

Issue: 13

May 2009

**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 For May:

#### **Benchmarking and Fee Comparison – up date of 2006 results and adding bowling green charges**

Manchester City Council, Leisure Services would like to benchmark against other local authorities in relation to what charges are made for Football Pitch Hire. They currently charge for both full and half permits and depending on team requirements charges will vary for pitch only, pitch and dressing room or pitch, dressing room and showers. In addition they would like to compare bowling green charges and costs; also car parking charges.

Other councils are also reviewing their charges and would like to benchmark too, particularly on car parking.

In 2006 GSNW prepared a data comparison schedule on the fees and charges applied to parks at that time. Replies were recorded from Bolton, Rochdale, Chorley, Hyndburn, Fylde, Halton, Pendle, Sefton, St Helens, Stockport, Copeland, Carlisle, Salford and West Lancs. It would be good to revisit the schedule for any changes in charges and GSNW would please ask that these authorities and new ones contact Kirsty to update the schedule. As the schedule is commercially sensitive it can only be sent out on request. This important data will help many members across the region and it can be compared with London's benchmarking results so please get in touch. Just e-mail [Kirsty](mailto:Kirsty) to say you'd like to be included and to receive the results.

### Network Questions:

#### **Job descriptions needed please**

Oldham is looking to introduce a trainee scheme to run alongside its apprentices and was wondering if any Authority had a similar scheme in place. The trainees would receive a 12 month fixed term contract and receive training up to NVQ level 2. They would be required to undertake various duties at the lower end of the horticultural scale. If anyone can forward a Job description that they are currently operating within their service to [Glenn.Dale@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Glenn.Dale@oldham.gov.uk)

#### **Filming in Parks...**

Trafford are interested to hear about filming in parks, if you have any guidance and what charges, if any are made. Please copy your replies to Kirsty to include in

### Diary Dates For GSNW Meetings: May

#### **10am; Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Alexandra Park Stockport Community Involvement Workshop**

#### **Helping communities meet the grant conditions**

The final phase of the guidance on community grants will be delivered as we look at how groups manage the finances and meet the contract terms.

Community groups welcome please forward to your contacts. Book with [krhind@gsnw.org.uk](mailto:krhind@gsnw.org.uk)

### Diary Dates For GSNW Meetings: June

#### **10<sup>th</sup> June: AGMA meet at Wythenshawe Park.**

Contact Natasha Rutherford for more information [n.rutherford@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:n.rutherford@manchester.gov.uk)

#### **11<sup>th</sup> June: The Lancashire sub region meet.**

Contact Matthew Kelly at Preston for more information [M.Kelly@preston.gov.uk](mailto:M.Kelly@preston.gov.uk)

#### **16<sup>th</sup> June: The Merseyside sub region meet.**

Contact Nigel Sharp for more information [nigel.sharp@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.sharp@liverpool.gov.uk)

### Conferences and Calendar Events

#### **Greenspace Scotland's annual conference**

**4-5 June – Glasgow**

A packed programme across a wide range of subjects and an optional workshop on Sat 6 June. Information and booking [here](#)

#### **Managing Risk in Play Provision: Play England**

**10 June – Newcastle-upon-Tyne**

**16 June – Nottingham**

Play England have published guidance on managing risk in play provision. These free national policy seminars explains the new approaches and how providers can strike a balance between the risk and benefits of offering children more challenging play opportunities. Click [here](#) for more information/ booking.

#### **Green Flag Awards – Judges Consultation**

**19<sup>th</sup> June – The Orangery, Heaton Park**

**11am to 3pm with lunch included.**

#### **Sustainability Live!: NEC Birmingham**

**19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May**

This conference is the markets leading event with insightful seminars and conferences, interactive feature

the benchmarking schedule and send information to [David.sykes@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:David.sykes@trafford.gov.uk)

### **Pitch and Putting...**

Trafford are also considering the provision of Pitch & Putt course. If your authority has a Pitch & Putt, Bob Walton would like you to take the time to send a policy if you have one and or answer some question on them please – see attachment above. Please send replies to [bob.walton@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:bob.walton@trafford.gov.uk) and copy to [krhind@gsnw.org.uk](mailto:krhind@gsnw.org.uk) if they include charges as there are some on the fee comparison schedule from [Fylde, Salford, Burnley, Carlisle, Copeland, Chorley, Pendle, Halton and Stockport](#) to be updated, if you still have these facilities.

**Don't forget to send your questions for the next issue before the end of April!**

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### **Network Answers...**

Please share the collated answers with [Kirsty](#) to pass on to those who come back to us asking what the outcome was.

### **Network Notice of Consultation...**

#### **Rangers skills and job profiles:**

#### **Parks Officers – skills and job profiles:**

#### **Park Managers – skills and job profiles:**

Please see help with the Skills to Grow Strategy, GreenSKILL and GSNW's survey work:

Ranger questionnaires, job descriptions and person specs are still valuable to the end of May when the results will be collated. Please forward to your rangers!

The training workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> July will be identifying parks officers and manager's job profiles for skills. Job descriptions, person specifications and your work family tree are much needed please. Don't forget to remove your name and we can collate the results to arrive at some core skills – all welcome to the workshop too! If you are able to help with any of the skills work please get in touch with [Kirsty](#)

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### **This issue...**

#### **New Best Practice Guidance from CABI on Open Space Strategies**

Practical guidance to local authorities and their stakeholders on how to prepare, deliver, monitor and review an open space strategy. It reflects the latest thinking on the role of open space in tackling climate change and improving the quality of people's lives.

It includes best practice examples from around the country showing the value and practical benefits of a strategic approach to open space. View [here](#).

**Mersey Basin Campaign's Dragon Fly Awards runs for the last time – don't miss out on 2009 funding!** Flyer will follow via e-mail.

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areas and lots more all designed to help companies toward a more sustainable future. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Spaces to Grow: GreenSpace**

**24<sup>th</sup> June - Birmingham** – Allotment waiting lists are getting longer, vegetable seed sales are increasing and a series of celebrity campaigns have pushed growing food locally even higher up the public agenda. We know the benefits to communities and the environment of producing food locally, but how can green space and allotments managers capitalise on the current interest in food growing? What funding is available to support food-growing initiatives, and how can communities be successfully involved in these projects? Spaces to Grow will explore these questions and more. [Conference information and booking.](#)

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### **Information Sharing and Support:**

#### **Mini e-mail networks:**

Members have suggested they would like to link up with others on certain topics or issues they are currently dealing with such as Play builder.

#### **Interested?**

Send your e-mail contacts to [Kirsty](#) saying what you'd like to network on and she'll put a list together to send back out to all those interested.

All GSNW ask is that the questions and answers are sent back so we can capture the information in a simple document to share with others.

#### **Suggestions -**

Play Builder	Play Pathways
GreenSpace Strategies	HLF bids
Performance Management	Benchmarking
Data collections	Volunteers survey
Rangers – general	Apprentices
New policies and procedures	

Anything that you would like help with, for example Rochdale and Bury are considering a contract for ice cream vendors in parks, by working together they will save so much time and resources.

#### **Available document listings**

Again to help everyone through some of the busiest times members say they are experiencing please let GSNW know what documents or guidance you have that you are willing to share. For example policies on commemorative benches, trees etc that some authorities have done but others would really benefit from learning about. Managing football pitch lettings is another common request. Let [Kirsty](#) know what documents you are happy to share and these can be made available through the GSNW web, by a direct link to your web or via e-mail to you. Hopefully we can compile a schedule of resources to help everyone out.

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## News from the web...

1. **Big Lottery Fund's** new-look small grants scheme has undergone a number of changes designed to make the application process simpler and quicker. [Click here](#) for J4Community Newsletter article –
2. **Eight projects are set to share the cash from the Parks for People programme**, a joint initiative between the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund which can offer grants ranging between £250,000 and £5 million to help regenerate and conserve public spaces. [Click here](#) for J4Community Newsletter article –
3. **Local Government Minister heaps praise on Salford's grounds maintenance team** [Click here](#) for Horticultural Week's web news – you may need to register but it is free.

## What's happening in May and June

Eco days throughout the May half term. [Click here](#)

Liverpool's international tennis tournament at Calderstones Park 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June [Click here](#)  
And while you're there you can go to the biggest free African music festival in Sefton Park on Saturday or learn about plant myths and legends on Sunday [Click here](#) for Liverpool's exciting parks events programme.

If you want to include your events in Network News please forward to [Kirsty](#) before the end of the month.

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## Did you know... Over 100 Love Parks Week events online

We are now two weeks into the campaign and already there are over 100 events registered on the website. If you're planning an event and haven't got round to registering it yet then visit the website today - not only will you get free publicity by appearing in the What's on guide, but you'll also be making a vital contribution towards our campaign for continued investment and support for our parks.

### Pass it on!

This year we want as many people as possible to hear about the campaign and visit the website to find out what's going on during the week. You can help us to spread the word in a variety of ways, for example by adding the Love Parks Week logo as your email signature, forwarding this email to your friends and colleagues, or by using social networking sites. We're on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), so it would be fantastic if you could invite your friends and contacts to follow the campaign.

[www.loveparksweek.org.uk](http://www.loveparksweek.org.uk)

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## Membership News

**Membership consultation due** – to make sure GSNW is meeting your needs – please help out by sharing your recommendations and letting us know the issues you want us to try to resolve.

**New member's web pages due for launch soon** – packed with all GSNW workshop notes and meeting minutes together with guidance downloads and much, much more - send [Kirsty](#) a renewal members purchase order for your new 2009 log in details.

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## Members' section – Your section

This section in future will link to your web site for your projects and news, so send your web link for your events and case studies to Kirsty by late April.

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## Contact us:

GreenSpace North West is managed by Kirsty Rhind 07920 055965 [krhind@gsnw.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sarahm@green-space.org.uk) If you would like to help and/ or be an ambassador for parks and green spaces and all services relating to them please get in touch.

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