

National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces



Evaluation Report

The NFPGS World Parks Day Conference

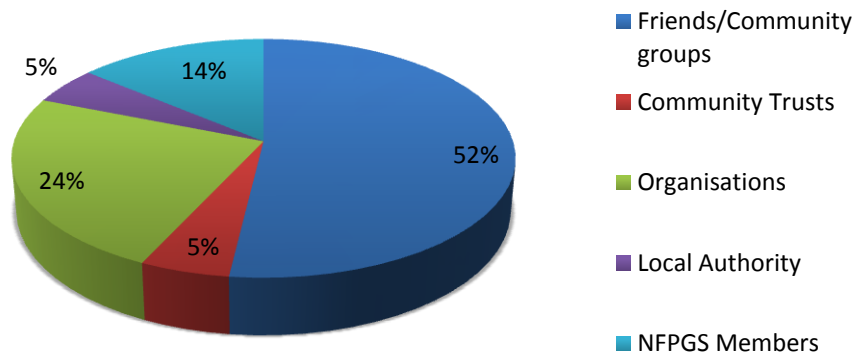
Saturday 17th September, Austin Court, Birmingham

Sponsored by Big Lottery Fund, Birmingham City Council, Quadron
and supported by GreenSpace



The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (NFPGS) held the first ever 'grass roots' national conference at Austin Court, Birmingham on Saturday 17th September.

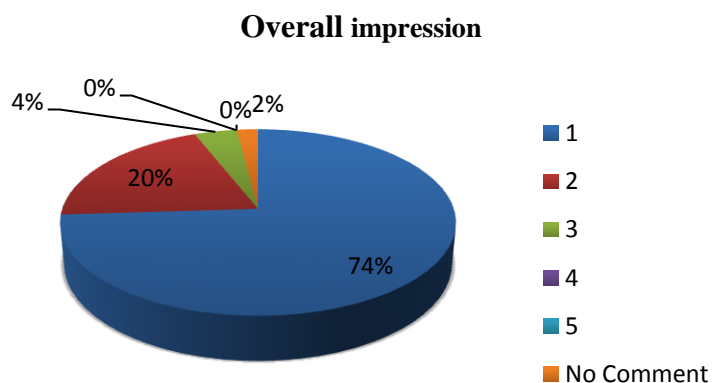
Types of delegates in attendance



The conference was attended by 79 delegates from around the UK, of whom 50 (63%) returned their evaluation forms.

On the following pages you will find the results and feedback supplied by the delegates.

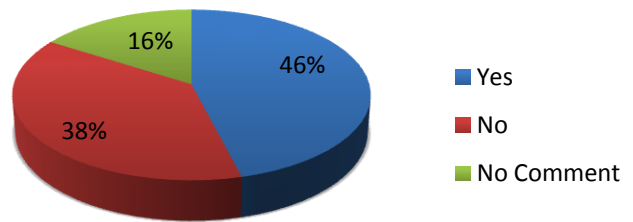
Q1)
On a scale of 1-5 (1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor). How would you rate the Conference overall?



Q2)

Is your Forum a member of the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces?

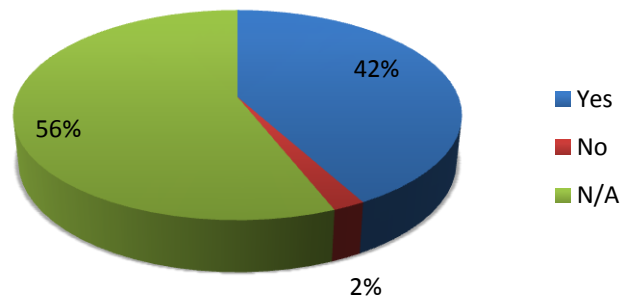
Is your Forum a member of the NFPGS?



Q3)

If you are not a member of a Forum yet, would you be interested in being part of one?

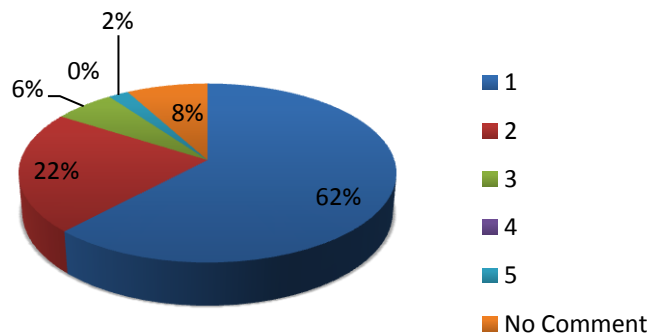
If not, would you be interested in being part of one?



Q4)

On a scale of 1-5 (1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor). How would you rate the booking process?

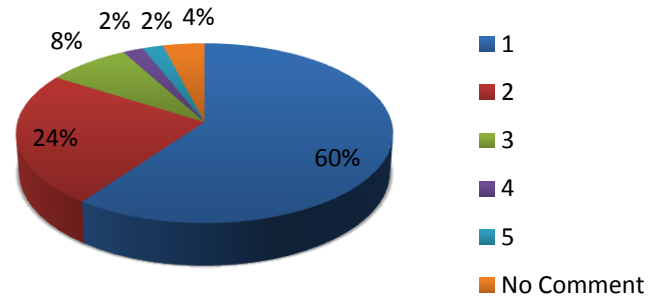
Booking Process



Q5)

On a scale of 1-5
(1 = Excellent,
5 = Poor).
How would you
rate the pre-event
confirmation
information?

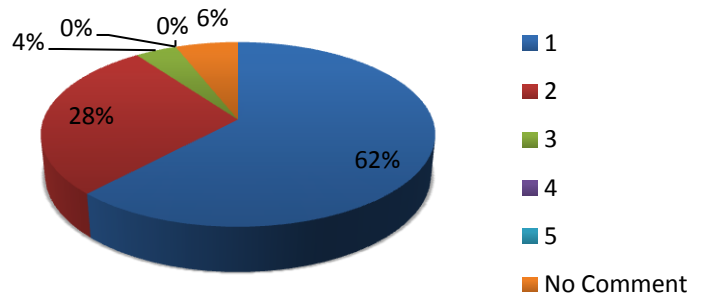
Pre-event confirmation information



Q6)

On a scale of 1-5
(1 = Excellent,
5 = Poor).
How would you
rate the
registration
process?

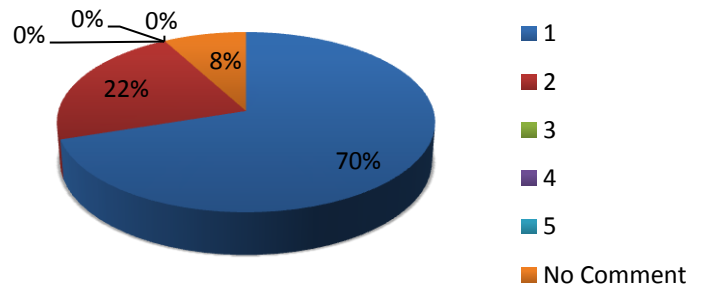
Registration process



Q7)

On a scale of 1-5
(1 = Excellent, 5 =
Poor).
How would you
rate the
location/event
venue?

Location/event venue

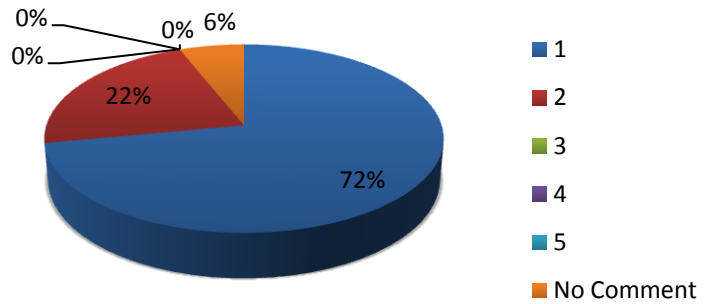


Q8)

How would you rate individual speakers?

(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

How to find funding for your green space - Viv Cole, Warley Woods Community Trust

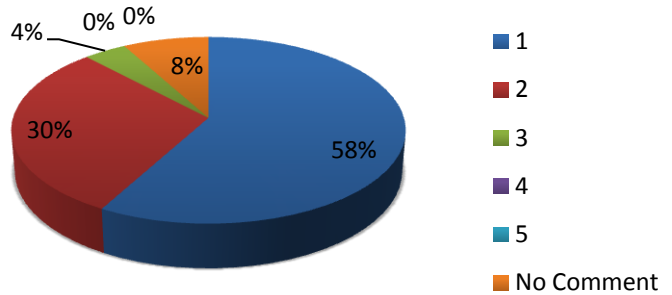


Q9)

How would you rate individual speakers?

(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

The health benefits of green space - Valerie Little, Dudley Director of Public Health

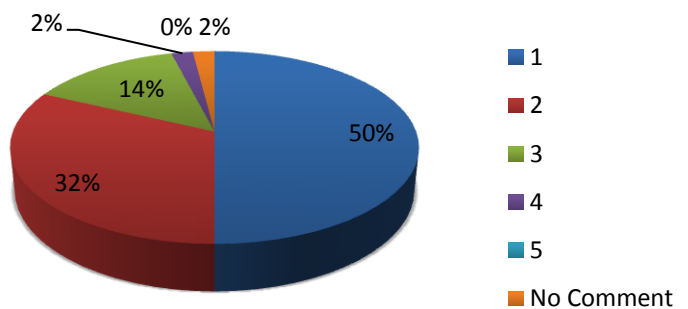


Q10)

How would you rate individual speakers?

(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

Making the most of our assets: the example of Birkenhead Park - Professor Robert Lee, Wirral Parks Forum

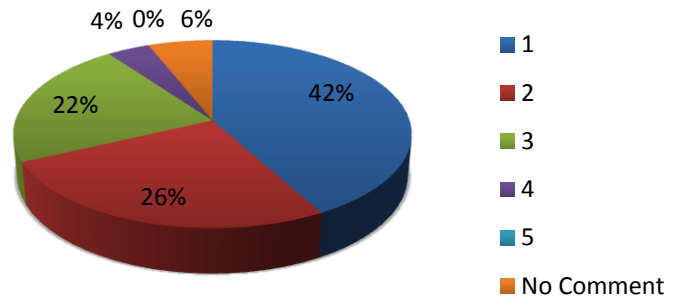


Q11)

How would you rate individual speakers?

(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

Lobbying for adequate resources for the UK's green spaces - Dave Morris, London Green Spaces Friends Groups Network

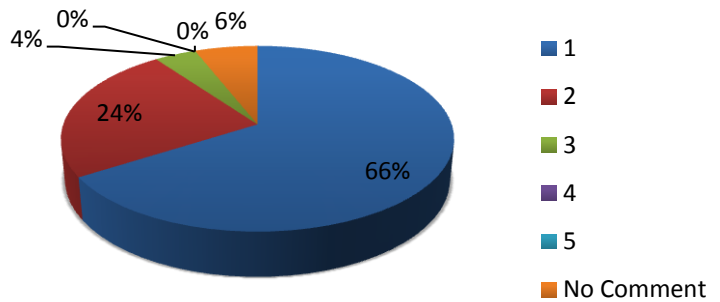


Q12)

How would you rate individual speakers?

(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

Empowerment - What we can achieve together - Emma Woolf, Birmingham Open Spaces Forum

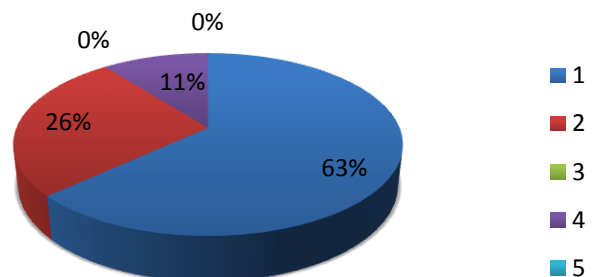


Q13)

How would you rate individual sessions?

(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

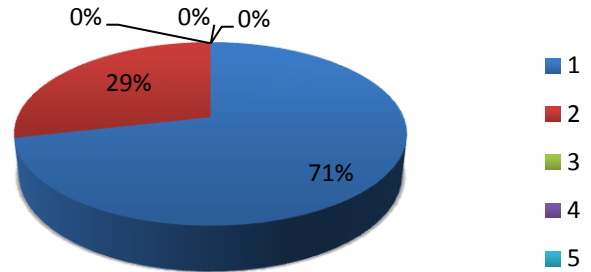
Finding funding for your green space - Viv Cole, Warley Woods Community Trust



Responses received from 19 delegates Q14)

How would you rate individual sessions?
(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

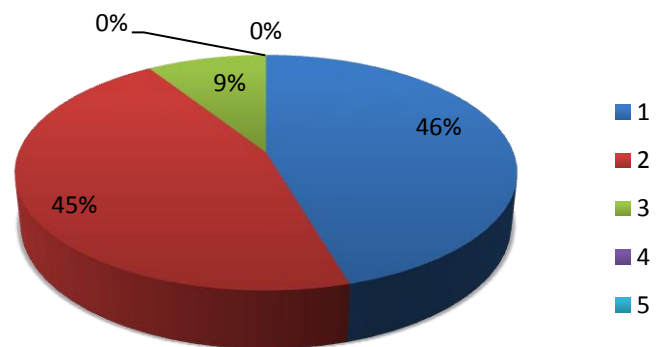
Empowering ourselves and forming Forums - Emma Woolf, Birmingham Open Spaces Forum



Responses received from 7 delegates Q15)

How would you rate individual sessions?
(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

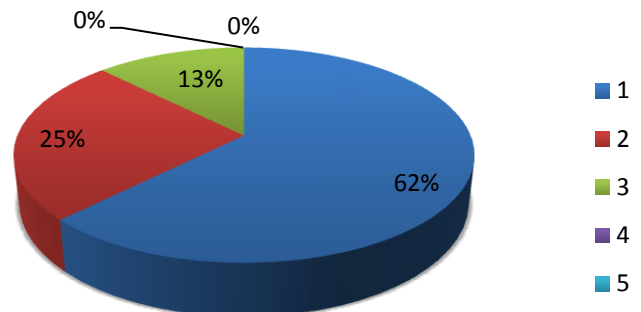
Nature and Biodiversity (Wildflowers) - Richard Scott, National Wildflower Centre



Responses received from 11 delegates Q16)

How would you rate individual sessions?
(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

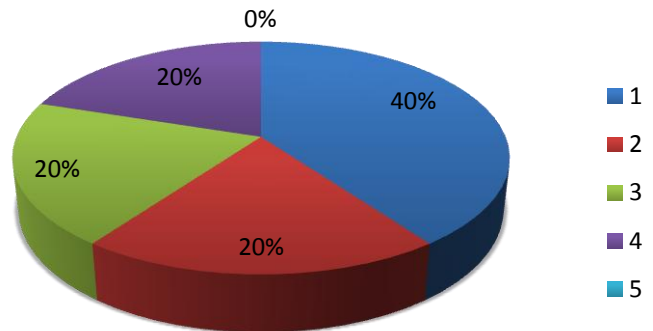
Nature Investigation - Dr Adam Bates, The Open Air Laboratories (OPAL)



Responses received from 8 delegates Q17)

How would you rate individual sessions?
(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

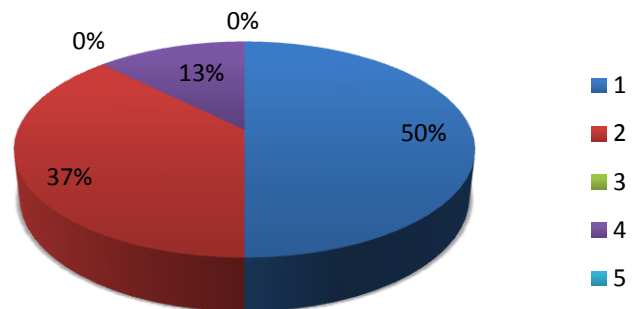
Volunteers and Community - Tony Newby, BTCV



Responses received from 5 delegates Q18)

How would you rate individual sessions?
(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

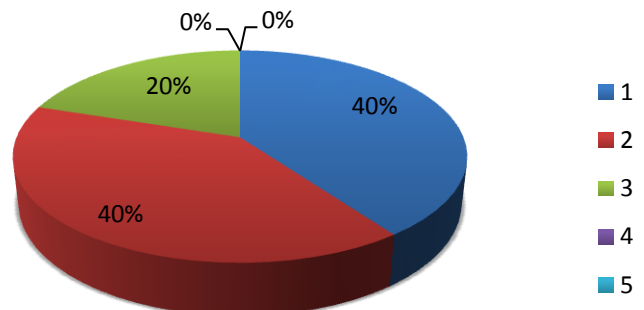
Health and Activity - Karen Jerwood, Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Partnership



Responses received from 8 delegates Q19)

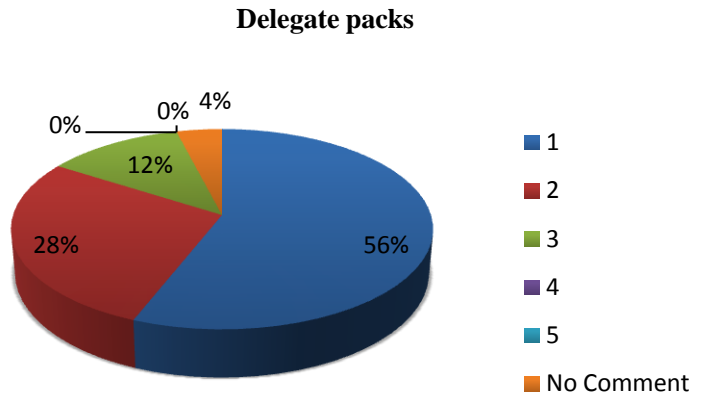
How would you rate individual sessions?
(1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

Lobbying for adequate resources for all green spaces - Dave Morris, London Green Spaces Friends Groups Network



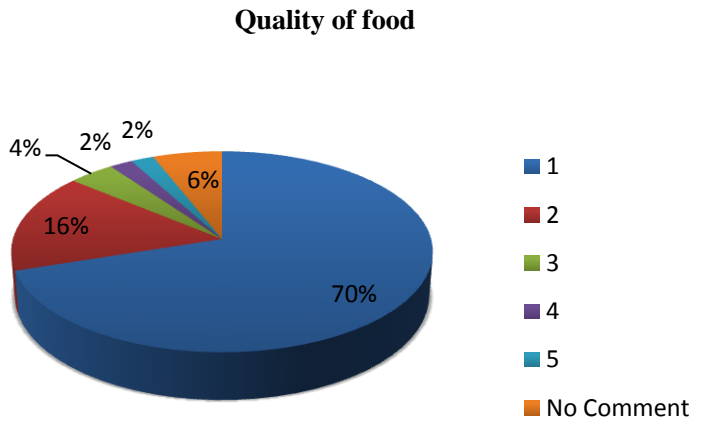
Responses received from 10 delegates Q20)

On a scale of 1-5 (1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor). How would you rate the delegate pack?



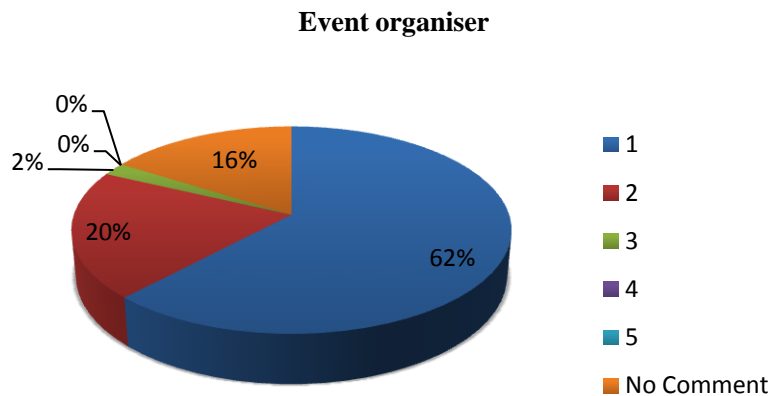
Q21)

On a scale of 1-5 (1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor). How would you rate the quality of food?

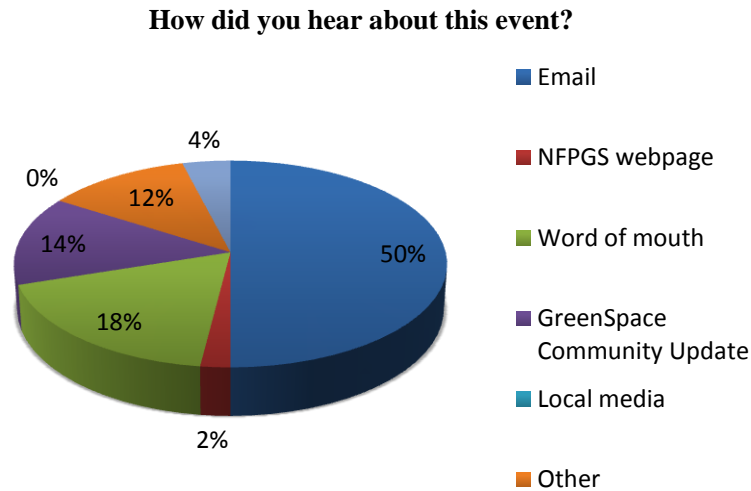


Q22)

On a scale of 1-5 (1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor). How would you rate the event organiser?



Q23) How did you hear about this event?



Q24) What topics would you like to see covered at a future NFPGS conference?

A follow up session of a few projects which may be in the pipeline now

More information on strategy planning

Involving hard to reach groups

Perhaps representation 'from the other side' ie public sector representation to give inside account & issues facing council employees and how it relates to friends groups and how we can work together More detailed issues at workshops ie working with specific groups and problems/opportunities

Could really do with help on who to approach for funding - good to see more info on what other parks can do

More success stories

Continue reporting on the topics covered and add feedback on lobbying

Successful projects happening now - perhaps some that are not so successful

Fighting destructive developments

Role of rangers & park keepers. Contractors/Service providers, observations

Motivational psychology for friends groups (keep the momentum going)

More emphasis on small urban parks with no charitable status

Park management strategies including 'park keeper' development

Social enterprise and community interest groups running parks

Food growing within public spaces (community)

Perhaps hands on award application writing - use case studies, skill development
Educational use of parks and green spaces, examples of young people led projects
Hoc government officers spelling out the relationship between their core strategies and actual practice - it seems volunteers are doing a huge amount of work gratis & fulfil borough objectives

Liaison with local authority

Implications of policy changes and what groups can do to campaign against changes

View from landowners/council etc. on how to work with them, How to choose 'contractors' for building work etc.

Running a project from start to finish

Climate change

Help with websites, information on becoming a charity

Parks for Play - importance of good design

What are the ingredients of a well-used park?

Marketing and promotion of parks events.

Planning & legal issues for park based facility construction

Q25) Please provide any other comments or suggestions that you think may help us improve our future NFPGS conferences:

Good location, thanks Lottery and sponsors - like the bags however badges need to be bigger

Lunchtime - tables and chairs please, Good location but maybe take the conference to other cities

More delegates

Great central venue, perhaps include a couple of subject based presentations ie "a successful arts project" or a dogshow event beginning to end

Have it in the winter - I know of people who cannot be here because they are at other events, also don't hold the conference in school holidays/ Perhaps hold the conference later in the year, lots of events going on at the moment, more people could attend

Loved it - can't wait for the next one



More nature reserves/less parks also email info earlier to wider range of groups. How about an event in London? Share delegates emails with all, bigger font on name badges please, on delegate list brief description of group/site to help find others with similar projects to talk to at lunch, looking forward to the setting up of the website
Obvious disparity between fundraising and lobbying, they almost appeared divergent. Almost seems to merit two conferences or split between morning and afternoon

More chairs to sit on when eating/ not enough seating at lunch

Practical sessions, more consultation with members, seats and tables at lunch, have event at one of the parks/green spaces

I think this event has been an eye-opener - have really enjoyed myself, will be spreading the word

A lot packed into a busy day therefore good value for money. Any more stuff or any less time and depth would be too shallow or subjects addressed too numerous. More stuff on woodlands as well as parks please. There are also other types of 'open spaces' with voluntary groups e.g. cemeteries

The 60 second presentations were good after lunch - well worth repeating this format
More information available to take back or download after the event; particularly with regards to the notes on the lectures

Morning in the hall is too long; vegan food is easy to provide and ecologically sustainable

Very good day, liked the friends all coming together to share their ideas

Loved 60 second presentations, vice-chair speaking picked up, whispers/paper shuffling in other presentations and wheelchair space by door - very distracting with late comers and noise from corridor. Would like presentations available in the delegate packs to put notes against as speakers presented.

Wicksteed are happy to exhibit again next year. Good choice of venue, please keep it in Birmingham. Please provide email contacts within the delegate list in future as all those that came to our stand requested info to be emailed to them - this would allow more time for quality discussion during the lunch period



The talks were good - but the time for questions was non-existent - better to have fewer subjects and deal with them in more detail

Please share the slides from the presentations with the attendees

Other comments received via email:

A great day yesterday, congratulations to all who put the hard work in to make it happen. Highlights were when Robert mentioned the ginger wig and said that Tom would be jealous, and the delightful black lady who gave us 60 seconds of achievements only because her mate chickened out at the last minute. I enjoyed it all. The speakers were super, the workshop I attended was lively and informative, and the pint I had on the way back to the station was most welcome.

I particularly enjoyed presentations of Viv Cole, Valerie Little and Professor Lee. Networking with Darren Share at lunch time has proved invaluable as it is quite impossible to speak to him or the man under him via work as they are so well protected - a positive breakthrough and so useful!

Brilliant conference Lucy. I've been to many of different sorts in my time and this one ranked well up there with the best. I commented on my feedback sheet so to give much more praise would beg suspicion of ulterior motive of some sort! A repeat next year would be just as successful I'm sure. A directory of Friends groups and the like and development of regional/county forums must a priority for the Federation I would have thought? Although now you'll tell me this has all been done already and I really need to catch up!

I spent a lot of this morning going through my copious notes and writing about all the things I shall be enthusing about to our committee! Looking forward to the next conference already!! Well done to everyone whose hard work made it such a brilliant and really useful day.

Thank you for an enjoyable and informative conference. I look forward to the next one.

I would just like to say a big thank you to you and all who made this such a worthwhile day it was so nice to meet people like me who love all the green space we have.

Thank you to those people who gave us their comments, it will help us to improve future events.





Report compiled
by

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