

**Jude Lockett**

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## 'Access to Nature' open for applications

'Access to Nature' is an open grants programme run by Natural England as an award partner of the Big Lottery Fund. Access to Nature is part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme (Advice Line 0845 3671 671). Community Organisations, Charitable Trusts and Statutory organisations can now apply online for Access to Nature funding grants from £50,000 to £500,000. The scheme wants to work with organisations and networks that will help broaden access to the natural world for young people, older people, Black and minority ethnic groups and people with disabilities. The funding is also aimed to help those experiencing social, economic and geographical disadvantage to develop opportunities and help change people's perceptions about the natural world.

Potential projects include:

- \* new groups of people having opportunities to visit local greenspace and natural areas.
- \* skills training, events, activities around the natural environment.
- \* physical improvements-new paths and networks.
- \* project staff to help develop links create the opportunities for people.

Access to Nature funded projects must benefit communities through partnership working and bring about lasting benefits. They must be completed by October 2013. Full Guidance Notes are available on the website.

For further information and to discuss your ideas for the East Midlands please contact your Regional Adviser, Kristina Gould on 0115 900 5402.

For full details about the Access To Nature grant scheme go to: [www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature)

For details about the Changing Spaces programme go to: [http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_changing\\_spaces.htm?regioncode=-uk&progStatus=open&status=theProg&title=Changing%20Spaces](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_changing_spaces.htm?regioncode=-uk&progStatus=open&status=theProg&title=Changing%20Spaces)

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## BIG funds family and friends disability groups in Leics and Notts

Projects helping those facing disability, isolation and financial deprivation in Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire are sharing in over half a million pounds in Big Lottery Fund good cause support announced today (5 August 2008). The grants are from BIG's Reaching Communities programme that aims to improve the lives of people in need across England.

Helping vulnerable families cope with disability, isolation, low income and relationship difficulties, Home-Start

Blaby District Oadby & Wigston receives £431,518. The scheme, targeting those with children up to age five, will provide training on a range of skills, such as decision making, confidence building, coping with stress and positive parenting. The project, which will also host fun family play sessions and healthy eating courses, will provide a home visit service and offer advice and guidance on specialist support available from other helper organisations.

Reducing isolation for adults with learning disabilities in Nottinghamshire, Just Good Friends Club are awarded over £69,000. The project, which aims to offer those aged 16 and over the opportunity to create their own social and leisure activities within a well-structured and safe environment, will hold weekly social evenings, in Whitwell, Pinxton and Bolsover. The club will host a wide range of activities, such as bingo, charades, fancy dress, and special theme nights with dancing, music and food. Good friends looking to spread their wings further can also enjoy trips to local pubs, theatres, tenpin bowling and visits to sporting events. The project aims to encourage friendship and independence, and help reduce stigma within the wider community.

Mick McGrath, Head of Region for East Midlands, said: "Reaching Communities is about supporting organisations across the country that make a real difference in people's lives. These projects will open up new horizons for disadvantaged people of all ages across the East Midlands and the Big Lottery Fund recognises the important contribution that these valuable services offer to the community. "

Public Enquiries Line: 08454 102030

Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available on the website:

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

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## Consultation on policy statement on appraisal for flooding and coastal erosion risk management

This consultation sets out updated appraisal policy guidance from Defra reflecting the strategic and policy principles of first Government response to the Making Space for Water (MSW) consultation (March 2005). Making Space for Water proposed that more concise appraisal policy guidance should be issued by Defra and best practice implementation guidance issued by the Environment Agency in collaboration with other operating authorities. This new policy guidance from Defra and the practitioner guidance from the EA will replace the existing Flood and Coastal Defence Project Appraisal Guidance (FCDPAG) volumes 1-5. You are invited to comment on this consultation by **31st October 2008**.

More information is available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/flood-appraisal/index.htm>

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## Statistics from two new publications may be useful in supporting and informing green space development

Sustainable development indicators in your pocket (DEFRA) - <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/progress/data-resources/sdiyp.htm>

State of the Countryside Data (Commission for Rural Communities) - <http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/projects/stateofthecountrysidedata/overview>

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## East Midlands Growth Point

The consultation on the Growth Fund closed on the 7 July 2008, and a Government response has now been published. This guidance note has been prepared in line with the Government response, and seeks to assist

the existing Growth Points and Growth Areas to revise their Programmes of Development in order to confirm indicative allocations from the Growth Fund for 2009/10 and 2010/11, and to bid for additional funding made available from the Growth Fund for the same period.

The guidance note is available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/growthfundbiddingguide>  
The Government's response to the consultation is also available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/growthfundresponse>

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## East Midlands regional green space news:

Following a presentation at the GreenSpace East Midlands Open Meeting on 31 July by Mel Henley of High Peak Borough Council in which he stressed the value of publicity in raising the profile and securing the future of green space, here are some recent examples of press releases from across the region. If you would like more information about any of the items, please contact Jude Lockett ([judel@green-space.org.uk](mailto:judel@green-space.org.uk)) for contact information.

Please keep Jude advised of your press releases for possible inclusion in future News and Information circulation and the website.

### Leicestershire:

[Preparations are well underway for the second stage of Leicester in Bloom judging, due to take place on Tuesday August 5](#)

[Visitors who cycle to this year's Summer Sundae Weekender music festival in Leicester will be rewarded with the chance to win a fabulous biking holiday](#)

[Community carnival to take place in Humberstone, Leicester](#)

[Leicestershire's country parks scoop three national awards](#)

[Bus guide proves a big hit at Conkers in Leicestershire](#)

[Go wild for wildlife in Leicestershire](#)

[Every footpath tells a story in Leicestershire](#)

### Lincolnshire:

[Lincoln's Waterfront Festival hailed a success](#)

[Green Flag flying high in Lincoln](#)

[Come Out To Play! In Lincoln](#)

### Nottinghamshire:

[For the first time, four parks in the Newark and Sherwood district have been recognised as being of the highest national standard](#)

[Arnot Hill Park \(Gedling Borough Council\) scoops second Green Flag](#)

[Nine Nottingham parks and open spaces have been awarded prestigious Green Flag quality awards in recognition of being among the best in the country](#)

[Parklife returns to Nottingham this month, with its first event taking place at one of Nottingham's most historic parks, the Forest Recreation Ground](#)

[Nottingham will be looking its blooming best this Friday as the city aims to be named the greenest and cleanest community in the East Midlands](#)

[Bulwell makes a splash with new water park](#)

### Derbyshire:

[High Peak team receives prestigious parks awards](#)

[Helping hands spruce up Buxton in High Peak](#)

[Judges brave rain for Buxton in Bloom](#)

[Pavilion Gardens Conservatory in High Peak re-opens](#)

[Clowne is blooming](#)

[Green Flag award for Queen's Park, Chesterfield](#)

[Having a Ball...in Chesterfield](#)

[Beer mat walk in South Derbyshire](#)

[Volunteers are helping to make Midway Fishponds in South Derbyshire an even better place for people and wildlife to enjoy](#)

[Staff and visitors at Shipley Country Park in Derbyshire are celebrating after getting a Green Flag Award](#)

[Keeping woodland traditions alive at Linacre in Derbyshire](#)

[New look path is unveiled at Wirksworth in Derbyshire](#)

[Greenwatch Action Grants in Derbyshire](#)

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