

October 2007 Information and News Items

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AWARENESS - [Raising awareness of the importance of parks and green spaces.](#)

A '[Pride of place poll](#)' has been launched by the Department of Communities and Local Government. It provides an opportunity for those working for participating authorities to promote and increase awareness of their local green spaces.

Why not encourage as many people as possible to vote for their favourite parks and green spaces? The Pride of Place poll is part of a nation-wide initiative, and can be accessed until 30 November 2007 after which the results will be released.

The [Nature of Britain](#) started broadcasting from Wednesday 10th October onwards on Wednesday evenings (repeated on Sundays).

BBC Breathing Places will be launching its new website and database of events to coincide with the programmes. The database is an opportunity for partners to advertise their places and events. The public will be able to search by postcode / location to find their nearest breathing places - which will be shown on a map with supporting text. Contact email breathingplaces@bbc.co.uk

BTCV and the Wildlife Trusts have joined forces to create a week of opportunities for the public. Wild Week runs for the last week of October, and many partners are running events and activities for all the family. These will be promoted on the new database.

COMMUNITY - [Involving communities in their local park.](#)

Is your group as green as it could be? [Every Action Counts](#) is a scheme to help community groups who want to make a real difference and can help you:

- Keep your group motivated
- Raise the profile of your group
- Network with other groups in your area
- Get free training

With a selection of tools, from board games to practical advice, Every Action Counts can help you measure how green you are, tell you how much greener you could be and how you can make a bigger difference simply by working together.

From planting to composting, light bulbs to hippo flushes, recycling to shopping, ideas big and small, there's something for everyone, and free support, advice and training.

Nottingham and High Peak Councils named as empowerment champions

Communities Secretary Hazel Blears published an 'empowerment action plan' on 19 October - setting out how the Government will deliver on its commitment to bring about greater devolution and empower communities.

The action plan, produced in partnership with the Local Government Association, makes clear how more people will be given more power over their communities in everything from tackling anti-social behaviour, managing social housing, tackling litter and fly tipping and improving playgrounds and parks.

Nottingham and High Peak Councils have been named by Hazel Blears as two of 18 councils - two from every region of the country - as 'empowerment champions'. Already pioneering a range of people power measures, these councils will work with other areas of the country to show empowerment in practice, share the lessons they have learned and help others to revive their local democracy through twinning programmes and regional empowerment road shows.

CitizenBase is a web-accessed system that allows any organisation to build, organise and manage a stakeholder database more effectively. You can link CitizenBase to specific consultations or events and maintain a record of every transaction (such as notification of an event, participation in a consultation process or an information request) involving each stakeholder.

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