

Celebrating Exeter's Green Space Network Meeting

Thursday 16 February 2017 at Exeter CVS/CoLab

Group Exercise Feedback

What would a network look like that meets your needs and expectations?

- Regular face to face meetings, like this event – both formal organised meetings alongside a more informal/social events
- Links/updates/visits to Exeter based projects
- A method to flag need and have people respond with offer of help/ideas
- Sharing equipment/access to skills e.g. tree surgery
- Sharing materials – everything from wood to top soil
- Sharing plants and seeds
- Strategy to link projects/green spaces to 'make the whole greater than the sum of the parts'
- Database of who's who....contact, what they do, know, have, need – who do I ask for what, not to reinvent the wheel (a mapping Exercise – a survey of where in the City needs greening most, where is most need?)
- Online forum, database, contact info etc.
- Good site map index
- Handy tips
- Info for new groups setting up
- Strategy documents
- Information on permissions/policies
- Regular updates
- Information on grants
- Templates documents – constitutions, policies and procedures, risk assessments, general resources
- Joint voice to Exeter City Council/Devon Wildlife Trust
- Services and supplies
- Bulk buying
- Skill sharing

What can you contribute to the network?

- Knowledge and experience
- Fundraising
- Building
- Horticulture
- Working with contractors and other organisations
- Information resources e.g. building suppliers
- Knowledge sharing – good value on purchases
- Expertise and advice

- Opportunities to volunteer, get involved, events and activities
- Handy tips
- Wildlife Friendly knowledge Enthusiasm
- Motivating people
- Connecting people up
- Networking
- Knowledge of social media
- Share and learn from past activities, actions and experiences

What barriers do you need to overcome?

- Lack of contact between projects in the City
- Individual projects lack volunteers with physical strength and building skills
- Understanding of legal issues, need access to low cost help around liability, health and safety, legal structures, safeguarding policy, insurance, budgeting and accounting, company interest companies – take responsibility for leases etc.
- Safe planting knowledge e.g. non toxic
- Access to water – rain share initiative
- Rubbish bins, lack of recycling/compost – access to equipment to facilitate
- Use of mini digger/shredder
- Isolation – we are out on our own
- Knowing who to speak to
- Going from campaign group to organisation
- Finding funds to upkeep

What do you want to happen next and how can Exeter Green Partnership, Exeter City Council and Exeter CVS support you?

- Summary of ideas from tonight's event
- List of groups and contact details
- Follow up meeting (s) to build on tonight, including less formal events
- A couple of suggestions priorities for follow up/skill sharing, based on CVS assessment of most common areas of interest
- Create a hub we can feed into and to maintain it
- Co-operation with existing schemes
- Skills swap survey
- More collaboration between existing projects
- Joint funding bids to work across the partnership
- More face to face meeting to support individual need
- Exeter Green Partnership uses current co-ordinators time to collate information e.g. contacts, info, resources – this information is then uploaded to a stable, established website/organisation E.G. Exeter Community Forum or Exeter CVS
- Regular Network

- Themed discussions e.g. funding, volunteers, skills etc.
- Need a central information hub
- Meeting with real people on a regular basis, extended to community
- Skills sharing workshop
- Funding workshop

Next Steps

- To set up a working group – more information to follow
- To send out a simple questionnaire for mapping groups across Exeter and a skills audit
- To set up a Green Facebook page
- To set a date for a follow up network event