Ethnic Communities and Involvement in Green Spaces
BEN Focus Group - Manchester

Date: 16th Dec. 2002
Venue: Barnhill Childcare Centre, Mossside, Manchester
Facilitator: Henry Adomako
Scribe   Saleem Oppal
Participants: Liz. Drysdale: Barnhill Childcare Centre. Various ethnic communities - Manager
               Mai Young: Wai Yin Women's Chinese Society . Chinese community - Development worker
               Daniel Yupet: New Tree Aid. Sudanese Community - Development worker
               Shorn Braitwaite: Afro-Caribbean Community - Environmental Activist

Apologies: Ruhel Ahmed, Akeel Quershi, Robina Shar, Sundus Slam, Colin Floyed, Anita Lawsin, Delaina Lawson

Note: When working with community members, sometimes many legitimate unforeseen difficulties can result in a low turnout which may be unacceptable for a focus group. However, because of the comprehensive discussion and the quality of information resulting from the group, it was decided that the report will make a valid contribution to the understanding of issues around green spaces and ethnic community involvement. Additionally, his paper was shared with those who were unable to attend. They felt that they were in agreement with the information.

1)   *How many of you were interested in green spaces before we asked you to be involved in this focus group?*

4 out of 4

2)   *What is a green space?*

There were various contributions from the group about the types of green spaces. Half of the group gave examples of urban green spaces from their immediate surroundings, whilst others referred to green spaces in the countryside and around the urban fringe.
The group defined green spaces as open spaces with greenery and trees.
All of them agreed , when talking about green spaces, urban ones as well as those further afield should be included. This is because as a whole, they can give a related range of experiences to urban ethnic communities and benefit their quality of life in different ways.

Some green spaces named:

Parks	Green belt lands
Gardens	Woodlands
Lay-bys	Wild lands
Playgrounds	Waste grounds