

Update – September 2011

Dear Colleagues,



The usual busy summer period is in full swing and there is a huge amount of activity that relates to our green spaces. From the new policies coming from Government – the Natural Environment

White Paper, Localism Bill, National Planning Policy Framework, Health White Paper, British Waterways Consultation, UK Forest Panel – to name only a few, to the record number of events registered for Love Parks Week, plus a ramping up of sports events and cultural activities towards the Olympics 2012 – our green spaces seem to be more talked about than ever.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHITE PAPER

As suggested by our region, Defra were invited, and attended, our National Forum meeting to discuss the Natural Environment White Paper. There were a number of questions raised by our network in the South East and although we didn't get time on the day to put these to Defra, they have responded comprehensively via email. The questions were from the whole range of interested sector individuals; local authorities, private sector colleagues and community organisations – our thanks for your input. The responses can be downloaded from the online forum by following this [link](#).

AGM AND OPEN CONFERENCE 2011



Planning and preparation for our annual AGM and Open Conference is well underway. The date has (finally!)

been confirmed as **4th November at Burchatts Farm Barm, Herschel Park, Guildford** – our thanks to Guildford BC for their help with the venue.

Topics for the day will be varied and will hopefully get those brain cells inspired and working. I'm pleased to confirm Dr Gerda Speller whose research has concentrated on developing community participation projects and assessing their effectiveness. Joining her will also be speakers around climate change and green infrastructure and cultural ecosystem services. I will keep you updated as the programme is confirmed. You can book your place at this event by following this link: <http://www.green-space.org.uk/southeast>.

We have a limited number of opportunities for either exhibition space or promotional inserts to the delegate pack, for both voluntary/community organisations and green sector companies. For further information please contact me directly on the details at the end of this update.

GREEN FLAG AWARD DEMONSTRATION DAY

CHANGE OF DATE
(*What, another one?
Ha, ha – ed*) – we will now be running the Green Flag



Award Demonstration Day on the **29th September** at Winkfield Parish Council, Berkshire. This day will provide delegates with the breakdown of the Green Flag Award judging criteria, how judges view the park on the day and provide a chance for a guided walk using the judging criteria – hopefully around two parks this time; one having already achieved the GFA and the second due to be entered into the scheme.

This event provides a chance for the whole range of organisations eligible to enter – local authority, town and parish councils and community groups – to understand the award structure and answer any questions. Feedback has also shown its use for grounds maintenance staff to improve their understanding of the award. For further

details and how to book please follow this [link](#).

LOVE PARKS WEEK: 23 – 31 JULY 2011

<http://www.loveparksweek.org.uk> – Love Parks

Week smashed records this year with over 1240 events taking place across the country, seeing one million people visit parks and green spaces across the week (23-31 July 2011). The variety of events which took place throughout the week was enormous showcasing what our parks and green spaces can and should continue to offer to society, with many events opening people's minds to new activities, groups, people and hobbies.



Congratulations to everyone in the South East – we nearly doubled the numbers of events registered; last year 88, this year 152. In an amazing effort Hampshire came from behind to top the county LPW events registered:

County	No. of events
Berkshire	22
Buckinghamshire	24
East Sussex	12
Hampshire and IoW	32
Kent	27
Oxfordshire	2
Surrey	17
West Sussex	17

The date for next year's LPW has been set for the **21-29th July 2012**.

PLANNING FOR PARKS

The Institute of Parks and Green Space (IPGS) and The Next Field have developed a programme of training 2011/2012 to help parks and planning officers – and others with an interest in the subject - get to grips with their green and open space strategy projects. The programme consists of five one-day courses held in English cities between October 2011 and February 2012.

Each course will be practically oriented and tailored to the needs of the delegates attending, and the region where it is being run. The South East event is being held at The

Hub, Regents Park, London on the 16th November. For more information and booking details please visit our events and training thread on the online forum here: http://www.green-space.org.uk/southeast/online_forum.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

7th September 2011 **Regional Forum** @ Haywards Heath (invite only)
15th September 2011 **Hampshire meeting** @ Test Valley Borough Council, Duttons Road, Romsey
16th September 2011 **Sussex meeting** @ Mid-Sussex District Council, Haywards Heath Town Council Building, Haywards Heath
21st September 2011 **Berks, Bucks and Oxon meeting** @ Bentley Education Centre, Herschel Park, Slough Borough Council
27th September 2011 **Surrey meeting** @ Ashted Common, City of London
24th October 2011 **Kent meeting** @ Canterbury City Council
2nd November 2011 **National Forum** @ Birmingham (invite only)
4th November 2011 **GreenSpace South East AGM and Open Conference** @ Burchatts Farm Barn, Guildford

SPORTS FACILITY FUNDING...

Inspired Facilities Funding is now open for applications through Sports England and is open to local authorities, town and parish councils and other community organisations - <http://inspiredfacilities.sportengland.org>.

COMMUNITY GUIDANCE

Two new DCLG guides for green spaces: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/greenspacehelp> and <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/greenspacefunding>.

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