rural Community Councils network. The Defra priorities for such funding are; Access to Services, Transport, Broadband and Fuel Poverty.

Jeremy Prescott Leicestershire and Rutland RCC Director states "Although exact details of the settlement have yet to be promulgated, and it is highly probable that there will a reduction from the previous 3 year settlement, this reassurance from Defra to the network at this time is extremely welcome. It shows once again that Government continues to trust the delivery by RCC's in supporting many aspects of life in rural areas, which lag behind their urban counterparts. This Defra funding will allow the RCC to continue to champion key aspects of rural life in Leicestershire & Rutland"

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. 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.

Requests for membership renewals and new members for 2011/12 will start shortly. Joining will help secure the forum's future for the forthcoming years and continue to provide the green space sector with a voice.

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](#).

Head of Services meetings

First one took place in September and second one due in January, both kindly hosted by Leicester City Council.

The purpose of the meeting is to gauge responses to the pending local authority budget reductions and create a platform for shared information and possible discussion about delivery options such as shared services.

It is open to head of green space services or their representatives within each local authority in East Midlands including all City, County, Borough and District Councils.

Mapping East Midlands public open spaces

The Accessible Open Spaces study is moving from data collection to analysis and support. We are very pleased with the study, collecting mapping information from about 70% of the local authorities in East Midlands so far. If your authority hasn't sent their data in yet, you have until 31 January.

Future seminars

The forum manager will shortly be working on testing the interest for two seminars one on health and another on community involvement. If your organisation is interested in working in partnership or sponsoring these events, we would like to hear from you.

GreenSpace News

Green Places website upgraded

GreenSpace are upgrading the [Green Places](#) website so that you can search via keywords through articles, this should be available by the end of the month.

Green Places is GreenSpace's magazine, bringing together the latest thinking, best practice and debate for the green space sector.

GreenSpace National Forum webpage launched

The [GreenSpace National Forum](#) invites representatives of each region to come together to influence national issues and directly engage with government and its agencies.

GSEM has had continuous representation at these meetings, bringing attention to issues and opportunities arising from our region from the steering group meetings.

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.

Climate Week 21- 27 March 2011

GreenSpace is supporting [Climate Week](#), a national campaign. This is being advertised online and within our newsletters.

UK Aware 25-26 March 2011

GreenSpace are also pleased to be exhibiting at the only green and ethical lifestyle show in London. They will be promoting GreenSpace, GreenStat, IPGS, regional forums, and Green Places magazine.

Community Networking Project for 2011

The Community Network at GreenSpace is about to embark on gathering important research into community groups that are involved with parks and green spaces across the UK. The Community Networking Project was originally completed [in 2003](#) when over 1,000 completed questionnaires from community groups were received. We hope to emulate this fantastic response for the current round of research. Contact [Community Network Project](#).

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 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.

Question - Are you able to offer Caroline Hunt from Swindon Borough Council assistance?

I have been working with our Aiming High team in Swindon, and we are looking for sometimes of play equipment specifically suitable for children in wheelchairs. These items will be installed on a play area which will be open to the public at all times, and will not be supervised. We have investigated various wheelchair swings, but have decided that these would not be suitable for a public play area. There are various roundabouts which we like, and a wheelchair seesaw, which looks ok but not particularly challenging.

Have any other authorities installed this type of play equipment that they could recommend?

Caroline Hunt , Parks Development Officer,
Swindon Borough Council, 01793 463251

Please send email responses to [Lucy Fowler](#) at GreenSpace.

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 CABI 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](#) 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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