

GREENSPACE SOUTH EAST REGIONAL FORUM



UPDATE April 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Hope everyone is feeling as excited about spring as I am. This time of year is busy, for both those managing our green spaces, and our flora and fauna. With increased budget pressures our regions park managers and grounds teams need to continue deliver high quality green spaces whilst improving efficiencies.



Our forum looks to provide a platform for regional knowledge sharing and learning, promote the benefits of good quality green infrastructure to our communities and leaders and improve collaborations between our member organisations. Nationally GreenSpace works closely with Natural England, CABE, DCLG and others to ensure our member's voices are heard. By joining GreenSpace South East we can continue to improve the conversations and benefits regionally and protect the future of our sector.

ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM LIVE

All 74 local authorities in the South East now have access to the first GreenSpace online discussion forum at www.green-space.org.uk/southeast/online_forum. Use the organisation login details issued to you and login, then save the page to your favourites. You should find that when viewed you are automatically logged in and ready to post or answer queries.

We now have four queries there and one reply – the beginnings of a searchable database. More please!

I have got copies of login details if required, please email if you need these. Your authority will have one person listed as the main

contact and login will be via these details. Please ensure that as many people within the local authority who could, or should be using this service are, by passing the login details to your colleagues. Ideally this would be all colleagues within a parks or countryside team, but also planning, regeneration, neighbourhood management etc.

Because this will become a valuable resource for the region the GreenSpace South East Forum has agreed to extend the freely available online forum for another year. All 74 authorities will continue to have access.

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND SURGERIES/GREEN FLAG AWARD Q&A SESSIONS

GreenSpace South East is pleased to announce the first region specific event arranged outside of our usual forum meetings. In conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund we have arranged two 'funding surgeries'. In addition we are holding a parallel presentation and Q&A session regarding the Green Flag Award.

These events will provide our local authorities with the opportunity to discuss a bid with Heritage Lottery Fund under the 'Parks for People' funding. Some ideas of a particular project will be required for the surgeries, but the sessions will allow detailed conversations regarding how to expand these into a full application, and what critical steps are needed to make the application excellent.

The events have now been confirmed as:

29th April 2010

Location: Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS

Time: 10am – 3pm

30th April 2010

Location: Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, RG5 4JZ

Time: 10am – 3pm

Ideally the Tunbridge Wells event will cater for Kent, Sussex and Surrey sub-regions; with Reading for Hampshire and Berks, Bucks and Oxon. We are however flexible with this depending on the numbers interested.

Surgery slots will be appointment based for 45mins each, running from 10am throughout each day. The schedule is listed below – we have one slot booked already!

DAY 1: 29 TH APRIL 2010, TUNBRIDGE WELLS		DAY 2: 30 TH APRIL 2010, READING	
10:00am		10:00am	
10:45am		10:45am	
Break		Break	
11:45am		11:45am	
Lunch		Lunch	
13:15pm		13:15pm	
14:00pm		14:00pm	
Break		Break	
15:00pm	BOOKED	15:00pm	
Finish		Finish	

To book your place, please email me directly with your 1st and 2nd choices of time and venue. Allocation will be on a first come, first serve basis. To give some preparation time prior to the surgeries – so that we can get maximum benefits from them – the HLF are preparing some crib sheets. This will be issued to you with the time slot confirmation.

Points to remember about ‘Parks for People’ funding:

- For this grant programme, the term ‘public park’ means: An existing designed urban or rural green space, the main purpose of which is for informal recreation and enjoyment. It includes parks, gardens, squares, walks and promenades.
- A strong existing park design, and surviving features from this design, is expected.
- Funding is not available for new parks, or for the major re-design of existing parks.

At the same events Paul Todd will be joining us to give a presentation regarding the Green Flag Award and answer any questions about the future development of the scheme. I will also be on hand and there will be time for networking with colleagues from across the region prior to our Open Meeting in October.

Please contact me with any questions about these events.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

20th April 2010

Parks for Youth

Organiser: GreenSpace

Location: Watershed Media Centre, Bristol

Contact: www.green-space.org.uk

A one-day conference focusing on successfully engaging young people in parks and green spaces.

FINAL WORD...

These HLF surgeries/GFA sessions represent so much more than just what they are. These are the first events that the region has organised, outside of our normal meetings, which have been funded by the GreenSpace South East Forum. Your annual regional membership subscriptions pay for these events, the online forum and this newsletter. If every local authority joined from our area we could pool significant funding within our charity. Spend of this funding is down to you, our members, be it for training, events or match-funding for a regionally significant project.

To join GreenSpace SE please contact Sue Spencer on 0118 946 9069 or email her at SueS@green-space.org.uk.

Kind regards,

Michelle Parker

GreenSpace South East Forum Manager

Caversham Court, Church Road

Reading, RG4 7AD

Tel: 07898 870859

Email: mparker@gs-se.org.uk

W: www.green-space.org.uk

