



Strategies for Developing & Coordinating Volunteer & Friends Group Activity

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Co-ordination Across The UK

- Volunteering comes in many forms e.g. TCV, Groundwork, Keep Britain Tidy, local conservation groups etc.
- Community self-organisation, empowerment and networking - as represented by...
- National Federation
representing movement of 6,000 local groups
- Regional Networks – London
600 groups, Area Forums in 17 boroughs
- Area Forums – Birmingham
120 local groups. Council's key partner



The Role of the Volunteer

- Volunteers are the Added Value to a green space
- Generally can't expect a volunteer to cut grass, manage trees, fix paths etc
- Volunteers need support, guidance, equipment and training
- Should be fun, not duty
- With correct maintenance and communication by the landowner, volunteers can bring in so much extra



Importance of Friends Groups and Forums

- **Current economic crisis**
- **What a group can achieve**
 - *Eyes and ears*
 - *Promotion and usage*
 - *Access to extra funding*
 - *Some help with maintenance*
 - *Helps to protect green space*
 - *Strong community voice*



Remember every group & space is different!!

- **Sustaining involvement – Area Forums**
 - *Communication and networking*
 - *Joint benefits, e.g. insurance*
 - *Representation, stats, lobbying*
 - *Partnership with management*



How The Grass Roots Movement Can Protect our Parks

- Networking, best practice, inspiration
- Achievements of Area Forums
 - *examples of Birmingham and Haringey*
- Achievements of National Federation
 - *Community voice*
 - *Lobbying*
 - *Parks Action Group*
 - *Charter for UK Parks*



Wide benefits to parks, people and communities!

Any Questions?

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