

Parks & People, Stronger Together

South East conference

21 September 2019

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Overview of Parks and People, Stronger Together conference

Brighton, Saturday 21 September 2019 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

Jury's Inn, Brighton

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. The Jury's Inn wasn't a community venue but was a good fit for this event in terms of location (near the station and is on the Brighton Greenway). It could accommodate our maximum numbers and had 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

- 31 bookings including staff and facilitators
- 23 actual attendees – 10 no shows and 2 came on the day without booking.

Geographical spread of groups attending

The areas represented at the event were:

- Orpington/Kent
- Brighton
- Newhaven
- Peacehaven
- Worthing
- Wandsworth Common
- Lewes
- Canterbury
- Hove
- West Sussex
- Tunbridge Wells
- London
- Godalming
- Crawley
- Newhaven
- Adur and Worthing
- Southampton
- Sompting
- Ovingdean

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.

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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.

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 and showcase 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.

Welcome to Brighton

Cliff Munn, Brighton and Hove Green Spaces Forum

Brighton and Hove Green Spaces Forum is quite a new forum, a couple of years old. We felt there was a need to bring local Friends groups together, because they were working independently and a bit lonely out there. We got some local funding and some support from the local council.

Originally, we'd identified 30 groups, and we're now 90. Some of the groups are very small, corner of the street and only a couple of people.

Look out of the venue window at the green corridor, the Brighton Greenway, it's beautiful and important but also difficult to manage as in the city centre there can be some problems. Warm welcome!

Thank you for coming.

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.

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Warm-up activity for My Community

Ellie Budd, From William Joseph for Locality/My Community

Ellie introduced [My Community](#). It is now managed by a steering group of 12 organisations, and we are redeveloping it, watch this space. They want it to be the first place to go when looking for advance. We need information from the room to know what to have on the website to respond to your needs. We handed printed cards with questions to help structure the answers from delegates.

Printed cards with questions

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

Ellie 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:

Resounding top 4 needs

- Funding for things like achieving more conservation objectives – barriers are capacity, time and not knowing how to do it
- Engaging with the council, getting acknowledgement that volunteers are a valuable resource. Budget and resource in council are limited.
- Volunteers. Barriers: not much help from local authority, people having time to find volunteers, and volunteers who have time
- Communicate and connect with the local community and other groups. Barrier, lack of publications and marketing

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>

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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: 8

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:

- Those attending were generally in quite white, non-diverse areas and many volunteers in the groups are retired.
- The cost of membership can be put off-putting for people.
- GoodGym has been really successful in supporting projects and some groups have built ongoing relationship with their local teams.
- Sustainability and tree-planting is really popular currently.
- Trying to harness the energy from the climate movements and Extinction Rebellion and use this to engage more people in projects.

- Many groups are successful in engaging residents or particular groups (eg. families, young people etc) for events. Particularly successful are residents' groups around specific green spaces – there is automatic buy-in from locals.
- However, in other areas residents are completely unaware of the spaces on their doorsteps. For example, a woodland space next to an estate where many residents are unaware of its accessibility.
- They have tried to deliver different events but are both getting-on in age and good numbers at events don't seem to translate to ongoing participation.

- A local authority was trying to build a Friends group, but the wealth of the area meant little interest from residents. Discussed having an open consultation on site, without any plans, to gauge their needs and ideas for the space. Could be an opportunity for a specific project with a particular group, for example young people, creating and delivering a project.
- Surveying local residents can also be a good way to ensure everyone's voices are heard.

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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: Tim Hills, TCV

Attendance: 11

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:

- All groups agreed it is difficult to recruit volunteers.
- Often it is the same people in the community doing lots of things, so they're stretched.
- Keeping up the recruitment drive is important.
- It works better to break it down in more precise tasks and themed get togethers to get people involved for one day.
- Maybe having subgroups of volunteers for specific tasks for the Friends groups could be a good structure?
- Keep good relationships with the local authority to help project manage.
- Engage with the third sector and ask for outside help.

Any success stories?

- Very specific task: cutting thorn - help from the local park rangers but also the local friends network helped, and they got 4 times the original amount of people. In this case they were all volunteering for the same principle and also travel in Brighton is not hard
- Problem of finding more people for the committee, right now only the chair and the park ranger. And the chair works on lots of projects. This is common, the same few people doing lots of community things.
- Another problem is some volunteers are very engaged .. but lots of others only come once and are hard to engage. You are competing for people's time.
- Another success story: we had a blossom day in June and set up a group on biodiversity and attracted 30-40 people for a day out on the estate and looked

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at all the things the group has done (fruit trees planted, got the wood) lots of volunteers for the bees and biodiversity but none for the wood and litter picking,

- Friends of Tilgate Park has been going for a few years, delegate volunteered as a chair. We had swans and geese on the lake. One got stuck in the wire and died. So, with one of the volunteers we set up 4 days a year to clean up, and the first time lots of people volunteered. Then the second time Coop employees came and the local scout group. So, it seems to be growing. We have ideas but getting them past the park authority is sometimes hard.
- Might be good to use the scouts because they have three different conservation badges. Or Duke of Edinburgh. But you need to provide the activity that they can get involved in.
- Corporate organisations have community days or give employees volunteering days, so as you are close to Gatwick maybe they have something. They get the team build and we get the job done. Plus, they often pay for team building activities, so we get the work done and maybe get a donation too. Gatwick greenspace partnership - they also sponsor South East in Bloom
- Is there a role for the local Friends Forum to contact corporates and set up the relationship? They can send info on different groups that the corporate can send volunteers to.
- TCV help train volunteers, also lend tools.
- Problem with some volunteers not knowing what they're doing and maybe not doing a very good job or not following instructions very well.

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/>.

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

Facilitator: Karen Rigby-Faux, Greenhavens Network

Attendance: 10

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?

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Notes of contributions:

- Feedback needs to be bottom up and top down.
- People who had relationships before the recession keep them, but hard to form them now.
- They need a roadmap of the council, who does what, who do we contact?
- Something to collaborate co-design about worked in the relationship so that seems like a good approach.
- Inviting people for a walkabout, some worked better with council officers, some more with councillors. Council officers though seemed to be the block for most of them.

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: Lisa Whitaker, [Groundwork](#)

Attendance: 10

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?
- 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:

Session 1

Issues:

1. Due to no local Friends of Groups in our town this disables us from being able to secure additional funding for the development and maintenance of our parks and open spaces.
2. The Council have always paid for the development and maintenance of the parks and open spaces.

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3. Residents perceptions that the Council have lots of money to continue with the maintenance of the parks and open spaces.

Recommendations: To secure funding to run a capacity building programme and community wide consultation to ascertain what the community want, alongside establishing new Friends of groups.

Possible Funder: Awards for All

Session 2

Issues:

1. Takes a lot of work & time to complete funding applications.
2. Rely on previous success and go back to previous successful funders.
3. Managing the money, meeting reporting requirements & monitoring.
4. Hiring and managing staff.
5. Sustainability of the projects benefits with no resources.

Recommendations: Expand partnership working with other local parks to lever in additional funding through secured funding.

Session 3

Issues:

1. Significant amount of administration to complete funding applications & meet funders requirements
2. Researching funding opportunities and aligning projects with funders.
3. Amount of work to complete funding bids.
4. Funding timescales - How to plan when to submit
5. How to evidence need

Recommendations:

1. Really narrow down what the project is by utilising -
 - Who (are the beneficiaries),
 - What (will you deliver),
 - Where (will the project be delivered),
 - How (will you deliver the project) &
 - When (will the project be delivered).
2. Google funding opportunities and make sure you read the funding guidance. Look at what activities they have funded previously and at what level of funding.

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3. Once you have all your organisational information you can focus on producing standard answers for funding bids which will reduce time on drafting bids. Tweak the bids once drafted ensuring it fits with the funder.

4. Work backwards from the Funders deadline & notification... i.e. Produce a Gantt chart outlining all the funders you plan on applying to, when you plan to develop the project, submit the bid and receive notification.

5. Evidence need through various mechanisms i.e.

- A. Community wide consultation reports.
- B. Source direct quotes from project beneficiaries.
- C. Produce a petition.
- D. Local demographic research.

6. Identify & attend free fundraising training opportunities.

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?

Facilitator: Michele Walde, Keep Britain Tidy

Attendance: 10

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:

- There is lots of nice promotional merchandise stuff now. Tote bags, bunting, pop up banners have been useful to attract attention and get talking to people. But even laminated signs have been successful to get lots of local people at events, especially entertaining ones like an Easter Egg Hunt.
- Doing minimal work to get the most, like getting someone else to do your work (students coming to film from the local university).
- Groups identify they need guidance with social media, there is a lack of knowledge. As a solution, groups could get someone who is really passionate about communications or wants to build experience, even a younger person

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who maybe are not the same demographics as your usual volunteers, to volunteer doing that for the group.

- There are so many diverse ways of engaging people, look at the document in the pack.
- Start with the outcome you want and your aim! Then work back what you need to do to achieve it.
- Advertise what happens after the drives and promote the successes.

All delegates received a detailed specialist document prepared by Keep Britain Tidy setting out ways of effectively engaging and using various forms of media e.g. press and radio. PDF: <https://parkscommunity.org.uk/publicity-marketing-media/how-to-promote-your-group-london-friends-of-green-spaces-network/>

Summary of 'Just a minute' showcases First-round – Friends Groups

James Newmarch, Friends of Brighton Greenway and [Brighton and Hove Green Spaces Forum](#)

Look out of the conference window at the green corridor, the Brighton Greenway, which arose from a planning decision that there should be some green space after this development took place. It goes from the station to the railway line, a long green space mostly managed for its natural aspects like wildflowers and insects etc. One of the big problems we have is with antisocial behaviour, which we need to manage. We have plans to extend further north.

Judith Taylor, [Palmeira and Adelaide Garden Fund](#)

My colleague here had great ideas to earn some money for our green spaces with some great events – we raised nearly £2000. What I'm here to tell you is that you can have an idea and you can turn it around quite quickly. We now need to find a structure for our group, which is a bit scary but will help us to organise ourselves.

Alan Cooke, [Friends of Craven Wood](#)

Craven wood is a small estate on a hillside a couple of miles east of here. We took over what had been allotments until some 40-50 years ago but had degenerated into sycamore scrub. We aimed at biodiversity: a portion of the scrub woodland has now been removed to make way for a hazel coppice, an orchard of Sussex varieties of fruit trees, plantations of native trees, and two wild-flower glades. We increased the butterfly species from 7 when we started, to 23. It's an area very close to houses but no one knows about it so we're trying to raise awareness.

Bernadette Skinner, [Ovingdean Residents and Preservation Society/Beacon Hill Nature Reserve](#)

Our site is by Ovingdean, on the coast, surrounded by the South Downs National Park and Ovingdean village. We had a green festival in the village last year which was very successful, and we do a lot of things like tree planting, scrub bashing etc.

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Sue Delafons, [Friends of Wandsworth Common \(South London\)](#)

I've learnt a lot today so thank you all. We've been going for a couple of years. Our first initiative was litter picking, which I thought worth sharing because it was very easy to get into and it makes a big impact. We very quickly got some local sponsorship for equipment for a few hundred pounds (high visibility jackets without branding on for example). We had about 40 people for the litter pick, it's very easy to measure and great for local papers because you can line people up with all the litter you collect (we found a kitchen sink! and a knife!) for a photo. It's a great way of engaging the community and we have plans to expand that interest to recycling more generally and drinking fountains to reduce plastic. So it's a great way to get people interested and moving, and then onto more complicated stuff.

Leighton Clay, [Sompting Parish Council](#)

I work at the conservation project at the Council. We have just started a new forest garden project in Malthouse Meadow, a piece of land which was covenanted to the community 25 years ago and we're trying to create conservation grazing encompassing a wood. We are a very new group, we're at the beginning of this project and recruiting volunteers, getting community supports and the residents behind us – it's been a very interesting journey so far! Thank you to you all and groups like you who really help people like me to actually get these things up and running. Thank you for today.

Second round – Forums

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

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.

Cliff Munn, [Brighton and Hove Green Spaces Forum](#)

One example of success in sharing from the forum: One group was struggling to get water butt installed, was quoted more than £7000 and was told it would need a lot of permissions. Another group had already done it so we were able to share that expertise between one group and another and they were able to do the same. It's a small thing but it shows the power of the network.

Karen Rigby-Faux, [Greenhavens Network](#)

Greenhavens Network was set up to support community groups, originally by the private grounds' maintenance contractor. We support those who are volunteering to protect green spaces and bring them to life, currently over 92 community groups, stretching from Telscombe to Seaford. All of these green ambassadors are

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championing your green spaces, through caring about your parks and open spaces as well as doing everything they can to help wildlife flourish and encouraging people to be healthy and happy in their local green spaces.

Final plenary

Stronger communications

Facilitator: Michelle Furtado, NFPGS

Michelle has been in post with NFPGS since April 2019 and with these events we have been trying to reach as many groups in the country as possible to understand what people need. We have contacted every council, many parish councils and searching the internet for new groups. There are approximately 7,000 environmental volunteer and Friends groups across the county.

Michelle is mapping the Friends Groups and linking them with networks and forums. Once all these conferences are finished, Michelle hopes to work on getting the unconnected clusters to network with each other.

We have released a survey to understand what Groups and Forums need to grow and develop. We already have 177 groups responding. 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.

It's our role to take this back to the PAG. We're asking to have a more consistent approach to how councils work with local Friends groups.

Dave: has anyone got comments or ideas on how to strengthen their local network?

Someone says they had a coordinated group managed by groundwork with funding from the council, but the council withdrew funding and things fizzled out.

Dave responded that every forum is different, some have been set up by councils, some are independent, and some are in between. NFPGS preference has always been that an area Forum be independent of others including the council. Either from the start or moving towards it. It can be simple to begin with, just to get together and share news and chat about challenges and solutions.

As a collective movement, we have a much stronger voice. Groups share experiences between themselves at area forum levels. The NFPGS builds partnerships at the national level, and raises general issues, including around protection and funding, to the PAG and Government

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Dave. We are lucky to have Michelle in post this year to help build the network but in general the National Federation has no funds and all involved are over-stretched volunteers and activists in our own parks and local areas.

Cliff from Brighton Forum says it would be good to also bring together groups of forums regionally. There are already two regions (London and NW England) where there is a regional collaboration of forums and it's very useful.

Message to the PAG

Dave Morris explained that following lobbying by the NFPGS and Parks Alliance for a national inquiry into the future of parks, the parliamentary Local Government Select Cttee of MPs conducted an Inquiry and produced recommendations to Government and the sector in 2017. The Parks Action Group (PAG) was set up, and a Minister for Parks identified.

The PAG mission is to ask 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.

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.

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

Questions from the floor

- What is your link to the government and how are you valued by them? PAG is formed of 10 national organisations including reps from NFPGS, Parks Alliance, National Trust, HLF, Fields In Trust, Groundwork etc, and 9 government departments (mainly MHCLG) meeting regularly. NFPGS is the only grassroots organisation and we have been able to say things confidently. Naturally, with Brexit preparations it's was a bit more complicated and the PAG hasn't been able to meet as often or in full attendance. To recover from 10 years or more of serious underfunding, will take some time. The Friends movement is very important because we collaborate with each other and want also to collaborate at a national level
- Is the Health and wellbeing link being maximised? Yes, The Department of Health is in the PAG.

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- I'm worried that we focus on the existing parks, but the new parks are not happening or are terribly designed. Dave: one of the problems is also they are included in developments but then there is no pre-planning on who'll run it. But yes, this is a problem that is raised, a lot of this needs managing at a local level, even though its mentioned in national policy. Dave: the NHS produces a report on the importance of greenspace for health. This is really important, and especially strategic action needed for prevention of ill-health. Greenspace is going up the health agenda quite fast.
- We have a health officer and talk about green spaces for health and wellbeing. but there is a lot of development and it's important to work with the developers but as a council we also depend on the regional council.
- Fields in Trust is a national organisation on the PAG and makes deals with landowners for covenants for permanent protection of green space. They can't be developed without Fields in Trust approval. More could be protected like this if there were negotiations on a local authority basis rather than just site by site. Friends Forums can lobby for this.
- And,of course, Green Flag awards, we can lobby at local level to achieve that national standard across all the parks we manage. I'm a council parks officer and judge for South East in Bloom, sometimes an award from South East In Bloom can help with leverage with the council.

Everyone was thanked for coming and for all the work they do for green spaces.

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	10.5 (70%)	4.5 (30%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Venue	13 (87%)	1 (7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (7%)
Food and Facilities	11 (73%)	2 (13%)	2 (13%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Workshop	8 (53%)	3 (20%)	1 (7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (20%)
Total	42.5 (71%)	10.5 (18%)	3 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (7%)

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	Yes	Blank
I would like help to set up a Friends Forum	4 (27%)	11 (73%)

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
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

Parks Action Group Community Empowerment Workstream



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

These are estimates recorded at the beginning of the sessions, more delegates joined some workshops later or moved.

Workshop	Session One	Session Two	Session Three	Total
Building a strong and diverse membership	4	4	n/a	8 (16%)
Volunteering and project management	2	4	5	11 (22%)
Partnership working with landowners/managers	5	3	2	10 (20%)
Fundraising	2	3	7	10 (20%)
Promotion and social media	3	5	2	10 (20%)

4. Feedback from comments

Usefulness

5

- Very useful, particularly enjoyed networking with attendees
- Very productive, lots of value to take away + think about
- Friendly, informative. Good leadership
- Great info
- Very informative + helpful, both professionally + personally
- Great opportunity to share ideas + stories with other community groups and organisations
- Good informative day, great networking

4

- Handout material looks excellent, contacts vg, good structure to day
- A bit too pushed, but good topics and discussions plus useful networking
-

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Venue

5

- No problems
- Close to station, easy location to access
- Good for people coming by train – very central
- Great location so close to rail. Light and airy room, great space
- Good venue with easy access from station
- Great location

4

- Fine

Food and facilities

5

- Excellent, thank you
- Spacious, good facilities. Didn't expect hot food. Big plus
- Nice selection
- All facilities clean and tidy, welcoming. Food fabulous and unexpected
- Plenty of tea/coffee and a good choice of lunch options

4

- Fine
- (All vegan – no meat!)

3

- Three hot meals all contained peppers. I did not think I had to say that I don't eat peppers!!

Workshops

5

- Really useful, again networking with others was good
- Partnerships excellent, contributions by participants were biggest factor – slightly variable
- Good information and ideas from leaders and fellow participants
- The 3 I went to were really interesting and worth the time
- Enough time for each & variety
- Good to hear from others + what works well, but also what doesn't
- Great discussion and knowledge sharing

4

- Should/could have been longer – 45min?
- Some of the workshops only had a couple of attendees which made sharing info tricky – not the organisers fault

3

- OK, but too short!

No score

- All work were very helpful

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Any other comments

- Time for all workshops
- Great meeting everybody
- Great day, learned a great deal
- Presence of rangers and councillors or at least an environmental South of England rep!
- Well organised, well facilitated. Thank you
- I found it tricky to select 3 workshops, it would have been great if there had been time for all 5

5. Attendee Websites/Social media

Organisation/Group	Website
Idverde and Friends of Hoblingwell	https://www.facebook.com/friendsofhoblingwell
Brighton & Hove City in Bloom	http://brightonandhovacityinbloom.co.uk
Brighton & Hove Building Green	https://building-green.org.uk
Greenhavens Network/Burleys	https://greenhavens.network
Albion Community Garden	https://www.facebook.com/albioncommunitygarden
Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum	http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk
Community Connectors	https://greenhavens.network/community-groups/#collapse-1-628
Green Tides	https://green-tides.org.uk
National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces	www.natfedparks.org.uk
Friends of Wandsworth Common	https://www.wandsworthcommon.org
Dane John Friends	
Palmeira and Adelaide Garden Fund	http://www.fopa.co.uk
The Living Coast Biosphere	https://thelivingcoast.org.uk
Brighton and Hove Wildlife Forum	http://www.bhwf.org.uk
Lewes District Council	https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
West Sussex County Council	https://www.westsussex.gov.uk
Groundwork London	https://www.groundwork.org.uk
Waverley Borough Council	https://waverley.gov.uk/site
Friends of Tilgate Park	https://www.friendsoftilgatepark.co.uk
The Conservation Volunteers	https://www.tcv.org.uk
Southampton Common Forum (Secretary / volunteer coordinator)	http://southamptoncommonforum.org
Magic Movement	
Sompting Parish Council	https://www.sompting.org.uk
Ovingdean Residents and Preservation Society/Beacon Hill Nature Reserve	http://www.ovingdean.co.uk/orps

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Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Friends of Craven Wood	https://focw.weebly.com
Green Flag Award	http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk
Locality	https://locality.org.uk
Friends of Craven Wood	

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