

## GREENSPACE SOUTH EAST REGIONAL FORUM



### UPDATE May 2010

Dear Colleagues,



Hello once again to you all. This last month has been a packed one for GreenSpace South East and warranted an extra newsletter to keep everyone updated.

Firstly I'd like to thank all those local authorities who continue to support the work we do by joining up as regional members. Using the subscriptions from the area you not only get a dedicated regional manager, which I'd like to think is a bonus, but also we've been able to start training and events across the region.

#### HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND SURGERIES

GreenSpace SE and the HLF teamed up to provide some dedicated surgeries to help get the 'Parks for People' funding into our region. We were both very happy with the way the days went. It was really interesting, and helpful, to understand the types of parks and how far forward some of our LA's were with their ideas.

Due to the success we are looking to run similar events next year about the same time – so watch this space for details.

In the meantime, if you missed the event or a planning an application the best advice is:

1. Check the help notes on their website [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) – this will give you a lot of background about the programme.
2. Complete the pre-application on the website. This is a no commitment, non-assessed questionnaire which is designed to focus your project around the desired outcomes of the

programme. It allows you to start a dialogue with HLF about the funding application but doesn't commit you to anything. By getting this done early you can see if the park fits with their criteria or not – could potentially save a lot of time and effort which we all need to do at the moment (efficiency, streamlining etc etc!).

3. Once this is completed and you've started to have the conversations with HLF about your project they are likely to suggest a site visit which will be very useful for any future application.

Our thanks to Tunbridge Wells for hosting one of the sessions.

#### GREENSPACE SOUTH EAST FORUM MANAGER

As many of you are aware I've been working part-time for GreenSpace South East and my contract is due to finish at the end of July. I have been offered a full-time position elsewhere and have accepted. Therefore, my position as Regional Forum Manager is currently being recruited for. Please follow the link below for further details.

#### GreenSpace South East Forum Manager

**Organisation:** GreenSpace South East

**Location:** Various options throughout the region

**Salary:** £12,500 - £14,000 Part-time

Fixed-term contract for one year with good potential for extension

For more details and a copy of the job description click [here](#).

I will still continue to be involved with GreenSpace South East as I'll be working for Brighton and Hove City Council. It has been a pleasure working with you all and I'm looking forward to the future in our region.

## **GREEN FLAG AWARD DEMONSTRATION DAYS**

Following the success of similar events carried out in the East Midlands I'm looking to hold some GFA demonstration days. These practical events, hosted by a willing LA, will involve a guided walk by Green Flag Judges around a GFA park explaining the criteria and responding to the park surroundings.

I've already had several willing volunteers in Kent. Ideally I'd like to hold another in each of our sub-regions so volunteers please for Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Berks, Bucks and Oxon. If anyone is interested in helping out with such an event please let me know.

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**8<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

#### **Saving Your Service**

**Organiser:** GreenSpace

**Location:** Birmingham

**Contact:** [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)

A conference focusing on maximising park assets and exploring opportunities to secure the future of green space services. The programme has just been confirmed.

### **SUB-REGIONAL MEETINGS**

We have had meetings in Kent and Sussex recently with a meeting in Surrey due by the end of the month. The sub-regional forums offer opportunities to understand common issues and share knowledge with your counterparts locally. All the minutes are available on our website.



Left:  
The newly restored  
Bishop's  
Palace  
Garden in  
Chichester.

## **GSSE OPEN MEETING 2010**

The date has been confirmed for this year's GreenSpace South East Open Meeting:

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at Meridian Hall, East Grinstead**

The regional forum wants to look at a broad range of issues facing our sector. I will be looking to get speakers about community involvement, skilling the workforce, the political agenda for green infrastructure and Natural England's regional GIS database.

We will also be having stands with information from other organisations that have projects across our region. If anyone would like to get involved please email me at the usual address. Watch this space for more details as the conference is confirmed.

### **FINAL WORD...**

Our membership nationally has been reviewed and we are now accepting members from commercial organisations, such as landscape firms. This will ensure that contractors who work with our LA's are fully aware of the issues and guidance we work within. This learning will again lead to improvements in the quality of our green infrastructure.

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

Kind regards,

#### **Michelle Parker**

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