

## Case Study: Canterbury Open Space Conference

<b>Topic</b>	PLANNING: Assessing Local Needs and Opportunities
<b>Name of Initiative</b>	Open Space Conference 2010
<b>Name of Local Authority / Organisation</b>	Canterbury City Council
<b>Related Topics/Issues</b>	COMMUNITY: Capacity Building Community Groups, Empowering Communities, Participation

<b>Aims &amp; Objectives</b>	This event built upon the success of the previous year's which helped shape the Open Space Strategy and brought together representatives from 45 community groups to share best and discuss current challenges and opportunities.
<b>Outcomes &amp; Impacts</b>	Canterbury City Council wanted to focus the event on partnership working, opening discussions about green infrastructure and to talk about a current issue, 'solutions for managing open spaces that are not owned by the council, situated in residential housing areas and where the private management company has been closed'.
<b>Process</b>	A one-day conference at Whitstable Castle, with presentations in the morning, including the council talking about their achievements over the year, and workshops in the afternoon.
<b>Resources/Funding</b>	Officer and council time to arrange and venue.
<b>Timescales</b>	Proposed actions to feed into Open Space Strategy action plan – with specific timescales for each action.
<b>Evaluation</b>	On the day very positive feedback on conference, need to deliver actions.
<b>Prospects &amp; Opportunities</b>	<p>The Open Space Conference 2010 also proposed some new actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community groups in Canterbury to develop a Britain in Bloom bid in 2011</li> <li>• Community groups in Canterbury to develop a green infrastructure project in 2011 and feed into the East Kent Green Infrastructure Project</li> <li>• General support for proposed Queen Elizabeth II Field at Hollow Lane</li> <li>• General support for proposed Queen II Herne Bay Coastal Park</li> <li>• Finish the refurbishment of Memorial Park</li> <li>• Consolidate coastal polices in the complex coastal environment of Whitstable – access especially important.</li> <li>• In rural areas access is the major constraint further develop the "Access improvement plan"</li> <li>• General support for the proposed Queen Elizabeth II Field at Mariners View</li> </ul>

<b>Key Learning/Advice for Others</b>	From an officer point of view working in partnership is positive experience in difficult times and an opportunity to get “your head up” and look ahead. Getting the community to take more responsibility and managing community expectations will be the trick.
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<b>Contact Details</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Richard Griffith, Outdoor Leisure Manager
<b>Postal Address:</b>	Council Offices, Military Rd, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW
<b>Telephone:</b>	01227 862 001
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:richard.griffiths@canterbury.gov.uk">richard.griffiths@canterbury.gov.uk</a>

<b>Other Information Sources</b>
<a href="http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/main.cfm?objectid=6253">http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/main.cfm?objectid=6253</a>