

Parks & People, Stronger Together Yorks and Humber Conference 7th September 2019

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Parks Action Group Community Empowerment Workstream



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



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Overview of Parks and People, Stronger Together conference

Doncaster, Saturday 7th September 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

Cast Theatre, Doncaster

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. Cast Theatre 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

- 48 bookings including staff and facilitators
- 27 actual attendees – 21 no shows and no one came on the day without booking.

Geographical spread of groups attending

The areas represented at the event were:

- Doncaster
- Bradford
- Hull
- York
- Leeds
- Sheffield
- Hessle

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 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 everyone does for parks and green spaces and for coming to talk about and showcase community involvement and empowerment.

The purpose of the day is 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 gave attendees an invitation to volunteer to do a Just a Minute session.

Welcome to Doncaster

Ben Russell, Green Spaces Officer, [Doncaster Council](#)

Doncaster Council is very pleased to have the Parks and People, Stronger Together event hosted here. This meeting is very important and is reflective of the growing movement towards protecting and promoting parks and green spaces taking place everywhere.

Having the event hosted here shows that Doncaster Council can hold its head up and show that it is matching the work taking place in other big cities.

The networking happening here today is key and vital to making the most of key parks and green spaces.

Doncaster has an abundance of green spaces. The mines that surrounded Doncaster are becoming green spaces. There is so much access to green space. That's the future for Doncaster to work with voluntary groups to help lead the management of the green spaces. The process of gathering knowledge from the ground up is the correct one for creating sustainable management and relationships.

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.

Warm-up activity for My Community

Jenny Steele, Locality

Jenny introduced [My Community](#). It was set up by MHCLG five years ago. Now a steering group of 12 organisations is redeveloping it. They want it to be the first place to go when looking for advance. We need information from the room to know what to put up there.

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Post-it notes questions

- Need to know who could use the website – age, occupation, when you do work for parks and green spaces, are you full time or volunteer?
- What do you need, what is it for, what is stopping you achieving your goals?

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:

- Anti-social activities in parks – caused by a lack of staff and difficulties in getting the Council to recognise the problem, there is a need for more security.
- Responsibility for maintenance – Council department missing roles with responsibilities for parks in their job descriptions. There needs to be better communications between Councils and groups.
- Lack of guidance and leadership from the Council.
- Lack of volunteers – no time to find volunteers or think about why they would want to join or how to find them.
- Groups often have so much to do. It might be helpful to prioritise tasks to make the workload more manageable rather than seeing it as a mountain to overcome.

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-WWVv>

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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: 15

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:

- Try introducing an annual membership fee. This could be £5 per year per household. This could include a monthly newsletter and discount to the space's café (as in one case). A PayPal button on your website is a good way to collect this.
- Building links with schools can develop ongoing relationships. Groups had different projects; nature ninjas, little Friends of groups, arts groups, University of the third age.
- Encouraging more sports and sports groups in your space.
- Having space for allotments with a community garden.
- Remember to get your message out there to increase your membership.

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: Michelle Challen, [Doncaster Council](#)

Attendance: 11

Questions posed by the facilitator:

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- 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:

Issues

- Retention is a common problem, especially after the project, is set up.
- There can be a lot of confusing restrictions from Councils, around the jobs that volunteers can undertake and the tools they can use.
- There can be different visions for the park between volunteers.

Suggestions

- Introduce incentives for volunteering.
- Contact the [Good Gym](#) – a national initiative where a group runs to a location do some good work and then runs back again.
- Provide a range of events on-site – engaging with everyone from tiny school children to 80 years plus.
- Focus on the social aspects of volunteering. For example, give people a cup of tea. Create a get-together vibe to retain volunteers
- Try inviting corporate volunteers and local farmers.

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: Nigel Sharp, NFPGS

Attendance: 8

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)?

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- How can we develop and maintain such ongoing partnerships despite challenges such as understaffing and disagreements?

Notes of contributions:

Issues:

- Familiar issues of Council cuts by austerity. There were lots of restructures, loss of staff, loss of skills, loss of knowledge about the parks.
- Council mobile teams have lost site presence, knowledge and contact.
- Some Councils will support groups with insurance but not all Councils do this.
- Some Councils are reluctant to take responsibility for project maintenance and longer-term resourcing due to budget and staffing cuts.
- In Sunderland, there is a lack of communication between the Council and Friends groups and Forum.

Suggestions included:

- Identify a sympathetic voice in the Council to take your side. This could be a Ward Councillor or Executive. Offering photo opportunities is a good way to connect with them.
- Show Councils your benefits. You elect them, you contribute in volunteering hours, fundraising and events. Show in monetary value to your Council and evidence why they should engage and consult with you.
- Doncaster Council is engaging with community groups and recognise that forums provide efficiency for councils.
- Groups have to rebuild relationships every time the council officers change.
- Waiting to see the Council's strategy to work with them – no visible management plans.
- Grade 2 listed park so conflicts with the Council that don't know the details of the park – make changes without consulting – edible hedge instead of beautiful flowers. 1921 the park opened – a legacy of WW1 – handed to people of York via the council.
- Hard to manage what Friends can do under the management of the council with the council changing with number contacts being lost due to cuts.
- Funding from council via CVS.
- One site is on the riverside and a flood basin for the city so have to start work again regularly.
- Meant to be premiere park but the council have cut site-based staff so not enough maintenance time.
- Council changes parks departments very often 'weekly' – staff work in different departments on parks.
- Council staff have watched the decline from the inside – understand what has been lost and the lack of resources to deliver things – one person doing the job of three people ten years ago. The loss of Rangers is loss of face-to-face contact with the groups.

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- Disappointed there is no Bradford forum despite 20-30 Friends groups –the Council have a list of all the groups so they could facilitate establishment of a forum.
- Good examples of partnership with councils
 - o Doncaster Council helped set the parks forum up – inspired by Sheffield
 - o Producing How-To Guides – e.g. volunteers
 - o York forum run in partnership with council Open Space forum
 - o Bingley town council helped sto set up Friends Groups – help supply flowers from Bradford town council
 - o Helpful for key council officer have emails, which people can contact them on to keep the conversation flowing
- Need to show the benefits of the Friends to councils and show councils should take them seriously. They help to lower maintenance costs (volunteer hours x min wage can equal significant sums), bullet point achievements and milestones.
- Some council staff who are losing their jobs feel resentful of volunteer efforts and this can impact relationships.
- Council concerns are sustainability and how you are going to manage – council fears they will have to takeover failed projects – need good communications and established relationships with council workers.
- Leasing – asset transfer of bowling greens, allotments and tennis clubs is established.
- Council supporting groups with insurance and risk assessment training.
- Three years to get permission for power tools – as no guidelines – councils nervous of power tools – can't get the right tools; three hours to mow lawn with a tiny mower – 1200 trees to plant but root system removal needs a digger –so need to go to companies to do it for CSR (they can step back and leave groups high and dry with the project).
- Risk assessment, induction and then insurance from the council and then own insurance for the groups themselves.
- In-kind support of meeting space etc. lodges now cafes that groups can use.
- Lots of beautiful lodges that are now empty – sometimes not being maintained – groups could make use for them for workshops or cafes.
- Need to create management plans with the groups at the table for planning, delivery and evaluation.
- Funding is available from Wren for parks and green spaces near landfill sites.
- *Resource to create: Good practice guide for councils on how to work and utilise Friends groups and forums*
- *Resource to create: Good practice guide for Friends groups to work with councils – template of benefits they provide and a shopping list of things to ask for with good practice examples from other councils*

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

Facilitator: Thea Kerwick, [Groundwork](#)

Attendance: 12

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:

- Groups have a lack of capacity for large events that would bring in income. They often bring in income for other people rather than the group organising them.
- Application criteria for small grants have increased meaning they are less attractive to apply for.
- Fundraising is a skill. It is hard to find people so training people up is a good idea.
- Demand is increasing for proving the need for a project for funding. This takes a lot of time.
- Large pots of funding take too much time to apply for and manage.
- Worries about the sustainability of keeping funding coming in.

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: Paul Todd, [Green Flag Award](#) Manager, [Keep Britain Tidy](#)

Attendance: 9

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?

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- 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 no one solution but a range of things that work. Groups should try all of them and see what works for them.
- Having a logo for your group can be important for badges, t-shirts, high vis jackets so your group is visible and approachable for the local general public.
- Put notices on a noticeboard. Don't forget to try everything as people don't just look one thing or place for their information.
- [Nextdoor](#) is a good networking/promotion website.
- Get other groups to promote you e.g. local football teams who use your park/green space.
- Get students at colleges and universities to do social media for you as a 6-month project.
- Young people use social media and they want to watch videos rather than reading posts.
- Use history to promote your space. [Heritage Open Days](#) (13-22 September 2019) are a good way to get people involved.
- Collect stories from people around who use or once used the space. This means you are not just promoting facts e.g. we have 500 trees.
- We have a member who is good with technology and promotes everything.
- Write a local community column in your local paper.
- Get members of the local paper are declining so Facebook is a good way to get things out there.
- Probation service use the park – useful to help with the work that needs to be done and positive new.
- We have a website and a Facebook page – brings in enquiries.
- Heritage open days a great thing to do 30 – 60 people attending at a time
- Remembrance Day walks.
- Promote at the local hospital.
- Asian community now – hard to break in to. Tried with local councillors. Could do more.
- Published a book – stories of park users and history – research history of park – items in the park can have an unusual history and aren't always as old as you think. British Newspaper Archive and Kew National Archives a good source of stories – origins of the parks interesting too. Ask the community for their stories through Facebook and newspaper articles, e-newsletters, ask visitors to the parks why they are there and what they can remember. Create your own local archive for heritage bodies and promotions/exhibitions. 1960s – 80s history has been lost so need to collect it from the local community – link people and place to build a story.
- Call for pictures and information of the people remembered in the park to put online so the community can remember them too.

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- Education pack and trail –carryout health and safety concerns.
- Subscription of £5 and standing orders to sponsor items in the park – PayPal is good.
- Rely on other people with good digital skills to run websites and social media.
- Get your local library and bookshops to stock books about your park.
- History centre in a shipping container to highlight the link between people and place.
- Council archivist or local studies?
- Local school archive?

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

Cathy Pickering – [Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park, Sunderland](#)

It is a colliery that was made into the country park 25 years ago. The Friends group was created 10-13 years ago. Each summer they gained VS funding for events during school holidays providing lunch (as it near a poor area). Events include historical and environmental themes. 200 kids coming to these and they are very well received. Looking to get bigger next year.

Karen Thomas - [Friends of Glen Gardens, York](#)

Ran a scarecrow trail that raised £800 for plants and to retain Green Flag Award. They ask the community to put scarecrows in their front gardens then people paid £2 per map and voted on the winning scarecrow. It gets the community to get involved.

Bob Rockliff –[Friends of Quarry Park, Doncaster](#)

Set up 25 years ago. There are 8-10 people in the group. They have a local nature reserve status and Green Flag. They struggled to get volunteers, but they are ticking over. Listening to the problems here today, we aren't struggling. It is not easy, to begin with. When you start one of these things up you can expect to do it on your own and you can only go up from there.

Paul Todd –[Friends of Norris Green Park, Liverpool](#)

The group has been running for 2 years. They have a core of about 10 people. They have received funding from Co-op housing, Co-op funeral care, Co-op retail shops, Tesco, MHCLG, TKMaxx. We have currently raised just over £33,000. They were the winning garden on Channel 5's The Great Gardening Challenge. They are currently running a crowdfunding campaign on [JustGiving](#).

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Allan Mirfield - [Friends of Prince of Wales Park, Bingley](#)

15-acre, grade 2 listed woodland and park. They hold regular events throughout the year – like the bat trial, Halloween trail, and fungus trail. They also have a big disused quarry in the middle with a 1,000-seater arena with no electricity, no toilets and no parking. When they have a big event in the summer they do get 1000 people in. They only received funding £50,000 from [FCC Communities Foundation](#). All the rest has been donations that have kept them going. They have 12 -15 members and they volunteer on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. They have saved the Council lots of working staff-hours.

Second round – Forums

Lynda Kitching - [Leeds Parks & Green Spaces Forum](#)

Formed in 2014 as a result of Leeds Green Spaces strategy from the Council. They have support from the Council. They have a Councillor on the committee and a Council Officer as their Secretary. They are consulting on the next strategy starting from 2020 for next 10 years. They are the main voluntary consultee. They have 90 members. They send out a quarterly newsletter that goes out to all members about funding and success groups they have had. They have a representative at Leeds city council clear air meetings.

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

Just launched in April after 2-year in shadow format. Funding is a critical issue. They spent lots of time trying to access grants unsuccessfully, mainly through the Communities Foundation. Now tried Lottery funding, particularly [Awards for All, the National Lottery Community Fund](#). They were granted £5,900 for social media, paying for meeting rooms, digital equipment like laptops and projectors, training.

Bob Rockliff and Michelle Challen - [Doncaster Green Space Network](#)

It was run by Friends of Groups and then Council stepped in to help. They were able to put in a funding bid for ten sites to get super bins from Bags of Help. They have done training in things like CPR. Aim to spread good ideas and ways of working, to support each other, and to make Doncaster a better place for all. It is open to all with a bimonthly meeting, [website](#) and [Twitter](#). Social media – important to consider timings to get the right people. More information can be found [here](#).

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.

Nigel Sharp - [North West Parks Friends Forum \(NWPFF\)](#)

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Started in 2012 as some representatives from Forums in Liverpool, Wirral and Stockport felt that the role of National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces was more strategic and lobbying group. They wanted to provide some additional support for the region. They received an Awards for All bid and they held a series of events around the region to knit together the whole area. They have received another Awards for All bid to deliver sub-regional events across Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Lancashire and Cumbria.

Final plenary Stronger communications

Facilitator: Michelle Furtado, NFPGS

Michelle has been in post with NFPGS since April and she is funded by MHCLG as part of the Parks Action Group. She will be reaching out to Forums and many of the 7,000 local Friends Groups to understand what people need and inviting groups across the country to attend these events and build the network.

Michelle is mapping the Friends Groups and linking them with networks and forums. Once all these conferences are finished, Michelle will 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 166 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. People want more resources and more protection for parks and green spaces. People feel that some parks are being overly used and commercialised. The survey is also giving us a good picture of what the community groups are doing across the country.

There are currently 70 Forums in the so far, including about 3,000 of the Friends Groups, representing nearly half the total number of 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 the Forum for help with resource and meeting rooms. Forums don't always need a constitution. Universities might be able to help in a similar way to the Councils.

People felt that the creation of Forums across the region is a good idea in theory, but they were wary of how much time it might take, and it had to be worth the effort.

Some Forums are quite new, so they were wary of being able to replicate the more established ones with their regular meetings. However, Forums don't need to be based only on meetings. They can consist of an email list with invitations to various events rather than just big meetings.

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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 with support from 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 several PAG work streams and projects underway, and the Community Empowerment stream (chaired by NFPGS) has organised and funded these conferences.

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 hearing?

- Attendees wanted to know when they can hear the outputs from the PAG. What are they up to? Brexit is delaying things.
- Local Authorities declaring Climate Emergency which means that parks and green space will be seen as essentials. It would benefit groups to link their activities to Council sustainability policy and staff. It will be part of every Councillors portfolio.
- Park and green spaces should generate funds from assets they have e.g. plant nursery, Go Ape, appropriate concerts, apprentice schemes, train people to assess parks with council officer to council benchmarks/standards.
- [Green Flag Awards](#) are a good minimum standard for every park.
- [Fields in Trusts](#) are a good organisation to help get protective covenants in place. 10% of green spaces are already protected for all time. Doncaster just about to get one.

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	14 (78%)	4 (22%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0 (0%)
Venue	18 (100%)	0 (0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0 (0%)
Food and Facilities	15	2	1	0(0%)	0(0%)	0

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	(83%)	(11%)	(6%)			(0%)
Workshop	8 (44%)	5 (28%)	1 (6%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4(22%)
Total	55 (76%)	11(15 %)	2 (3%)	0 (0%)	0(0%)	4 (6%)

	Yes	Blank
I would like help to set up a Friends Forum	9 (50%)	9 (50%)

Comments in Appendix 4.

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APPENDICES

1. Weblink to delegate pack resources

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1P36JrWZ01csN1Vo42GMDHSxOXquS-WWv>

2. Agenda

Time	Session
11:30	Registration and refreshments
12:00	Plenary: welcome, introductions and some key themes
12:30	<p>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:</p> <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	<p>Focused workshops/discussions - part 2 Participants can attend 3 x 30min sessions in total today Part 2: attend 1 x 30min session</p> <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	<p>Final plenary Networking, and developing stronger communications, coordination and sustainability: how do we sustain and build on today's discussions?</p> <p>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?</p>

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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	3	4	15 (27%)
Volunteering and project management	5	4	2	11 (20%)
Partnership working with landowners/managers	3	3	2	8 (15%)
Fundraising	1	4	7	12 (22%)
Promotion and social media	2	5	2	9 (16%)

4. Feedback form comments

Usefulness

5

- Excellent for info. Lots of networking and new friends – light bulb moments!
- Despite thinking we were covering most areas we have come upon a number of valid ideas.
- It was very helpful exchanging and sharing ideas between
- Very informational, useful and inspiring

4

- Well structured programme combining short inputs with ample opportunity for contribution via group work Interesting discussion and ideas
- Most of info already known

Venue

5

- Excellent
- Easy to find from station. Nice feel to it.
- Great facilities, refreshments and lunch
- Good venue
- Excellent – light, airy and comfortable
- Great venue, good buffet
- Swanky

Parks Action Group Community Empowerment Workstream



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Food and facilities

5

- Excellent very good
- Excellent veggie choice
- Varied, tasty and very clean facilities
- Good variety of food.
- Excellent
- Good

4

- Disjointed

Workshops

5

- Excellent organisation
- Always good to swap ideas
- Very valuable
- Useful for networking
- Good exchange of views led by experienced speakers
- Never realised so much support out there
- Not sure I had expectations

4

- Time short, some groups bit large
- Some items confusing

3

- Felt rushed time was taken up by intros for everyone. Suggest time set aside at beginning: No score name where from, 3 positive points, problems that occur.
- Useful for me to share my knowledge & experience and to listen to others
- Informative and helpful

Any other comments

- Great day well organised.
- More info on legal aspects – safeguarding etc, liability/insurance/governance
- Time was well used by it is such a large topic. However little acorns etc... Thank you!
- An intro of everyone before workshops so time is not taken up by over talking. No score name where from, 3 positive points, 3 negatives that effect sites. Lots of information. Very good event. People not getting to the point & off topic wasting time in time limited workshops.

Parks Action Group Community Empowerment Workstream



4. Attendee Websites/Social media

Organisation/Group	Website
Friends of Sandall Park	https://www.sandallpark.org.uk
National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces	www.natfedparks.org.uk
The Conservation Volunteers	www.tcv.org.uk
Leeds City Council	www.leeds.gov.uk
Sunderland Green & Open Spaces Forum	https://sunderlandgosf.wordpress.com
Leeds Parks & Green Spaces Forum	https://www.facebook.com/LeedsParksForum
Doncaster Council	www.doncaster.gov.uk
Friends of the Blue Loop	https://www.facebook.com/theblueloop
Sports Marketing Network	http://www.smnuk.com
Friends of the Craggs	https://conisbroughforward.wordpress.com/friends-of-the-craggs
Bently urban farm	https://bentleyurbanfarm.wordpress.com/index.html
Friends of Quarry Park	https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfQuarryPark
Friends of Prince of Wales Park	https://www.friendsofpowp.org.uk
Friends of Glen Gardens	http://glengardens.org
Friends of Rowntree Park	http://www.rowntreepark.org.uk
Friends of Elmfield Park	https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofElmfieldPark
Green Flag Award (Keep Britain Tidy)	http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk
Groundwork	https://www.groundwork.org.uk
Locality	https://locality.org.uk

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