



**Notes of the meeting of GreenSpace South West Open Forum Meeting
Tuesday 6th September 2011
Flook House Taunton**

Present	
Karen Hughes	Green Space (Forum Manager)
Michael Rowland	Bournemouth Borough Council (CHAIR, AFTERNOON)
Clive Ivil	Quadron Services Ltd
Andrew KAuffman	Quadron Services Ltd
Dot Isgrove	Natural England
Paul Faulkner	Exeter CC
Richard Taylor –	Torbay Council
Samantha Jarvis	Somerset County Council
Peter Wilkinson	The Next Field (CHAIR, MORNING)
Rachel Foster-Borman	Bridgwater College
Mike Vine	East Devon District Council
Ali Rasey	Wiltshire Council
Steve Ibbertson	Wiltshire Council
John Flannigan	North Somerset
Mark McGregor	North Somerset
Len Croney	Pengelly Consulting (Speaker)
Harley Cook	Sedgemoor District Council
Martin Conyers	Cirencester Town Council
Carole Berry	Devizes Town Council
Richard Hopkins	Devizes Town Council
Rozelle Jachowicz	Stroud District Council
Iain PArk	University of Exeter
Simon Legg	Borough of Poole
Adrian Cook	Mid Devon District Council
Mark Pollard	East Devon District Council
Mike Vine	East Devon District Council
Jill Skelton	West Devon District Council
Sharon Gunn	Natural England (SPEAKER)
Toby Lowe	Cornwall Council
Adrian Jones	Chippenham Town Council
Helen Lawy	Friends of Longrun Meadows, Taunton
John Chapman	Fields in Trust, SW
Apologies	

Carina Gallacher Cyril Rowe Josep Galicia Graham Evans Carl Dallison Olwen Hughes Lyndsay Weaver	Christchurch Borough Council Taunton Deane Borough Council Taunton Deane Borough Council Bath and North East Somerset Weymouth & Portland Borough Council University of Plymouth TOR2
--	---

Meeting Notes

Item	Information/	Action
Minutes of the last meeting	Passed as accurate. No issues to report on	
Feedback from GreenSpace National Forum	National Conference for Community Groups takes place on Saturday 17 th September. `	Peter W to report back
	Dr William Byrd has become a trustee of GreenSpace National Forum	
	Future of the Institute of Parks and Greenspace is under review.	
	“Lost Skills” is being piloted in the three regions including the South West	
	DEFRA is consulting on the Natural Environment White Paper proposal for Local Green Space designations	
Progress against 2011/12 Business Plan Karen Hughes (hyperlink)	Income position is reasonable due to success in gaining memberships and reduction in outgoings. This means that the Reserves won't be depleted as much as had been anticipated	
	New members this quarter are South Gloucestershire Council and Cornwall Council. Others are in conversation.	
	The next newsletter is due out end of October. Examples of good practice are needed	ALL to send any information for inclusion to Karen by 7 th October.
	A networking event for community groups is to be held in the region with funding from	

	<p>Natural England. Likely date February 2012.</p> <p>A mailshot is planned to all Portfolio holders to outline the benefits, thank those whose councils are members and introduce GreenSpace to those who aren't members.</p>	
<p>Open Public Services White Paper</p> <p>Len Croney</p>	<p>Len outlined some issues to be aware of with this White Paper which includes a right for community organisations and Town/Parish Councils to manage services and a pilot of 13 is underway.</p> <p>Accountability will be an issue as there is no provision for inspection or quality targets; potential lack of accountability with non elected organisations.</p>	<p>ALL members of GSSW to see presentation on website</p>
<p>Management Options for Greenspace Services</p> <p>Len Croney</p>	<p>Len shared his experience and knowledge of the different models for managing green spaces: in-house, third sector eg mutual based on in-house set up or trust; private sector contractor; charity; cooperative or community interest society.</p> <p>Issues and learning points he highlighted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking care if using an existing trust (set up for another purpose) which may not have the focus on parks; • Charities have to set up separate trading companies to generate income with potential loss of control by the client; • Elected Councillors will lose some control even if they sit on the Board of a Trust; • Leased land is better than selling/transferring an asset as a lease can be revoked; • Strategic provision may be compromised by piecemeal management arrangements; • Need to consider if it is the land that being transferred or the service. 	<p>ALL members of GSSW to see presentation on website</p>
<p>Big Society</p>	<p>Sharon outlined Natural England's role and vision and covered a number of "drivers":</p>	<p>ALL members of GSSW to see</p>

<p>Sharon Gunn, Natural England</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent Natural Environment White Paper which outlines how connection between people, communities and nature can happen including Local Nature Partnerships and Nature Improvement Areas.(more information can be found on Natural England’s website at www.naturalengland.org.uk • The Localism Bill which seeks to improve access to nature and widens the powers of local communities to protect and improve nature and includes plans to establish a scheme to train 50,000 Community Organisers; consult on proposals for a new Green Areas Designation giving local people the opportunity to protect green spaces. • The new England Biodiversity Strategy adopts an integrated wildlife approach, putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy. <p>Queries raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timescale for NIPs; • Need for professional support for volunteers; • the role of NE in engaging at the local level when it is a strategic organisation; • the skill levels of Community Champions; • the need to coordinate volunteer support eg insurance 	<p>presentation on website</p>
<p>Queen Elizabeth Challenge John Chapman, Fields in Trust</p>	<p>John outlined the QE11 Challenge which aims to protect 2012 sites by the end of next year. So far 638 sites have been registered nationally of which 80 are in the South West. The scheme is open to all landowners and all sorts of publicly used open spaces. Grants are available to develop projects and</p>	<p>ALL members of GSSW to see presentation on website</p>

	for investment in the spaces registered.	
Any other business	Date of next meeting 6 th December in Taunton Venue may change.	ALL to note date