

**Minutes of the Meeting of GreenSpace South West
Tuesday 12th December 2006 at 1pm
Livestock Centre, Exeter**

		Actions
1.	Present	
	<p>Peter Wilkinson –Bristol CC (Chair) Richard Taylor –Torbay Council Hasnein Kanani –Mid Devon District Council Nick Jones –Plymouth CC Adrian Akester – North Somerset Council Lindsay Evans –Torbay Council (minutes) Matthew Hill –Gloucester CC Michael Rowland –Bournemouth BC Harley Cook – Sedgemoor DC Bob Hussey – Kennet DC Naomi Wright – Natural England Tara Gooding –Weymouth and Portland BC Carl Dallison – Weymouth and Portland BC Mark Pollard – East Devon DC Mike Vine – East Devon DC Adrian Cook – Mid Devon DC</p>	
2.	Apologies	
	<p>Sarah Moore – GreenSpace Matti Raudsepp - Poole BC Helen Willey - Purbeck DC Karen Hughes - Taunton Deane BC Mike East - North Cornwall DC Mike Beckett - North Cornwall DC Andy Chard - Bath & NE Somerset BC Lynn Harris - Penwith DC Brian Hosken - Penwith DC Ruth Miles - Mendip DC Rachael Young - Cornwall County Council Paul Faulkner - Exeter City Council Andrew Pidgen - Restormel BC Jon Mitchell - Kerrier DC</p>	

	<p>Mark O'Brien - Carrick DC</p> <p>PW apologised for the cancelled meeting in october</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting</p>	
	<p>1. Introductions</p> <p>Introductions from all of the members and PW welcomed new attendees to the meeting.</p> <p>2. Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>PW reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting (26 July 2006).</p> <p>2.1 TAES: PW informed the group of the piloting schemes in Carrick DC and Cornwall CC. The two pilots are meeting with CABE and the IDEA to review the findings of the pilots. Idea is for TAES to be adopted 2007-08. Could be used as a generic template for parks, libraries etc.</p> <p>2.2 CABE Leaders Programme – Bristol is pleased to be hosting the second conference. RT enquired as to which parks are to be visited. PW responded that on the draft list are Ashton Court, Blaise Castle, Barton Hill, Wilmot Park and Castle Park.</p> <p>2.3 NW – Countryside Agency didn't go through – 3 portfolios were put through for the region – open programme – submissions Feb 2007. On Big Lottery website – Natural England in Community Spaces???.</p> <p>NW spoke about the Greenspace South West Development Manager post for next year. They are through the first hurdle and the position has been written into the Business Plans. PW enquired as to when the group would know the outcome. The government is providing the outline budget today and Chief Executive would clear it by January. Can spend up to 80% of budget before the money is there – may/june, DEFRA. PW asked for thoughts on advertising MR asked about the position (three year post). Steering group to re-visit the post in January. PW asked NW if the group should write to the Regional Director? PW to contact Regional Director (details required from NW). NW to keep forum informed as to developments.</p> <p>4. Funding:</p>	<p>NW info to PW</p>

<p>With regards to future funding, Option 2 has been selected.</p> <p>PW stated that SM apologises for not invoicing the members of the group. £5000 was not collected last year, with only Bristol CC having paid. PW to ask Caversham to send the invoices out to members.</p>	<p>PW</p>
<p>5.3 106 Agreements:</p> <p>PW asked the group if anyone sent through any information relating to 106 agreements. HK did send information to SM. PW would be able to send information out to the group if requested. How £1000 is disseminated out – split into three areas. PW to speak to MR.</p>	<p>PW</p>
<p>6. Local Area Agreements</p> <p>PW requested updates from each attendee:</p> <p>RT – Parks do not feature heavily in the LAA – Green flag has been taken out as a stretch target.</p> <p>Mid Devon – 1.2 million shortfall and there will be a staff reduction of a third in the next three years.</p> <p>Devon CC – Strong LAA theme RT added information regarding Devon Recreation Officers Group.</p> <p>Nick Jones – LSP Boards – funding for parks £510000 link to crime, healthy lifestyles –increasing green flags. Set milestones, targets.</p> <p>North Somerset – Four target areas – stretched to include play/play areas – Green Flag, Public Rights of Way- just finalising Play Strategy.</p> <p>Gloucester CC – New Streetcare partner re: Green Flag and In Bloom. Accord are the preferred bidder – 15 years to bring it altogether in feb/march. Joint Venture Company – retaining the management on the client side.</p> <p>MR – North Bournemouth for LAA. Customer Satisfaction surveys are carried out each month. Community profiling for the area. Involvement with the police and the community are to decide on the targets.</p>	

	<p>NS – AA linked back to the CPA and the Safer/Stronger communities theme.</p> <p>HC – LAA 2006 – lack of co-operation between the districts and the county council.</p> <p>BH – stated that the crime and safety agenda is the way in, to get parks as part of the LAA.</p> <p>Weymouth – Crime and disorder are the main themes and it is difficult to raise parks profile.</p> <p>East Devon – MP stated that there is money coming in-but does not know where it is going?</p> <p>Mid Devon – Seconded to look after nine district offices – targets for grass cutting/hedges and shrubs.</p> <p>PW - Two stretch targets (draft). Four stretched targets – Green Flag starting with no flags – three green flags in deprived parks.</p> <p>Improving satisfaction in the city and the stretch target is to double the satisfaction in Neighbourhood renewal areas.</p> <p>GOSW – 2% stretch target already published – would like to have new %.</p> <p>Sarah Connelly of GOSW and Dave Duggan looking after the LAA for Bristol.</p> <p>7. Village Greens:</p> <p>PW stated that new commons legislation would help to protect greens.</p> <p>Discussion followed regarding Village Greens between NJ, RT and AA.</p>	
	<p>3 Feedback from the GreenSpace National Forum</p> <p>Last meeting was held on the 15th November 2006. PW stated that Sarah Gaventa was in attendance. Outcome of the</p>	

	<p>meeting was that Wales wish to join GreenSpace. Parks, Streets and Climate Change were the items discussed. “Paying for Parks” latest publication. Public realm/public parks – denied the information stated in Horticulture Week. Interested in the development of the institute – very good discussion – Cabe Space to support regional forums more.</p> <p>Greenspace – ISPAL – Launched at the Bridging the Gap conference two weeks ago. There is a Business plan and it will be led by Greenspace and ISPAL teams. The rates for members will be at three different levels. Continuing professional development for all members and access for other professionals such as arborists etc. More members are to be attracted next year.</p> <p>PW stated that the Bridging the Gap conference re: green skills was a very positive conference and will be discussed further at Thursday’s meeting.</p> <p>Draft business plan – identified nine english regions to work together through the national forum. In january via regional steering group – draft national forum plan for consultation. The next meeting is in february.</p> <p>4. Steering Group - Feedback</p> <p>PW stated that the group is light of some counties and the group accepted this.</p> <p>MR stated that more attendees from Dorset would be beneficial.</p> <p>PW discussed the need to send round an up to date contact list for people who have moved – re: the county network.</p>	
	<p>5. Presentations</p> <p>Parkforce presentation by PW and MR.</p> <p>Len Croney contacted Bournemouth BC to establish whether they would like to be a pilot project. MR suggested Merritt park – unfortunately there is no funding attached to the pilot – time from Len Croney is available. Merritt park is a large park with 18 hole golf course, 3 Pavilions and 2 rugby pitches and is currently underused. BBC want to encourage more people into</p>	

the park which would lessen antisocial behaviour. Working more closely with other departments including the Police in order to address the behaviour in the park which is currently occurring. Future use for the park – approaching the community for the next stage.

Agreement between staff – to engage with people and become involved with the community. Hope to have enforcement as a last resort.

Training for the staff – taking on new roles and broader skills – and be specialised in one area, such as mowing, enforcement etc.

HC questioned enforcement powers – MR would like staff to engage with the public more. CEO and Cabespace representatives met with staff to re-iterate the importance of their jobs. NJ asked if the uniform had changed? As all the same uniform would be beneficial. HK asked if the unions had been involved? MR stated that the jobs were not going to change dramatically. Discussion then followed regarding legal situation and TUPE transfer. Discussion then led onto CRB checks and staff that requiring checking.

A handout was then passed round “Skills and Training in the North West’s Green Spaces”

PW then presented the Wilmot park improvement project. BCC employed two members of staff to stay on site. Grounds maintenance contracted out to Continental Landscapes who are responsible for three-quarters of the ground maintenance. DSO manage the remainder. Based on history, not service. £250000 is spent on site based staff for eleven parks. Funding from Neighbourhood Renewal and Continental Landscapes provide 2 staff and the costs for 2008 have been built into revenue budget. In ten weeks the park has been turned around. The park was selected through Quality Assurance Assessments/ “Safer Parks” forum. Evidence based choice. Spoke to the community re: grounds maintenance, bins etc. Over 8 weeks, in the first week there was 8m³ of flytipping collected and in the 8th week there wasn’t any flytipping collected.

PCSO’s part of wider team – involved in publicity for the Harcliffe area – poorest 3% in the country regarding super output zone. Forty people in the friends group – 200k to spend in the park regarding a calmer space. Speaking to the

	<p>community to see what action to make. Good publicity is good for Parkforce. Greenspace Strategy – hope to adopt a policy for a presence in parks from dawn to dusk in main thirty parks.</p> <p>John Reid visited Harcliffe with regards to Antisocial behaviour. It can be shown that a park can be turned around in ten weeks and as such, is being included on the CabeSpace Leaders programme.</p> <p>Discussion followed regarding procurement of the staff and the difference between the prices from in house grounds maintenance and the outside contractor to provide an on-site presence. AA asked whether they had an enforcement role? and whether they had a new job description. Community Accreditation scheme – training people to issue fixed penalties.</p>																									
	<p>6.Green Skills Presentation from Greenspace North West</p> <p>Postponed</p> <p>7.Regional Learning Themes – Programme Development</p> <p>Discussion with regards to next years programme.</p> <p>PW decided to allocate a meeting to each theme. Eighteen months ago did learning themes networking regarding people’s needs and the themes on which they could assist. Presentation followed on a flip chart by PW.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="310 1360 1240 1875"> <thead> <tr> <th>Theme</th> <th>Needs</th> <th>Group Members</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Planning /106</td> <td>10</td> <td>MR, RT, PW, NE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ASB</td> <td>7</td> <td>AC, AA, Jen Lin??? BCC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strategy</td> <td>6</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green Flag</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Young People</td> <td>5</td> <td>Bournemouth BC, NJ, Torbay</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equalities/DDA</td> <td>5</td> <td>East Devon, BCC, Exeter CC, Natural England-Diversity Review</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skills, funding, Trees, play, management plan</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Theme	Needs	Group Members	Planning /106	10	MR, RT, PW, NE	ASB	7	AC, AA, Jen Lin??? BCC	Strategy	6		Green Flag	5		Young People	5	Bournemouth BC, NJ, Torbay	Equalities/DDA	5	East Devon, BCC, Exeter CC, Natural England-Diversity Review	Skills, funding, Trees, play, management plan	3		
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Discussion followed regarding each of the above themes.

1. planning/106- regarding standardised policy for 106. Theme to discuss greenspace planning/106.
2. Antisocial behaviour – group jointly agreed.
3. Greenspace strategy connects with 106 and planning.
4. Green Flag and skills,funding,play links together
5. Young people and ASB are loosely connected.

PW stated that Paul Faulkner wanted to bring someone in to speak to the group regarding DDA. AA stated about impact assessments.

MR suggested that co-ordinator has a noticeboard to advertise funding successes.

MR, RT, PW and Natural England happy to share information regarding planning and Greenspace strategy on June 19th 2007.

ASB – AA, AC, Jennifer Lun (BCC) Sept 18th 2007.

Young People/play – MR can invite a colleague from Bournemouth. AC, NJ, RT to invite chair from Play partnership, MP. March 13th 2007.

Equality and Diversity – PW to bring Rick Fletcher, Len Croney. PF was to suggest an attendee from Exeter CC.NW December 11th 2007.

8.Any Other Business

RT discussed the Green Flag Award and that the Civic Trust have won the three year contract to manage the scheme from DCLG. There is a review of the Green Flag criteria to bring it more in line with Countryside Parks and AONB. Judges association to review criteria. Green Pennant been reviewed for 2007. Fee structure is being looked at and the induction folder “Raising the Standard” is being reviewed. There are to be special awards for excellence relating to one of the eight headings. Three regional presentations next year. More mystery shopper visits and on the 18th December there is a judges association meeting.

	<p><i>9. Date of Next Meeting</i></p> <p><i>Tuesday 13 March 2007, 12pm at Livestock Centre, Exeter. (Postponed)</i></p> <p><i>Tuesday 19th June 2007, 12pm at Livestock Centre, Exeter.</i></p>	
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