



### 3. Doorstep Greens Monitor - Annemarie Thomas, DG National Casework Officer.

As Doorstep Greens draws to a successful conclusion, the majority of my work this year is concerned with making sure that as far as possible, the loose ends that could trip people up in the future, are tied up.

This sort of work is not glamorous, nor is it particularly exciting, but for the 'completer-finishers' amongst us, it is as important as the shiny stuff that went before.

Over the past few months I have been looking at the work that we all need to do to make sure that the initiative is finished properly and so have been mainly concentrating on legal document compliance. Malford Harris (the initiative's legal adviser) will be completing three more legal audits during 2006, in May, July and October and to ensure that all project files have been checked after they became compliant - the audits will be double-headers.

This creates extra work, but it is the only way to make sure that we can address any future problems that may have been overlooked.

In addition to the legal compliance work, we have to make preparations for the long term storage of the project files taking in to account not only the requirements of the Countryside Agency, but also the Big Lottery Fund.

To ensure that the creation grant terms and conditions are met, we also need to impress upon DG groups the requirement for correct signage to be installed on their greens. Dave Haygarth is building up a photograph database (see below) of all of the signs. The formal completion certificate for projects can't be issued until an appropriate, permanent sign is on display. Without a sign, final grant claims can't be paid.

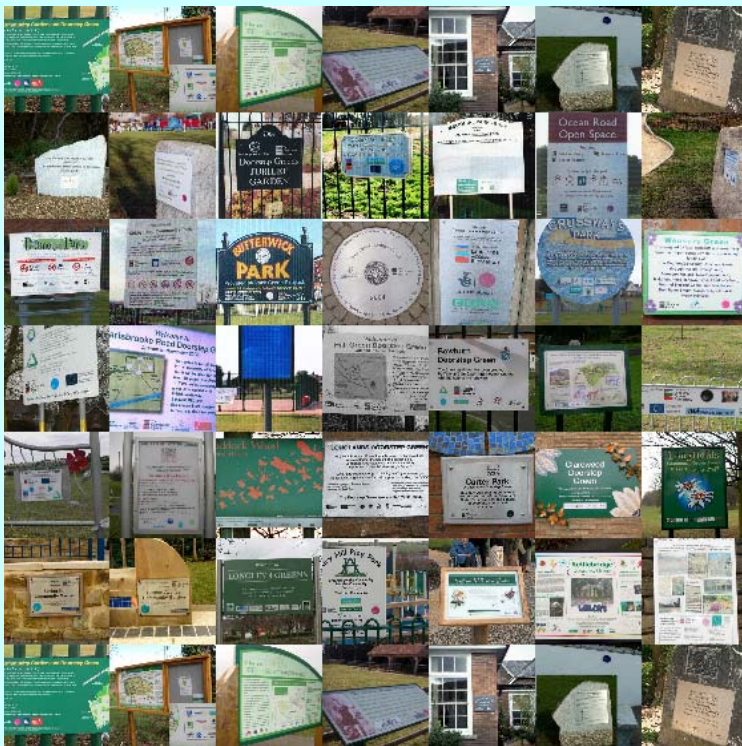


All of the above are necessary steps that need to be taken to draw the project to a close.

Five years ago, sitting in a hotel in Nottingham at the first Doorstep Greens training event, I didn't think that I'd still be here at the end. It doesn't seem five minutes since those early days. I've had a lot of fun working on the project, met a lot of very nice people, undertaken some interesting site visits, one where a colleagues sandwiches were stolen from her bag by a passing dog, another where the same colleague fell into a water filled ditch whilst we were trying to get on to the proposed site (amongst other words and phrases, she commented at the time that she thought that sites were meant to be accessible for all)! Now, here we all are with a few months to go and just a little bit of tidying up to do, as well as 194 green spaces that weren't there before.

### 4. Photo of the month

#### Time of the Signs.



Just a few of the permanent signs displayed on Doorstep Greens  
See story above.  
View more photos of Doorstep Greens on the 'Resources' are of our [website](#).

### 5. Further information:

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### 6. Networking

Communicate online and get all the latest news – not just for Doorstep Greens, but across the whole parks and green spaces scene.

[www.greenspace.net.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.greenspace.net.countryside.gov.uk)