

Brighton and Hove Green space network Project

Partners: Dr Maureen Berg (UoB); Rich Howorth (Biosphere Programme manager) Denise Taylor (City in bloom); Mark Drayton (Trust for Developing Communities) Laura Williams (Community works); Paul Campbell and David Larkin (BHCC)



Background of project

- Green spaces are valuable and important components in Urban Environments (Fig.1)
- Brighton and Hove city council (BHCC) has an Open spaces strategy for all their green spaces promoting a more **sustainable** and **cost-effective** management strategy by increasing **volunteer** and **community groups** involvement.
- Disjointed approach to management, multiple groups per site, partial communication between key partners



Figure 1: The value and importance of Urban green spaces

Project delivery

- Identify Green spaces group characteristics using online survey (volunteer engagement, constitution, activities & top priorities)
- Stakeholders Workshops to discuss the use and need of a larger overarching group.

Green groups characteristics in B&H

- Good response rate with a total of 38 responses incl. 22 out of 38 Friends of groups (Fig.2)
- Key points:
 - Groups are highly dependent on small number of volunteers (78% had less than 20 volunteers)
 - Number of volunteer has changed over the last 5 years, most group have noted an increase in number (Fig.3)
 - Groups are involved in a variety of activities (Fig 4)
 - Groups need support in range of areas: green spaces management, fundraising, Volunteer recruitment (Fig.5)

Conclusion: There is a **disparity** between the groups, and an evident need for **shared practice and experience** between them

Where are we after 6 months?

- Creation of an overarching group: **Brighton and Hove Green spaces forum**
- Developing an online platform to improve communication between groups, promote activities, links to key grants, websites, etc.
- Formalisation of group with constitution and mission statement
- Partners are still involved in the “interim” stage.

Aims of project

- To develop a network between the different groups involved in the management of green spaces within the BHCC area,
- To assess the skills and knowledge of these different groups
- Help formalise the role of volunteers in the delivery of the Open spaces Strategy.

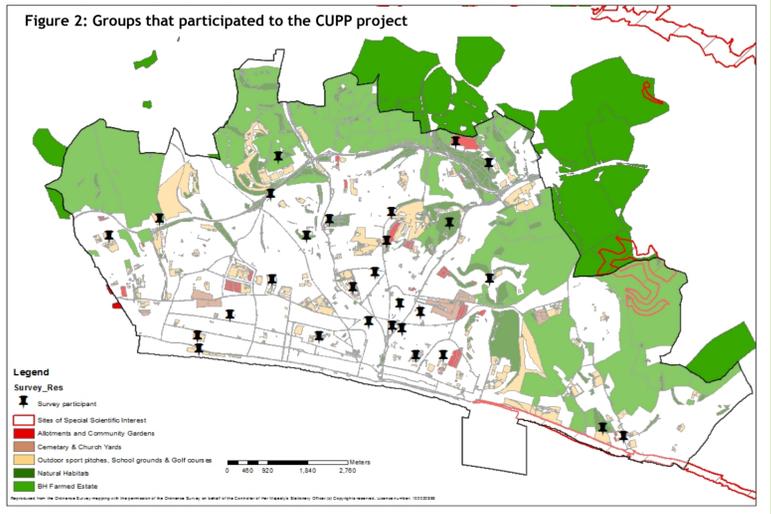


Figure 2: Groups that participated to the CUPP project

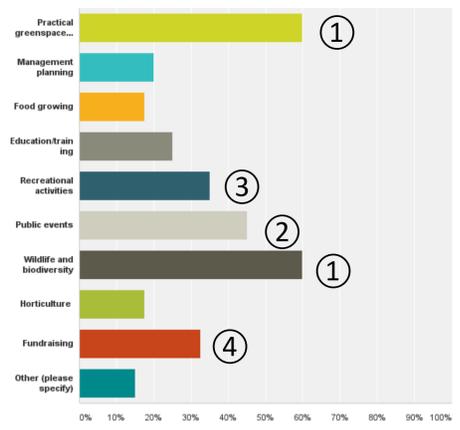


Figure 4: Activities taking place in the different groups

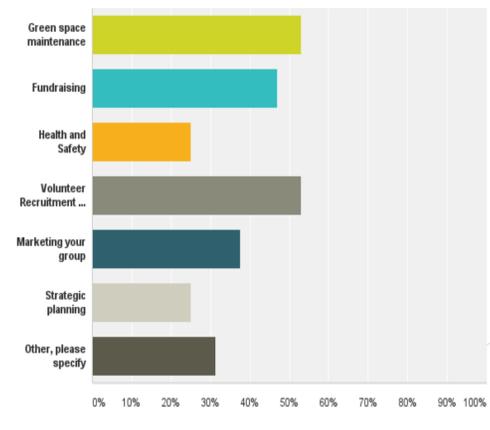


Figure 5: Top priorities identified by each group



Figure 3: Change in the number of active volunteer over the last 5 years