



NOTES from Green Network Online meeting 2.12.24 10.30am – 12.00pm

In attendance:

Sarah Wild	Heeley City Farm, Sheffield
Gavin King	Manvers Lake Trust
Amy Gardiner	Voluntary Action Rotherham Community Connector Team
Ann- Marie Elliot	Social Enterprise around bumblebee conservation
Gavin King	Manvers Lake Trust, Rotherham
Diane Cairns	Manor Castle Development Trust, Sheffield
Leah Booker	Free to be You, Sheffield
Fran Humphries	Oasis Gardening Group (Flourish Sheffield)
Margaret Barker	Social Prescribing Link Worker – West 3 PCN
Helen Taylor	SOAR, Sheffield
Sonya Brown	Green Generation Officer Bassetlaw
Helen Todd	Forest Bathing practitioner
Julie	Doncaster Mind
Jane Shields	Bloom Sheffield
Jack Hurrell	Groundwork Yorkshire
Abi Hague	High Street Centre Rawmarsh
Nasreen Aziz	YAWR Services, Rotherham
Marianne Turner	Active Travel Doncaster
Cassa Townsend	Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust
Cathy Slater	Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust

Themed discussion around Winter Wellbeing activities – how to keep people interested in getting outdoors over the winter when the days are shorter and the weather is wetter and colder!

Jane Shields from Bloom Sheffield talked about their Winter Wellbeing programme: offering activities throughout the winter came about due to several issues in previously having to close their activities over the winter:

- Lack of continuity for staff who had to be let go in late autumn, then re-hiring in Spring.
- For participants who want to stay engaged and get the benefits of activity all year round.

Bloom Sheffield have allotment and garden spaces in Heeley, Meersbrook and in Wortley (North Sheffield) and also run activities such as yoga and crafts in partnership with others and using a variety of venues across the City. They have a mixed business model of semi-commercial, semi-social prescribing activity. This helps to balance how they generate income and stay sustainable. They also run a small shop in Woodseats, Sheffield. Jane described how

they allow for a mix of indoor and outdoor activities over winter. You can find out more on the Bloom Sheffield website here: <https://www.bloomssheffield.com/winter-wellbeing>

Diane Cairns from Manor & Castle Development Trust talked about how they continue running outdoor gardening activities over winter – always offering a shelter and hot drinks or soup to keep people warm (with 8 people walking to take part during the recent snowy week!)

Discussion on future of Green Network – what do we want to Green Network to look like and do for us?

People used an interactive Miro Whiteboard to give views on the following two questions:

How can you help the Green Network? Answers included:

“Skills share day – teaching each other how to do activities eg wreath-making”

“Visiting artists and providers”

“Host a visit to your project”

“Starter pack for new projects”

“Sharing funding ideas with others, collaborative bid application and work”

“Trips to other projects to get inspiration and new ideas”

“Meeting space”

What are our longer term aspirations for the Green Network? Answers included:

“A way of being able to continue beyond funding”

“Combining face to face meetings/networking with nature connection activities”

“Buddying up”

“Ideas for a February meeting topic – sustainability of projects – continuity of provision if funding/staffing ends”

“Interactive map of GSP activity in South Yorkshire”

“Library of physical resources - tool share/materials/seeds/clothing etc...”

“Freecycle-type space to share gardening used resources and clothing”

“A way of matching practitioners and providers/ community groups”

You can read the responses, and add your own thoughts and ideas (via the virtual “sticky notes” icon – third down on the left hand menu, see the screenshot below) on our shared Miro board here: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVL9MV0IA=/?share_link_id=302852592299

There was overwhelming support for quarterly meetings going forward so we will be in touch in the New Year with the next online meeting date for early March 2025.

Many thanks to all in the Green Network for all of the amazing activity out there and for supporting each other via this network. If you are reading these notes and aren't already

subscribed, please visit this webpage, scroll down and sign up!

<https://www.wildsheffield.com/getinvolved/the-green-network/>

As always, if you have any queries or questions, please get in touch on greenprescribing@wildsheffield.com

