

# GREENSPACE SOUTH EAST REGIONAL FORUM



## UPDATE October 2009

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first regional update outlining the work and focus of the GreenSpace South East Forum for the following year.

### ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Communication of ideas and experiences between our local and county authorities is important to our regional members. To aid quick responses and discussion GreenSpace South East is the first nationally to develop an online discussion forum. Regional members will have free access to this facility. By providing this service our members can quickly ask day-to-day queries that have regional significance for our colleagues. Current hot-topics and debates, such as dog control orders and Green Flag into the future, should be discussed here. As Forum Manager I will be providing snapshot of the discussions across the region for you in these updates. The online discussion forum should be up and running by the end of the year – watch this space!

### MY ROLE AND FOCUS



As well as working with local authorities across Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Bucks, Berks and Oxon we also have excellent relationships with other organisations; CABE Space, Natural England, Landscape Institute and Lantra. Meetings with significant funding partners, such as HLF, are another priority to ensure that the South East region receives ongoing support to improve public spaces. The discussions and situations that our members

report are fed back to our national forum to improve policies and further push the value of open spaces up the political agenda. Our region already has strong support from local authorities but we are aiming to get everyone engaged and involved.

### REGIONAL FORUM

The Chair of the Regional Forum is Rupert Browning from Mid-Sussex District Council. As Business Unit Leader for Landscapes he is fully aware of the challenges facing local authorities and the wider sector. He says, "I strongly urge you to give your support to the GreenSpace SE network so that we can all more effectively work together and share experiences/ideas and learn from each other as well as promoting the value of parks in our society. We are planning the next Open Meeting for October 2010 so if any of you have any thoughts on what you would wish to see covered at this event then please let Michelle know."



### TAES TRAINING

Our region currently has no dates for 'Towards An Excellent Service' training. With the advent of a pilot scheme to award Green Flag status for a whole authority parks service, TAES delivers a key indicator framework. I want to arrange dates for TAES training. Please email if you would like to attend.

### CABE SPACE LEADERS PROGRAMME

A quick reminder to book your place now on the CABE Space Leaders programme 2010 at the Marriott Hollins Hall in Baildon near Bradford, from Tuesday 23 February to Friday 26 February 2010.

The programme is a three day marathon of information – I was there in Manchester 2008 on behalf of the Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk – intense and inspiring. If you haven’t attended before I would highly recommend going. For further information about the programme and how to book please see: <http://www.cabe.org.uk/skills/leaders>.

#### WEBSITE

Now I’m here, and with the assistance of our new web guru Shaun, our website is growing daily. In addition to the online discussion forum we are collating case studies from the region. Updated regularly the website, [www.gs-se.org.uk](http://www.gs-se.org.uk), now has regional minutes, event dates and news. All contributions to the website will be considered so if you have a training event that needs publicising or would like to share any information then either email or call me.

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**23 September – 23 October**

**Seed gathering season**

**Organiser:** Tree Council

**Location:** Nationwide

**Contact:** [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

The Tree Council is holding an autumn festival to inspire everyone, particularly school children and families, to gather seeds, fruits and nuts and grow the trees of the future.

**2 November**

**Forestry, Arboriculture and Countryside Conference**

**Organiser:** Institute of Chartered Foresters and South Oxfordshire District Council

**Location:** South Oxfordshire

**Contact:** [Event flyer](#), [Booking form](#)

The Institute of Chartered Foresters has joined forces with the South Oxfordshire Arboricultural Industry and Countryside Forums to provide a fascinating one day conference that will be of interest to all those involved in tree and land management in both the rural and urban environment.

#### PARKS FROM THE REGION

At our last Sussex meeting we visited the recently restored Hotham Park, Bognor Regis. After a successful £2.2m HLF grant this once neglected park has been carefully restored and improved. The park provides a good mix

of semi-natural and amenity recreation spaces. It was good to see large areas of shrub beds as many parks often shy away from dense planting due to safety concerns.



For more details about Hotham Park visit this [link](#).

In Surrey we met at the Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) site at Pond Farm, Ockham near Wisley. Ockham & Wisley is a nationally important site for dragonflies and damselflies. Twenty species have been recorded here. A cattle grazing programme has been introduced by the SWT to improve habitat for a wide number of invertebrates, and in turn other species. Further information about the scheme can be found by following this [link](#).

#### FINAL WORD...

The GreenSpace South East Forum represents your ideas and experiences. By getting involved our members will drive forward the green space agenda for the future. If anyone has any questions, ideas, contributions or would like to get involved please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

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