



The North Sea
Region Programme
2007-2013



Place-keeping through Partnership:

How can we sustain quality green & open spaces in a time of economic constraint?

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Feedback Session Notes

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Key issues to be addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unprecedented level of funding cuts creates need for new solutions. • The feeling of panic, uncertainty about what is going to happen and questions of timescales. • Change may take longer than people think; needs to be communication between organisations. • Expectations of local community and how their perception of open spaces is managed. • How organisations understand each other and how they support place-keeping. • What organisations can, and what they don't want to do. • Understanding of Sheffield City Council (SCC) and third sector relationships.
Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The added value of the third sector - policies and procurements need to reflect and support this. • Innovations: there is a lot going on already – it is about reinvention and realism. • A culture change is needed to increase funding for place-keeping - put pressure on funding bodies. • Promotion of area-based approaches like the East GOSS Pilot. • To raise the profile and promote the benefits of green spaces. Need to communicate and share knowledge - a collective approach. • Adding value rather than subtracting costs. Opportunity for income generation. • A city-wide Friends of Group, drawing down bigger funding pots (formalised as a city-wide Trust?)
Roles and Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC: a changing role, not only delivery but facilitation and co-ordination too. Must continue assessing the evidence base. • Third Sector: how to support SCC in delivery of certain site-based activities, fundraising and exploration of widening responsibilities. • Benefits and limitations of volunteers. • Bigger organisations like Sheffield Wildlife Trust, South Yorkshire Forest Partnership and Green Estate are able to take on a greater land management role, offer more and add value. • University can support evidence base, learning and more efficient working. • GOSS Core Management Group has a role.
Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would the GOSS be better called Sheffield's Great Outdoors? • East GOSS Pilot: need to demonstrate the impact of cuts (what does this mean on the ground? What will my park look like? Will the grass be cut and if so how often?) • Develop the role of volunteers. E.g. skill development of Grounds Maintenance staff. • Assets: what are they worth and what is the best way to use them? • Collect and share information in a central resource- a Sheffield Partnership (reinstatement of the Environment Group?) • Political profile of Green & Open Spaces (short-term) and (Community) Capacity Building (long-term) • Joined up approaches to fundraising - local, regional and national. • Test the politics: leadership, story, delivery. Who pays? Who manages? Who provides?