

# Forum Open Meeting

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010  
Roundhay Park Education Centre, Leeds

## **Mission Statement**

To enhance the quality and sustainability of Yorkshire and Humber's green spaces, consequently improving the quality of life for our residents and enhancing visitor experience.

**Programme: Morning Session – Repositioning parks and green spaces**

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|--------------|--|
| <b>10.00</b> | Coffee and registration                      |
| <b>10.30</b> | Chair's introduction and welcome             |
| <b>10.40</b> | GreenSpace Yorkshire and Humber Forum update |
| <b>11.00</b> | Adapting to Change                           |
| <b>11.40</b> | Discussion re Martyn Allison's presentation  |
| <b>12.00</b> | Break  |
| <b>12.15</b> | Discussion, question and answer session      |
| <b>13.15</b> | Networking Lunch                             |

## **Programme: *Afternoon Session – Green Flag Award Scheme***

<b>14.00</b>	Green Flag Plus Partnership update
<b>15.00</b>	Break
<b>15.15</b>	Discussion, question and answer session
<b>15.45</b>	Summing Up
<b>16.00</b>	Close

## **Our Mission Statement ...**

...To enhance the quality and sustainability of Yorkshire and Humber's green spaces, consequently improving the quality of life for our residents and enhancing visitor experience.

## **Our broad objectives**

- Sharing Best Practise
- Advocacy and Promotion
- Social and Environmental Impact Analysis
- Partnership Working

### **Sharing Best Practice**

The Forum aims to become a conduit disseminating important information and the latest in best practises. It should be able to provide guidance and advice to members on key issues and provide early warnings of new initiatives and funding regimes.

### **Advocacy and promotion**

The Forum, eventually through working groups and other mechanisms, should be able to gather and channel member's views on the key issues and represent these to the policy makers. By speaking with a united voice, the views of the local authority members, associated friends of groups and others responsible for the management and/or development of Yorkshire and Humber's green spaces will be more clearly heard.

### **Social and Environmental Impact Analysis**

Part of the Forum's role is to encourage and support local and regional research and documentation, which records critical information on the Regions green space assets, and green space users and their perceptions of spaces available to them. The absence of such data perpetuates the low status of green space on local and regional priorities, and makes it more difficult to properly plan and manage.

### **Partnership Working**

The Forum will aim to facilitate and encourage the exchange of information, sharing of good practice and establishment of partnerships within and across boundaries with the aim of raising the standards of green spaces throughout Yorkshire and Humber.

## Steering Group

Currently comprises of representation from:

- Local Authorities
- Voluntary/community sector
- Natural England
- Groundwork
- Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens
- GreenSpace Staff & Trustee
- English Heritage
- Green Flag Award Judges Association Committee regional representative

## Current Local Authority sub regional representation

- North Yorkshire – Harrogate BC
- South Yorkshire – Sheffield City Council
- West Yorkshire – Leeds City Council & Wakefield MDC
- East Yorkshire – Kingston upon Hull City Council
- North Lincolnshire – North Lincolnshire Council

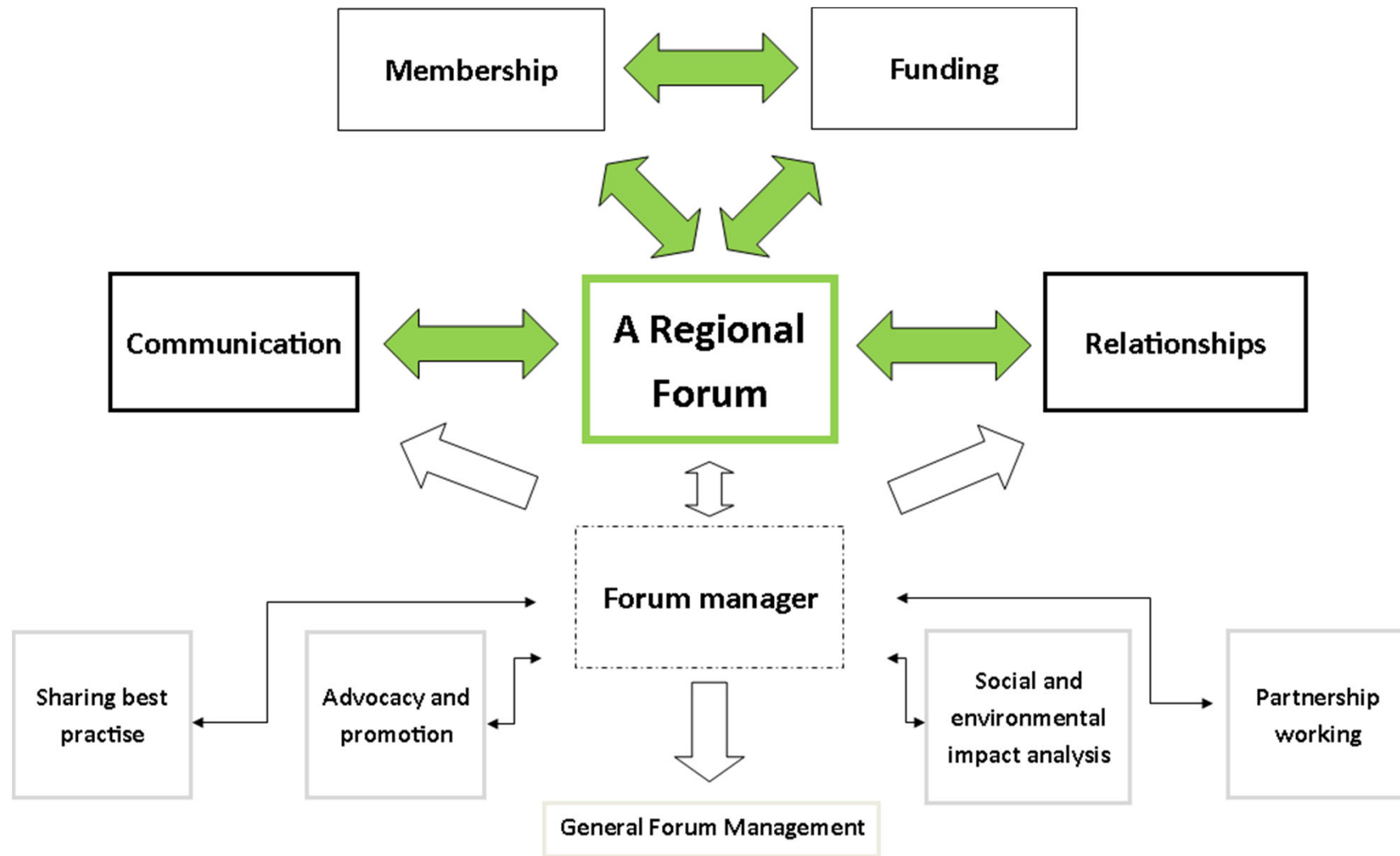
## Steering Group Update - Previously

- Reviewed and revised the annual Action Plan, to help give the steering group clear priorities.
- Developed and sent out membership requests.
- Secured a number of membership contributions.
- Received CABI funding.
- Developed an application for a grant from CLG to employ a Forum Manager.

## Steering Group Update - Achievements 2010

- The Steering Group have met on four occasions since the last Open Meeting.
- Revised the 3 to 5 year Business Plan.
- Implemented the Steering Group Annual Action Plan.
- Determined the position for non LA membership and fees for Yorkshire and Humber
- Received a grant from DCLG to employ a Forum Manager.
- Advertised, interviewed and employed a Forum Manager from August 2010.

# The GSYH Forum



## Forum Manager Update - Progress since Aug 2010

- Developing the contact base.
- Developing and improving information channels.
- Developing relationships with LA's and key partners.
- Started to reach out to Friends/Community groups.
- Acted as a voice for the region.
- Attended training and conference events.
- Promoted and organised the open meeting.
  
- Secured funding...

... BUT NOT ENOUGH!

## Forum Manager – Objectives going forward

- Achieve GreenSpace Yorkshire and Humber Regional targets 2010/11
  - Membership and Funding
  - Communication
  - Forum management
  - Region development
  - Advocacy

## Forum Manager – Objectives going forward

- Develop a GreenSpace Yorkshire and Humber Forum Action Plan for 2011/12
- Develop the GreenSpace Yorkshire and Humber Forum
- Continue to improve myself and knowledge of the sector in order to meet members needs and aid the development of GSYH in particular Funding and Community development

## Benefits of GreenSpace Yorkshire and Humber membership to your organisation will include:

- Access to research and training, sharing of best practice, networking and information dissemination throughout the region
- Promotion and support of the benefits of good quality parks and green spaces using cross cutting agendas and themes
- Links to policy makers, influencing bodies and regional decision makers

## Benefits of GreenSpace Yorkshire and Humber membership to your organisation will include:

- A strengthened voice for parks and green spaces, conveyed to target audiences and key decision makers
- Links to the Green Flag Award scheme to increase regional representation and affect the future development of the scheme
- Contact with other public, private and voluntary sector organisations to enable networking and information exchange

## National Benefits (dependant on type of organisation)

- Main contact
  - receives 10 issues of green places per year (normally £65)
  - receives 12 issues of the e-mail newsletter The Bench per year
- Discounts
  - One discounted place per organisation at GreenSpace conferences
  - when you subscribe to GreenSTAT (visitor survey system)
  - on organisational sign up to IPGS, Institute of Parks and Green Spaces
  - on organisational sign up to GreenSKILL (a system for monitoring/recording skills, qualifications and CPD)
- Opportunity to influence the policy and direction of GreenSpace and vote at AGM's

**Should you wish your organisation to become a paid member,  
or should you require any other information please contact:**

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