



GreenSpace North West

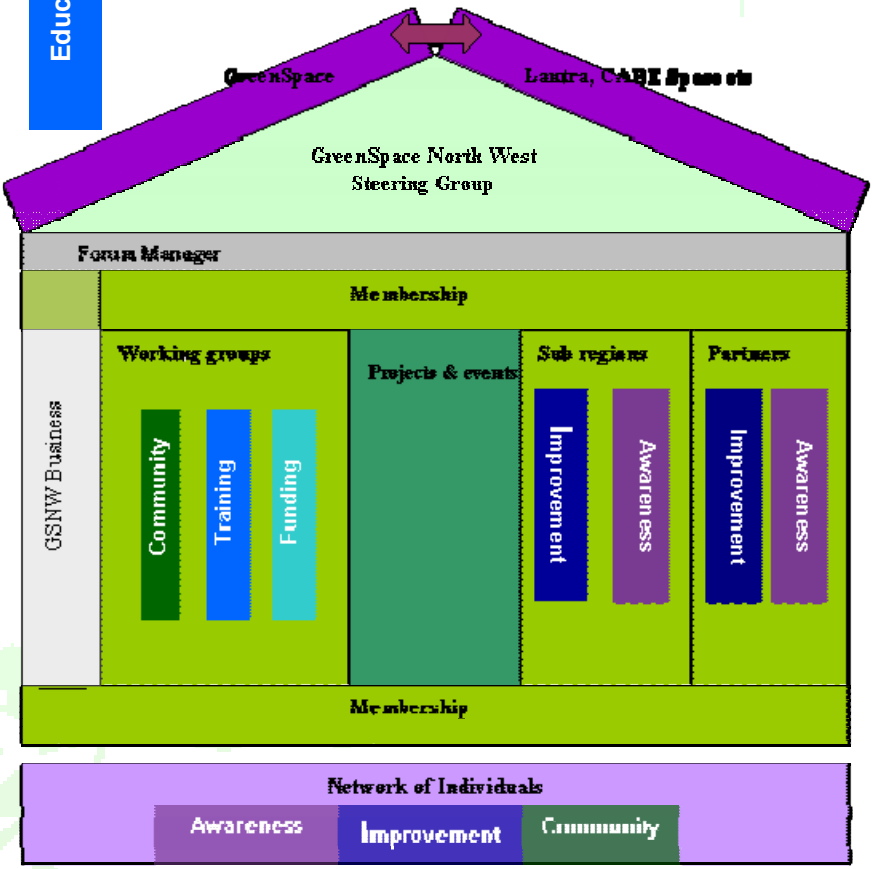
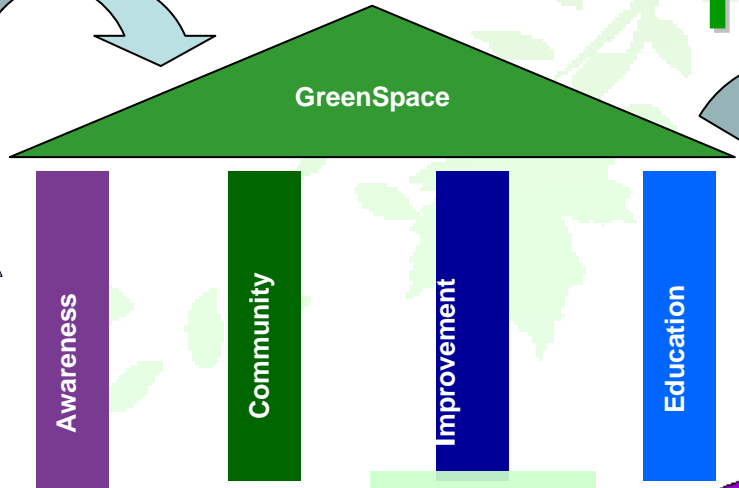
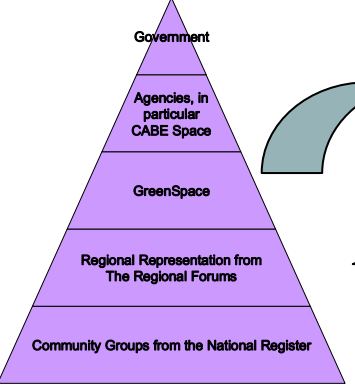
Kirsty Rhind



Who we were...

- Best Value benchmarking and local groups networking from before 1999.
- They're need to bring above together to learn & support across wider issues and area.
- Established in 2004 after much work.
- Officer paid for by engaged local authorities.
- National influence required for united voice.
- Adopted by GreenSpace 2004 to present Forum nationally, provide charity status and manage resources and staff.

How we work...



Dialogue takes place through Forums where individuals have a greater voice

Why we exist...

We want to increase the number of top quality public parks and green spaces across the North West in order to support our communities, environment and economy.

Four years later the region had the highest number of Green Flag parks and green spaces. We intend to hold this record for regional pride, promotion and investment.

In our fifth anniversary Open Forum we plan a media campaign to promote all our other achievements that meet this ambition.

It's cold up north...

Nearly 200 people on our network all live and are proud of the North West.

Parks and green spaces have a fundamental role in the perception of the North West and more so in the quality of life across the region.

Our network demonstrates the passion to improve the role of parks and green spaces locally, sub-regionally and regionally: GSNW's role is to promote that passion and pride nationally and to promote the regions parks and green spaces.

But not in our parks!

Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of North West Local Authorities wish to increase their Green Flag standard parks to cover nearly all of their neighbourhoods / sites.

Over the last five years eighteen North West Local Authorities have received 97 bids of over a million from Europe, Big Lottery etc.

Nearly all North West Local Authorities have a corporate priority for parks community events. In addition, nearly all support the Love Parks Week campaign to raise awareness of parks.

Who we are...

We're a charity that supports all those who work, make decisions about and volunteer in parks and green spaces across the North West.

We want parks and green spaces that are at their maximum potential to benefit as many individuals and organisations as possible.

We believe strongly in jointly working as a team of all those involved in public green spaces across the region and encourage new thinking and learning.

Our priority is to our members; our funders.

Why our members fund us...

- Annual budget reductions.
- Increased services and expectations.
- Reduced staffing and skills.
- Increased regulations and accountability.
- They don't miss opportunities to respond.
- Limited resources and time prevent action.
- They evaluated the risk of working in isolation; of using non tested methodologies or out of date influences.
- They are limited by LA boundaries and 'rules'.

What our members do...

- Influence National policy – Skills to Grow.
- Influence training and education.
- Influence Regional policy – RS2010
- Access partners with funding – NE, PCT, GI
- Meet to resolve issues and have documented.
- Promote their green spaces, case studies etc.
- Share information, help others and learn.
- Request research, events, guidance.
- Set the work and direction of GSNW.

What we do...

- We have a GSNW meeting nearly every week each quarter and each group meet every quarter. All are output based and captured.
- We hold workshops that support learning and development opportunities; each feed in to our guidance documents and reports.
- We hold seminars on key issues for the our members. We provide seminar reports.
- We meet with most regional organisations and develop synergies and shared resources.
- We have a monthly newsletter, web search ...

What we are doing...

- Training Needs Report
 - Apprenticeships
 - Entry to graduate
 - Ranger qualification
 - Officer and manager
- Community Needs
 - Assessment Report
 - Managing Volunteers
 - Events and meetings
- Crime and Disorder Solutions; Sustainable Services; Non H&S Risk Management; Planning for parks and access; Pesticide Regs; Heritage research and PPG17 Mapping

Our Funding Work...

- Assessment Report
- National and Regional awareness and influence
- Evidence and backing
- Role of communities
- Partnerships and joint working
- Funding for improving skills and training
- Role of knowledge
- Secure responsibilities to parks
- Secure income and resources
- Identify investment sources and
- Make the most of resources
- Influence consultation and lobby for change

What next...

- Raise concerns back with funding bodies.
- Lobby for grants to include contract revenue.
- Advocate across the region's influential bodies.
- Secure funding for GSNW.
- Make NW parks and green spaces indispensable.
- Information on biodiversity & water environments.
- Climate change adaptation & acting sustainability.
- Provide lease case studies for community groups.
- Impact assessment on restructuring.
- Lobby, Influence, Consult, Advise, Lobby.

Summary...

- For top quality parks and green spaces you need to be equipped with an up to date suite of tools to protect and improve them.
- GSNW is working hard to effect change.
- As a Forum we are almost all 46 authorities and nearly 200 individuals.
- A co-ordinating post holder is essential.
- As GreenSpace we are only one sixth.
- Knowledge is more valuable than money.
- A Network more powerful than an individual.
- National influence and awareness is essential.



Thank You!

Evidence The Anecdotal!
Essential To Improve Skills!
Ensure You Influence Consultation!
Effect Change!

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