
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.

22 March – Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network – Loughborough – [Colin Bailey](#) on 01509 632 530

4 April – Heads of Service meeting – 10.30 to 12.30 – venue to be confirmed

12 April – Steering Group meeting – Nottingham – GSEM members

7 June - Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network – [Bob Mullins](#)

8 June – Northamptonshire Green Spaces Forum meeting – Wellingborough

10 June – Derbyshire Green Spaces Forum meeting – Matlock

Other Diary Dates for 2011

17 March – Cemeteries fit for the 21st century – [London Parks and Green Spaces Forum](#) - London

21-25 March – Climate Week in East Midlands - [Programme](#)

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

25 to 26 March – UK Aware – 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](#)

30 March – ICOMOS Parks for People workshop – London - [Paul Walshe](#)

7 April – Working with Communities on Climate Change – London – Contact [Corina](#)

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

14 April 2011 - Sustainable Transport Systems, Influencing Travel Behaviour – London - [More](#)

29th April – 2nd May - IWA's 2011 National Campaign Festival – Northampton - [More](#)

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

National News

Heritage Lottery Funding - tell them what you think

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has launched a three-month consultation inviting views on the future of lottery funding for heritage to help shape its strategy from 2013 to 2019. This represents a chance for green space managers to stress the importance of parks funding, or to suggest changes to the current process.

HLF sets out proposals on a wide range of key heritage issues. It offers people the opportunity to consider what the organisation's priorities should be, what it should continue doing and what it should do differently, particularly as other sources of public investment become increasingly scarce. The consultation questionnaire runs until 26 April. [More](#)

CABE and Design Council announce merger

CABE's key design activities are to be retained after it announced a merger with The Design Council on 1 April.

The new organisation will be the government's advisor on design in business innovation and the built environment. A new governance structure is being put in place.

The merged organisation will provide a one-stop shop for design support and advice, encompassing a range of services already provided by both the Design Council and CABE. It will have a particular focus on achieving good design at a local level. [More](#)

Government discontinues play contracts

The government has announced that it is to discontinue its contracts for national play when they expire this month. As a result, Play England will no longer have a delivery role in the national Play Strategy or Play Shaper. The non-renewal will also see the end of the Children's Play Information Service. Play England's work will continue in spite of these reduced circumstances, and announcements about the charity's new structure and work programme will be made when finalised. [More](#)

GreenSpace has responded to the news by deeming the cuts short-sighted and short-termist - likely to cost the state more in the long run. [More](#)

Healthy lives, healthy people: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health

This consultation explores the proposed funding and commissioning routes for public health, including the ring-fenced budget provided to local authorities. The consultation closes on 31 March, after which a summary of responses received will be published. [More](#)

The future of walking for health

2011 will see some big changes to the Walking for Health (WfH) programme in England.

Natural England, with support from Defra and Dept. of Health, would like these to be delivered by a voluntary sector organisation or wider partnership in the future. [More](#)

Preserving local parks crucial to Big Society

A new publication by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), supported by Groundwork UK, states that preserving public space is crucial for stimulating social action and realising the coalition government's vision for the Big Society. [More](#)

Equality and diversity legislation

The Equality Act is the most significant piece of equality legislation to be introduced for many years. It is there to strengthen protection, advance equality and simplify the law. Ninety per cent of the act came into force on 1 October 2010. The rest of it includes Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which comes into effect in April 2011 and represents the main provisions of interest to local government. This includes details about how the duty applies to listed

public bodies and those discharging public functions (in respect of those functions), for example, third-sector bodies when discharging public functions, and clarification that procurement and commissioning can be used to drive equality. [More](#)

The Big Tree Plant funding scheme

The main aim of The Big Tree Plant funding scheme is to encourage and support community groups to plant trees in neighbourhoods where people live and work.

The scheme can fund work such as community involvement, site surveys and expert advice as well as trees, planting materials, labour, and tree care and maintenance. [More](#)

Government launches free website to help charities find contracts

The government has launched Contracts Finder, a new website aimed at helping organisations find public sector contracting opportunities worth more than £10,000. Organisations can register on the site to specify types of contracts they are interested in and receive emails, [here](#).

Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund

The Department of Health's Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund will be launching its second local grant scheme in Spring 2011, following the 2010 scheme which funded 43 projects across England, [here](#).

Half term play

It's half term but Play England is worried that children aren't getting out to play and enjoying themselves.

71 per cent of adults played outside in the street or area close to their homes every day when they were children, just 21 per cent of children do so today. [More](#)

One way of getting your community behind children's play is to get involved in Playday, the national day for play, being held on Wednesday 3 August. [More](#)

Parents for Playgrounds

Play England is pleased to have partnered with Robinsons Fruit Shoot to launch 'Parents for Playgrounds' - a national programme that will give five local play areas the chance of winning a renovation bursary of up to £15,000.

If you know of a local play area in need of funding, get nominating via www.readyforten.com.

IWA Working Partnerships

Inland Waterways Association are working with former waterways ministers the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP (Labour) and Tony Baldry (Conservative), to reconstitute the All Party Parliamentary Waterways Group; so that we increase our influence during the consultation period for the new Waterways Charity. IWA has also taken on the services of former waterway minister Jonathan Shaw as our new Parliamentary advisor. [More](#)

Big Society Awards

The Big Society is about moving power away from central government and giving it to local communities and individuals. The Big Society Award has been created to recognise individuals, groups or organisations that are demonstrating the Big Society in their work or activities.

Third round deadline on 9 May 2001. [More](#)
There has been a low representation of communities involved in green spaces. Do you know an active community making a difference, why not nominate them?

Green Flag Awards

New judges - There are approximately 70 new GFA judges for the 2011 awards. The programme of induction training for these is nearly complete, although applications are welcome anytime of year.

Applications for 2011 – Scheme still growing despite recession, applications are up 5.6% to 1,231. Those for the GF Community Award are currently up 9% to 147.

Judging timeframe - The judging allocation should be sent out w/c 19 March, with judging to be completed between 1 April and 10 June. The Flag Raising Day/event planned for Wednesday 27 July.

Review of 'Raising The Standard' Guidance document - This document review stems from a questionnaire sent out to judges 2 years ago, and looks to address the matters/concerns raised. The work should be completed by October 2011.

Local News

Accredited country parks

4 country parks in East Midlands are listed with Natural England's Country Parks Accreditation Scheme: Daventry, Rufford Abbey, Shipley and Watermead Country Parks.

Launched in August 2009, the Scheme aims to identify and recognise those sites that actually do deliver the core facilities and services expected of Country Parks. There are about 430 Country Parks across the country and about 34 that are accredited. [More](#)

National Campaign Festival

IWA's 2011 National Campaign Festival will be held on Northampton's River Nene waterfront over the May Day Weekend (29th April – 2nd May).

The aims of the Festival are to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Nene becoming fully navigable to Northampton from The Wash, to

encourage greater recreational use of the river, supported by better facilities, as well as contributing to the process of re-connecting Northampton with its waterfront. By the time of the Festival, the Environment Agency's new 82-berth marina in Becket's Park is due to be open. This will provide a valuable facility for boaters and a visitor attraction and forms the first step in revitalising the riverside.

Organised by IWA Northampton Branch, the event is supported by Northampton Borough Council, the Environment Agency, British Waterways and the Association of Nene River Clubs. It is one of a series of events being held in 2011 to highlight the Nene and its importance to the local area. [More](#)

GSEM Update

Loss of skills in the sector

GSEM is saddened and concerned by the loss of many skilled staff from the sector both for the personal concerned but for the sector.

We encourage those staff to keep in touch or continue to give and share their knowledge with others. There are many opportunities such as

- joining the Institute Parks and Green Spaces,
- receiving these bulletins to your homes email,
- become a trustee of a charity or
- volunteering particularly where you can help train apprentice or those coming through the ranks.

GSEM Membership subscriptions

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.

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

5% early bird is offered to organisations that join before 20 April 2011

15% discount is available to encourage applications for 3-years subscription paid in advance.

Steering group meeting - Reform our service

The forum's next steering group meeting and annual review in April will:

- summarise last year's activities and satisfaction levels,
- propose new terms of reference,
- propose action plan for 2011/12 and
- will appoint steering group voluntary roles.

The meeting is Tuesday 12 April, Loxley House, Nottingham. GSEM members are welcome, please contact Ruth Rolls to attend. GSEM would appreciate members input on the first draft of the revised terms of reference. Please let me have your comments by 11 March.

Green Flag Award demonstration day a success

Held on 14 February at Shipley Country Park, Derbyshire, 32 participants listened to a judge, with 15-years' experience in the GFA scheme, assess desk and field assessment through presentations and guided walk.

More support is available on the [GSEM website](#) such as a frequently asked question sheet, regional statistics and event presentations.

Another GFA event is in the planning on Management Plan and Internal Quality

assessments. To express your interest and opinion on suitable content, please contact [Ruth Rolls](#).

Specialist service survey

The purpose of the heads of services 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.

Specialist service survey aims to attempt to map specialist services of authorities, so encouraging and instigating conversations that may lead to utilising of expertise that will create efficiencies and increased effectiveness of services across authority boundaries.

The next meeting is due in 4 April, Heads of Services are welcome to attend, please contact Ruth Rolls for more details.

Future seminars and workshops

The forum manager is planning 2011/12 action plan which intends to include delivering workshops and seminars for the sector. GSEM is interested in know what topics and subject you feel are of most interest and relevant where sector support is required. We would like to gather your thoughts through an online survey by 18 March -

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSEM-future-events-survey>

GreenSpace News

Keep track of GreenSpace policy comments

The new Policy and Research team at GreenSpace has been busy advocating for members and the parks and green spaces sector since its inception in 2010. They respond to consultations from the government and other bodies in order to make sure those who they represent are given a voice. They also respond to key decisions affecting the industry,

such as their letter to the Department for Education condemning the cancellation of Playbuilder.

These documents, as well as planned responses, are now housed in the [policy area](#) of GS website. This makes it easier for supporters to keep track, and for their views to be more widely circulated.

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 will be ready during March to provide further information, promotion tools and for events to be registered. [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.

Deadline for community survey extended

Community groups now have until Friday 11 March to ensure their voice is heard in GreenSpace's Community Networking Project. As the rate of responses we were receiving had not slowed by the planned closing date, the extra two weeks will allow as many groups as possible to share their views. [More](#)

Evidence for advocacy

GreenSpace is seeking to secure the evidence it needs to provide effective advocacy and properly represent its membership. To this end a survey has been produced which I hope you can find time to complete over the next couple of weeks.

The survey will provide useful information in order to be able to accurately report on the degree to which the green space sector is being affected by the recent Comprehensive Spending

Review.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GreenSpace_CSR_Impactsurvey-V2

Green Places - March edition preview

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

Creating places from spaces through narrative
David Buck and Claudia Ferrai share their design approach

Turning food production on its head
Jo Thompson is impressed by a new movement for urban agriculture

Public votes for parks
Glasgow parks service prepares to implement plans as suggested by local people

Can our green spaces bear fruit?
An interview with Brogdale's Tom La Dell

Solving the green design paradox
The University of Vermont's Michael Richards

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.

GSEM Network Question 1 –

Barry Lambton from London Borough of Croydon would like to find out if other officers have any experience of outsourcing their Park Ranger service – he is looking for a contract specification for this element if it exists.

Please contact Barry directly on 07775 705327 or barry.lambton@croydon.gov.uk, please cc Lucy Fowler at lucyf@green-space.org.uk into these emails, so she can support future enquiries.

GSEM Network Question 2 –

Donna from Shaw Trust is currently undertaking some research work around the topic of helping the young and unemployed back into some form of work by helping out in the local community.

At the moment Donna is particularly interested in finding out whether there are any local authorities who would be interested in being involved in hosting such volunteers so she can gauge whether this scheme is a viable option.

For Donna's contact number and email, please contact Lucy Fowler at lucyf@green-space.org.uk or 01189 469 060.

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.

[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.

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