

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
GreenSpace South West Open Meeting  
December 9<sup>th</sup> 2008  
Livestock Centre, Exeter**

		<b>Actions</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Present</b>	
	Peter Wilkinson – Bristol CC (Chair) Richard Keating – GreenSpace South West Naomi Wright – Natural England Richard Taylor – Torbay Council Nick Jones – Plymouth CC Gareth Harrison-Poole – Plymouth CC Harley Cook – Sedgemoor DC Sarah Moore - GreenSpace Matthew Hartgrove – GreenSpace Leanne Scholey – GreenSpace Lindsay Evan – Torbay Council Mark Pollard – East Devon Steve Rippin – East Devon Carl Dallison – Weymouth Brian Hosken - Penwith District Council Lynn Harris - Penwith District Council Brian Webber – Plymouth CC	
	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Karen Hughes - Taunton Deane Borough Council Mark O'Brien – Carrick Clare Freeman – Poole Debbie Moseley – South Somerset Charles Routh – Natural England Michael Rowland – Bournemouth Andy Chard – East Somerset Bob Hussey – Kennet Hilary Winter – Devon Jon Mitchell - Kerrier Elizabeth Hoehnke – Cabe Space Steve Chown – NBC Andrew Burns – Natural England Paul Faulkmer – Exeter City Council	

2.	<b>Meeting</b>	
1	<b>Welcomes and Introductions</b>	
1.1	PW welcomed the group and introductions were made.	
2	<b>Minutes of last meeting 09/10/08</b>	
2.1	The group agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were a true record.	
3	<b>Steering Group Report</b>	
3.1	Thanks to CLG, GreenSpace have employed new members of staff. LS and MH to deal with all the admin etc which helps SM to oversee the Regions more, working with the National Forum and with Policy more.	
3.2	<b>GreenSpace Fund</b> The GreenSpace fund is being developed. The pilot project Park it in Neutral was undertaken in partnership with KPMG and Preston CC as another way to get money back into parks. Businesses would donate to the fund for each area. Project boards will then be set up between local business, local authorities and community groups to agree an improvement strategy and decide on the projects to be supported. Expressions of interest should be sent to Leanne <a href="mailto:lscholey@green-space.org.uk">lscholey@green-space.org.uk</a> and more information will be provided as it becomes available.	<b>All</b>
3.3	<b>Green Skill</b> GreenSkill is an online skills management system which is now ready and open for business. It was developed in partnership with Lantra. PW suggested having a quick promo at the skills session after the Open Meeting.	
3.4	<b>National Forum</b> SM is taking forward the National Forum action plan. It was suggested that each region should lead a theme such as Play. Each region should find its strengths and interests for this. This will hopefully make the National Forum more shared. PW suggested the South West could lead on play due to the current projects being undertaken and the links with Play England.	
3.5	At the last National Forum meeting a presentation was given by the Royal Observatory, on next years <b>International Year of Astronomy 2009</b> . As part of this year they are undertaking a dark skies project. The aim of this project is to encourage communities to find the darkest place in there area. They mentioned that they were talking to Natural England about the Access to Nature grant.	

	<p>The Royal Observatory has a unit in the South West called Dark Sky Discovery. Dan Hillier is the main contact. 0131 6688 406 <a href="mailto:djh@roe.ac.uk">djh@roe.ac.uk</a> <a href="http://www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk">www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk</a></p> <p>PW stated that more representation is needed and the more responses the better. He also mentioned that the MOU is being worked on with himself and SM</p> <p>3.6 SM stated that HLF would like greater representation from parks in the latest BIG Lottery consultation. There were few responses from park managers last time which suggests that parks don't need funding! SM encouraged GSSW to respond on behalf of the regions membership &amp; also for individuals to respond RK to draft a response by February deadline. <b>MH to circulate link with minutes. <a href="http://www.big-thinking.org.uk">www.big-thinking.org.uk</a></b></p> <p>3.7 SM mentioned that the MOU between GreenSpace and GSSW is still being developed and that this would set out the services GSSW will pay GreenSpace for. A draft of the MOU will be circulated once it has been finished by SM/PW/RK <b>PW and steering group to sign off once completed.</b></p> <p>3.7 <b>CLG Expressions of Interest</b> SM 6 out of the 7 eligible regions applied. These will be reviewed on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> by Rose Waddilove from CLG Paul Bramhill Chief Executive and David Tibbatts. A decision will hopefully be made before Christmas.</p> <p>RK explained the CLG funding bid Expression of Interest. The South West could potentially fund a Forum Co-ordinator at £20K a year for 3 years. To do this they would need to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase membership</li> <li>- Develop capacity</li> <li>- Engage communities</li> <li>- Advance skills</li> <li>- Spread influence</li> </ul> <p>PW thanked RK on his work. The Forum Coordinator will be on a lower salary than others, to reduce the financial risk. RK mentioned that a job description and interview dates will need to be arranged should the EOI be successful. PW asked the group to see if there is anyone in their organisation that would like to be put forward for this role. RK presented a chart of the subgroups.</p>	<p>SM/PW/ RK</p> <p>RK</p>
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<p><b>4</b> 4.1</p>	<p><b>Sub Regional Groups</b>  West of England &amp; Somerset – Active and represented  Devon, Torbay, Plymouth – Active and represented  Gloucestershire – Inactive  Wiltshire and Swindon – Inactive  Dorset, Bournemouth &amp; Poole – Inactive  Cornwall – Inactive</p> <p>**The group agreed that to be shown as active they must have had at least one meeting in the past 12 months.**</p> <p>PW suggested that more support should be given to inactive groups, and they should be given help to set meetings up.</p> <p>GHP suggested inviting members from inactive groups to encourage them more.  PW agreed and stated that leadership should be a main focus area.</p>	
<p>4.2</p>	<p><b>Topic Groups</b>  Training – Active and represented  Fundraising and membership – GHP to represent (Calendars)  Marketing/PR – (PW to think of other people in organisations)  Community Engagement – Currently not active P? Offered to be part of this group.  Project Groups – Neither active nor represented as they come and go.</p> <p>GHP asked where funding would come from to do the calendars.  PW said that if the South West can design it, then the costs shouldn't be too much.</p> <p>RK spoke about 'Notable Trees' project. This would enable friends groups to engage with the forum and communities more.</p> <p>Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of artists, friend, experts, groups etc</li> <li>• Walking, art workshops</li> <li>• Exhibitions, books, web etc.</li> <li>• Digital interpretation.</li> </ul> <p>Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research hotspots</li> <li>• Identify and agree no of locations and projects</li> <li>• Build network capacity</li> <li>• Lead walks, make work</li> <li>• Exhibit, publish</li> <li>• Install 'Sounding Posts'</li> </ul> <p>PW asked if RK could communicate with people. RK agreed.  The agreed that it was a good idea. For More details see appendices.</p>	<p><b>RK</b></p>

<p>4.3</p>	<p><b>County and sub-group updates</b></p> <p>South Hams – have had a new apprentice as of September Funding spent on new play areas</p> <p>JM said that they need to raise their profile to attract new people. As a college they have a gardening competition every year. Schools have more of an interest outdoors now, although it's more in Primary schools than Secondary Schools.</p> <p>MC said that they have appointed consultants to design and build some new play areas by March 09.</p> <p>Plymouth (GHP) – Also appointed 6 play builders this year. They are using two different companies, one is more traditional and the other has a much more natural approach.</p> <p>Torbay (RT) – Working with 8 community groups, they intend to get a play builder authority by next year.</p> <p>RS – Schools are engaging more with gardens and green spaces.</p> <p>East Devon is restructuring the organisation.</p> <p>Exeter – Working with Great Water on NVQ's. Has been heavily hit by cuts so are unable to recruit or spend money</p> <p>PW – Bristol is also restructuring. We are looking at what cost and quality they are delivering.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>The training group then led the afternoon workshop looking at training. Presentations were given on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An update from the National Cabe Space Strategy Skills to grow: 7 priorities to improve green space skills Presented by Nick Jones</li> <li>- South West Skills Survey Results Presented by Nick Jones</li> <li>- SW Region Local Authority Sector JIF and Train to Gain Offer Update Presented by Frankie Upton</li> <li>- The Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Land-based Sector Presented by David Winn</li> <li>- Train to Gain Presented by Sandra Dowson</li> </ul> <p>These presentations can be found here on the GreenSpace South West Web Site.</p>	

### **Notable Trees ( working title )**

The GreenSpace South West Regional Forum with artist group Walking the Land are developing a project, initially for an Access to Nature bid and possibly as a part of the South West's Cultural Olympiad under the Quest programme of journeys.

The series of journeys focus on the cultural significance of trees and woodland, improving access to nature and increasing healthy activity opportunities for the most deprived communities in the region.

#### **The broad approach and legacy is:**

- Sharing understanding: develop local networks of artists/landscape professionals, health walk groups, tree enthusiasts and Friends Groups
- Promoting walking: publish materials (paper and digital) about the walking routes
- Improving accessibility: link town and country through walking events and artist led workshops
- Celebrating trees and woodlands: record and celebrate the value of trees using the arts – produce paper and digital materials
- Interpretation: as well as the walking events and resultant exhibitions, install appropriate on site mobile phone based interpretation points - “sounding posts”
- Engagement: enable under represented groups to access walking and nature in new ways

#### **Project development objectives**

- bid for funds and cement support of partner organisations
- establish steering group/email group
- develop "Walking Artists" Network, including local contacts for landscape/tree enthusiasts, including “Friends Groups”
- develop maps overlaying long distance routes (there are 17 in the south west) with urban areas, deprivation hot spots, arts hot spots and woodland hot spots
- develop appropriate technology - mobile phone/down loadable pdfs etc.
- develop "activity template" and build capacity to deliver
- develop activity programme, walks etc
- deliver and record activity

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>plan, arrange and deliver outputs - exhibitions, installations, books/video, website</li> </ul> Install on-site "sounding post" interpretation	
	<b>Date of the Next Meeting</b>	
	10.30 am 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2009 Livestock centre Exeter Access, Equal Inclusion, Jane Stoneham Sensory Trust	