

To provide a united voice dedicated to supporting quality green space throughout the North West by working with all those who make decisions, work and volunteer for them.

Headlines:

- **Nature Improvement Areas** applications are now open which are a key commitment in the Natural Environment White Paper.
- **Biodiversity offsetting Pilots:** Defra are now inviting expressions of interest from Local Authorities and their partners who want to take part in the pilots to test biodiversity offsetting.
- **UK Habitat map:** National press cover a new map that reveals different habitats across the UK.
- **English forests and woodlands** consultation ends 31st July.
- **Department of Health releases new activity guidelines for the UK.**
- **Community Infrastructure Levy** guidance published and front -runners sought.
- **Combat Climate Change through Green Spaces / Green Infrastructure** – resources available
- **Love Parks Week** smashes the one thousand events target.
- **The Field Council's 'schools in the parks' project** is coming to an end but resources are available.
- **Outdoor play provision** is mapped as the first national survey on is published.
- **Play to respond to childhood obesity** as API calls for government action.
- **'Inspiring and Enabling Local Communities: an integrated delivery model for localism and the environment'** report is released by The Countryside and Recreation Research Institute.
- **Locality** has produced a briefing on the Community Right to Buy.
- **Greg Clark** promotes that communities need to be taken seriously if public assets are under threat.
- **Open Public Services White Paper** sets out further shifts in support of the Localism Bill.
- **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** provides wealth of resources and evidence on localism.
- **Toolkit to implement the 2010 Equality Act** is now available.
- **The Guardian publishes top tips** to managing green spaces despite the budget cuts.
- **Walking benefits** the environmental, social and economic factors in Living Streets.

Notice Board

GSNW welcomes you to a new look Network News! With the speed of change and the need to be better informed, GSNW launch this simplified format newsletter to focus more on the resources needed by you. Regular features such as Network Questions, a service provided by GSNW for six years now, will remain, as will our information sharing, good news and event notifications. Our network dedicated solely to parks green spaces is the largest in the country and is free to all subscribers. We hope you take advantage of this and get in touch with colleagues, share your news, views, as GSNW advocates on your behalf. Contact [Kirsty Rhind](mailto:Kirsty.Rhind@gsnw.org.uk) to subscribe or send a query, event, news item, case study/story or any information you come across that would be useful to other colleagues.

Contact your Colleagues:

Crazy Golf: - Allan Murphy at Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust is putting a proposal together to re-open an old crazy golf course and would like to get any back up information from others with crazy golf courses to support his application. If you have information that could help such as number of users per year (season); average prices; staffing needs and if possible annual running cost. A.Murphy@wlct.org

Bowling Greens: - Chaz Farghaly and colleagues at Manchester, like many of you are reviewing their bowling greens and so would like to hear how much their management costs are and the fees and rent charges. If you can help please contact Kylie Ward who is chair of the AGMA Parks and Open Spaces Group:- k.ward@manchester.gov.uk

Joint procurement and sharing services: - Toni Meagan at Copeland is keen to hear from neighbouring authorities who would like to discuss the challenges facing service delivery and how joint working could help. toni.magean@copeland.gov.uk . If you would like a Cumbrian network group meeting, please contact Toni or [Kirsty](#).

United Utility Water Bills: – Colleagues across the region faced with enormous bills for discharging water into UU infrastructure are finding ways to reduce these. Contact [Kirsty](#) to let her know if you have had a bill and if you have been able to reduce this or would like help to do so.

Funding

Reminder! 1st August is the deadline for the Design Council's Neighbourhood Projects Small Grants Programme.

The Programme will award grants of up to £7,000 to not-for-profit organisations. The grants are for improving the design quality of the built environment, by providing support to neighbourhood projects. This of course includes green space projects. www.designcouncil.org.uk/neighbourhoodgrant Neighbourhoods Green is a partnership initiative which highlights the importance of open space for residents of social housing and works with social landlords to raise the quality of their design, management and safe use.

Applications are now open for Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) which are a key commitment in the Natural Environment White Paper. Natural England will be managing the NIA competition and funds. NIAs are large, discrete areas that will deliver a step change in nature conservation, where a local partnership has a shared vision for their natural environment. The partnership will plan and deliver significant improvements for wildlife and people through the sustainable use of natural resources, restoring and creating wildlife habitats, connecting local sites and joining up local action. The Nature Improvement Areas are applied for by Partnerships/consortia. These include local authorities, town and parish councils, and planning authorities including National Parks together with environmental NGOs, the private sector with involvement from Environment Agency (EA), Forestry Commission (FC) and Natural England (NE).

New Fund Launched for Heritage Projects The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) has launched a new programme of support for non-profit organisations in England restoring listed buildings. The Challenge Fund for Historic Buildings at Risk is provided jointly by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and English Heritage, who are each contributing £1million over five years from 2011– 2016.

Take part in the Big Tree plant - funding available £4.2m is available to support community groups to plant trees in towns, cities and residential areas throughout England. The funding is for community and civic groups, or other non-profit organisations to establish community-led tree planting projects in areas that would benefit most. The next application deadline is 5th September 2011. [Apply now](#)

Big Society Investment Fund Launched The Big Lottery Fund will administer a new investment programme aimed at social investment intermediary organisations in the UK. The Big Society Investment Fund (BSIF) has been raised from dormant bank accounts while the Big Society Bank is being set up. It will be administered by the Big Lottery Fund.

The Community Development Foundation has won the bidding process to deliver the government's Community First programme. Community First will comprise of a £30m small grants programme for some of the most deprived areas in the country and a national £50m endowment match challenge.

Government - Defra

Be quick the deadline is 31st July to share your views on forests and woods in England to the Independent Forestry Panel. The Panel has been set up to advise Government “on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England”; for e.g. what should they provide, now and in the future.! [Forestry consultation](#)

Defra would like to work with local planning authorities and their partners to pilot biodiversity offsetting over a 2-year period, starting in April 2012 A Biodiversity Offsetting pilot is another commitment in the Natural Environment White Paper. Biodiversity offsets defined in the White Paper are conservation activities designed to deliver biodiversity benefits in compensation for losses in a measurable way. The biodiversity offsetting pilot specifically aimed at groups of local authorities who cover a geographic area and Defra are now inviting expressions of interest from Local Authorities and their partners who want to take part in the pilots to test biodiversity offsetting. See the below links for more information. [offsetting pilots](#) and

[offsetting-testing.pdf](#)

Defra is leading activity to counter the threat to Britain's economy and wildlife to encourage best practice among those who use waterways for recreation and sport. Threats posed by the spread of aquatic invasive non-native species such as the 'killer shrimp' are subject to a campaign designed to improve bio-security, which was drawn up in consultation with interest groups involved in angling, water sports and nature conservation: [check clean dry](#)

Just in case you have yet to read it Natural Environment White Paper [The Natural Choice](#), sets out a programme of action to repair damage done to the environment, including proposals to give communities new powers to designate protected green areas as part of local neighbourhood plans.

Government – DCLG

Will CIL's include for green space and what of S106? The Community Infrastructure Levy Front Runners project sees a further 20 local authorities to act as [front-runners](#) in developing ways to implement the reformed Community Infrastructure Levy in their area. Each will have access to a tailored package of support from the Planning Advisory Service. An [information document](#) explains how the Community Infrastructure Levy Relief Regulations work.

Land mapping and disposal under the Community Right to Reclaim

The Right comprises two elements which are to be rolled out shortly:

- Improved transparency by giving citizens on-line access to information to make it easier for them to see which public body owns what land. It will be available either as a dataset or on a map.
- Improved accountability by reforming the Public Request to Order Disposal (PROD) process that enables any citizen or organisation to ask the Secretary of State to direct that a specified parcel of land or property should be sold in the open market. Government will make use of existing legislation to treat any requests regarding Homes and Communities Agency land in the same way.

Government shall also shortly be seeking to agree a protocol with various public bodies and others that, for whatever reason, cannot be included in Schedule 16. The protocols will be voluntary, but those signing them will commit to allowing their land and property to be treated in the same way as any other Request. This means that all major land-owning local government and many other bodies will be held to account.

Remember to consider the role of green places/ assets in climate change before their disposal. See resources.

The Department of Communities and Local Government Committee report was published on 23 June. This Command Paper contains [the Government response](#) to the recommendations and conclusions set out in the [CLG Committee's report on Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies](#)

Planning Minister, Greg Clark, has [revised planning guidance](#) to ensure viable requests from community groups, for compulsory purchase of a threatened community asset, are treated seriously. A local authority will be required to respond formally to any such request outlining their reasons for whatever decision they make.

[Greg Clark signals boost for 'meanwhile uses' of empty buildings](#) having indicated that the government could scrap red tape, such as planning permission for change of use, in order to encourage 'meanwhile uses' of empty buildings. Meanwhile uses are a way of using a vacant space for community benefit until a permanent use is found.

Meanwhile Leases for land are now available for us at <http://www.meanwhile.org.uk/useful-info/view/legal>

The Meanwhile Lease documents are as follows:

- Meanwhile Growing Lease for Land
- Meanwhile Playing Field Lease for Land
- Meanwhile Farm Lease (for use where food grown on a space will be sold)

DCLG and Locality are keen to encourage the use of these leases amongst community groups. That way, Locality can get feedback on how easy the leases have been to use and what difficulties have been encountered. The end result will be leases that all community groups everywhere can pick up and use when the time is right.

Urban Forum responds to Department of Communities and Local Government consultations on both the [Community Right to Challenge](#) and [Community Right to Buy](#).

Government – Locality

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 Awards, launched by the prime minister in November 2010, 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. Launching the Awards, the Prime Minister said that they were a chance to *"pay tribute to those making a valuable contribution to their community, the real champions of the Big Society, but perhaps more importantly, ...they will motivate many others to take action, get involved and drive change in their area."* These might be people who are:

- Bringing their community together and helping to give people more power to take decisions and shape their area;
- Transforming our public services, staff setting up their own cooperatives, or new providers or frontline staff finding innovative ways to deliver better services to the public; or
- Giving their time and money to help others, the unsung heroes changing lives in every neighbourhood of the country.

If you would like to nominate someone for a Big Society award, or you just want more information, please see [big-society-awards-nomination-guidance-notes](#)

The Giving White Paper

The Government's [Giving White Paper](#), published on 23 May, sets out how Government intends to stimulate a cultural step-change in giving. [Read the National Council of Voluntary Organisations detailed policy analysis on the Paper](#) around specific proposals.

To coincide with the Localism Bill discussions in the House of Lords, [Locality has produced a briefing on the Community Right to Buy](#). This is its response to what it believes are a number of misconceptions circulating about these proposals.

However, The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published [a report](#) contending that assumptions behind current government policies do not match the attitudes and experiences of people living in low-income neighbourhoods. The report, based on the findings of the research project Living through Change in Challenging Neighbourhoods, considers policy implications in areas such as localism, cohesion and neighbourhood planning. **Alongside this**, the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) studied experiences of community organisations who have taken on managing community assets. The report outlines the potential benefits, challenges, success factors, and support required for community asset ownership and management.

Government – other departments and agencies

Natural England released 'Who took part in Walking for Health' in late June. The research report examines the demographics of participants in Natural England's Walking for Health programme between April 2008 and March 2010. The report is [here](#).

Natural England have released the results of the 2010 -2011 Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey. This is the second annual report, which presents the main findings from the second year of the survey (2010-2011). The documents can be found online at [MENE year two results](#)

The Department of Health have published new physical activity guidelines for the UK. They build on other documents by giving guidance for early years and sedentary groups. It will be a useful resource for work relating to health and green spaces. The report is [here](#).

The Cabinet Office have launched the Open Public Services White Paper which sets out how the Government will improve public services. [Read David Cameron's comments on the launch of the Open Public Services White Paper](#) It is available to download from the Cabinet Office website [here](#).

National News

Fair Play for Children conducts the first ever National Playground Survey for England that reveals main councils provide one Play Area for every 692 children under 16. Fair Play for Children, which campaigns for the Child's Right to Play, has undertaken a Survey of 326 Principal Councils in England seeking information on the number of children's playgrounds provided by them. Using Freedom of Information, so far 300 of the 326 Councils have responded, 13 are pending and 13 have failed to respond after several attempts. The results show that there are 16134 playgrounds in England serving an estimated 11.2 million children aged under 16 years. Of these, Councils have reported that 4983 have been constructed or revamped in the past decade. Additionally, they report some 2261 were to have been funded under initiatives by the last Labour Government but that 279 of these were axed because of cuts by this Coalition Government but 73 were rescued using other funding. Jan Cosgrove, National Secretary of Fair Play for Children: "The Government cannot have it both ways, to say they know the importance of play in children's development and health, and yet not know the effects of their policies nationwide. Words about childhood obesity and concern for lifestyles cut little ice when it is clear there is a national crisis affecting our

children's basic ability to be able to get out and play." For more facts and figures on play provision click [here](#).

The Association of Play Industries has launched a report aimed at government and the play sector that calls for more government action to encourage play, physical activity and tackle the growing obesity crisis. The report warns of the growing rise of Play Gaps, areas of deprivation and poverty where children have no safe and easy access to play spaces. This is a vital issue as urban deprivation is often cited as one of the primary contributors towards rising levels of childhood obesity. Backed by former Children's Commissioner, Sir Aynsley-Green, the report draws on testimonials from several key organisations, including KIDS, Greenspace and London Play, to give a voice to the play sector at a time of crisis for children's health. Download the report from their web site [their web site](#).

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA) reveals that nature is worth billions of pounds to the UK economy. The report strengthens the arguments for protecting and enhancing the environment and will be used by the government to direct policy in future. The assessment provides values for a range of ecosystem services to help us fully understand the value of the natural environment and how the benefits to individuals and society as a whole can be better protected and preserved for future generations. View the assessment [here](#).

The Telegraph has run an article on a new map that reveals all the different habitats across the UK. [Britain-is-still-a-green-and-pleasant-land](#) More details about the map can be found on the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology's website but unfortunately, it is not free to access. [uk-land-cover-map](#) And The Guardian has a large image of this map too. [mapping-technologies-farming](#)

The Countryside and Recreation Research Institute have released the report; 'Inspiring and Enabling Local Communities: an integrated delivery model for localism and the environment'. Although its focus is on farming it is an interesting framework to consider when thinking about localism and the environment. [IntegratedLocalDelivery.pdf](#)

The Woodland Trust launched the report *Trees or Turf*, prepared by Land Use Consultants at the Local Government Association conference. The report looks at the costs of maintaining amenity grassland as compared to new native woodland. Carefully planned and sited new woodland can actually save money for local authorities and others who cut large areas of amenity grass, whilst also providing a wide range of other benefits to people and wildlife. Visit the [trees save money](#) web pages.

The Woodland Trust's [Jubilee Woods Project](#) aims to provide as many people as possible with the opportunity to plant trees to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The project aims to create a large number of woods of different sizes across the country, ranging from high profile 60 Acre Diamond Woods, through smaller woodland creation projects to the planting of 60 to 100 trees by a school or community group. The Trust are interested in talking to individuals, community groups companies, local authorities or public bodies who would like to work with them on this exciting new project.

ResPublica launched its latest research report in June, *Natural Policy Choices: Why trees and woods matter*, setting out a clear agenda for Government in relation to our woodland and green spaces, building on the principles outlined in the recent Natural Environment White Paper. With the total economic, social and environmental value of UK woodland running to some £2bn a year, the report highlights new opportunities to capture and utilise that value for communities:- [Natural-Policy-Choices](#)

Another recent report, [Forgotten Children](#), from ResPublica on Action for Children provides a few community development recommendations which also stress the value of parks (see Part 6).

In addition, the Royal Horticultural Society's new [Urban Greening Report](#) confirms the vital role that gardens play in reducing city warming in addition to other benefits.

Researchers at Staffordshire University are developing a quality assessment tool for use in local, neighbourhood, or 'doorstep' green spaces; those smaller parks and green areas that are very common in our towns and cities, but often not well used. Part of this development involves an online survey to better understand the features that are most likely to influence whether or not people use their local green space. The survey should take you approximately **5 minutes** and all those who complete it will be entered in to the prize draw to win £200 of retail vouchers. Link: [Local green space survey](#)

[National Housing Federation launches Neighbourhood Audit 2011](#) The National Housing Federation's Neighbourhood Audit will measure the scale and the scope of the additional non-housing neighbourhood services provided by English housing associations. Environmental services are a key feature of the audit so make sure your housing association takes part in this important study. The deadline for responding is Friday 9 September 2011.

[Complete the survey](#)

Draft NPPF criticised for not being green enough. Environment groups have criticised the published draft of the National Planning Policy Framework by [The Practitioners Advisory Group](#) (PAG) for not being sufficiently green. Concern has also been mooted by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation that the draft is inadequate in many quarters. [View the PAG draft](#)

Living Streets call professionals – make the case for walking Investing in walking environments can support local economies by increasing footfall, improving accessibility and attracting new business. Find out how - [download the new report](#).

[Top tips Managing parks and green spaces despite budget cuts ...](#) Last month we ran a live discussion on managing green space despite dwindling budgets. Here, we share the best ideas from our panel of experts; view [full article](#).

Research shows horticulture provides physical, neurological, cognitive and psychological therapy to improve motor skills, strength and endurance. Working outdoors reduces stress while improving concentration and problem solving. The Headley Court Rehabilitation Centre has launched a gardening project to provide occupational therapy for recovering soldiers. The greenhouses and allotments are linked to the woodwork shop to combine building outdoor structures and planters to propagating and planting out. A Walled Garden project brings the horticulture and construction trainees together and could also provide vocational options for the future. [growing-stronger-at-headley-court](#)

Regional News

North West Environment Link (NWEL) have received a response from Nick Hurd, the Minister for Civil Society, about their report on Big Society and the Environment. The Minister says he would be happy to meet with us as part of a Big Society event in the North West that his office is in the process of negotiating with Voluntary Sector North West. The full report of NWEL October 2010 Conference with key recommendations for both national and local Government and civil society groups on how they can help each other realise the potential of the Big Society in protecting and enhancing our environment and fighting climate change can be downloaded here [Big Society and the Environment Conference Report](#).

Local Nature partnerships: Another Natural Environment White Paper proposal sees applications from Lancashire and Cheshire Wildlife Trusts.

- Lancashire Wildlife Trust have been asked to draw up a proposal and a bid for some of the funds available to establish such bodies. Early consultations and discussions have led to a proposal that the current Lancashire Environment Forum should become the LNP. Contact Sue Savage ssavage@lancswt.org.uk to arrange to speak to Anne Selby or Tim Mitcham or Tim Graham will be able to take calls.
- After further discussions with some partners, Cheshire Wildlife Trust have been encouraged to apply across the whole LBAP area. This would now include Halton and Wirral local authorities. Natural England have advised that overlaps at this stage are not a cause for concern as the transition fund is there to facilitate discussion on the LNP's therefore we are not expected to have necessarily agreed geographical boundaries at this stage. Contact Sarah Bennett sbennett@cheshirewt.org.uk to find out more.

Friends of the Lake District are running a [campaign](#) in support of the Lake District National Park extensions as part of Natural England's [consultation](#) on revised boundary extensions. There was majority support for the proposals from the public and affected parish councils, but the local authorities affected objected. Be sure to make your voice heard.

The sun lights up Preston: Nasa is working with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) to unravel the mysteries of the Sun in unprecedented detail by watching its magnetic field and corona. The images were projected on to a large screen in Adelphi Street in Preston for about 30 minutes each night in May and residents were able to view a spectacular thirty-minute light show.

Manchester's [Local Solutions](#) is looking to develop projects within the community that deliver real community benefits. Community Payback is the scheme whereby offenders perform unpaid work as part of their court punishment. It is usually done in groups of 7-10 and fully supervised by Local Solutions. All offenders must wear the orange Community Payback jackets whilst on the scheme The projects need to be safe and based within the community. Ideally they would like them to have an indoors element in light of the weather we experience in Manchester but are happy to discuss proposals without. Biggest successes have been:

- Renovating/maintaining/decorating a large Hostel for homeless people (but any building meeting community purpose would be suitable)

- Faith buildings requiring redecoration, again churchyards in particular or inner city faith buildings that can attract litter
- Developing waste land
- Developing raised allotments for elderly/disabled residents

The only things you would need to provide is the project, the consumables and customer feedback!

Resources

Joseph Rowntree yesterday released a report highlighting the challenges facing community organisations who wish to own or manage assets: [community-organisations-controlling-assets](#)

Green Infrastructure – including green spaces to combat climate change

A number of resources are now available to help you to plan, design and manage green infrastructure and the natural environment so that it can help us to combat climate change. Green infrastructure and climate change are both cross-cutting issues, so these resources can help with the delivery of a wide range of agendas, including development and regeneration, low carbon economy, transport, health, recreation and tourism, agriculture, and biodiversity. See www.ginw.co.uk/climatechange for more information. The resources are summarised in a [flyer](#) and: [Action Guidance](#) – To aid policy development and delivery by a broad range of organisations and professions. It recommends actions, potential partners and delivery mechanisms.

[Evidence Base](#) – Online and searchable, this holds a review of key research, policy and delivery relevant to the climate change services provided by green infrastructure; it underpins the Action Guidance.

[Evidence Report](#) – Summarises the evidence for the climate change services provided by green infrastructure and maps where each could be the most important across North West England; it underpins the Action Guidance.

[Mapping Tool](#) – Online tool to help users to assess risks and vulnerabilities to climate change in their area. It can aid decision-making and visually engage people on the need for climate change adaptation.

[Community Training](#) – From games to group discussion exercises, this set of training materials is for use by practitioners to engage communities on climate change adaptation and the role of green infrastructure.

[Toolkit for Developers](#) – Helps developers to determine their 'Green Infrastructure Score' and interventions to maximise the benefits of green infrastructure. It could aid planning policy and discussion between planners and developers.

Developed as part of the [Northwest Climate Change Action Plan](#) by Community Forests Northwest on behalf of the Northwest Regional Development Agency and Northwest Climate Change Partnership; the resources are supported by the EU Interreg IVC GRaBS (Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco-Towns) project. This brought together 14 partners from 8 countries to integrate climate change adaptation into planning and development. Output for the GRaBS project as a whole can be seen at www.grabs-eu.org. It includes a range of adaptation action plans produced by each partner, briefing papers, expert papers, a database of case studies, and other guidance. This is summarised in a [Knowledge Bank](#).

Volunteering mapping is the new interactive tool. In addition to the Groundwork and the RHS producing interactive maps, BTCV the mainstay of volunteering have a similar map that allows individuals to see where they could volunteer with BTCV and/or local community groups; [btcv - volunteer](#)

Equality Act 2010 Toolkit: The Roots Research Centre, in collaboration with the 1990 Trust, has [produced a toolkit](#) designed to help voluntary and community organisations, and others working with Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, use the Equality Act 2010 to challenge discrimination and promote equality. A [briefing on key terms is also available](#).

Tools for Neighbourhood Planning The RTPi has published [a paper](#) setting out how neighbourhood planning can be done within the current planning system along with a series of [case studies of neighbourhood planning in action](#). RTPi has also published a [Parliamentary briefing](#) setting out proposals to simplify neighbourhood planning arrangements within the Localism Bill.

The Field Studies Council whose education project 'schools in the parks' is coming to a close has created lots of learning materials which would be useful for professionals and communities who are delivering outdoor education. These resources can be found at [schools in the parks](#)

Events

From BTCV's Environment Training Network:

Fees for one day events: voluntary organisations £114 + VAT, local authorities, statutory & other non-voluntary

organisations £168 + VAT All course fees include lunch and refreshments.

Facilitating Discussions, Events And Workshops - Tuesday 23 August 2011 - Manchester

A fun and interactive event on the theory and practice of facilitation, particularly for running workshops, conferences and consultation events, but also for use within meetings and teams. It will be packed with hints and tips on how to maximise facilitation performance, including how to deal with challenging participants, and will give you the opportunity to develop your own style. The event will benefit anyone working with groups of people whether in formal or informal settings. For further details or to book a place on the event [click here](#)

Negotiation And Influencing Skills - Thursday 24 August 2011 Manchester

A participative and fun event that explains the theory and practice of entering into successful negotiation. It will cover models and principles of negotiation and give you the opportunity to practise and develop your own processes, skills and techniques for successful negotiation that benefits all parties concerned. It will allow you to explore your own situation and identify how you might change or adapt your approach. This event will be of particular benefit to those who struggle to negotiate effectively and/or find influencing others and gaining support difficult. It will also be particularly relevant for those situations where there is a power imbalance in the negotiation relationship such as in negotiations with your manager or your funder. For further details or to book a place on the event, [click here](#)

Finally

If you have any budding young gardeners you know, the BBC are after them! [calling-all-young-gardeners](#)

Interesting article about how parks in the USA are coping with budget cuts

http://www.projo.com/travel/content/TRV-PARKS_06-26-11_3OOC3BK_v14.5b6d1.html

GSNW – GreenSpace North West

GreenSpace North West is a regional forum of the charity GreenSpace. It is over six years old having evolved from the former North West Parks and Open Spaces Forum. It is the only organisation dedicated solely to parks and all types of public green spaces across the region supporting all different interests, services, landowners, disciplines and professionals relating to all aspects of public green spaces.

Its partner organisations contribute to funding a member of staff (three days per week) to manage the forum; deliver its outputs, workshops, events, publications, research and other resources. These GSNW member organisations sustain it for all North West organisations, local authorities, community groups and students. The forum is solely charitable and self-financing; to become a partner, member or just to find out more please contact the GreenSpace North West Manager [Kirsty Rhind](#) or call 07920 055965 (Mon-Wed) www.gsnw.org.uk

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