

Parks & People, Stronger Together North East Conference 25 October 2019

Contents

Overview of Parks and People, Stronger Together Conference.....	2
Venue	2
Audience	3
Aim.....	3
Attendance numbers.....	3
Geographical spread of groups attending	3
Plenary: Welcome and introductions and some key themes	3
Welcome to the day	3
Housekeeping.....	4
Info on the day ahead	4
Warm-up activity for My Community	4
Plenary: reports back from the focussed workshops/ discussions	5
How can groups build stronger and more diverse membership, and ongoing engagement with the range of park users?	5
How do we develop our local volunteering and project management skills and capabilities?	6
How do we develop good partnership working with site managers and Councils? .	7
How do we try to access and ensure adequate funding for our groups, our activities and projects, and for our sites generally?.....	7
What ways can we promote effectively our activities, groups and sites, including better use of social media?	8
Summary of 'Just a minute' showcases.....	9
First-round – Friends Groups.....	9
Second round – Forums	10
Final plenary.....	11
Stronger communications	11

Parks Action Group Community Empowerment Workstream



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Message to the PAG	11
What should we be telling the government and what should they be doing?	12
Participants post-event feedback summary.....	12
Scores.....	12
APPENDICES.....	13
1. Weblink to delegate pack resources	13
2. Agenda.....	13
3. Workshop attendance numbers	14
4. Feedback form comments.....	14
Usefulness	14
Venue.....	15
Food and facilities	16
Workshops	16
Any other comments	17
5. Attendee Websites/Social media	17

Overview of Parks and People, Stronger Together Conference

Newcastle, Saturday 25 October 11:30 – 17:00

It was held on a Saturday to suit the audiences' schedules. The start and end times allows for one-day travel and any train delays.

Venue

Life Centre, Newcastle

We aimed to book venues conveniently located close to the station or in the city centre and aligned to the ethos of the events if possible. Life Centre was a good fit for this. It could accommodate our maximum numbers and need for breakout spaces. The venue was comfortable, spacious, warm and had plenty of natural light. The catering was provided by the venue, and it was of great standard and much appreciated by delegates.

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Audience

Friends of Parks and volunteer groups; Councils, greenspace charities etc, people who work to support community empowerment in our public green space.

Aim

To promote and encourage greater community empowerment in our public green spaces.

Attendance numbers

- 56 bookings including staff and facilitators
- 48 actual attendees – 14 no shows and 6 came on the day without booking.

Geographical spread of groups attending

The areas represented at the event were:

- Newcastle
- Sunderland
- Teeside
- Gateshead
- Tyneside
- Northumberland
- Scarborough
- Northallerton
- South Shields

Plenary: Welcome and introductions and some key themes

Welcome to the day

Dave Morris, [National Federation of Parks Green Spaces \(NFPGS\)](#)

The organisers value and recognise the vital importance of community engagement and empowerment in the UK's green spaces, and we thank everyone for their contribution to their local sites. The event's aim is to share experiences, showcase good practice, discuss some key common issues, and develop communication, coordination and partnerships for the benefit of parks and green spaces.

It will be a day of learning and networking organised as part of a series of regional events to cover all regions in England. Organised by [NFPGS](#), [Locality](#), [Groundwork](#). Funded by [Parks Action Group \(PAG\)](#) and paid for by the [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government \(MHCLG\)](#). All the organisers believe that parks and people are stronger together, hence the name of the events.

There was an introduction to the Parks Action Group and the PAG Community Engagement workstream, and the organisations involved at the event, and the staff present from NFPGS and Locality.

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Dave said thank you for all the work, paid and unpaid, that everyone does for parks and green spaces, and for coming to talk about community involvement and empowerment.

The purpose of the day was to discuss and share experiences and views. So, there were no PowerPoints and no speeches, only discussions and workshops. Contributions would be noted, and a report made to feed back to the participants, those unable to attend, the PAG and the wider sector.

Dave invited attendees to volunteer to do a 'Just a Minute' presentation about their own work later on.

Housekeeping

Fire exit and alarms, toilet locations, refreshments, WIFI password, information table.

Photo and video consents were announced and there was no objection from the room.

Info on the day ahead

There was a short introduction to the day and to the delegate pack and what you can find in it, including:

- agenda (see appendix 2)
- detailed and informative 'takeaways' related to each workshop theme
- community empowerment information (including how to set up Friends groups and Forums, the PAG community empowerment projects, and parkscommunity.org.uk website)
- delegate lists
- and the very important feedback form.

Link to delegate pack resources:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1P36JrWZ01csN1Vo42GMDHSxOXquS-WWv>

Warm-up activity for My Community

Jenny Steele, Locality

Jenny introduced the [My Community](#) website. It was set up by MHCLG five years ago to provide information and signposting for the community sector on a whole range of relevant issues. Now a steering group of 12 organisations is redeveloping it. They want it to be the first place to go when community groups are looking to progress in various ways. Specifically, regarding green space issues, we are seeking information from the room to help shape what to put up on the site. put up there.

Post-it notes questions

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- Need to know who is using it – age, occupation, when you do work for parks and green spaces, are you full time or volunteer?
- What you need, what is it for, what is stopping you?

Jenny collected the post-it notes to feedback later in the day during the Plenary reports back from the focussed workshops/discussions. Here are the results:

Issues include:

- Funding is for training and skills. Need more focused effort. Sometimes limited time and capacity.
- Getting volunteers, especially young people. Need for day to day activities to relieve burden on existing volunteer. Need to get different skills in.
- Working with council – time consuming and confusing who to contact.
- Anti-social behaviour police and council don't have time to deal with it either.

Plenary: reports back from the focused workshops/discussions

How can groups build stronger and more diverse membership, and ongoing engagement with the range of park users?

Facilitator: Michelle Furtado, [NFPGS](#)

Attendance: 31

Questions posed by the facilitator:

- How do we try to ensure our group reflects and engages as far as possible the range of park users and communities we serve – in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, class, disability, interests etc?
- What are some of the local success stories in groups trying to address this?
- How do we build good relations with other user groups involved with our sites?

Notes of contributions:

- Many groups large membership base with few people actually involved on a weekly basis.
- Events are great to engage people.
- Activities with children bring adults to volunteer – this can be tricky to translate into regular volunteers.
- See what other tasks (online presence/treasurer) people can get involved with.
- Impact of austerity on communities = communities of interest rather than local

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- Funding HLF has been great by encouraging cross collaboration and partnership.
- Encourage other park user groups to get involved, eg. sports groups or dog walkers.

All delegates received a detailed specialist document prepared by NFPGS setting out some of the issues to grapple with and ways in which groups can strengthen and diversify their membership: <https://parkscommunity.org.uk/community-involvement/making-our-groups-stronger-and-more-diverse/>.

How do we develop our local volunteering and project management skills and capabilities?

Facilitator: Jenny Steele, [Locality](#)

Attendance: 31

Questions posed by the facilitator:

- What examples are there of successful local volunteering sessions, projects and activities – and some of the challenges overcome and skills needed (e.g. online mobilising, an extra language, van driving, running kids' activities etc)?
- What practical and organising skills do groups have lots of, and what is often lacking?
- How can we improve the way we organise ourselves to become more active and effective (e.g. having specialist officers, developing sub-groups and autonomous groups, partnerships with other user groups etc)?

Notes of contributions:

- Companies want to be seen delivering Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) but their offer of support can come with ties, for example, the need to create a day for just 10 people as a one off. Access for groups to training would be better.
- Success when they looked at what the community wanted, need and enjoyed.
- Encourage behaviour in the park rather than prescribe.
- Communication with the council – hard to get in touch. Be positive, meet face to face, keep regular contact and build relationship.
- Manage expectations – statement of agreement between the council and groups or a management plan can be useful in defining tasks and ambitions.
- Have specific tasks for volunteers and tell people the length of time needed, so people can get involved knowing what to expect.

All delegates received a detailed specialist document prepared by TCV setting out good practice in attracting and engaging volunteers and running sessions effectively: <https://parkscommunity.org.uk/volunteers/recruiting-and-managing-volunteers/>.

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How do we develop good partnership working with site managers and Councils?

Facilitator: Nigel Sharp, [NFPGS](#)

Attendance: 26

Questions posed by the facilitator:

- What good examples are there of groups working closely and constructively with those who manage greenspace, and vice versa?
- What are some of the challenges?
- What can we do to try to create and strengthen good communication and coordination (e.g. site walkabouts, meetings, Management Plans, and Service Level Agreements)?
- How can we develop and maintain such ongoing partnerships despite challenges such as understaffing and disagreements?

Notes of contributions:

- Lack of engagement between council and community groups = threat as lack of awareness of value of Friends group
- Overuse is a threat to the park, for example the continual use of park sites as event arenas which can mean the closure of part of the park or detrimental impact on facilities. Some local authorities see spaces as cash cows and ignore the community.
- New model in Newcastle Trust and Friends group – still early days so waiting to see how this grows.
- Need to spend time finding the right contact in the council. Might not be in the parks department but community engagement.
- Ward councillors like a photo opportunity and are local people invested in the area.
- Asset transfer could be helpful in the future.

All delegates received a detailed specialist document prepared by NFPGS setting out some of the issues with developing and maintaining good community/Council partnership-working: <https://parkscommunity.org.uk/park-green-space-management/partnership-working-with-landowners-and-managers/>

How do we try to access and ensure adequate funding for our groups, our activities and projects, and for our sites generally?

Facilitator: Karen Daglish, [Groundwork](#)

Attendance: 24

Questions posed by the facilitator:

- What funding can we currently access or raise ourselves to help make a difference to our site, e.g. with activities, projects and improvements?

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- Are there good examples we can share?
- What funding is really needed so that every park has the staffing, maintenance and capital improvements it needs?
- How do we help with, or press for this, at the local level? What should Councils be doing?
- What can groups in an area do together?

Notes of contributions:

- Funding applications can be time consuming especially for new groups.
- Need a broad range of skills on committees and boards.
- In many cases, finding funding is not as scary as you think it is.
- As groups gain funding application experience, they can go for fewer, larger grants and be strategic.
- Groups can benefit from commercial activities, set up new or use existing activities by council.
- Important to have the correct procedures in places to get the funding.
- Need to feed back to funders on how you use the money/made a difference – quotes and photos are great.
- Build relationship with local funders and council.
- Need to build awareness that parks funding is not statutory – often communities don't realise this.
- Overall quite positive from those around – groups have achieved good things by bringing in funding for their sites.
- HLF estimated Friends groups bring in £70m to the parks (2014).

All delegates received a detailed specialist document prepared by Groundwork setting out issues to do with funding and how to apply for grants successfully. PDF: <https://parkscommunity.org.uk/funding/groundwork-fundraising-guide-for-community-groups/>

What ways can we promote effectively our activities, groups and sites, including better use of social media?

Lynsey Atherton, [Keep Britain Tidy](#)

Attendance: 23

Questions posed by the facilitator:

- What are the range of tools available to us (e.g. noticeboards, flyers, email lists, social media, and word of mouth)?
- How can we use social media better?
- How do we work together with other user groups (e.g. football teams, schools, dog owners) to generate publicity?
- How can we use publicity to generate more involvement in our groups?

Notes of contributions:

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- Lots of methods to promote parks but need to use what works for your park.
- Don't forget noticeboards, events and just chatting to people in the park
- Need to think what, when, where and why you want to people before you start so you don't waste time and money.
- Don't be afraid to try new things.

Summary of 'Just a minute' showcases

First-round – Friends Groups

Michael Carling - Friends of Borough Park, Redcar

Visibility is an issue; we do lots of stuff away from the public. A gardener in the park asked the Friends to create a memorial garden for his Mum. The memorial garden was created in a boat, close to the road. It meant people saw the Friends working and wanted to hear more about the group and their projects. After that, people started to bring seeds and plants along to the Friends when they were working.

Margaret Watson – Friends of Temple Memorial Park / Friends of Nuns Moor Park, York

New group, 18 months ago in conflict with the council. Rugby group wanted to build on their site. Through lots of work they have gained two awards. Want to be recognised as a war memorial and have a better relationship with the council.

Christine Calvert – [The Friends of the North and South Marine Parks](#), South Shields

Most successful event is bands in the summer, every weekend July – September in the restored bandstand. Work with the council to book local bands. Bring in 400 people last band. Charity fundraising via cake stall but stopped in favour of buckets. Money pays for bands next year.

Pat Fuller – Northumberland Park, Northumberland

They received a lot of lottery funding last year. Medieval herb garden and medieval maze. Need to own/lease the land to get the funding from bids and are still seeking £25,000. Want to make it low maintenance and accessible to everyone. Need £50,000 they have £25,000.

Barbara Keating – [Tyneside Beekeepers Association](#), Gateshead

Founded four years ago. Got bees three years ago. Affiliated to many local groups. Lots of outreach work with schools and museums and won an award.

Alan Scott – [Friends of Chase Park](#), Gateshead

10 years ago, the group was formed after a heritage lottery fund bid, with aims of improving infrastructure and play equipment. Struggle with getting local community involved. Put on events dogs, cinema. Not just about flower beds, this is for you. It is nice to see families using the park.

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Shirley Gardens – Pelaw Quarry Pond Community Group, Gateshead

Take care of wildlife with council. Gate to prevent swans crossing road and litter picking. Want to engage schools and get more people to visit.

Victor Cadaxa – [Friends of Herrington CountryPark](#), Sunderland

Large county park. Good at attracting young people – litter picking families write up and prize. Education sessions. Now rewilding the park for biodiversity

Diane Ward / Helen Bryce – [Friends of Saltwell Park](#), Gateshead

Going 15 years, consultation with public and came up with 6 key themes with 3 groups to take forwards over next five years, Beekeepers, security, statues. Want people to understand the history of the park.

Second round – Forums

Ean Mackellar, [Newcastle Parks Forum](#)

Became the Chair a year ago. Bigger voice in influencing management of parks. Coordinated single voice who support each other and share skills. They hold regular interesting talks at their meetings.

Tim Wright, [Sunderland Green & Open Spaces Forum](#)

Shadow format in past two years. Not just parks rivers, coast, cemeteries etc. Success is lottery funding £6,000 to enable groups to develop and pay for rooms to meet in, hardware and technology.

Margaret Watson, South Tyneside Greenspace

Been going for 10 years, with a large membership and who hold monthly meetings. Coordinated by Groundwork. Began well with lots of parks and then tailed off to just two parks. In the past two months 8 groups have come back.

Michelle Furtado, [Adur and Worthing Green Spaces Partnership](#)

Set up by TCV but independent a few years ago. They consist of 40 groups. They had a successful Awards for All bid for £10,000. They have set up a website which is just about to launch. They have done power tool training, so their groups are properly ticketed. There was an issue with insurance without a Ranger on-site, so they changed insurance. They are independent. They share resources and volunteers among groups. Their Green Space volunteers can go around the different parks and that has been brilliant for different people. New website mapping all their groups.

Dave Morris, [Haringey Friends of Parks Forum](#)

45 Friends Groups. Part of the London-wide network. Work with Council. Working to help jointly create 10-year open spaces strategy. Lobby for adequate parks funding. Produce a range of walks booklets.

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Final plenary

Stronger communications

Facilitator: Michelle Furtado, NFPGS

Michelle has been in post with NFPGS since April 2019 and she is funded for a year by MHCLG as one of the Parks Action Group community empowerment projects. She will be reaching out to Forums and many of the 7,000 or so Friends Groups around the UK to understand what people need. She is doing the publicity for these regional events and building the network through greater communication and coordination at all levels.

Michelle is mapping Friends Groups contacted and linking them with existing Forums and networks and encouraging new forums to develop. Once all these conferences are finished, Michelle will work on encouraging unconnected groups and clusters to network with each other.

The NFPGS have released a survey to ask what Groups and Forums need to grow and develop, and what support is needed from the PAG and Government. We already have 150 responses. Lots of responses want help linking up, building forums, or sometimes it can be just simple things like borrowing equipment. There are also common issues of managing relationships with the local authorities, especially now when departments share staff. Also calls for adequate funding and protection for parks.

There are currently 70 Forums in the country involving around 3,000 of the Friends Groups. The Forums don't need to be led by the council. They can be independent. But it can be helpful to have Council Officers in or meeting with the Forum for help with resource and meeting rooms. Forums don't always need a constitution. Others (Voluntary Service Councils, Universities etc) might be able to help in a similar way to Councils.

Gateshead are creating a forum in the near future.

Message to the PAG

Some people felt that parks and green space were seen as a local issue rather than a national government issue. They felt parks should be made a statutory service. The Parks Action Group (PAG) was set up supported by the Minister for Parks four years ago.

The PAG asks: how do we ensure that our parks and green spaces are protected and properly managed for the future? There are a number of PAG work streams and projects underway, and the Community Empowerment stream (chaired by NFPGS) has organised these conferences.

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The PAG is preparing a business case to present to Government departments and the Treasury, and others, to demonstrate the full value of parks and to raise the issues of long-term financial commitment to ensure they are properly managed for the benefit of communities.

The PAG is preparing a business case to present to the Treasury asking for longer-term financial commitment. They want to show parks need to be properly funded and properly managed.

What should we be telling the government and what should they be doing?

- Volunteers need to be appreciated and supported as the money goes down and responsibilities get higher.
- Put into law a statutory duty to manage Parks and Green spaces. Response: NFPGS and 12 other national organisations have launched the Charter for Parks.
- Local authorities seem to be blind to the fact the volunteer groups can get funds the councils can't access. This could release more funds to the parks this way.
- Loss of expertise. Only on trained gardening staff so need to go outside local authority for advice. Hard if you want to do a major project and you have to go outside the council.
- Measurable standards – groups would like them to be pull together so the parks can use them to speak to local authority, funders and public to justify investment. Natural capital accounting, health benefits, carbon capture etc.
- Local authorities have had different level of cuts. Newcastle was very high cuts and very high problems, so they have impossible decisions to make.
- Parks and health will be competing for the same money if use the same rational.
- Press should be more involved with the findings of this group/meetings. Forums are the best way to get the press involved. They need to build up skills and relationship with press/media.

Participants post-event feedback summary

The response was very positive, with high scores and appreciative comments.

Scores

5 being the highest mark.

Question	5	4	3	2	1	Blank
Usefulness of the day	19 (70%)	7 (26%)	1(4%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0 (0%)
Venue	20 (74%)	5 (19%)	1(4%)	1(4%)	0(0%)	0 (0%)

Parks Action Group Community Empowerment Workstream



Food and Facilities	17 (63%)	6 (22%)	4 (15%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0 (0%)
Workshop	16 (59%)	8(30%)	1 (4%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(7%)
Total	72 (67%)	26(24 %)	7 (6%)	1 (1%)	0(0%)	2 (2%)

	Yes	Blank
I would like help to set up a Friends Forum	11 (41%)	16 (59%)

Comments in Appendix 4.

APPENDICES

1. Weblink to delegate pack resources

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1P36JrWZ01csN1Vo42GMDHSxOXquS-WWVv>

2. Agenda

Time	Session
11:30	Registration and refreshments
12:00	Plenary: welcome, introductions and some key themes
12:30	Focused workshops/discussions - part 1 Participants can attend 3 x 30min sessions in total in part 1 & 2. Part 1: attend 2 x 30min sessions from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a strong and diverse membership • Volunteering and project management • Partnership working with landowners/managers • Fundraising • Promotion and social media
13:30	Light lunch and refreshments - Time to browse material, and make 'Postcards to the Parks Action Group'
14:15	'Just a minute' showcase 5 x 1min talks on successful ideas and activities or challenges for groups (focus on individual groups)
14:25	Focused workshops/discussions - part 2 Participants can attend 3 x 30min sessions in total today Part 2: attend 1 x 30min session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a strong and diverse membership • Volunteering and project management • Partnership working with landowners/managers • Fundraising • Promotion and social media

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Local Government



15:00	Plenary: reports back from the focussed workshops/discussions
15:15	'Just a minute' showcase 5 x 1min talks on successful ideas and activities or challenges (focus on forums and networks)
15:25	Final plenary Networking, and developing stronger communications, coordination and sustainability: how do we sustain and build on today's discussions? How do those who support parks, from community groups to Government, ensure our public green spaces are well-managed, enhanced and protected for future generations?
16:15	Time to chat, and refreshments
16:30	Close

3. Workshop attendance numbers

Workshop	Session One	Session Two	Session Three	Total
Building a strong and diverse membership	8	10	13	31 (23%)
Volunteering and project management	11	12	8	31 (23%)
Partnership working with landowners/managers	9	11	6	26 (19%)
Fundraising	11	2	11	24 (18%)
Promotion and social media	6	11	6	23 (17%)

4. Feedback form comments

Usefulness

5

- Weekend is good
- Meeting other volunteer groups – Friends Group movement establishing their concerns and how councils may help
- Yes. I learnt a lot
- Great opportunity to network and learn from other groups
- Good to know we're not alone!
- Yes, excellent networking opportunity

Parks Action Group Community Empowerment Workstream



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- Really useful to get better understanding of Friends groups
- We're a small Friends group, just starting, so v. useful to find advice on practical issues of running group, based on experience
- Really good process – day went quickly
- Excellent opportunity to meet others and share expertise
- Very good networking opportunity
- It was useful to hear other experiences and to share ideas for progressing work of Friends groups
- Good to meet other group members
- Great way to share issues and successes. Nice to meet everyone from local groups.

4

- Would like a networking group so contact can be made for further help
- Yes, good use of time, some useful ideas (or possibilities)
- It was confusing as it was Parks and Green spaces, but it was really about Parks and Friends Groups. There is a bigger asset out there of green spaces
- Excellent sharing of ideas and issues. Would have like some steps to solve some of these issues. Possibly early in the process...

3

- On a wet day!

Venue

5

- Lovely venue but could you please put signs outside which are more prominent, so we know how to get in
- Always reliable
- Comfortable, airy warm, good regular supply of food and drink. Central. (Would have been helpful to know which entrance in advance)
- Very accessible
- Good, clean, ease of access
- Good central location
- Lovely lunch – thank you. Easy to get to
- Easy to find
- Excellent venue

4

- Spacious, lights good, pleasant but somewhat echo-y
- Very good location. Very well organised. Would like to have seen a window!
- Lovely, just a little cool
- Very food for a conference

3

- Like rooms with natural light please

2

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- Not a fan of this venue but handy for those attending by public transport/train

Food and facilities

5

- Nice + fresh – clean. Easy to get to
- It was just enough – no need for more
- Good food and refreshments
- Good selection
- Still lovely lunch
- Excellent food my only critique would be more choices of sandwich filling
- Perfectly fine
- Food was delicious – thank you

4

- Nice veggie options
- Food OK but all sandwiches and some chips. Toilets brilliantly clean
- Building was good, not keen on food

3

- It would have been good to meet in a park with perhaps outdoor activated incorporated in the day
- Odd fillings in the sandwiches

Workshops

5

- A lot of good ideas to take back with me
- Good variety and plenty of time to make a verbal contribution
- Kept to time!
- Excellent
- Well chaired. Good to have short time so focusing minds on core issues
- Interesting to hear views and opinions and challenges that face Friends of groups
- Good pace, hot topics, emotive issues
- Great to listen to others
- Yes
- Good, more time useful perhaps

4

- Good to share experiences, but perhaps should focus more on successes, lessons that others might use
- Great to share ideas but would have been helpful to have organisations that have successfully achieved solutions to issues
- Good points raised dealt with and met some lovely people

3

- Strayed off topic easily
- Blank
- Workshops really helpful

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Any other comments

- Not sure what to expect but great to meet so many dedicated and energetic people passionate about their parks and green spaces
- More guidance for setting up Friends groups or forum. Possible documents to download for groups to use. Safeguarding a real problem that we need guidance on
- Thank you for inviting us
- Probably trying to do too much in too short a time! Great to be able to network, but not time to go in depth!
- I would prefer on speaker/panel to focus on a topic
- Presentation by a group. Feedback from other areas? Longer for workshops and less time at the end.
- Future 'green' policies e.g. tree planting, biodiversity, pollutions, measures, cycle routes through parks, social prescribing, volunteering vs meditation
- Positive experience(s) from other similar parks and people events
- Really appreciate this conference. Will always support parks locally and on the national debate
- A worthwhile day – thank you
- It would have been good to have more people from our group

5. Attendee Websites/Social media

Organisation/Group	Website
Exhibition and Brandling Parks Community Trust & Chair - Newcastle Parks Forum	https://www.facebook.com/EBPCT
Friends of Leazes Park	http://www.folp.btck.co.uk
British Cycling and Green Scene	https://www.britishcycling.org.uk
Friends of Jesmond Dene	https://www.jesmonddene.org.uk
A Space 2 Grow	https://aspace2grow.wordpress.com
Tyneside Outdoors	http://www.tynesideoutdoors.org.uk
Friends of Saltwell Park	https://www.friendsofsaltwellpark.co.uk
Forget Me Knot Wellbeing	http://forgetmeknot.org.uk
Friends of Nuns Moor Park	https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofnunsmoorpark
Sunderland Green & Open Spaces Forum	https://sunderlandgosf.wordpress.com
The Friends of Temple Memorial Park	https://www.facebook.com/groups/2093864517517059
Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park	https://hettoncountrypark.wordpress.com
North West Parks Friends Forum	https://www.facebook.com/NWPF
Friends of Herrington Country Park + Sunderland Green & Open Spaces Forum	https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Herrington-Country-Park-104574633209408

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Newcastle Parks and Allotments	https://urbangreennewcastle.org
South Tyneside Council	https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk
Friends of Chase Park	https://www.ourgateshead.org/friends-chase-park
Gateshead Council	https://www.gateshead.gov.uk
Recoco	https://www.recoverycoco.com/about-us
Friends of Springfield Park	https://springfieldcommunity.org.uk
Northumberland County Council	https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Home.aspx
Tyneside Beekeepers Association	https://www.facebook.com/groups/TynesideBeekeepers
Flexigraze	https://flexigraze.org.uk/grazing
West Sunderland Clean & Green Project	https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCleanandGreen
Friends of Ridley Park	https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfRidleyPark
Blyth to Seaton Sluice Links Conservation Group	https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/seaton-sluice-new-hartley-1488547
Friends of St Margaret's Churchyard	http://www.stjam.f9.co.uk/Churchyard.htm
Friends of Scarborough Valley Gardens	https://www.facebook.com/FOSVG
Pelaw Quarry Pond Community Group	
Friends of Riverside Park Chester le Street	https://www.facebook.com/friendsofriversideparkcls
Gosforth Academy	http://www.gosforthacademy.org.uk
St Cuthberts Catholic High School	http://www.st-cuthbertshigh.newcastle.sch.uk
Friends of Heaton & Armstrong Parks	https://www.facebook.com/HeatonArmstrongParks
National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces	www.natfedparks.org.uk
The Conservation Volunteers	www.tcv.org.uk
Green Flag Award (Keep Britain Tidy)	http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk
Groundwork	https://www.groundwork.org.uk
Locality	https://locality.org.uk

Parks Action Group Community Empowerment Workstream



Ministry of Housing,
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