

Providing a united voice dedicated to promoting, advocating and lobbying for the regeneration and sustainable future of quality green spaces throughout the North West.

Network News: February

New Funding News...

A two-year programme called GreenPrints will offer funding of up to £10,000, for young people improving parks and green spaces. Continues...

New Cash For Apprentices...

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills have announced that the Government will invest £140 million to deliver new and additional apprentices nationally in both the public and private sectors. The extra funding of an additional 35,000 apprentices next year will aim to strengthen the country's competitiveness and help beat the downturn. See attachment.

Network Colleagues Need Your Help...

How do you let your pitches and what about dog fouling?

New Consultations...

BIG Lottery is holding a consultation on how lottery funding should be spent between now and 2015. GreenSpace is calling on its members and supporters to respond and make clear the demand for further funding for parks and green spaces. Continues...

Network Questions

St Helens is reviewing its policy regarding the letting of Football/Rugby Pitches. Brian Johnson would welcome any information from other authorities as to what their letting policies are and if they have a specific policy relating to the letting to teams from outside their Borough. Please help Brian with this as some authorities have lettings to leagues instead of teams...other's will not let to others than in the league. What do you do? BrianJohnson@sthelens.gov.uk

Cuerden Valley Park Trust like many colleagues is struggling to deal with Dog Fouling enforcement. Jim Longbottom would like to hear from others especially Park Trusts or Countryside Parks who have been able to use enforcements on non local authority land. Please help Jim with any solutions you know of. Are only local authorities allowed to enforce & does this exclude all public land that's not owned by the LA? manager@cuerdenvalleypark.org.uk

Network Answers...

Please would everyone who has asked network questions send your compiled answers to Kirsty so she can put them

Diary Dates For Meetings: February

All are welcome to attend – krhind@gsnw.org.uk

3rd 9.30am – Training Group Workshop: Wigan. Working the priorities for all the sector's training needs.

11th 9.30am – Community Group Workshop: Sefton. Officers and community group representatives welcome. – Working on the grant application stage of the guidance report.

18th 9.30am – Funding Group Workshop: Wigan. Developing lessons in safeguarding revenue with innovation and looking at new funds.

Conferences and Calendar Events

Parks in the Credit Crunch:

17th February 2009, London – a few places remain at this conference on funding for parks and green space. Booking form attached.

North West Landscape Matters:

26 March 2009, Wigan – A New Perspectives on People, Places and Nature. Booking form attached from Natural England.

Park City

24th – 25th March, London – A ground breaking conference on the emerging role of green infrastructure in creating sustainable towns and cities and successful places.

[Click for more...](#)

Parks and Gardens UK

16th – 17th April, Oxford – Conserving Historic Parks and Gardens. [Click for more...](#)

Sorry, the CABE Leaders Programme on February 10th – 13th in Leeds is fully booked.

WORLD PARKS DAY! September 22nd 2009
What will you be doing?

In this issue...

New Funding...GreenPrints (England)

up on the GSNW website - *please?*

Network Notice of Consultation...

Park Rangers... Synergies of job descriptions and person specifications are being developed to argue the case for new training. krhind@gsnw.org.uk

Grounds Maintenance... How's your 2009/10 budget? Has the "Credit Crunch" made a difference? How are you coping and responding to any changes? If you usually take on apprentices will you in 2009? krhind@gsnw.org.uk

News from the web...

1. "Play England and government departments leading on play have published guidance which will help transform the design of play spaces in the future" [More...](#) and [Click here to download a copy...](#)
2. Communities and Local Government News: "Healey confirms every council guaranteed grant increase despite downturn" [More...](#) And that Councils are crucial to getting communities through the downturn. [More on this story...](#)
3. APSE reports that council's like Oldham are in-sourcing grounds maintenance and cleansing in response to better efficiencies. [More...](#)
4. I&Dea promotes a new diagnostic tool designed to assist local authorities in fulfilling their leadership role in place shaping and promoting economic development to plan for long term recovery from the recession. This tool identifies steps LA's could be taking. [Click here for chapter 5 and go to page 6](#) to view how parks and green spaces are part of the investment programme local authorities should be developing. [And here for the full article.](#)

And on a lighter note!

5. Great Outdoors! Is a new Landlife project under their health and well being target. [Read more here...](#)

This issue's events for half term:

Ribble Coast and Wetlands Walking Festival

15 February 2009 - 22 February 2009

A selection of walks throughout the February half-term holiday to introduce you to wildlife and wild places. [Click here](#) to view a printable programme.

Tree Planting Event - Ilkley – 14th February 2009

Forest of Bradford are holding a tree planting event on Saturday 14th February 2009 from 10am to 3pm at Myddleton Grange, Langbar Road, Ilkley. [More info here...](#)

Cheshire – Parkgate Raptor Watch -15th Feb 2009

RSPB are introducing birds of prey [Click here for more info](#)

Membership News

Beat the increase and buy next year now as unfortunately GSNW is likely to increase its membership fees for 2009/10. We aim to keep this to a minimum and definitely below 3% but as local authority volunteer support is becoming scarcer staffing resources are needed to continue work across the region. This is compounded by the

A partnership of five of the country's leading not-for-profit organisations have come together to provide support and funding to help young people improve green spaces in their communities. SITA Trust, v the youth volunteering charity, BTCV, The Wildlife Trusts and the BBC's Breathing Places campaign, have joined forces to develop a two-year programme called GreenPrints which will offer funding of up to £10,000, as well as support and practical expertise from the partners, to enable 16–25 year olds to make a real difference to the communities in which they live by improving green spaces for people and wildlife. The funding is open to not for profit organisations for projects designed and delivered by groups of volunteers aged 16 to 25. SITA Trust and v have each pledged £1 million to fund the programme, making it one of the largest single investments made by either organisation to any funding programme. The overall programme will be managed using the expertise and experience of SITA Trust and BTCV. One of the most unusual elements of this programme is the individual, dedicated mentor-support that will be provided by the BTCV and The Wildlife Trusts to assist with the practical delivery of every single project that is supported. [Click here for more...](#)

BIG Lottery Consultation – speak out for parks and green spaces by February 27 2009!

Please influence Big Lottery Spending to 2015.

Respond individually and please contact Kirsty to answer 4 or 5 questions to compile a regional response from GSNW.

Whilst the HLF has made a huge contribution to historical parks and gardens this is only 1-2% of parks and green spaces. This is an excellent chance to prove the demand for funding for parks and green spaces, and to ensure that the public's lottery ticket money really is spent where it will benefit everyone says GreenSpace. See attachment for GreenSpace's full statement.

Make your voice heard by going to:
www.big-thinking.org.uk

For More News and Information see East Midland's Newsletter attached above. Please note some items were covered in last month's issue of GSNW's Network News and they have not been deleted. **Also attached is Landscape Matters from Natural England.**

What's new for March...

GreenSpace Fund! Preston City Council and partners will launch the pilot of a new fund for parks and green spaces. This new fund seeks funding from businesses who wish to donate directly to their local community and environment rather than to far-off lands under Corporate Social Responsibility. Projects will be pledged through a simple one click web process and a local board will determine those projects most in need. **Look out for the next edition of GSNW Network News!**

loss of individual Cheshire authority memberships and a significant downturn in budgets across Cumbria. External organisations will be approached for funding and grant bids for GSNW will be made. Every effort will be made to ensure this increase is a minimum. GreenSpace contributions of an average of £200 per authority (for Spaces & Places and conference concessions) will not increase. The good news is our VAT bill should be less this year and we hope to break even. Contact Kirsty if you can renew now.

Did you know...Otters have returned to Greater Manchester! “Otters have made a welcome return to the rivers Greater Manchester, according to a recent survey commissioned by the Environment Agency. Evidence of this incredibly rare and charismatic mammal has been spotted on the River Irwell, near Ramsbottom, Bradshaw Brook Bolton and a tributary of the River Bollin near Altrincham”. [Click here for the full story...](#)

And finally...Rounders for Families in Parks Celebration Day is on Saturday 30th May, locally across the region you'd like to support this healthy living initiative already taking place in Parks in Liverpool contact Michael Kenn mr.rounders@hotmail.co.uk

Members' section

This is your section so send your news and projects...your events and case studies... by February 27th.
New for members in February – volunteer or vote for a new chair and vice chair of the Funding Working Group; as Chair you will be instrumental in the direction and business of GSNW. If Funding is not your thing the Community Working Group will soon be seeking these posts too. All working Groups are open to all members from any area of work relating to parks and green spaces in the North West. Contact Kirsty for more information – krhind@gsnw.org.uk

Contact us:

GreenSpace North West is managed by Kirsty Rhind 07920 055965 krhind@gsnw.org.uk
Mike Bent is Parks and Countryside Manager at Bury MBC and chair of the GreenSpace North West Steering Group. M.Bent@bury.gov.uk and Sarah Moore at GreenSpace co-ordinates and manages all the regions, supporting Kirsty and Mike sarahm@green-space.org.uk.gov.uk Karen Connor at Stockport still helps Kirsty out along with colleagues at GreenSpace. Norman Hudson, Service Director for Regeneration and Leisure is a Trustee of GreenSpace. Norman.hudson@stockport.gov.uk If you would like to help parks and green spaces through GSNW please get in touch.

Printing is bad for your environment! But please forward to others.