

Jude Lockett



Coming of Age

Greens Norton, one of the first Pocket Parks is celebrating it's 21st Birthday this year with a series of fun activities to mark this special occasion. The Pocket Parks Scheme has been helping Northamptonshire County Council achieve a Cleaner, Safer and Greener County for over 24 years. The Old Brickyard was owned by Northamptonshire County Council. For many years it was grazed by a tenant farmer and enjoyed by local people. When the County Council put it up for sale in 1987, the villagers rallied around to save it. It is now owned by Greens Norton Parish Council and managed by the Pocket Park group. Since it was officially opened by Councillor Harker in 1989, the group have improved the existing ponds, installed boardwalks and picnic areas, planted a new woodland, spinney and native Northamptonshire hedgerows, created better access for all and new meadows. All within nearly 5 acres which is located 1/4 of a mile from the village down Bengal Lane. To top this year's celebrations, the pocket park has been awarded Local Nature Reserve status, which acknowledges the habitats and wildlife present as being of County importance.

Future Event

Anniversary Celebration Exhibition on 14th September between 11.30am and 4pm at Greens Norton Community Centre will illustrate the work and history of the Pocket Park. Refreshments available.

For more information about these events please contact Mike Potter on 01327 350 520.

For more information about the Pocket Parks Scheme please visit our website on www.pocketparks.com or call Ruth Rolls, Pocket Parks Officer on 01604 237 222.

CABE Space newsletter - Public Space and Climate Change

This newsletter offers expert advice and reports cutting-edge case studies on adapting public space to flood risk. You can read first-hand experiences of professionals who have faced the effects of flooding - and link to relevant research, events and organisations.

The newsletter is available at <http://cabe.cmail1.com/e/482173/21yilf1/>

CABE sets Olympic challenge

CABE is challenging every local authority across the country to create public spaces fit for the 2012 Olympics. Launching its annual report for 2007/08, Richard Simmons, chief executive at CABE, said: "2012 will be a massive test of the quality of our public space. Not just in London, but right across the country when people gather in all the major civic spaces to watch and celebrate. "So are we ready? Local authorities have four years to get it right."

CABE has set five 'gold standards' for great public space, one for each of the Olympic rings, against which local authorities can judge their parks and squares:

- An inclusive space: does everyone feel welcome and safe?
- A distinctive space: does the space contribute to local character?
- A healthy space: does the space encourage active lifestyles where even the unathletic can be inspired to try for a personal best?
- A sustainable place: is there a long-term plan for effective management and maintenance?
- A green place: softer, greener, natural surfaces will adapt much better to climate change.

CABE says it met all twenty targets set by the government for 2007/08. The full report can be read at <http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=2711>

Councillors' Guide to Creating Quality Public Spaces - CLG

Published 13 August 2008, this guide provides examples of initiatives councillors can take to create quality public places. It reflects the new powers and responsibilities councillors have and supports them in taking effective action on cleaner, safer, greener and quality of life issues. It will be of particular interest to executive councillors who are responsible for creating and maintaining a quality public realm. However, the information will also be relevant to a wider audience of practitioners concerned with improving places.

Download the guide at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/qualitypublicspacesguide>

Quality criteria set for housing design

Planners are being urged to assess the design quality of all housing schemes against Building for Life (BFL) standards after they were endorsed by the government. The criteria, developed by CABE, the Home Builders Federation (HBF) and English Partnerships, are included in the DCLG's updated annual monitoring report guidance. The move aims to help councils meet housing quality aspirations in PPS3. The BFL standards enable projects of more than ten homes to be rated according to 20 criteria of good design. CABE has been pushing for the standards to become a national benchmark after its housing audit found that 80 per cent of homes fail on design.

Read the full article at <http://www.planningresource.co.uk/bulletins/Planning-Resource-Daily-Bulletin/News/839358/Quality-criteria-set-housing-design/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Download the guide at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/coreoutputindicators2>

Protection of World Heritage Sites: Consultation paper

This consultation document seeks your views on proposed measures designed to enhance the protection of World Heritage Sites in England. The Government gave a commitment to introduce two of these measures in its white paper Heritage Protection for the 21st Century, published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in March 2007.

Download the consultation paper at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/worldheritagesitesconsultation>

Jude Lockett
Regional Officer
GreenSpace
Caversham Court, Church Road, Reading RG4 7AD
T: 0118 946 9063

W: www.green-space.org.uk



This message (and any associated files) is intended only for the use of the recipient and may contain information that is confidential, subject to copyright or that which constitutes a trade secret. If you are not the intended recipient you are hereby notified that any dissemination, copying or distribution of this message, or files associated with this message, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer. Messages sent to and from us may be monitored. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the organisation.