



### **Volunteer Green Police Volunteer Coordinator**

#### **The role**

It is intended that this volunteer role will recruit and manage a group of around 8-12 student volunteers who will provide a Green Police presence in the community and at local events in order to promote environmental stewardship in Kingston upon Thames. The Green Police Programme offers a creative, unique and worthwhile volunteering experience for young people in Kingston by supporting groups of volunteers to improve local environments and promote environmental stewardship and access to nature for children, young people and families. For a summary of the history and the aims of the Green Police Programme see page two.

**Tasks** that it is intended that the volunteer coordinator will undertake are:

- Advertising and recruiting student Green Police Volunteers
- Co-delivering training with SWC Director/Project Officer
- Identifying opportunities for establishing a Green Police presence in the borough
- Coordinating GP activity and acting as the main contact for GP volunteers
- Working with the SWC Director/project officer to develop and implement monitoring and evaluation systems
- Working with students to create a Green Police brand with a look and feel that works for students in Kingston. The pictures provided illustrate how the Green Police uniform was tailored to the style, ethos and atmosphere of Glastonbury festival – however we recognise that this may need to be adapted for work in Kingston. Also, if necessary, the name could be adapted.

#### **Hours**

Flexible, ideally 7 hours a week

## The Green Police Story



The Green Police use humour, fun and creativity to deliver a serious message about the importance of looking after local environments. SWC's Green Police programme started at Glastonbury Festival in 1996 to encourage litter picking and expanded to tackle issues such as preventing pollution of water and natural habitats, encouraging waste management and promoting environmental stewardship. Groups of around 170

volunteers committed to improving the well-being of people and the planet were trained to undertake a range of practical on-site activities using humour and arts to encourage pro-environmental attitudes and behaviour.

SWC aims to establish a Green Police presence in Kingston upon Thames. The need for this project has emerged from SWC's original and very successful Green Police programme at Glastonbury festival, and more recently through the work of SWC's Director, Jo Butcher. She has worked with GLA staff and the Mayor's young advisers 'the Lynk Up Crew' in her capacity as a London Leader and member of the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC) Sowing the Seeds steering group, to gather their ideas and views on how access to nature can be improved for London's children. The young people's ideas included setting up 'environmental police' whose role is to promote accessible, safe and child and family friendly natural spaces. They would also like nature sites and routes signposted in local areas, which we are proposing the Kingston Green Police will do.

The aim of the Kingston Green Police Programme is to create and sustain clean, safe, pleasant and healthy public spaces that promote a sense of pride in the local environment, prevent pollution and waste, facilitate access for all citizens and encourage community engagement and action. The Green Police do this by providing practical advice and support with regard to looking after local environments - providing a fun, friendly and approachable presence in public and community spaces



and venues. In addition to helping individuals take responsibility for caring for the environment, the Green Police will act as 'Welcome Ambassadors' to visitors, providing general information and advice including signposting on where and how to use local nature sites and green spaces for enjoyment and well-being. They will have a distinctive Green Police uniform that offers a strong identity for environmental stewardship in the borough. The name Green Police is a play on 'Green Peace'. Its ethos is not enforcement - volunteers engage people in caring for themselves and the environment using humour and without preaching. In addition to the tangible benefits the programme delivers for the environment and those who enjoy it,

the Green Police effectively facilitates volunteer engagement and action supporting participants to gain new skills and confidence through their work in the community and meeting new people.