

**Minutes of the Meeting of GreenSpace South West
Wednesday 18 May 2005 at 12pm
Livestock Centre, Exeter**

		Actions
1.	Present	
	<p>Adrian Akester – North Somerset Council Nicole Collomb – Cabe Space Harley Cook – Sedgemoor DC Len Croney – Cabe Space Advisor David Crudginton – Landscape Manager, Bournemouth BC Sarah Drea – Gloucester City Council Paul Faulkner - Parks and Open Spaces Manager, Exeter CC Bob Hussey – Kennet District Council Karen Hughes – Leisure Development Manager, Taunton Deane BC Hasnein Kanani – Mid Devon DC Ross Kennerley – Landscape & Recreation Manager, South Hams Debbie Moseley – South Somerset DC Ruth Miles – Mendip DC Chris Mulcahy – Parks Operations Manager, Taunton Deane BC Andrew Pidgen – Resformel Borough Council Mark Pollard – Parks Development Officer – East Devon DC Matti Raudsepp – Open Spaces Manager, Poole BC Paula Rovira – Parks Technical Officer, Exeter CC (minutes) Richard Taylor – Parks Development Manager, Torbay BC Peter Wilkinson – Parks Service Manager, Bristol CC (Chair) Rachael Young – Countryside Officer, Cornwall CC</p>	
2.	Apologies	
	<p>Tom Hurley and Mike Vine – East Devon DC</p>	
3.	Meeting	
	<p>General Business</p>	

1. Introductions

Introductions and apologies were made, and PW welcomed the new attendees to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

PW reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting (9 March 2005); agreed all OK.

PF circulated draft document “**Membership Information**” outlining the aims and added benefits of becoming a member of the South West Parks and Green Spaces Forum. PR to attach E-version with minutes.

Agreed to leave the issue of nominating Green Flag judges for future meeting.

3. Steering Group – Regional Representatives

Agreed to structure a Steering Group built around an initial nominee and sub from each of the South West’s seven counties. The Steering Group could meet electronically / physically to discuss issues such as business planning programming and recruitment. Agreed that this needs to be progressed as soon as possible.

COUNTY	LEAD	SUB
Avon	Peter Wilkinson	Adrian Akester
Dorset	David Crudgington	Matti Raudepp
Glos	Sarah Drea	

All others to initiate discussion and appoint lead and sub by end May.

4. Funding

Need to raise £15K to fund part-time coordinator, to work 2 / 3 days networking and databasing. CABE Space grant from previous financial year £4225 already held in ‘the pot’. They support the regional programme that is being led by GreenSpace.

	<p>Comment was made that it might be necessary to include only those who have subscribed to GreenSpace SW within the proposed learning sets, as this was one of the most obvious and tangible benefits of the forum.</p>	
	<p>Discussion Items</p> <p>7. CAFE Space: Networking for Green Space Strategies</p> <p>Presentation from Nicole Collomb, CAFE Space Enabling and Delivery Advisor.</p> <p>NC informed group that training is available through their Enabling Programme. CAFE can also offer direct assistance and support on green space strategies, primarily green space projects and other issues. Local advisors can be appointed. Training could be built-in to existing forum, or set-up as special 'one-offs'.</p> <p>NC would be interested to hear feedback: what need in terms of support and training? CAFE always looking out for good practice in terms of what LAs doing so they can feed back info to central office and disseminate through their Good Practice Guide. NC happy to send copies of Good Practice Guide.</p> <p>CAFE can respond directly to a lot of the issues which have arisen from Learning Themes exercise.</p> <p>Strong benefit of regional membership is that group can tap into national organisation links, national funders and central government, CAFE services offered FREE of charge!</p> <p>NC suggested that planners invited to next meeting with CAFE</p> <p>Presentation from Len Croney, CAFE Space Advisor:</p> <p>LC reviewed the advantages of CAFE Space to help sell the value of a green space strategy. Also stressed that planners and councillors should be invited to next meeting. Green space strategies can demonstrate that we <u>are</u> delivering and are a useful tool in protecting budgets. With CAFE involvement, the key objectives can be delivered relatively cheaply.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

8. Section 106 Agreements

Presentation from Matti Raudsepp:

The Use of Planning Obligations in an Urban Context (see attached)

Presentation from David Crudgington:

Bournemouth – S106 entirely related to housing. Money is coming in, but not in the areas where most needed.

SPG was adopted in 1999. £749 / house

Split into 4 categories.

50% allocated to children's playgrounds and skate parks, which has to be spent within locality to the development.

36% allocated to playing fields, which can be spent anywhere within the town

4% allocated to sport and recreation, which can also be spent anywhere within the town

Final % has to be spent local to the development

One problem that arises is that there are small amounts of money in lots of 'pockets' that can't be spent.

Bournemouth has been driven by their Leisure Strategy of 2003.

They have good relations with Planners, which means they are very rarely challenged, but also have good control of leisure and administrative process.

Presentation from Mark Pollard: (standing in for Tom Hurley, absent)

Threshold is 5 houses or more

£3000 /dwelling

East Devon takes the approach of a fixed fee per dwelling, with or without EDDC constructing the feature. They have argued that old people's accommodation also require play contributions as will have grandchildren visiting.

Presentation from Sarah Drea:

Gloucester's similar to Poole's.

SPG 2001

No. people / area

No. people / house

	<p>Over 30 houses, they would ask for land initially Vast majority of their land is brownfield or landfill, so no open space. Using S106 contributions to buy private playing fields. They have yet to implement a system for less than 30 houses. Planning concerned at 8-week timescale being delayed (SPG) Legal questioned legality of SPD S106 officer to be placed soon. Cash has been used to fund staff. Trying to add 10% onto existing costs to pay for staff.</p> <p>PW - Bristol: £1200 / person Average of 2.7 persons / dwelling Based on per person, rather than per house This will stand until Green Space strategy adopted. All contributions into one pot, to be spent where / on what needed.</p> <p>LC (CABE) has asked CABE Space to work and advise on these standards. Strategy should be standardised. Effectively it's the avoidance of planning loss Standards of provision should be local. Calculate standards by total population x : total population y Green Space strategy is vital and should be the blueprint for future investment in Green Space S106 income is complementary to other revenue funding. CABE are working on a national strategy / standard.</p> <p>9. Any other business Richard Taylor circulated document re: Parks, Places and Countryside Seminar 2005, to take place 13 – 15 September, Torbay.</p>	
	<p>10. Date of next meeting 13th July 2005 in Exeter</p>	