

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:

- Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund opened and Big Tree Plant funding deadline 5th September
- Comment on the National Planning Policy Framework consultation to seek how green space and the environment will have due consideration and continued investment from the new drive for sustainable housing and economic growth.

Notice Board

In appreciation of comments (thank you) on the length of the last 'new look Network News!' we will try to release these more frequently in order to share the wealth of information and colleagues requests as they arise. Due to the volume of individual e-mails, we will continue to try to manage these through the newsletter or by introducing brief bulletins to avoid clogging your mailboxes. If you want to forward any items to [Kirsty Rhind](#) she can then group them to pass on to colleagues.

LOVE PARKS WEEK did fantastically – thank you so much to everyone! Well done Liverpool, whose 115 events blew away the competition and put the North West in the lead again! If your organisation took part in Love Parks Week, we welcome feedback, event reports and photos as we strive to increase public awareness of the importance of their local green spaces.

WELL DONE all on your Green Flag Awards – record numbers again! GSNW could provide two types of follow up events if you would like – demonstration days for those who want to learn from winners. A thank you celebration event for those who want to thank their volunteers etc. near Christmas and a small charge to cover catering will be required. Let [Kirsty](#) know your thoughts on these.

GreenSpace completed a survey on the impact of grant settlements: [CSR survey](#).

Contact your Colleagues:

Canada Geese – egg dipping is okay but how do you control them without a gun?

Dear all,

Our efforts to restore Queens park in Crewe are being hampered by large numbers of Canada Geese. A few are nesting in the park but a large flock fly in daily to graze across our grasslands. They create a great mess leaving large areas of the park unsuitable for the visitors to enjoy, particularly on the slopes leading to the lake.

We can deal with those nesting birds by dipping the eggs but are struggling to deal with the birds that fly in.

We need to find a mechanism that does not attract the wrath of the public who constantly complain about the mess but who won't countenance a cull. **Do you have any wizzo ideas as to how we might deter the birds from coming in such large numbers?** Thanks, George george.broughton@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Events Policy and ways to generate income through park's events programme:

1. Do you have a policy for events or other mechanism for determining the suitability (or otherwise) of events that are proposed for your parks and which helps steer you when considering permission for the use of the land i.e. what is or isn't considered to be an appropriate type of event to host. If so could we obtain a copy please?
2. Have you undertaken risk assessments specific to the designated event areas within your parks that can be issued to event organisers in order to highlight anything they should be aware of when planning their event? For example access issues etc.
3. Do externally organised events generate income for your service? If so how are your charges established, are they in accordance with a fixed scale?
4. Do you organise and deliver your own 'in-house' events programme alongside those that are externally organised? If so what types of events do you organise and do these currently provide a profitable source of income?

I would be grateful of all responses, Peter; peterwhittle@wirral.gov.uk

Salford maintenance bench marking exercise Any information you provide would be most appreciated, Mark. mark.wainwright@salford.gov.uk

1. How many M2 of grass do you mow each year? (M2 x number of visits)
2. How many linear meters of grass edging do you trim each year? (M x number of visits)
3. How many linear meters of hedges do you trim each year? (M x number of visits)
4. How many M2 of flower beds do you maintain each year? (M2 x number of visits)
5. How many play areas do you maintain and how often are they inspected?
6. How many trees are maintained each year?
7. How many M2 of shrubs are maintained each year? (M2 x number of visits)
8. How many allotment plots do you have?
9. How many parks do you have?

Reminder to contact:

A.Murphy@wlct.org Crazy Golf

k.ward@manchester.gov.uk Bowling Greens

toni.magean@copeland.gov.uk Joint procurement and sharing services

[Kirsty](#) United Utility Water Bills

If you would like GSNW to collate the answers to share and/or upload to the web; please send through to Kirsty.

Funding

Sport England and partners:

Places, People, Play programme details announced as Sport England wants local communities across the country to be touched by the magic of London 2012 each awarded grant will carry the London 2012 Inspire mark, a permanent celebration of its role in the legacy of the Games.

The Inspired Facilities Fund opened late July 2011 and could help you refurbish or upgrade your sports facility; or convert an existing building into a venue suitable for sport and accessible to the whole community. They will invest in most types of improvement or refurbishment work that will help you develop sport in your local area.

To qualify for a grant; clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and councils will need to:

- Show how your project will keep and, ideally, attract more people to sport
- Demonstrate that it is needed and wanted by the local community
- Explain how it will cover its running costs and remain open for sporting use for years to come

In particular, they are looking for projects or organisations across the country that:

- Have not previously received an individual sports Lottery grant worth £10,000 or more
- Offer local opportunities to people who do not currently play sport, or
- Are the only public sports facility in the local community

Protecting Playing Fields Fund Round 2 will open on 24 October 2011 and close on 12 December 2011

Big Lottery and partners:

£200 million Big Local funding can support green spaces by enabling local people make their areas better places to live, now and in the future the [Community Development Foundation](#) has confirmed. Do you cover the **first 50 areas listed below that can now apply for £30,000 to Getting People Involved Round 2, which opened on 28 July 2011.** Administered by the Community Development Foundation these 'start-up' grants will make sure these areas are well placed to get the most out of Big Local. (Big Local is a ten-year programme that proposes to achieve lasting change in 150 areas in England. It will provide a mixture of funding, finance and support **so make sure to promote your Parks Friend of Groups for this type of support.**)

The BIG LOCAL first fifty include these North West areas:

Allerdale – Ewanrigg; **Barrow-in-Furness** - Barrow Island; **Blackburn with Darwen** - Shadsworth with Whitebirk; **Cheshire West and Chester** - Rudheath and Witton; **Knowsley** - Kirkby Northwood; **Liverpool** – Clubmoor; **Oldham** - Clarkesfield/Greenacres/Littlemoor; **Salford** - Little Hulton; **Wigan** - Leigh West.

Please read the Getting People Involved Round 2 guidance [here](#). The money is available through the Big Local Trust, a new independent charitable trust that the Big Lottery Fund will endow with £200 million. The trust will be managed by the new independent organisation being set up the Community Development Fund led consortium.

Over the ten-year period, at least £1 million is available to each area. Once the trust has been set up BIG LOCAL partnerships will follow in each area and there will be a BIG LOCAL representative. Do please get in touch with your community representatives, LSP's, politicians, partners and colleagues to champion green spaces for this fund and make sure your local supporters of parks and green spaces are in the local partnership voicing their green space

needs. (Many areas already received money through Getting People Involved Round 1 which was administered by the Big Lottery Fund. is administering Round 2 and the activities will feed into Big Local.)

Others:

Lantra's funding programme supporting [Women-and-Work](#) in parks and green spaces and horticultural services still has places available. Don't miss out on the chance to apply for £450. The purpose of the project is to promote career progression and new career pathways to 500 women in businesses within land-based and environmental sectors. This includes parks/ green space development, community, park management, maintenance and rangers to develop skills through formal training and mentoring; provide management training or improve communication and confidence skills etc.

Reminders:

[The big tree plant](#) funding application deadline is 5th September 2011.

Government - Defra

Defra consultation on reform to the town or village greens registration system to achieve an improved regulatory balance between protecting high quality green space valued by local communities and enabling the right development to occur in the right place at the right time. Download consultation assessment, letter and form [here](#).

The Government's commitment, announced in the [Natural Environment White Paper](#), to introduce a [Local Green Spaces designation](#) through the planning system provides the context against concerns on how new greens are registered. Around 185 applications were made in 2009; the volume, character of sites, controversy over applications, cost and the impact of a successful registration on the landowner gives rise for reform. There is no intention to review sites already registered. This consultation seeks views on proposals to reform the system for registering new town or village greens under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 and is aimed at:

- people and community organisations who are concerned about greens spaces;
- those who have been or will be involved with applications to register land as a town or village green;
- landowners and developers of land;
- national government;
- local authorities, as commons registration authorities, as landowners, as planning authorities, and as bodies interested in the development of their areas and the protection of green areas within them.

Government – DCLG

DCLG have published the draft National Planning Policy Framework for consultation. This is a key part of the reforms to the planning system and as such DCLG are keen to hear views from all interested parties on the draft and how it might be improved. Consultation will close on **17 October 2011** **Download the consultation and related documents [here](#).** DCLG are holding consultation workshops Leeds on Thursday 8 September 2011; Birmingham on Tuesday 13 September 2011; To register an interest in attending one of these workshops please contact please contact alan.scott@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Government – Locality/ Big Society

The Government has published a range of new 'How to' guides to help people who want to get involved in their communities and make a difference. Examples include asset transfer, volunteering and writing neighbourhood plans. Published on the [number10 - take part](#) website there are details on how to get involved and links to further information.

Government – other departments and agencies

The Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) is designed to support the economic development of the UK's coastal communities. The Cabinet Office has announced it is to invest £10 million to help charities and social enterprises develop the capacity to deliver public services. The Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) is designed to support the economic development of the UK's coastal communities. Minister for Civil Society, Nick Hurd, announced the fund in an open letter to the sector where he revealed the Government's plans to engage civil society organisations in the delivery of public sector service contracts. The Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said: 'This new funding shows that the Government is committed to supporting coastal communities and ensuring that they benefit from the revenue that our coasts and the Crown Estate produce.' It will be operational from April 2012.

Natural England update on what is happening with Walking for Health and invitation to upload your walks now on the BBC web site. "We've now working in partnership with the BBC to promote health walks via the [BBC Things To](#)

Do web site. This new website promotes activities that are related to BBC TV programmes, such as Countryfile, Springwatch, Hands On History, etc. We are under the Countryfile banner – outdoor activities - and they are doing a feature on us for their programme going out on the 21st August.

Individual walking schemes are invited to publicise their walks via Things To Do and the first walks are starting to appear on the website now

Many more walking schemes across the region have already submitted their walks to the BBC and we are just waiting for them to be published on the website. There is going to be hundreds of them on there over the next few weeks and the walks are going to get a massive amount of publicity through this. The website will be on going and so this offers us another great opportunity to promote health walks to a much wider audience.”

National News

GreenSpace’s responds to consultation on national forests and woods in England; [Independent Forestry Panel](#) For other policy responses by GreenSpace, downloads are available [here](#).

The Woodland Trust have also published their response to the Independent Panel on Forestry [Woodland Trust panel submission.pdf](#)

[Children are missing out on the great-outdoors](#) see press release from Play Day: Additionally, Play England have launched an interactive map sharing safe local outdoor playing spaces [nature play map](#)

Keep Britain Tidy and Waste Watch have merged. The decision, taken by both trustee boards, follows a year-long strategic alliance and brings together two like-minded charities with distinctive, but complementary agendas. Waste Watch’s practical, grassroots action to encourage people to live more sustainably and Keep Britain Tidy’s experience in campaigning and local environmental quality will allow the merged organisation to grow and engage a wider audience. Both the Keep Britain Tidy and Waste Watch brands will be retained in the merger, but Keep Britain Tidy becomes the trading name. The merged organisation also keeps the current Keep Britain Tidy office in Wigan and the Waste Watch office in London. Waste Watch Chair, Matthew Bennett, becomes Vice-Chair of the new Board working with Keep Britain Tidy Chair, Mike Phillips.

Disgust’ as park litter experiment backfires: - [Society's attitude to 'take your litter home' campaign](#).

Hospitals looking to sell green space A recent article in the Independent detailing the Department of Health's proposal to sell-off up to 10% of 'under-used' land for housing development provoked a strong rebuke from GreenSpace. Our response, which can be read in full on the [GreenSpace blog](#), highlights the disconnect between government's strategy and approach.

Courtesy of CPRE they explain that cross-sector campaigns, led by the National Trust and CPRE, seek to stop the National Planning Policy Framework from ‘destroying’ decades of environmental protection. The National Trust's petition and to find out more about their campaign is [here](#). Or you can sign up for CPRE's Campaign Update at [cpre; planning-system-under-attack](#), where they suggest a short list of priorities to write to your MP about now. Further actions will be included in the Campaign Update! One-click on [planning blog](#) is where you can vote in Planning Resource's poll and a selection of reactions from [Wildlife Trusts](#) - [WWF](#)- [RSPB](#) - [Woodland Trust](#)

Regional News

Anne Selby CXO of Lancashire Wildlife Trust represented North West Environment Link at a recent meeting with Nick Hurd the notes of which highlighted:

Some core messages:

- The driving force of this government is about transferring power - and it’s happening.

On Public Service reform:

- Wants to see sector delivering more
- Accepts this is a huge culture shift
- Accepted that opportunities may not be there at the moment, but confident they will arrive
- There will be a support programme developed for getting sector tender ready launched soon
- The Government are still committed to Social Value Bill

On Localism:

- Entering an era of transparency
- Commissioning passed down to the neighbourhood level
- Areas supported by Community Organisers
- Wants to demystify the issues around EU procurement law

On Infrastructure:

- Flagged the launch of the investment fund & lottery investment

Little Woolden Moss needs letters and a survey of support – can you help?

Message from John Lamb on behalf of the Wildlife Trust

The Lancashire Wildlife Trust has an opportunity to save and restore an area of land within Chat Moss, called Little Woolden Moss. It is currently being extracted for peat and will eventually be turned into agricultural land, which is notoriously poor for wildlife and will also end the 10,000 year history of a mossland on the site. We must act now or we will lose this wildlife habitat and local heritage forever.

Mossland experts at the Trust are applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to restore Little Woolden Moss back to wildlife-rich mossland and save this important piece of local history for the surrounding communities.

The restoration of Little Woolden Moss will effectively create a large-scale network of restored mossland sites in the area. We would also like to provide opportunity for the community, volunteers, interest groups, school, colleges, and training placements to participate and learn about the important heritage that can be found on these sites.

Our vision for Little Woolden Moss is to transform it from its current state, a vast desert of dry bare dusty peat, into a Living Landscape that the community will cherish. We see it becoming a place of beauty, a place for tranquil enjoyment where threatened species of plants and animals will once again thrive, and it will be appreciated for its wildlife value.

By following the link below and filling in the questionnaire, you will be helping us to gain the evidence we need in order to submit a successful application for money from Heritage Lottery Fund.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P5TRHJ5>

If you feel as strongly as we do that this site - along with our other nature reserves at Astley Moss and Cadishead Moss - should have the protection and enhancement to save its fragile habitat from disappearing altogether, please also write a letter of support for this project.

John Lamb M.Sc., MIEEM Senior Conservation Officer (Lancashire) and Conservation Officer for East Lancashire (Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Rossendale) jlamb@lancswt.org.uk

The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & N. Merseyside The Barn, Berkeley Drive, Bamber Bridge, Preston. Lancs. PR5 6BY Tel: 01772 324129 Fax: 01772 628849 www.lancswt.org.uk

The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) and Urban Forum have come together to research and implement new ideas and ways of working. We think our [new community resilience work](#) in Cheetham Hill and Broughton, Greater Manchester, offers a potential way forward to rethink how public services, commercial activity and the local community can work together to improve life in the area. With less public money for regeneration and difficult economic times it's hardly surprising that many of our communities are in crisis, and there's growing pressure on our public services don't forget that [Urban Forum's new Guide to Community Resilience](#) is still available.

Resources

The Woodland Trust has released a report '[community ownership for woodland management and creation](#)' to support and enable an increase in community ownership of woodland.

Mind's latest campaign to promote the benefits of outdoor activity to mental health launched on 1 August; [feel better outside - feel better inside](#), supported by BTCV [news](#).

Bristol University releases a study that reveals new factors that help to increase children's physical activity - [more...](#)

Green space tranquillity toolkit from researchers at the University of Bradford who have [developed a toolkit](#), which they say, will help urban planners design better parks, and improve existing amenity areas. An area is assigned a tranquillity rating based on factors including the amount of man-made noise, natural features such as water, trees and plants, and man-made features such as historical or traditional buildings.

The Office of National Statistics has launched the report '[measuring national well-being: measuring what matters](#)' It summaries the contributions made to the debate on well-being that began in 2010. Additionally, it outlines the next steps in the measurement of national well-being. <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?ID=2718>

A key finding for us from the report is that the present and future condition of the environment was one of the most common answers from a predefined list to 'what things in life matter to you'

Press release – National wellbeing does matter to people in the UK [statistics well0711.pdf](#)

[Move more campaign page](#) : This might be a useful resource for work relating to health and the benefits from

physical activity. As part of their 'Move More' campaign Macmillan has revealed evidence showing how important physical activity is to the recovery and long term health of cancer patients. [Press release](#). The National Gardens Scheme (NGS) are supporting the 'Move More' campaign by encouraging people to get gardening for the benefit of their health. [ngs Macmillan move more - gardening hints and tips](#)

Get ICT support for your community groups via Race Online - ICT support for the VCS

The Urban Forum are working with our partners at *Race Online* to enable everyone to get online and able to use computers by 2012. They have produced a [very useful document](#) full of free and low-cost help with ICT for charities and not-for-profit organisations. ICT can sometimes seem prohibitively expensive and out of reach for many of us.... the message from *Race Online* is clear 'no charity should waste money on kit when high-quality low-cost kit and connectivity is available'. To help, *Race Online* have negotiated low cost PCs to enable charities to get equipment at the lowest cost. [Take a look at what's on offer](#).

Events

Free national conference for community groups – The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (NFPGS) are holding their first conference on World Parks Day, Saturday 17th September in Birmingham. The conference will be free to all friends and community groups and following a successful Awards for All bid, some money is available to help pay for travel subsidies; the amount given to each delegate will depend on the overall number of delegates who attend and distance travelled. The conference will focus on a variety of topics including finding funding for your green space, nature and biodiversity and health in parks including other topical subjects. The programme for the day will also be announced in the next couple of weeks: <http://www.green-space.org.uk/community/nfpgs/> -

GreenSpace North West plan the following half day workshop events from September to aid implementation of Big Society; to register your interest please contact [Kirsty](#)

Events include:

- Developing a community forum as your community voice
- Seeking, Managing and retaining volunteers
- The Right to Buy and Asset Transfers
- The Right to Bid for services and shared services

Other GSNW planned events include

- Managing climatic changes
- Green Space in Green Infrastructure – guidance from the findings of GSNW research

Keep 2nd November free! For another North West Open Forum – a conference style day open to all those interested in, working or volunteering in green spaces – over 70 delegates attended last year with $\frac{3}{4}$ saying it was excellent. Contact [Kirsty](#) if you have a particular theme or presentation you would like to see.

GreenSpace East Midlands offer GSNW members [free places](#) (£45+VAT non-members) on two workshops:

- Managing our cultural heritage 8th September Evalston Castle, Derbyshire, (DE72 3EP),
- Management Plans and Fields Assessments 29 September 2011 Evington Park, Leicester, (LE5 6EA)

Contact [Kirsty](#) or [Ruth Rolls](#) for a flyer and booking form.

APSE 'Health and Safety across the services' - Hilton Hotel, York on 6th and 7th October 2011

'Health and Safety across the services' and looks at the issue from a number of angles and covers many topics. The event will provide practical advice on safe working methods across transport and fleet services, building maintenance, environmental services and highways and street lighting sectors as well as other service areas.

Again BTCV's Environmental Training Network covers:

Develop your work with ethnic minority groups Thursday 15 September 2011 Birmingham

Practical tools and knowledge for those already working with black and minority ethnic groups on environmental projects, looking at good practice examples and focusing on strategies for overcoming challenges and apathy. **For further details or to book a place on the event, call the telephone number below or [click here](#)**

Sensory environmental exploration for early years Thursday 15 September 2011 Manchester

For early years practitioners, simple and effective ways to help your small people enjoy their environment, including innovative use of the senses, colours, shapes, numbers, seasons, and exciting and imaginative craft activities. **For**

further details or to book a place on the event, call the telephone number below or [click here](#)

Education outside the classroom Tuesday 20 September 2011 Doncaster

Looking at the scope and benefits of 'Education Outside the Classroom', tackling barriers and issues such as child welfare and safety, the partnership opportunities, and links with other government initiatives. **For further details or to book a place on the event, call the telephone number below or [click here](#)**

Outdoor/environmental activities with special needs groups Tuesday 27 September 2011 Manchester

A very practical day offering simple, effective ways for working in the environment with children and young adults with special needs (behavioural, emotional and physical), encouraging group work, interaction and negotiation skills. **For further details or to book a place on the event, call the telephone number below or [click here](#)**

Finally

Hyndburn Nature Walks Festival is ready for you! The festival will be taking place from Saturday 20th August to Sunday 28th August and ALL walks are FREE! We have what we hope is a varied and interesting range of walks.

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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