

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:

- Manchester City Charity Give Away – whether you love football or not – (but it could help!) - £50,000 is up for grabs for charities in Manchester - [More...](#)
- GSNW events on 2nd November will focus on volunteering and on the 15th November on transferring assets and/or services. See Events section below.
- North West still has more Green Flag Awards than any other region in the UK! 256 winners in total – well done! But sadly this was the first year we missed out being in the top ten “People’s Choice” – although not too disappointing as there were many new Community Awards amongst the thirteen across the region including Tarvin Community Woodland which is owned and managed by Tarvin villagers.
- Lessons from a landmark case – National Trust not at fault for tree death in Bowen and Others v National Trust See National News below and full article in the October issue of Green Places. [Web link.](#)

Notice Board

If you want to forward any items to [Kirsty Rhind](#) she can then group them to pass on to colleagues.

GSNW Free Events for All – Thank you for supporting our last call for help – we are almost there!

Please help, as we still need new partners or previous ones to re-join in order to raise enough membership funds to provide events free for all. Our earlier call for help to raise funds for events to be free was widely supported, thank you, as local authorities; including those with the highest budget cuts in the region have managed to raise an extra £2600 between them, (which is amazing considering their level of cuts) and very much appreciated. If you can help match that figure we can waive the delegate fees! So please make the effort to join those hardest hit to reinforce the North West Forum, its free network of over 300 contacts and its ability to provide free learning events. Funding partners are – APSE; Wigan Leisure and Cultural Trust and the councils of Copeland; Wyre; Fylde; Preston; West Lancs.; Hyndburn; Pendle; Bury; Rochdale; Oldham; Tameside; Stockport; Trafford; Bolton; Manchester; Cheshire East; Liverpool; Knowsley; Halton; and Wirral. All organisations are welcome to join. Please [help!](#)

Contact your Colleagues:

Circus policy and animals in circuses: Has anyone experience of managing circus events and do you have a policy about them in particular?

Mike Bent at Bury Council is seeking sample policies and to share lessons learnt. Please contact Mike m.bent@bury.gov.uk if you can help and copy in Kirsty if you would like answers collated for the web.

Joint procurement and sharing services remains on the top of many organisation agenda as does service reviews!

Kirsty is willing to arrange a meeting or workshop on these issues if you would like to come together to discuss? Alternatively, if you are willing to add some key details and contact data to a data set we could make it available.

The impact of cuts in one council this financial year: How about you? Please send your headline bullet points to [Kirsty](#) in order to support colleagues prepare for next year.

- 5 frontline staff not replaced
- Loss of Parks Development Officers Post
- 20% Reduction in seasonal staffing level
- Removal of team from Cemeteries and integrated work and staff into mobile teams
- Closed Churchyards – Receive 1 cut a year (from previous 14)
- Closure of the Nursery

- No winter bedding
- 20% reduction in summer bedding
- Increased charges (bereavement and sports)

Thank you to all respondents for supporting previous colleague's requests – do keep them coming and if you would like GSNW to collate the answers to share and/or upload to the web; please send through to [Kirsty](#).

Funding

Funding that supports Localism –volunteering, community management and ownership:

Government Launches Innovation in Giving Fund £10 million will be available to encourage innovative new ideas for increasing volunteering and charitable giving. NESTA will manage the Innovation in Giving Fund that forms part of a £34 million package to increase levels of social action. [More...](#)

Village SOS Villages across the UK have until 5pm on Thursday October 20 2011 to apply for up to £30,000 from the Big Lottery Fund's Village SOS Active competition and a share of £5 million Lottery cash to create exciting community enterprises that will help to revitalise their area and meet the needs of local people. [More...](#)

Anyone living in a rural village of less than 3,000 people, with an enterprising idea should register at www.villagesos.org.uk where they will find more details as well as an online support network. All they need to do is outline their idea in a quick and easy online form and the best ideas will be chosen to complete a full application for a grant of between £10,000 and £30,000.

The Big Lottery Realising Ambition Programme opens to application on 13 September. Voluntary and community sector organisations throughout the UK may apply for grants of up to £3 million to support projects that help young people between the ages of 8 and 14 years avoid pathways into offending. [More...](#)

The £10million [Silver Dreams Fund](#) launched by the BIG Lottery Fund in association with the *Daily Mail*, is its biggest single investment in older people with a £110 million package of Lottery good cause funding. The BIG Lottery Fund aims to help older people manage life-changing events and encourage them to get more involved in their communities whilst recognising the positive contribution older people make to society today. [More...](#)

Sported. is a national charity that provides funding and capacity building support to organisations and individuals that use sport as a vehicle to improve the lives of disadvantaged young people aged 11-25. See Events section for Launch of sported. in the North West. www.sported.org.uk

Manchester City Charity give away Manchester City are inviting applications from across Manchester from charitable and not-for-profit organisations to become the club's Manchester Charity of the Year or their East Manchester Charity of the Year. The charities must benefit young people and families in the region, through community work, enterprise schemes and urban sports programmes. They will get cash grants of up to £50,000 from the club to fund specific projects. For further details about the charity search, or to download an application form, visit www.mcfc.co.uk/charitiesaward

Government - Defra

Defra - Sustainable Development in Government [Valuing the UK's wildlife and habitats](#) introduces two recent research reports commissioned by Defra help reveal the value of the UK's wildlife and habitats, estimating the wildlife covered by the *UK Biodiversity Action Plan* and *Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)* to be worth approximately £1.5 billion per year to the UK. *The Benefits of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England and Wales* explores the benefits to wildlife and people provided by the network of 5,000 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). *The Economic valuation of the benefits of ecosystem services delivered by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan* explores the value of changes in biodiversity and associated ecosystem services that will result directly from the delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). You might also be interested in [The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature](#).

An [inquiry](#) into **Natural Environment White Paper by the EFRA Select Committee** largely focuses on whether it will achieve its aims and what further actions are required to help achieve this. Please consider responding, as the general reaction to the White Paper is that it is strong on ambition but weak on delivery mechanisms.

Government – DCLG

DCLG's National Planning Policy Framework consultation will close on 17 October 2011

There are only a few weeks left until the end of the consultation on the NPPF!

Download the consultation and related documents [here](#). CPRE has a draft response that you can send direct or

adapt at [here](#). The Woodland Trust also has guidance on responding [here](#). The Landscape Institute response is [here](#). Our own GreenSpace initial response is [here](#) with a planned full report due. See also the Daily Telegraph Campaign [hands-off-our-land](#) with this article covering Village Green protection. John Rhodes one of the four authors comments also via the [Guardian](#).

Two inquiries have launched to look at the NPPF. The two committees will share evidence submitted re sustainable development so please consider submitting evidence to one of these inquiries but each request that respondents make specific references and do not re-submit their consultation responses to these.

- The CLG Select Committee has launched an [inquiry](#) into the NPPF, including whether it provides sufficient guidance to local planning authorities, the Planning Inspectorate and others, and whether provisions will give local communities sufficient power over planning decisions and sustainable development.
- The Environmental Audit Committee has also launched an [inquiry](#) into the NPPF, which will examine the particular issue of the way sustainable development is addressed in the NPPF.

DCLG has announced 36 more neighbourhood planning [front-runner areas](#), following the 17 announced in April. Local authorities are being invited to apply for grants to be part of the front-runners scheme ahead of proposals on neighbourhood planning in the Localism Bill. Each front runner's local council is being given £20,000 to support work on neighbourhood planning and free advice from planning experts will be available for the local community. For example, Trafford Council and Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce are working on Trafford industrial estate to develop a Business Neighbourhood Plan of sustainable mixed-use environment for growth.

They announced that it wants [councils and other public bodies to publish a list of assets](#) and produced a public property map showing the 180,000 assets owned by nearly 600 public sector bodies.

And have published [Best Value Statutory Guidance](#) replacing the Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Guidance, to be followed by steps to repeal the Duty to Involve and the Duty to Prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy. It retains the Duty to Consult in commissioning and [new requirements for local authorities](#) when making funding decisions affecting voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups including an expectation that authorities should consider social value and not just monetary value. See also:

The government's [Open Public Services White Paper](#) for opening up public services to competitive tendering.

A new online [search engine](#) tells members of the public the 20-day annual window within which they can inspect their council's finances and spending. What DCLG are terming the 'right to inspect' already exists but the search engine hopes to raise awareness.

Government – Locality/ Big Society

The Government's [Red Tape Challenge](#) assesses and invites comments on whether particular regulations or legislation should be repealed on the grounds of bureaucratic burden. The Challenge will focus on environmental matters on 1st – 15th September. There is the possibility that very valuable environmental protections could be lost through this exercise so please consider posting comments on the site and encouraging others to do so as specific comments about particular provisions are more likely to have an impact than general expressions of support or opposition.

Government – other departments and agencies

The Cabinet Office has published a consultation paper, [Making Open Data Real](#), which proposes new rights to data and a presumption of publication by public bodies. The deadline for consultation responses is [27th October 2011](#).

The Cabinet Office has announced a [consultation](#) into its approaches to the Big Lottery Fund. The approaches include involving the public in setting priorities and making grants. The deadline is 18th November 2011.

Natural England releases the results from the most comprehensive investigation into the population status and distribution of great crested newts in Britain; [news](#)

Environment Agency is set to help businesses and communities adapt to future climate change; [news](#)

Locality Here we stand: a Locality [position paper](#) sets out their position as a movement and on key issues. It addresses the major challenges we face, including our relationship with the state and with the private sector, public spending cuts, and the Big Society.

National News

Lessons from a landmark case – National Trust not at fault for tree death in Bowen and Others v National Trust (2011) The tragedy of a child's death and others injured was "regretfully" concluded and found the National Trust had fulfilled its common duty of care under the Occupiers Liability Act of 1957. All landowners/ occupiers are responsible to ensure a visitor may be reasonably safe in using the premises/ land for that which it is intended and under all circumstances where it is reasonable to foresee any threat or risk to that. Had the National Trust not been able to present clear written evidence that it had fulfilled its duty the outcome would without doubt have been very different. Sarah Garrod of Mills and Reeves warns that whilst landowners can be reassured of this decision, they will need to ensure policies and practices they have in place are CLEAR, COMPREHENSIVE and ROBUST to ensure that they fulfil their duty to visitors to take reasonable care for their safety. The conclusion of this arduous case was only reached after rigorous analysis of the Trust's policies and practices that showed:

- Clear written instruction in inspecting, which set out a minimum standard of inspection and the need for risk assessment. These instructions also dealt with record keeping, remedial action and the competence level of staff involved.
- A robust audit trail of record keeping against inspections and actions existed and was supported with evidence against the experience, qualification and training of staff, including that the practices carried out were a daily responsibility of the staff.
- The tree itself had been regularly inspected, exceeding the set minimum standard.

This article contains text directly extracted from the article by Sarah Garrod who kindly provided a legal view on this case in the October issue of Green Places and is copy right protected. Green Places is published on behalf of GreenSpace Forum Ltd. Members receive a free copy of this publication 10 times a year; please subscribe [here](#).

Make a Difference Day This autumn get involved in CSV's [Make a Difference Day](#), the UK's biggest day of volunteering. Last year over 70,000 people were involved in more than 2,000 activities and this year's campaign will focus on how volunteers can tackle loneliness and isolation. The date for your diary is Saturday 29 October with activities running from 22 October until 6 November. Visit the website to register your activity.

Get ready to find the UK's 205 countries with Walk the World Discovering Places has commissioned a project in partnership with the Royal Geographical Society and IBG, that will challenge the public to find UK-based links with every one of the 205 Olympic and Paralympic countries. The project, called Walk the World, will involve a major public call to action to get everyone out looking for links in their neighbourhoods; whether historic, cultural, environmental, sporting or even culinary. [Read more...](#)

Nesta has chosen 17 ideas, out of a shortlist of 137, from local authorities and their partners to take forward as part of their Creative Councils programme. Rossendale and Wigan are selected but project proposals [published on its website](#) are yet to include green space contributions to neighbourhoods, volunteers and skills for employment.

Fantastic feedback from the NFPGS conference on World Parks Day Delegates have praised the first ever national gathering of friends and community groups as 'enjoyable and informative'. Held on World Parks Day, the [National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces](#) (NFPGS) conference attracted in excess of 80 delegates. They took the opportunity to network, share successes and attend sessions to help them to find funds and advocate for quality parks and green spaces. A full conference report including all presentation slides and a summary of the workshops will be available shortly to download free online. GreenSpace supported the event, with sponsorship from Big Lottery Fund, Birmingham City Council and Quadron.

Greenspace Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage have produced an interactive map of the country's urban green space. You can read more about the map on Greenspace Scotland's site: [Greenspace Scotland's site](#).

The Independent writes [why protecting the worlds wildlife is good for our wallets](#) and of the new Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. They also cover a feature on [Foreign diseases threaten British trees](#)

Regional News

Survey of small community groups in the North West Manchester Metropolitan University, in partnership with Community North West, is carrying out an extensive survey of small community groups throughout the North West. The survey is part of a study into how community groups in the region are faring in the current climate, how they are responding to change and what support they may need in order to become more resilient. The survey is for any voluntary, community or charity organisation with an annual income of less than £50,000. Please encourage any groups you know who fit the bill to take part by going [here](#).

North West Environment Link has produced a [briefing](#) on Local Nature Partnerships, outlining their intended role

and functions and giving brief details of the Partnerships emerging in the North West.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are helped to put their core operational capacity in place and to become self-sustaining. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills ([BIS](#)) [has made £5 million available](#) in 2011-12 as a one-off start up fund. Liverpool, Greater Manchester & Cumbria were offered their bid in full, Cheshire & Warrington received 90%, and Lancashire did not appear on the list. (£1 million was made available to start up the Local Nature Partnerships.)

Resources

Please forward two new resource documents from DCLG. [Potential funding for community green spaces](#) and [Get the green space you want](#). The documents sum up support offered by the Localism Bill in an effort to promote the government's Big Society agenda.

Lantra have released details of two newly revised [utility arboriculture courses](#): Site Safety Awareness and Site Operations, comparable to the NPTC assessment. The courses are aimed at those working in proximity to electrical equipment for the purpose of maintaining or clearing trees and vegetation.

The benefits of community ownership Communities that own their assets are better placed to develop and manage services to meet the needs of local people according to research published by the Big Lottery Fund. In addition, the [research indicates](#) that community owned buildings or equipment are valued by communities themselves, leading to a decrease in vandalism.

Events

Sported. Launch Event – 14th October - Preston

An event to launch the services of .sported in the North West. The aim of this afternoon launch is to introduce sported. and its strategic aims, plans and services to key stakeholders across the region, as well as providing an opportunity for networking and hearing from member and partner organisations. Details/Bookings: Rehana Koser, r.koser@sported.org.uk, 07823 772864 www.sported.org.uk

Green Space Volunteers – 2nd November 2011 – Open Forum

GreenSpace North West will host another of its annual Open Forum events on 2nd November 2011. Open Forum is free to anyone wishing to attend, all we ask is a small contribution toward catering costs. The theme this year will be on volunteering; kick starting our programme of events supporting the Localism Bill and Big Society. Speakers will aim to cover the following topics with an opportunity for group discussions to share lessons and case studies.

- Why use volunteers with examples on the activities they can do; including non-physical/ countryside work.
- Seeking, recruitment and insurance
- Management and legal issues including 'employers' responsibilities etc.
- Incentives and benefits to retain volunteers

Keep Britain Tidy organise GSNW events - to book please log on to their web site and select the event [here](#). Please book early to avoid disappointment – last year we were oversubscribed with more than seventy delegates attending. The venue is yet to be confirmed and anyone wishing to host the event would be welcomed as of course are any sponsorship opportunities. Please contact [Kirsty](#)

Our Green Space Project - Friday 11th November 2011 (10am start - lunch)

Roundthorn Hotel, Beacon Edge, Penrith, Cumbria CA10

This Case Study Launch and Celebratory Event will be a forum to discuss the role of communities in managing their local environment in the future and will provide an opportunity to disseminate a wide range of resources. Sharing the learning of this unique Heritage Lottery Funded Project which has delivered major capital development and restoration groundwork and research activities on community heritage green spaces across Cumbria. Please book early with Carol Douglas the Project Officer at Our Green Space - Carol-Douglas@fld.org.uk Tel: 01539 720788; Fax: 01539 730355 www.fld.org.uk Friends of the Lake District

Community ownership and management – 15th November – Preston (Asset and Service Transfers)

This second event of the Green Space North West Localism Workshop Programme will look at the practicalities of transferring assets and services. With confirmed speakers from Locality, the Woodland Trust, Oldham and Bury Councils the discussion topics will cover:

- Localism Bill Rights of communities to own and manage green spaces
- Why write an asset transfer strategy and how – with links to land disposal and acquisition

- How to transfer an asset to community ownership and lessons learnt
- Writing leasehold agreements and licences; covering insurance and other legal obligations
- Experiences from Pocket parks and from Millennium Greens
- Experience from transferred sports pitches and bowling greens
- Enablement: Mentoring, management, development and evaluation

As above, please book [here](#). Spaces are limited to a maximum of twenty so please book early.

A non-members delegate rate is applicable (unless funding is secure).

As part of the Green Space North West Localism Workshop Programme, a December event will look at the role of Community Forums in local decision-making.

Prescribing Green Space - 23 November in London

The next green space conference is to focus on unlocking the health potential in parks.

Speakers from Natural England, Thrive and prominent GP William Bird will discuss how communities and authorities can take advantage of the health agenda and present the health benefits of parks.

Community groups can send two delegates for the price of one (£72) if registering before 5 October.

Other GSNW planned events include

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

Finally

Applications are now open for 'Orange and Green' Round 2 Sustainable Design and the Built Environment Placements In Andalucía, Spain The second round of Orange and Green which is a transnational programme for individuals wishing to develop their knowledge and understanding of sustainable design and the built environment from a wider European viewpoint. Participants will undertake a 13 - week placement in a professional organisation in the Andalusian Region of Spain. There are 18 places available from January to March 2012. *Flights, accommodation and an allowance for food and travel will be provided.* Applications are now open and must be submitted by e-mail before 9am Friday 21st October. Find out more [here](#).

Application deadline of 28th October for those wishing to attend a mentoring programme Public Services by Design, is now calling for any local authority or public service provider to apply for one of ten match-funded places available to organisations who want to use design to innovate and enhance their public services in Children's & young people's services; Adult social care; Shared services & management; Community budgets and localism. Successful applicants will need to fund up to 50% of the cost of mentoring; this ranges from £5,000 to £15,000, depending on the scale, level and scope of the project. A copy of the brochure can be downloaded from the following [link](#) or find out more at www.designcouncil.org.uk/publicsector

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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