

## **Green Space Somerset Meeting, The Deane House, Taunton.**

### **Present:**

Karen Hughes, Taunton Deane  
David Morrison, South Gloucestershire  
Andy Chard, BANES  
Mark MacGregor, North Somerset  
Rose Wicks, Somerset County Council  
Harley Cook, Sedgemoor  
Ruth Miles, Mendip  
Richard Keating, GreenSpace

### **Apologies:**

Peter Wilkinson

### **summary of discussion and next steps:**

- to operate as a self managing peer group by:
  - emailing requests for information about specific issues
  - emailing information of interest to group members
  - inviting group members to specific events/meetings as a form of mentoring
  - seeking/offering professional assessment from/to each other – peer review
  - meeting quarterly to focus on specific topic(s); one of these to be an annual planning session to link with GreenSpace South West Forum's annual planning
  - to call seminars and act as commissioning/briefing group as appropriate
  - to consider/deliver joint bids for resources and collaborate on resultant service delivery
  - to feed requests for training and other seminars in the GreenSpace South West Forum's annual plan
- next meeting
  - to be called by David Morrison for March or April, to look at an example of grounds maintenance, working in partnership with local Wildlife Trust, including site visit
- information sharing
  - circulate service plans
  - circulate information on strategies (please note that following the meeting, Steve Fox, Landscape Officer from South Somerset, has asked for information on strategies – please include in current email circulation)
- request to South West Forum:
  - regional event with developers to gain an understanding of each others needs
  - regional event to target MP's and L.A. Members about the benefits, value and key challenges of GreenSpace development
  - Strategies – include in March 13<sup>th</sup> event

### **overall approach**

- Group to address common issues listed below:
  - Information Sharing
  - Key messages, promotions
  - Skills and professional development
  - Partnership delivery
  - Joint bidding
- Group to meet annually in Autumn to set out/review focus. Focus currently:
  - Strategies/ 106 agreements/SPDs/LDFs/common standards
  - Growth Points

- Grounds Maintenance/partnerships to deliver/community involvement
- gaining support of members/MPs/CABE – value of green space
- apprenticeships
- working with developers
- Ethos of Peer Group support and review, group members to accept the information circulated or other wise shared in the context/limitations of situation in which it was produced
- Rotating chair/convenor, tasks to include:
  - arranging meeting date and venue/visit
  - agreeing agenda (felt that 2 hour meetings were adequate)
  - chairing
  - making and circulating record of meeting
- Annual planning meeting to feed into GreenSpace South West Forum annual plan and in turn to National GreenSpace discussions and planning. (Possibility of this annual meeting being supported by GreenSpace staff).
- To be represented at GreenSpace South West Forum's open meetings and steering group. (Steering group member currently Peter Wilkinson, Karen Hughes and Andy Chard)