

## Gatwick Greenspace Partnership - Our Work in 2008-09

### Environmental conservation:

- Our volunteer groups work on all the major local habitats - heathland, woodland, meadows, ponds and urban greenspaces, all featured in the Surrey and Sussex Biodiversity Action Plans
- The sites we work on include 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 7 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and one Local Nature Reserve, reflecting the rich, but often under appreciated, landscape of the local area
- Development of Greenspaces matrix for Crawley to help prioritise management
- Working with RBBC on their green infrastructure planning
- Revision of our Strategic Plan, which outlines our priorities for the next 5 years



### **Strategic Value**

Our varied work - biodiversity management and advice, with elements of volunteering and community involvement, health & wellbeing and education helps address many areas of our partners' strategic agendas and we co-ordinate cross border issues. These include s.40 of the NERC Act 2006, which requires all public authorities to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity. We help deliver N.I. 197- the active management of sites for biodiversity, and N.I.6 (participation in regular volunteering) On a more local level it can deliver elements from LDFs, strategies on Greenspace and Community Involvement and Biodiversity Action Plans.

### Access and Health

- Led 17 guided walks across the Partnership area
- Additional funding from Crawley Borough Council allowed us to develop a series of new circular "Greenways" walks for them
- An innovative funding bid to the West Sussex PCT and Crawley Wellbeing has given us the funding to develop our two year "Green Health" project. Barry Wildish was employed in February as our Green Health officer. His role will allow the expansion of the successful Crawley Health Walks programme (63 walks in 2008-09) and the development of volunteer opportunities for adults with mental health problems, through gardening and practical habitat management

### Community Involvement

- Assisted the Crawley Museum Society, with their successful HLF Lottery bid, for £50,000, with direct help in developing the Miller's Trail walk leaflet.
- Support for two other volunteer groups: the Woodland Trust "Woodies" who work at sites around Charlwood and Newdigate, and the "Friends of St. Leonard's Forest"

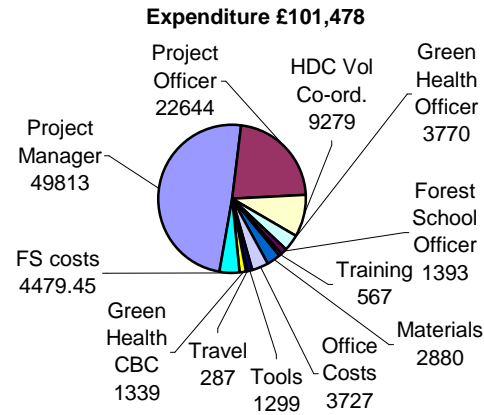
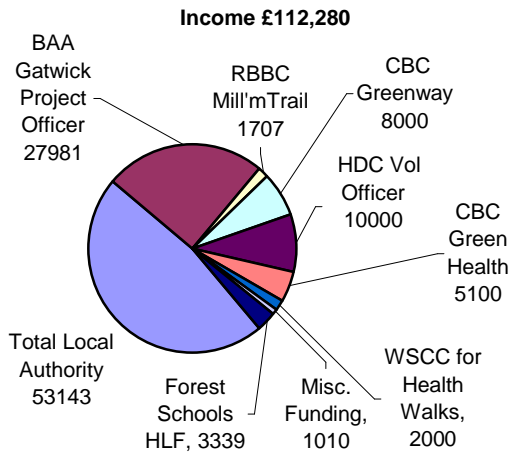
### Volunteering

- The weekly GGP volunteers delivered 3606 hours of their time, on 65 work days, on 18 different sites.
- 10 different corporate groups volunteered. This increased business involvement is due to the BAA Communities Trust funding the Project Officer role.
- In September 2008 we took on Kevin Lerwill as a volunteer co-ordinator for the many groups in Horsham, funded by the District Council and Horsham in Bloom. He supports 10 groups, doing some 2500 hours of work
- We also have volunteer walk leaders and admin support.
- In total we co-ordinate some 6,000 hours of volunteer time, with a notional value of £45,000!

### Education

- In February 2009, Tom Forward joined us on a three year contract as a Forest Schools co-ordinator, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund's "Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership". We were awarded £74,566 of lottery funding, towards the total project cost of £154,158, with additional support coming from West Sussex County Council and the BAA Communities Trust. The project will also generate its own funds.

## GGP Income and Expenditure 2008-09



Partnership core funding provides 47% of our total income with 53% coming from project funding. In-kind support provides the accommodation (CBC), vehicle (Gatwick) and back-office support (SxWT)

GGP is managed by Sussex Wildlife Trust for the following partners:



London **Gatwick Airport**

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[www.sussexwt.org.uk/community/index.htm](http://www.sussexwt.org.uk/community/index.htm)

# Annual Report 2008-09



Working for people and wildlife in your local communities:  
 Horley, Crawley, Charlwood, Horsham