

# how to create quality parks & open spaces



# foreword

This government continues to believe that the quality of our public spaces has a profound effect on how people feel about their local area. We know that people want to live in places that are clean, safe, more attractive and welcoming. Places that encourage and foster greater social interaction and create stronger communities with a sense of belonging. Neighbourhoods where crime, anti-social behaviour and disrespect for people and the physical environment is not tolerated.

Across government we are committed to delivering cleaner, safer and greener communities but we seek not just to repair and build. We work with and for local people to ensure that they have the powers they need to create communities which are thriving, cohesive and sustainable – places with better services and a commitment to building active and democratic communities at every level.

I am therefore delighted to introduce updates to our 'How to' series of guides. First published in 2005 as part of our 'How to' programme, the guides have supported practitioners and local communities to take more effective and innovative action to improve the quality of their town centres, residential areas and parks and open spaces. The revised guides bring together information on the key activities across government that are helping to improve the quality of public spaces and highlight the tools and approaches that are already making a difference on the ground.

We recognise that local authorities and their partners can face difficult challenges when delivering change on the ground. A key feature of the 'How to' programme is to demonstrate what can be achieved and challenge local authorities to raise their ambitions with the help of government and the support of their peers. These guides showcase a range of examples of where change really has been achieved, I hope these examples and the tools in the guide inspire you to consider how similar approaches might be adopted in your areas.

Through the 'How to' programme we will continue to work with practitioners in local authorities and other bodies at all levels, to ensure they have the information they need to make their local environment a better place to live and work. By working together we can help create a sustainable community for all.

**Baroness Andrews OBE**  
**Communities and Local Government**



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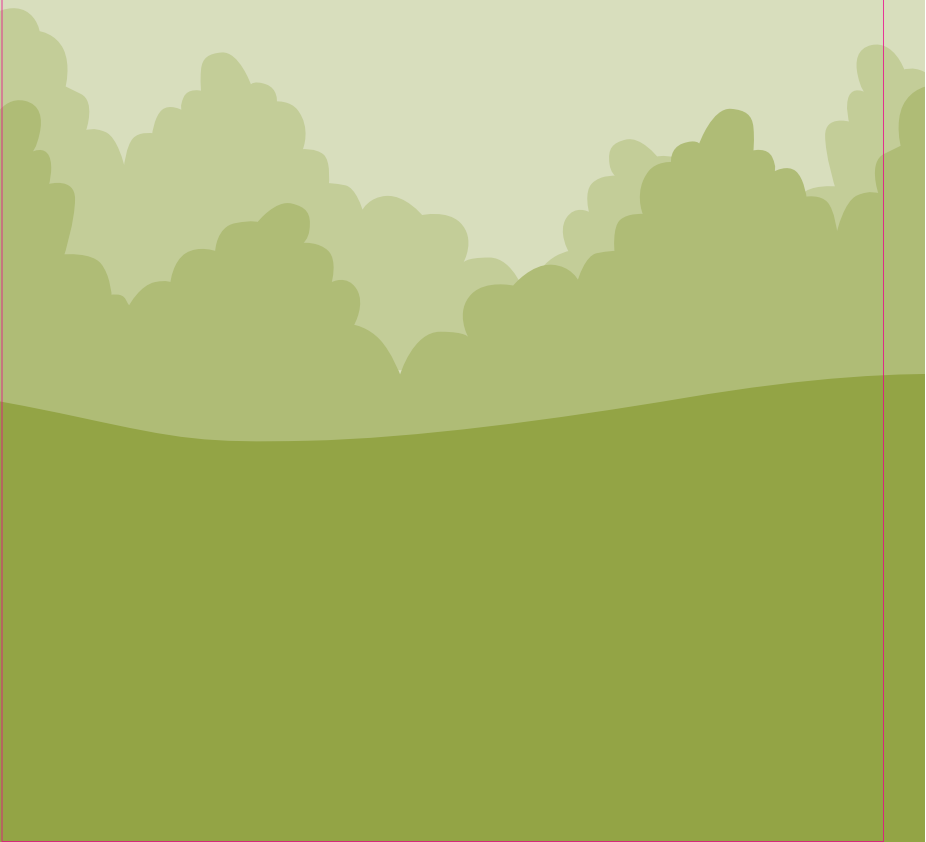
# Part 1

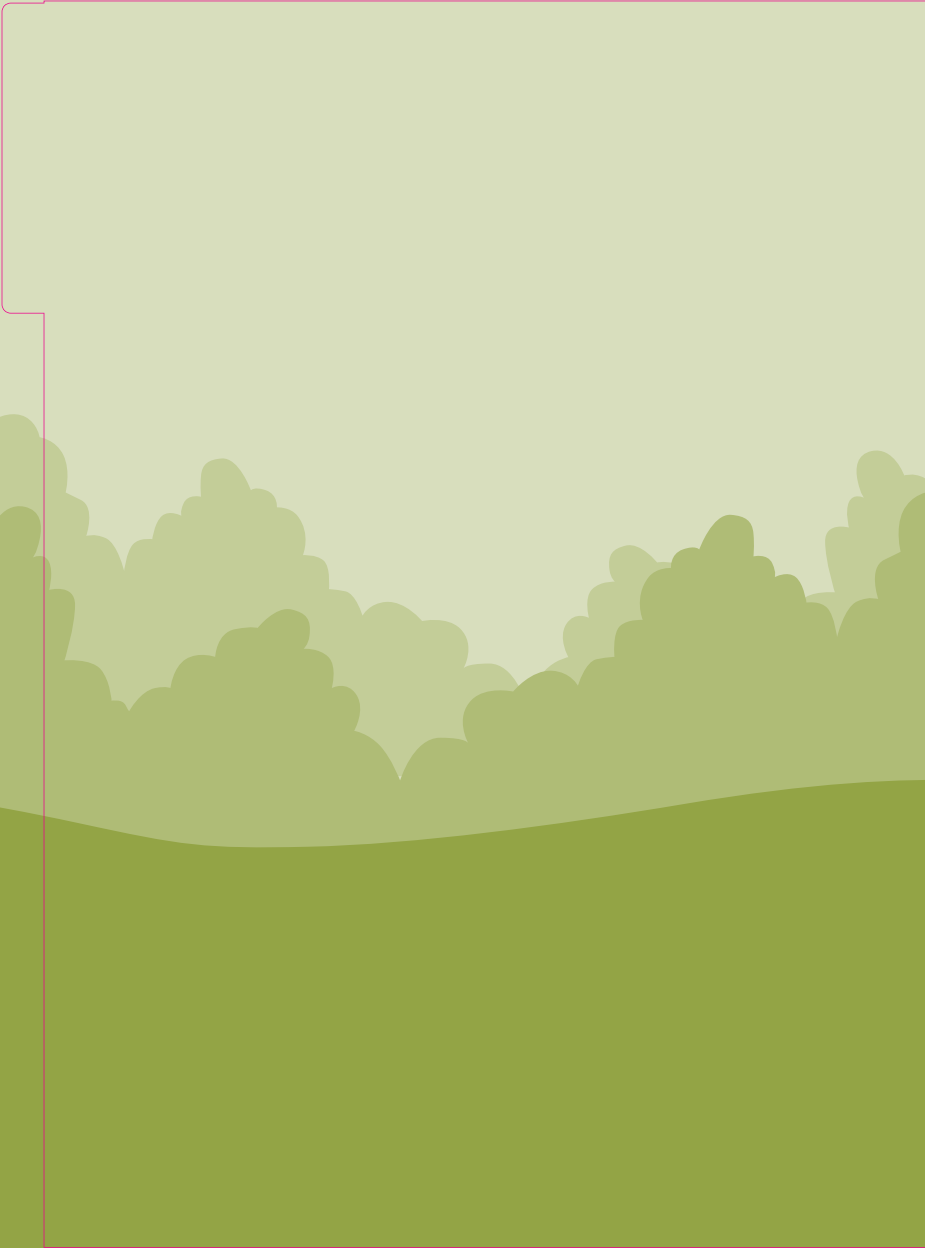
## Introduction

1.1 Overview

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parks and open spaces





## 1.1 Overview

This guide is for people who want to improve our parks and open spaces. It is for managers and practical frontline staff who are involved in planning, designing, managing, maintaining or using parks and green spaces:

- **Park managers**
- **Rangers and wardens**
- **Planners**
- **Designers**
- **Landscape architects**
- **Community leaders**
- **Members of 'friends of' groups**
- **Voluntary groups**
- **Environmental services teams.**

This guide gives an introduction to strategic elements of improving parks and green spaces and explains how it is necessary to use a holistic approach to improving these areas. It provides practical options for achieving better services and signposts where more information and guidance are available.

Included are:

- **Policy and factual background to set this subject in context**
- **The main issues and the methods available to address them**
- **Case studies to illustrate success.**

This guide is part of our wider How to programme which provides free events, online support and examples of good practice for people who are trying to improve public space. There are also guides on How to manage town centres and How to improve residential areas.

For more information on the 'How to' programme and the Cleaner Safer Greener Communities initiative of which this guide is a part, please visit our website: [www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk](http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk)



## 1.2 The challenge

- **Good quality green spaces offer a range of social, environmental and economic issues**
- **Following decades of decline, the quality of green spaces is improving, and more people are satisfied with their local park.**

### Why is Cleaner Safer Greener important?

The Cleaner Safer Greener agenda recognises that the quality of people's experience of public spaces has a major impact on their quality of life, affecting their sense of well-being and defining how they feel about the places where they live. It highlights the strong relationship between levels of deprivation in an area and the condition of the local environment, making connections to poor health, crime and the breakdown of communities, and other factors that help sustain poverty. This link is further established as a significant factor in determining improvement or decline of a neighbourhood.

Changing this cycle – by improving Cleaner Safer Greener elements within communities – will improve people's quality of life and provide an opportunity for continued prosperity.

### Quality green spaces

High quality green spaces are of immense value. For the 33 million people who visit them each year, they are places to exercise, relax, play, learn, socialise, rest, walk, cycle, or to use as outdoor classrooms to learn



about the natural world. These spaces benefit the economy, the community and the environment. The benefits include cleaner air, healthier local economies, reduced flood risk and stronger communities. High quality green spaces have been shown to:

- **Support the local economy, making neighbourhoods more desirable**
- **Enhance physical and mental health**
- **Benefit children and young people**
- **Reduce crime and fear of crime**
- **Help make stronger communities**
- **Help people move around neighbourhoods and towns**
- **Enhance biodiversity and the environment.**

For more information about the value of public space, see *The Value of Public Space*: how high quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value, CABE Space 2004.

Green spaces are important to everyone – not just those responsible for their quality but all those who want to improve well-being.

However, as shown by the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce report (2002) the quality of parks and green spaces in England suffered a period of long-term decline throughout the 1970s, 80s and 90s, creating a cycle of neglect caused by:

- **An increasing backlog of repairs and maintenance**
- **An uncertain future and policy framework**
- **A lack of good practice**
- **Declining and inefficient use of resources**
- **Falling morale and skills.**

Since the late 1990s greater priority has been given to the quality and future of urban green spaces. There has been more investment, more direction and support and an increasing range of good practice.

### What is green space?

In this guide, we use the term ‘green space’ to cover a range of managed and more natural spaces which are open to the public. The guide is not concerned with – although its content could be applied to – the management of rural fields, national parks, or similar open spaces or streets, squares and other hard public open spaces. Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17) sets out a typology for defining open spaces.

- **Parks and gardens, including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens**
- **Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land**
- **Green corridors, including river and canal banks, cycleways, and rights of way**
- **Outdoor sports facilities – owned publicly or privately, and with natural or artificial surfaces – including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, and playing fields**
- **Amenity green space – often around housing – including formal recreation spaces, domestic gardens and village greens**
- **Provision for children and teenagers, including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and informal ‘hanging out’ areas and teenage shelters**



- Allotments, community gardens and urban farms
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas
- Civic spaces, including civic and market squares, and other hard-surfaced areas designed for pedestrians.

This guide covers the first nine types of space covered in Planning Policy Guidance (PPG17). Improving civic spaces, streets and town centres are covered in the accompanying 'How to' guides on Town Centres and Residential Areas.

### Emerging trends

The National Audit Office study on enhancing urban green spaces (March 2006) and subsequent Public Accounts Committee report (October 2006) showed that the decline in green spaces had been halted, and turned around in many places, and we want to continue to build on this success, embed progress and spread the benefits more widely.

For example, the number of Green Flag Awards gained annually in England has risen from seven in 1997/98 to 409 winners in 2006/07 across 167 local authority areas. People have also become happier with their local green spaces – in 2003/4, 71% of them were satisfied with local parks and open spaces – up from 63% in 2000/1.

However many areas still suffer from poor quality parks and green spaces and many more are struggling to improve standards. That is why we must maintain the momentum for change and follow this by action in order to respond to the challenges faced today by users and those responsible for parks and green spaces.

## Challenges

- **Working better together – bringing together departments within local authorities and other public bodies, maximising the contribution of the voluntary and community sector and involving business and users to work together towards joint aims**
- **Making best use of resources – achieving joint objectives by pooling resources and including the long-term management and maintenance costs**
- **Improving access to high quality spaces – especially in deprived areas, where 44% of residents in areas covered by the New Deal for Communities considered this a problem**
- **Learning from innovations, spreading good practice and creating a ‘can do’ climate by involving practitioners in planning how to achieve improvements.**

The government is committed to improving public space. In October 2002 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Communities and Local Government) published Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener. This was the beginning of the government's drive to create and maintain better local environments. It is probably still the most important and influential national strategy, and has set the tone for most of the subsequent strategy development.

The government collaborates with local and national partners to work towards success and achieve the aim of a renaissance for green spaces. A strategic approach needs to be backed up with a good understanding and use of the powers, tools and good practice available for the long-term care of green spaces. Together, we can achieve these by focusing action in the following ten key areas.

1. Strong local leadership and partnerships
2. A good understanding of local needs and opportunities
3. Involved and empowered communities
4. Better use of resources – money, powers and skills for the job
5. Accountability and performance monitoring
6. Creating high quality spaces that are well designed, fit for purpose and sustainable
7. Managing and maintaining spaces to higher standards, and encouraging innovation
8. Encouraging and promoting innovative uses of parks and green spaces
9. Combating anti-social behaviour in green spaces
10. Using good practice – getting the best from guidance, powers, programmes and good practice.



### 1.3 National strategies for creating parks and open spaces

#### The government is committed to improving public space.

In 1999 the Select Committee on Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs urged the government to respond and support improvement to the public green space sector.

In November 2000 the Urban White Paper, 'Our Towns and Cities: The Future. Delivering an Urban Renaissance' (HMSO, November 2000), was published, which recognised public green space as vital to enhancing the quality of urban environments and urban quality of life, and linked public green space to attractiveness of towns and cities, healthier lifestyles, nature and education.

In October 2002, Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener, was published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. It responded to the Urban Green Space Taskforce and stated that the Government was committed to the creation of good quality parks and diverse green spaces in all our towns and cities. To help achieve this vision, a new unit would be created, attached to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). It would lead a programme of work to improve planning and design, information, quality standards and measures, partnership working and community involvement, and good practice. The new unit, CABE Space, was established in May 2003.

**Sustainable Communities: Building for the future**, published in 2003 launched the government's liveability programme with the commitment of £201m for improving public spaces, including funding to set up CABE Space, for Groundwork, the Living Spaces schemes, the Liveability Fund, Green Flag Awards, and the Special Grant Programme.

**The Cleaner, Safer, Greener cross-government programme** brings together central departments with policy responsibilities that have an impact, directly or indirectly, on public space. Priorities for the programme are:

- **Creating attractive and welcoming parks, play areas and public spaces**
- **Improving the physical fabric and infrastructure of places**
- **Making places cleaner and maintaining them better**
- **Making places safer and tackling anti-social behaviour**
- **Involving and empowering local people and communities**
- **Catering for children and young people, and tackling inequalities.**

#### Public Service Agreements (PSAs)

PSAs set out the key improvements the public can expect from government expenditure. Each PSA describes a department's main aim, objectives and performance targets which help it focus its activities.

Communities and Local Government's performance targets for the 2005 to 2008 spending review period include PSA 8:

**“To lead the delivery of cleaner, safer, greener public spaces and improve the quality of the built environment in deprived areas and across the country with measurable improvements by 2008.”**

The government's vision for the renaissance of England's green spaces seeks to ensure that by 2008 the majority of local areas in England will have at least one quality green space – with a Green Flag Award to prove it – and over 75% of people will be satisfied with their local green spaces.

#### Communities and Local Government

In October 2006, Communities and Local Government published **Strong and Prosperous Communities –The Local Government White Paper**. The paper sets out proposals to give a stronger role for councils to lead their communities, shape neighbourhoods and bring local public services together. It includes a new framework for local authorities to work with other public service providers and new duties for them to work together to meet local needs and drive up service standards. The White Paper also sets out a new relationship between local government and citizens with proposals for new powers such as Community Call for Action to demand answers when things go wrong and encouraging development of local charters, setting out agreements about standards. A copy of the White Paper 'Making it happen: the Implementation Plan' can be found at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

The White Paper does not specifically include parks and green spaces within its seven priority areas of concern, but there are clear opportunities for parks and green space services to contribute to improvement initiatives. In particular, the White Paper's plans for stronger, involved and active communities are particularly relevant for parks services.



### Local Area Agreements

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a three year agreement based on a Sustainable Community Strategy, which sets out the priorities for a local area. The agreement is made between central government represented by the Government Office (GO) and the local area represented by the lead local authority and other key partners through Local Strategic Partnerships. New arrangements for LAAs, to be introduced in April 2008, were set out in the Local Government White Paper designed to give local authorities and their partners more flexibility and capacity to deliver the best solutions. Further information on developing the future arrangements for LAAs is available at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

### Safer and stronger communities

It is important that communities are both safe and strong. A strong community, for example one that places importance on increased volunteering and engagement, will also help to improve safety as issues will be more effectively addressed. The reverse is also true as people who feel safe are more likely to engage with each other and resolve issues.

National targets are:

- **To reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs and to reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour**
- **To have cleaner, safer, greener public spaces**
- **To improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and ensure service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs**
- **To increase the capacity of local communities so that residents have the power to make decisions and influence services.**

### Neighbourhood renewal

In January 2005, ODPM (now Communities and Local Government) and the Strategy Unit published their joint report on improving the prospects of people living in areas of multiple deprivation in England. This restated the aim of the Government's national strategy, **Making it Happen: A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal**, which is to ensure that, by 2021, no one is at a serious disadvantage because of where they live.

Neighbourhood renewal uses the power of partnership, harnessed through Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), which unite an area's major players from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

The Places and Communities Group within Communities and Local Government is responsible for overseeing the Government's comprehensive neighbourhood renewal strategy. The Places and Communities Group works with Government offices and local neighbourhood renewal teams, supporting strategic partnerships in the 86 most deprived districts in England.

The Places and Communities Group oversees a number of the government's cross-sector regeneration programmes, including: New Deal for Communities, Neighbourhood Management and Neighbourhood Wardens – providing a highly visible, uniformed, semi-official presence in residential and public areas, town centres and high-crime areas.





# Part 2

## Strategic management

2.1 Leading local delivery

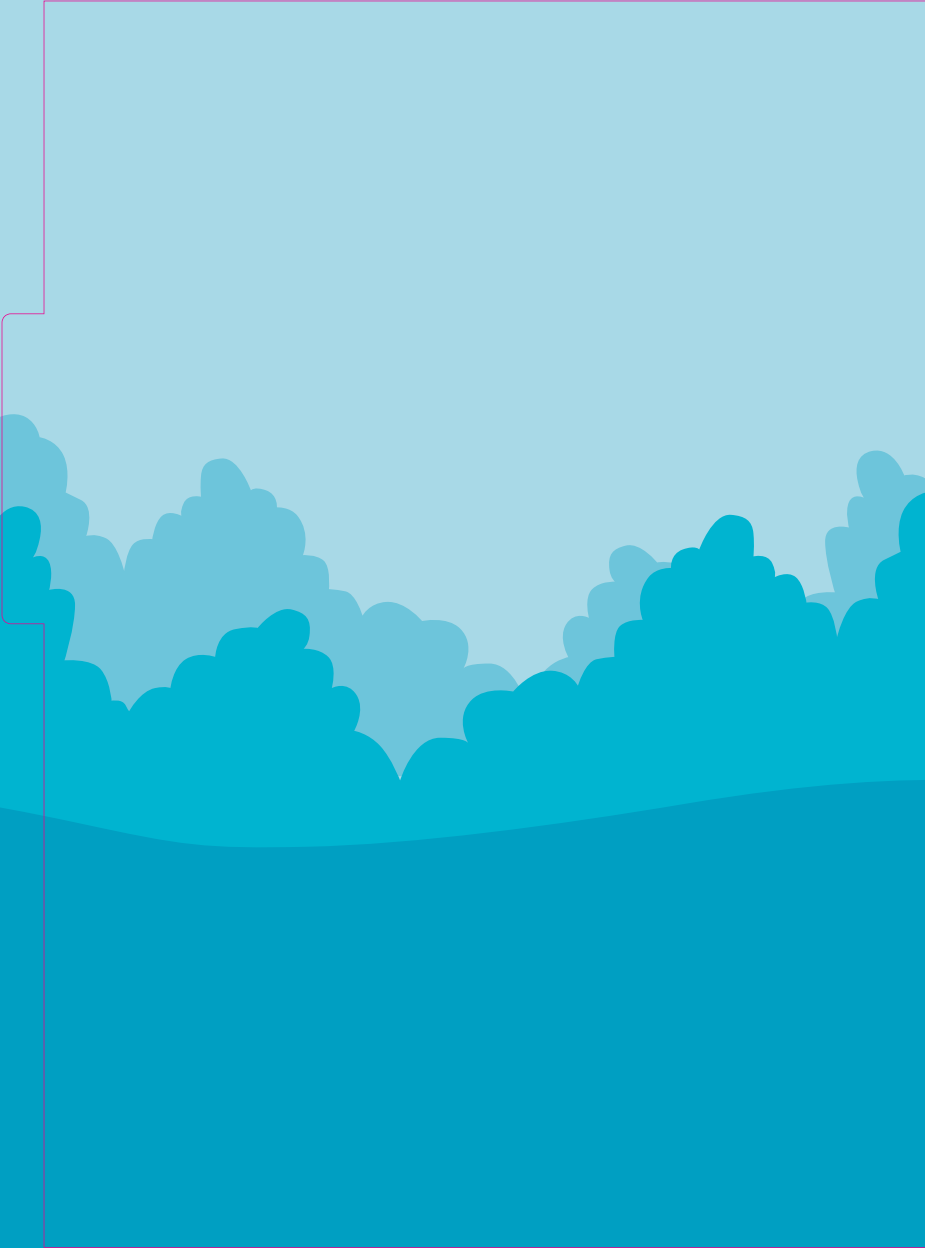
2.2 Assessing local needs  
and opportunities

2.3 Empowering communities

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2.5 Making best use of resources

2.6 Measuring performance



## 2.1 Leading local delivery

- **Many different organisations are responsible for green spaces. Making green spaces successful depends on knowing who is responsible and for what**
- **Local authorities should provide community leadership to bring together responsible parties in a common approach**
- **Agreeing aims and objectives together can help make real progress towards local priorities.**

This section sets out local authorities' important role in leading the community to create and maintain parks and green spaces.

Because green spaces are used in so many ways, by so many people and for such different purposes, their successful operation requires a large number of different organisations and services to work together.

Effective leadership is essential for inspiring the different organisations to develop a shared approach with a single focus – better green spaces. Local authorities are well placed to provide this role as part of their community leadership function.

## Defining responsibilities

Local authorities have traditionally owned green spaces on behalf of the local community. This is an important responsibility that should not be relinquished without proper consideration and consultation. There are many other owners, including:

- **Non-governmental organisations or charities, such as the National Trust, the Woodland Trust, English Nature, the RSPB or Wildlife Trusts**
- **Parish councils**
- **A new trust set up for the purpose, such as Milton Keynes Parks Trust ([www.mkparks.co.uk/parks-trust](http://www.mkparks.co.uk/parks-trust)) or a local civic or development trust**
- **The Land Restoration Trust ([www.landrestorationtrust.org.uk](http://www.landrestorationtrust.org.uk))**
- **The private sector – the land could, for example, remain a developer's property and responsibility**
- **Local communities managing spaces through a community or voluntary group, a 'friends of' group or a residents' association**
- **Other public bodies, such as housing associations, health trusts and transport providers.**

Therefore, local authorities need to be clear about the range of different service providers involved with green spaces, and what the service providers do. Local authorities should provide a strategic approach for bringing together the contribution of all interested people in order to create networks of spaces where each site and its function relate to the overall provision.

National and regional agencies also have responsibilities for specific aspects that will affect local green spaces both in strategy development and site management.



## Examples

- **Natural England** is concerned with conserving and enhancing the natural environment for economic prosperity and the well-being and enjoyment of the public. They are responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment is protected and improved. They are also responsible for helping people enjoy, understand and have access to the natural environment
- **Sport England** is the strategic lead for achieving the government's sporting objectives, and distributes Lottery and Exchequer funds to sport, totalling around £2b since 1994
- **The Environment Agency** is primarily interested in ensuring we have cleaner and safer air, water and land and the Agency has an interest in, for example, the role of green spaces in protecting against flooding
- **The Highways Agency** is responsible for operating, maintaining and improving the road network but also has an important role in minimising air pollution, protecting natural habitats and minimising the visual impact of the network

## Developing local leadership

Leadership is needed to bring together the different organisations and people that can be responsible for, or have an impact on green space, and to help them work together. Local authorities, including their political leaders, are best placed to provide this leadership and reflect local circumstances.

Local leaders can bring together colleagues in local and public authorities, the voluntary sector, contractors, funders and the community – and agree a vision for their green spaces.

Three leadership models that can help:

- **Appoint a champion** – the chief executive or council leader can appoint an official to act as an advocate for green spaces
- **Grant executive or cabinet responsibility** – the local authority can appoint a council cabinet member with specific green space responsibilities
- **Set up a cross-departmental group** – the local authority can invite internal and external contacts with a variety of expertise to offer advice on managing green spaces.

### Tools for delivery and success

Leadership needs to develop at different levels – corporately, with communities and within green space practitioners. A number of different organisations and publications can help.

#### **The Improvement & Development**

**Agency (IdeA)** The IdeA's leadership work provides general leadership training for local authorities and is aimed at decision makers, elected members and officers. More information at [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

#### **The Academy for Sustainable**

**Communities (ASC)** was launched in 2005 to provide the necessary skills (including leadership) to make sustainable communities. Green space professionals should work with training providers, practitioners and experts from the public, private and voluntary sectors, drawing on examples and good practice from around the world. More information at [www.ascskills.org.uk](http://www.ascskills.org.uk)

**CABE Space** is the part of CABE aiming to bring excellence to the design and management of public spaces in our towns and cities. It offers support, information and advice to park practitioners. See [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

#### **The Power of Wellbeing – The Local Government Act 2000**

gave local authorities wide ranging powers to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local authority areas. Subject to certain limits, local leaders can use this power to take any action they think necessary to improve their parks and open spaces. Information is available from [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)

#### **Living Places: Caring for Quality,**

produced by the former **Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)** provides case study examples of areas that have already improved the quality of public spaces for their communities. This document is available at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

## Case Study – Torbay

### Strategy gains strength by adoption by council

Torbay's green space strategy started by gaining commitment from the very top of the council, its members and chief executive, to deliver a vision and action plan to regenerate and maintain its open spaces.

The strategy, completed and adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in mid 2006, outlines how the council in association with the community intends to deliver the vision set out at the start of the process:

**“High quality green spaces which enable equal access and opportunity for all, as well as protecting and enhancing the local environment.”**

The strategy supports the community priorities. It will also help improve Torbay's biodiversity and reduce crime, litter and graffiti. The strategy also:

- **Provides a series of action plans that describe what the council will do to drive forward those areas that they have prioritised**
- **Provides a strategic framework for the provision and management of green spaces for Torbay for the next 10 years**
- **Maximise support for and advocate the benefits of green spaces within and outside the council**

- **Encourages continuing community and stakeholder involvement and partnership**
- **Acts as a Supplementary Planning Document under the Local Development Framework**
- **Provides an evidence base for Section 106 developer contributions.**

The strategy was led by Cultural Services and delivered by a cross departmental team. A key partner was the Council's Forward Planning Department, which delivered the Sustainability Appraisal and Consultation Framework needed to give it status as a Supplementary Planning document.

Starting with a visioning session, the team undertook a series of focus groups which established public priorities and from which accessibility radii could be set. At the same time an enhanced PPG 17 site assessment was undertaken of approximately 100 key sites which gave a set of matrix scores for value and quality. These in turn indicate actions for improvement on a site by site basis.

For more about this case study contact Richard Taylor [richard.taylor@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:richard.taylor@torbay.gov.uk)

For more about other related case studies see CABE Space at [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

## 2.2 Assessing local needs and opportunities

- **The local area approach to green spaces should be based on evidence of local needs – which means auditing local provision of green spaces and consulting local people on what they want**
- **A green or open space strategy makes it easier for different organisations to commit themselves and to pool responsibility, objectives, resources and actions**
- **A green or open space strategy should relate to the local development framework and provide the basis to maximise the opportunities of new development.**

This section sets out the importance of devising a strategy for green space which involves all members of the community to ensure their aspirations are met.

In order to take action on green space, a local authority needs to understand what green space it has, what it is used for and by whom and the condition of the space available. It then needs to identify what users, or potential users, of the space want and need for the future. A local authority can use this information to define a goal for the whole area and a strategy for achieving it.

### Developing a green space strategy

Local authorities should lead the community in a well-planned approach. They should work with local communities and a full range of partners, including heritage and conservation organisations.

Parks and planning departments should work in partnership to prepare a green space strategy. This should set out a local

authority's objectives for using its green space, plus the resources, methods and time needed to meet these objectives. A green space strategy forms part of an integrated set of council documents. It is a comprehensive, council-wide document, which should directly contribute to achieving the council's corporate aims and objectives set out in the community strategy, for example on improving health, community cohesion or education.

Considering all aspects of the creation, design, care and use of all types of green spaces should be the first step when forming a strategy as this will help to:

- **Generate political and inter-departmental support for green spaces**
- **Develop shared objectives**
- **Define the value and role of green spaces in meeting corporate and community aims**
- **Create a comprehensive policy for creating, protecting and enhancing green spaces**
- **Make sure that green spaces enhance the quality and diversity of the environment as well as promoting civic pride and including everyone in the community**
- **Ensure that the green spaces network meets local people's needs – now and in the future**
- **Allocate resources in a way that maximises the value of capital investment and revenue expenditure**
- **Involve voluntary and community groups in green spaces provision and management.**



## Integrating with planning

A strategy for green spaces should be linked to local planning policies and we expect local planning authorities to take a strategic approach to the provision of green spaces. Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation provides the planning framework for green space. It sets out a requirement that all planning authorities audit their open space and requires them to identify the community's social, economic and environmental needs for spaces now and in the future.

The PPG17 audit and assessment forms the evidence base for the strategy and delivery of green space priorities. This information might be supplemented by other sources of information from other parts of the local authority or partners. For example, information on anti-social behaviour, health inequalities, deprivation, children and young people, and residents' views will all be relevant to developing a responsive strategy that fit with wider corporate objectives.

PPG17 sets out the policies needed to be taken into account by regional planning bodies in the preparation of Regional Planning Guidance (or any successor) and by local planning authorities in the preparation of development plans (or their successors).

The local development framework (LDF) will guide the implementation of the spatial planning strategy for the area. It should build on national and regional policies, taking into account local needs and variations. Green or open space strategies should contribute to the development plan documents and should become important supplementary planning documents within this process.

Key principles and objectives for green spaces should be included in developing the core strategies as part of the LDF process. Drawing on green space strategies as 'supplementary planning documents' will allow the



development of a consistent approach to the provision and management of green space by developers and other providers of green space.

The local authority should also engage with regional bodies such as the Regional Assembly, Development Agency and Government Office to ensure that regional plans including green infrastructure are taken into account in developing a local green space strategy and plans.

**Playing fields**, including those owned by schools, are subject to specific regulations designed to protect them, the children and the wider community.

The Department for Education & Skills, working closely with the National Playing Fields Association, introduced new guidelines in 2004 to give greater protection to school playing fields. The guidelines mean that school playing fields can only be sold off for other uses as a last resort. Proceeds for sales should be used to provide for alternative outdoor sport facilities in the first instance. This is in addition to planning protections.

### New development

When considering new developments, local authorities should look at the way they might affect existing green spaces and how this fits the authority's overall green space strategy. This is an opportunity to ensure new developments provide the right type of space in the right location. It may also provide opportunities for existing spaces to be improved to cope with new demand. It is also necessary to ensure any new green spaces provided will be managed and maintained in the long term.

### The quality of green space

The quality of green space is just as important as quantity. Quality will be determined by planning and design, management and maintenance, and use. Although PPG17 does not prescribe national standards for quantity, quality and access to green spaces, standards should be set locally based on identified needs and using guidance provided.

In considering quality, the Green Flag Award criteria can be applied to most types of green space, and act as a sign of quality.

The Green Flag Awards Scheme is a voluntary peer review scheme, widely accepted as a measure of quality in the management, operation and improvement of green spaces. Green Flags have been awarded to country parks, ecology sites, nature reserves, cemeteries and botanical gardens, as well as more traditional urban parks.

Based on the assessment criteria for the Awards, a good quality space is:

- **Welcoming and inviting**
- **Healthy, safe and secure**
- **Clean and well-maintained**
- **Environmentally sound**
- **Sensitively conserved**
- **Caters for the needs of the whole community**
- **Well-marketed and promoted**
- **Planned in an understandable way.**



### Tools for delivery and success

**Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17) sets out the planning framework for green spaces** and requires that local authorities assess and audit open spaces in their area. Guidance on carrying out the needs and opportunities assessment is set out in the accompanying PPG17 guidance. This reflects the provision of practical guidance on appropriate methods of carrying out audits and assessments of community need and demand.

There is a range of other, relevant planning policy guidance and statements available from [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk) and [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)

Playing field regulations are set out in the 'Town and Country Planning (playing fields) (England) Direction 1998'. Guidance is available from Communities and Local Government at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

For information of **DfES guidelines** see [www.teachernet.gov.uk](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk)

**CABE Space, Green space strategies: a good practice guide**, [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

**Greater London Authority, Guide to preparing Open Space Strategies**, Best practice guidance of the London Plan, 2004, [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

Useful principles for producing strategies are set out by the **Improvement and Development Agency (IdeA)** established by and for local government in 1999, see [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

**How to define the problem** is a practical toolkit which gives a step-by-step guide through the process of finding information and then applying it. Defining the problem involves moving from the identification of

need to the development of a strategy for action and includes information on the process of establishing evidence. This toolkit is available in full from [www.renewal.net](http://www.renewal.net)

### Integrating with planning

#### Generalised Land Use Database

**(GLUD)** is now freely available as small area statistics to all local authorities. This categorises every parcel of land in England into one of nine different land uses including green space. Details are available at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk) and [www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)

**Maps of GLUD** are available to authorities who have the appropriate Ordnance Survey MasterMap® licence. These are available from the Data and Statistics Infrastructure Division at Communities and Local Government at [gis@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gis@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**GreenSTAT** is a system that gives local residents the opportunity to comment on the quality of their open spaces and how well they feel they are being managed and maintained. It allows site managers to compare the results with others up and down the country to give a truly national voice of what we think about our open spaces. See [www.greenstat.org.uk](http://www.greenstat.org.uk)

#### Moving towards excellence in planning

**regeneration** is a guidance note promoting best practice in the planning service. The guidance note which includes examples of current best practice can be downloaded at [www.pas.gov.uk](http://www.pas.gov.uk)

#### The Planning Advisory Service (PAS)

helps councils provide a faster, fairer, more efficient and better quality planning service. Its web site includes a section on spatial plans in practice, providing detailed information and toolkits on the LDF. It can be downloaded at [www.pas.gov.uk](http://www.pas.gov.uk)

### New development

**Start with the Park** is a good practice guide for everyone involved in the processes of sustainable growth and renewal in England, particularly the creation/improvement of green spaces in housing renewal and growth areas.

**Creating Successful Masterplans: a guide for clients** provides guidance on the process of large-scale planning. This guidance sets out advice based on CABE's enabling and design review programmes.

Both documents are available from [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

### Quality

In considering quality, the Green Flag Award criteria can be applied to most types of green space.

The Green Flag Award Scheme is an annual, peer-review, voluntary award scheme for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. It operates on an annual basis. Green Pennant Awards are given to community run and managed sites; Green Heritage commendations recognise excellence in managing heritage. Further information at [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)



## Case Study – Doncaster

### A new strategy brings investment to city's green spaces

Doncaster Council's Green Space Strategy has helped attract millions of pounds of funding for the town's green areas. In 2001, Doncaster Council's Best Value review of active recreation services found that cuts in excess of £1m, (which represent more than 30%) had been made to the budgets for the grounds maintenance, countryside and landscape teams.

A planned approach to green space allowed the authority to identify and fund priority areas in need of new or improved green space. To date, all priority projects have secured the funding they need. Linking this with Section 106 planning obligations, it is estimated that more than £65m will have been invested in green space provision and improvements by the Council or its partners in the area during the five year improvement plan period.

For more information about this case study see CABE Space, Green space strategies a good practice guide, 2004

### 2.3 Empowering communities

- **Involving and understanding community views coupled with a good understanding of the availability and quality of local spaces are essential for identifying areas of poor or under provision, and for planning new provision**
- **Involving communities in the decisions that affect them and the parks and green spaces they use will help to foster a greater sense of local ownership**
- **There are different ways of enabling people to get more involved in their local green spaces, ranging from informing them better, to direct ownership and management**
- **Local people know what they want and need, but they often require professional assistance to show them how to achieve their aims.**

This section is about understanding the needs of the community and involving them fully in the process of creating and managing parks and green spaces.

Communities play a unique role in creating better local environments. Some of the most successful spaces are created and cared for by the people who use them most. They should be asked what they like and dislike about their green spaces and what could be improved.

Empowering local people is a priority for government. People want to be involved in decisions but many do not believe they can influence decisions that affect the area where they live. To counter this impression, people should be involved by:

- **Provision of information**
- **Consultation**
- **Building leadership**
- **Involvement in decision making**
- **Enabling ownership.**

When consulting the community, the diversity of its people should be taken into account. In some areas the needs of different users can conflict, but evidence shows that discussion and communication can improve understanding and tolerance of each other's needs.

Consultations should be undertaken in a variety of ways including residents' groups, Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), 'friends of' groups, community surveys, green spaces surveys, focus groups, workshops and events.

#### Existing mechanisms

Community involvement is an important element in local authority policies and procedures.

Every local authority is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement in relation to their Local Development Framework. This must set out the local planning authority's policy for involving communities in the preparation and revision of local development documents and in consideration of planning applications. The authority must clarify exactly what it is trying to get the community involved in, how and when it will do it and who will take part.



## Valuing the voluntary and community sector

This voluntary and community sector can help to bridge the gap between a local authority and the community it serves. Voluntary and community organisations are often already operating in an area and have strong relationships with the community.

The Government is committed to developing the potential of the voluntary and community sector in ensuring quality green spaces. Listed overleaf are some of the key organisations working with government:

- **Groundwork's federation** consists of local trusts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland who undertake environmental regeneration projects, often in the most deprived communities. The website is [www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk)
- **GreenSpace** is a membership organisation providing information and assistance for the improvement of all parks and green spaces for local authorities and, in particular, community groups. More information at [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)
- **BTCV** is a national practical conservation charity organising volunteering opportunities, training and initiatives such as the Green Gym. Further details at [www.btcv.org.uk](http://www.btcv.org.uk)



## Tools for delivery and success

### Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter

was published jointly by Communities and Local Government and the Home Office.

This document encourages and describes ways in which a community, through active participation in local democracy, can shape local public services.

### Creating Local Development Frameworks: A Companion Guide to PPS12

includes advice on managing community involvement and explains the requirement for local planning authorities to have a Statement of Community Involvement. For more information: [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)

**The Improvement and Development Agency (IdeA)** has information and resources designed to help local authorities improve their communication with residents and other key stakeholders including:

- **Neighbourhoods, devolution and communities** is a resource that aids those councils trying to involve their communities to improve the accountability and responsiveness of services and encourage greater devolution and democracy
- **Citizen Engagement** provides information on how to involve citizens in the improvement of public services and develop a sense of responsibility and belonging
- **Connecting with Communities** is a resource that helps councils improve communication with their residents and stakeholders.

For more information go to [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

**Parks and Green Space: Engaging the Community** is a guide for local authorities that provides advice for those wishing to increase involvement with the community. More information is available at [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)

**It's our space: a guide for community groups working to improve public space** is a client guide offering helpful advice on how to deliver projects of excellence. [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

**Spaceshaper** is a practical toolkit for use by anyone – whether a local community group or a professional – to measure the quality of a public space before investing time and money in improving it. The toolkit is positive and aims to encourage people to demand more from their local spaces [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

**Planning for Real®** is a whole process of community consultation developed by the Neighbourhoods Initiative Foundation.

Using a model of the area, the residents of all ages are enabled to show the issues they are concerned about and how they feel their area could be improved. More information is available at [www.nif.co.uk](http://www.nif.co.uk)

**Placecheck** was developed and promoted by the Urban Design Alliance and is a useful system to use as a starting point to analyse people's likes and dislikes about improvements to a space. Detailed information on the system can be found at [www.placecheck.info](http://www.placecheck.info)

**What would you do with this space? Involving young people in the design and care of urban spaces, 2004**, aims to provide an inspiring and practical guide for practitioners on involving children and young people in public space and sets out some of the main issues that projects may face. A text version can be found at [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)



## Case Study – Lenton Recreation Ground, Nottingham

### City council asks local people what they really think of their park

Lenton Recreation Ground is a popular neighbourhood park in Nottingham.

The park has met the national standard for parks and green spaces, winning Green Flag Awards in 2005 and 2006. The council wanted to find out whether the park lived up to local expectations and to compare findings against the Green Flag Award judges' feedback.

Careful consideration by the council and the local partnership forum of all the groups that use the park led to over 60 people assessing the site using the Spaceshaper questionnaire. Representative users included young people, youth service workers, schoolchildren, university students, members of an over-50s health group, local residents, dog walkers and casual users.

The results demonstrated how much the community valued the park, the recent investment and its Green Flag Award. Issues of concern were discussed with the council and actions taken forward for both the partnership forum and the council.

The city council reported that it would be adopting the toolkit as a means of assessment.

For more information about this and other case studies see [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk) (Note this case does not appear in CABE Space's guide, Green space strategies a good practice guide).



## 2.4 Creating effective partnerships

- **No single organisation can make quality green spaces**
- **Partnerships should co-ordinate services and should also focus on maximising opportunities for green spaces**
- **Different arrangements will be appropriate for different purposes and can change over time**
- **Good quality spaces respond to the needs of their users and the wider interests in the area.**

This section is about local and regional organisations and communities working together to achieve their aims for parks and green spaces.

Working in partnership allows anyone to achieve more than they could alone.

In return, partners must be committed and agree to take on defined responsibilities and certain actions. Without specific commitment and a focus on achieving outcomes partnerships will fail to succeed in their aims.

At the heart of a successful partnership is a shared vision which unites the interests of all partners. By working together on shared objectives, partners are better able to pool and use available resources efficiently and avoid duplication. Partnerships work best when it is in everyone's interest to participate.

## Consider existing partnerships

Working with existing partnerships can be an effective and efficient use of resources. There are many forums that can play a key part in bringing together stakeholders or contributing to partnerships for improving green spaces. These include Local Strategic Partnerships, Primary Care Trusts (PCT), Children's Trusts, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, local environmental services, neighbourhood teams, planning and regeneration teams, housing teams and housing associations, regional parks forums and Regional Development Agencies. The private sector is also making an increasing contribution as are local education authorities and schools.

## Partnerships can work at many different levels

Setting up different levels of partnership gives increased flexibility. For example particular partnerships can be formed to meet the specific needs of an individual project, ad-hoc or long-term. The important message is that partnerships do not need to follow a prescribed formula. In fact, they will work best where they are appropriate to local circumstances and the purpose for which organisations have come together.



## Tools for delivery and success

### Existing partnerships

**Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)** bring together local authorities, public services, private, voluntary and community to develop a Sustainable Community Strategy and oversee its implementation. See the website [www.neighbourhood.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk)

**Partnership working in Local Public Service Agreements** is a briefing paper by the Idea which provides partnership working advice in relation to LSPs and LAAs. It is available at [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

**Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)** bring together a wide range of responsible authorities. More information at [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

**Business in the Community** established **The Partnership Academy** which seeks to enable better partnerships between businesses and the community and to increase business support for regeneration and neighbourhood renewal. For information, toolkits and case study examples of successful partnerships go to [www.bitc.org.uk](http://www.bitc.org.uk)

### Community Networks

**GreenSpace Regional Forums** are a network to promote sustainable planning, design, management and improvement of parks, gardens and green spaces at a local regional and national level. For further information go to [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)

**'Friends' type partnerships with users** aim to establish the dialogue essential between users and service providers. In many cases they develop into effective arrangements at site level to maximise the use and value of green spaces.

**The Community Network** is a national free support network for those community-based groups involved with parks and green spaces. For information visit [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)

**The Voluntary and Community sector (VCS)** are valuable contributors to partnerships. The VCS has access to many sources of funding, particularly for capital works, which can help to match public sources of funding.

The following are examples of potential partners but this is not a full list:

British Trust of Conservation Volunteers, [www.btcv.org](http://www.btcv.org)

The Wildlife Trusts, [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org)

Groundwork, [www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk)

GreenSpace, [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, [www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk)

### **Improving the effectiveness of the partnership**

**Towards an Excellent Service** is a performance management framework that enables assessment of services such as sport and recreation and parks and open spaces services against a range of criteria such as leadership and partnership working. More information is available from the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

## Case Study – Ashton Doorstep Green

### Partnership created effective green space

A small green space, the Doorstep Green, was set up to serve 102 new homes in the heart of the Ashton Renewal Area. The success of the Green is due to the several partnerships that were established at various stages to meet the needs of the project.

Creating and funding the space has depended on partnerships between the local authority, a housing association, government agencies, an EU agency and local residents. The Green has provided a means of binding together the old and new communities.

The Ashton Renewal Area was set up in 1996 to tackle social, economic and housing problems. Local residents were identified as crucial to the success of this project and were placed at the heart of the partnership.

The planning and design stages involved several organisations working in partnership. They were chosen to support a particular need such as engaging residents and providing architectural services.

An agency that uses creativity as a catalyst for change was commissioned to obtain the community's ideas. As part of extensive consultation, the residents emphasised the need for a small green space in the heart of their community.

Local design ideas and permanent artworks provided a sense of local ownership and a strong brief for the architects. Consultation sessions took place in unconventional locations like the staff canteen at the local biscuit factory. Hands-on arts workshops took place with schools and community groups.

Once the site was established, it was transferred to 'St Peter's Partnership' which was set up to maintain the Green under a 999-year lease. This new partnership expanded to include unemployed local people who will maintain the space.

For more information, please see [www.eventus.org.uk](http://www.eventus.org.uk)

## 2.5 Making best use of resources

- **Everyone could spend more resources but this might not deliver best value. Significant resources across a range of sources could be available for green spaces**
- **Better results could be achieved by working together to pool resources on common objectives and to reduce duplication**
- **A good understanding of what local spaces cost to maintain, and what results could be achieved with extra funding, are crucial for securing additional investment**
- **It is essential, whatever the source of funding, to plan for the long term and develop new models and approaches that ensure high quality places are sustainable.**

This section is about identifying and maximising the use of available resources to create parks and green spaces which add value to the community and are sustainable.

A lack of resources is often cited as a key problem and source of frustration for those responsible for green spaces. While acknowledging the historic decline of budgets for parks, there is an increasing range of potential approaches available to local authorities.

Investing in green spaces can provide many local economic, environmental and social benefits. However, in order to realise these, investment needs to focus on the right areas. In many areas, the need is for investment to enhance and maintain the quality of existing poor quality spaces rather than creating more spaces. Where new spaces are needed, the implications for their long-term management and funding should be carefully considered.

## Using existing money effectively

Local partnerships need to consider new measures to make the best use of available resources. In doing so, they need to consider capital investment and the revenue funding necessary to sustain high quality spaces and provide for ongoing maintenance and management.

This might come from other organisations with an interest such as micro-businesses and services – since high quality parks make areas more prosperous – and health organisations who can use these spaces to promote activity and exercise.

Reforming service-delivery arrangements may involve an initial cost but has the potential to bring long-term savings or result in better service for the same money. For example, including incentives in contracts, and sharing the economic benefits of greater efficiency, can bring mutual benefits to contractor and local authority and support further investment in public services.

## Across local government

The government is committed to reforming local government finance including moving to 3-year financial settlements that enable better planning of capital and revenue investment.

**Local Area Agreements (LAA) and the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF)** give local authorities more flexibility by using pooled funding sources to provide shared outcomes.

**LAAs** are developed by LSPs and used to unite the objectives of public authorities, businesses and the voluntary and community sectors. They provide the opportunity to pool funding and resources and redirect to areas of need. Where parks and open spaces are a priority for the LSP, an LAA may



provide a route to specify enhancements, for example, on achieving the Green Flag Award standard for a park. Stretch targets also give local areas the opportunity to attract additional resources for delivering extra improvements – many authorities have adopted targets to achieve additional Green Flag Award for parks in their most deprived areas.

**The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund** is part of the Safer and Stronger Communities block for each LAA. It combines funding streams into a single fund which will be used to reduce crime and the fear of crime, improve public spaces, improve the quality of life for people living in disadvantaged areas and to build local communities' capacity to influence the way decisions are made and services are provided.

Local authorities can now use the **prudential capital-finance system** to borrow without Government consent for additional capital projects where this is affordable. Prudential borrowing for capital investment came into effect in April 2004 following new financial powers in the **Local Government Act 2003**. For discretionary services local authorities are allowed to consider charging and the Local Government Act 2003 introduced trading powers.

Money can be retained from **fixed penalty notices** applied for offences such as littering, dog fouling, graffiti and noise. Parking fees are another method of enforcement which enables the management of associated costs. However, the main purpose of enforcement is to change behaviour rather than raise revenue.

## Involving the private sector

This can happen in a number of ways, ranging from sponsorship of sites to private investment, business growth incentives or potentially Business Improvement Districts.

Many local authorities are now offering contracts for grounds maintenance that allow savings gained by improvements in operational efficiency to be shared between the contractor and the council. This can support continuous improvement in standards and further investment in better facilities.

Many larger green spaces have facilities such as cafés, centres and other buildings that can provide revenue to help maintain the space. Woodlands and their management can, for example, provide the materials for traditional trades like charcoal making.

Sources of regular income might also include rents, franchises or leases, hiring fees, events, sponsorship and private donations.

## Site-specific funding

**Planning agreements – Circular 05/05** provides guidance on the use of planning obligations in England under **section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990** as substituted by the **Planning and Compensation Act 1991**. Planning agreements legislation is currently under review. Further information from Communities and Local Government [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**Section 106 (Town and Country Planning Act 1990)** agreements ensure that developers contribute towards the facilities and infrastructure, including parks and play areas, that are required to make the proposals acceptable in planning terms. Interim planning-use agreements with landowners or developers also permit land awaiting development to be used for conservation, recreation or community activities.

Some local authorities currently use S106 payments to meet the costs associated with the upkeep of green spaces. An annuity, or ‘commuted payment’, is levied on new-build development to support the cost of the space over a period of years.

Examples of S106 agreements are:

- **Transfer of ownership of a woodland area from a developer to the Local Planning Authority**
- **Restrictions on the development of land or specified operations by the Local Planning Authority**
- **Trees to be planted and maintained by developer**
- **A nature reserve to be created by developer**
- **Creation, refurbishment or improvement to play areas.**

Larger parks may generate other sources of revenue by hiring, leasing or franchising facilities or through sponsorship. Resources within the park, for example wood for charcoal, may have the potential to raise income. In this way parks could also develop a role within the renewable resources sector.

Various lottery bodies provide funding for parks and open spaces. **Big Lottery Fund** helps voluntary groups in greatest need as well as providing grants to projects that improve health, education and the environment. **The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** enables communities to celebrate our diverse heritage and to look after and learn more about it, including parks and nature reserves.



**The voluntary and community sector (VCS)** has access to many sources of funding, particularly for capital works, which can help to match public sources of funding. The VCS can also provide skilled people to help manage and maintain green spaces, run events and activities, and raise funds.

Many non-government organisations such as **BTCV**, **Groundwork** and the **Wildlife Trust** help get communities involved and provide expert advice on green space management.

Resources from this source should be recognised formally in the local authority's green space strategy and management plans. They should also be supported by the local authority by, for example, providing resources to support 'friends of' groups as well as match funding for projects and maintenance.



### Tools for delivery and success

#### Using existing money effectively

**The Idea** website has an LAA toolkit that provides guidance and information on using the SSCF fund, including its use for engaging communities. For more information visit the website at [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

**LSP Evaluation: Mainstreaming action learning set report, May 2004** was commissioned by Communities and Local Government and includes learning and case study examples of processes used to pool resources. For further information: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)





## Across local government

**Loosening the reins: a survey of local authority approaches to prudential borrowing, charging and trading:** gives an overview of borrowing by local authorities since borrowing powers were granted by the **Local Government Act 2003**. To find out more visit [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

There are several grant finder services available on the Internet which not only include government funding but funding available from charitable trusts and foundations. More information can be found at [www.governmentfunding.org.uk](http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk)

For more information on Local Area Agreements and the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund please visit [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

## Involving the private sector

**Business Improvement Districts** are used increasingly to enable businesses wanting to improve their trading environment to pay for additional services beyond local authority provision. Information can be found at [www.ukbids.org](http://www.ukbids.org)

## Other funding sources

**The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund** aims to close the gap between deprived areas and the rest of the country. Already 88 of the most deprived areas have received £1.875b to improve public services and meet targets, with a further £1.05b earmarked for 86 local authorities for 2006-08. Examples of successful funding can be found at [www.neighbourhood.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk)

**The Big Lottery Fund** was formed by the merger of the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund. It has a number of programmes:

- **BASIS** has £155m to allocate before 2009 and offers grants of £10,001 to £500,000 for capital and revenue projects of up to five years, with larger amounts for projects across the country or over several regions
- **Young People's Fund** which aims to increase opportunities for young people and improve local communities
- **Awards for All** offers grants of £300 to £10,000 from its existing funding of £56m to small organisations supporting community and local groups with activities in art, sport, heritage and projects on education, the environment and health
- **Reaching Communities Programme** provides funding for people in need to improve their local communities
- **Changing Spaces** will help communities in England improve their environment. The Changing Spaces programme has three priority areas: community spaces; local community enterprise and access to the natural environment
- **Parks for People** is a £90m joint **BIG** and **Heritage Lottery Fund** programme to conserve and improve the heritage value of green spaces.

Allocation of grants is covered in more detail at [www.lotteryfunding.org.uk](http://www.lotteryfunding.org.uk)

**Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** provides grants to individuals as well as large and small groups making bids for local, regional or national funding on culture, language, conservation and education.



## Case Study – Leeds City Council

### Local strategy makes parks' use safer

Leeds City Council took a leading role in order to improve their green spaces. This involved a transformation of resources which enabled the council to employ site-based staff. The result was an improvement of people's behaviour in the parks.

The council committed to a £3.7 m Parks Renaissance Programme, reflecting considerable political support. At present Leeds has 75 community parks and in recent years has ensured that 25 have site-based staff. The council has identified that a further 29 are large enough to warrant site-based gardeners.

In recent years, Leeds City Council has introduced measures aimed specifically at enhancing community safety and reducing anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in Pudsey Park. The new programme has allowed the parks to further include vulnerable groups of park users who had reported they had begun to feel intimidated. Measures include the appointment of an on-site gardener, as well as the introduction of CCTV cameras in the more vulnerable areas of the park.

Users of the park, and families in particular, appreciate the improvements to horticultural standards, cleanliness and overall feeling of safety.

For more information, please contact Denise Preston on Tel. 0113 247 8395

## 2.6 Measuring performance

- **Measuring achievement is essential for securing new funding and demonstrating best value**
- **Central government will use Green Flag Awards and public satisfaction to measure performance to improve urban green space**
- **There are a number of other measures and techniques that can complement these locally.**

This section emphasises the importance of measuring and monitoring performance to ensure that parks and green spaces are sustainable and to make the case for continued funding.

Once a strategy has been put into practice, its effectiveness needs to be monitored. Being able to demonstrate value for money and quality of outcome is essential for making the case for sustained funding. To be able to do this, local approaches need to have clear, reliable criteria for evaluating the success of strategies, investment and management plans.

Benchmarks and surveys may measure the quality or quantity of green space using objective targets or standards or they may measure people's perceptions and experiences such as the Best Value Performance Indicator Survey BV119, a survey to ascertain residents' satisfaction with local parks and open spaces.

### National use of information

At national level the government will measure progress through the increase in areas with a Green Flag Award and through tracking the public's satisfaction with regard to parks. This is part of the Public Service Agreement 8, relating to liveability issues.

### Local level

At local level, partnerships will want more detailed measures of issues relevant to their communities so that they can track performance and make informed decisions. Local indicators, based on assessment of needs and opportunities, and a green space strategy, can also be developed to consider the overall service and performance at individual sites.

Users of green space can provide valuable information on standards and performance of service. This should be fed into service delivery, and the development and revision of strategies and management plans.

Awards can be an effective method of measuring performance at local site and district level. An award measures the success of an individual park and that of a local authority in achieving good quality parks and open spaces.

### Tools for delivery and success

#### Awards

**The Green Flag Award Scheme** can be used to improve the quality of management and maintenance, making parks and green spaces welcoming, healthy, safe and secure and involving the community. See [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)

**Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards** is a non-competitive award scheme for new small resident-led cleaning and greening projects. It is a process that assesses progress and offers advice. For more information visit [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)



The **Housing Design Awards** include assessments of the use of green space within schemes. For more information on the award and to view examples of successful schemes visit [www.designforhomes.org/hda](http://www.designforhomes.org/hda)

The **Sustainable Communities Awards** include aspects of design and green space within the award categories. For more information visit [www.ascskills.org.uk](http://www.ascskills.org.uk)

### **Benchmarks and surveys**

**The Local Environmental Quality Survey England (LEQSE)** measures 12,000 sites to identify how clean streets and open spaces are in England. It includes measurement of litter, detritus, refuse, derelict street furniture and broken pavements. For additional information see [www.encams.org](http://www.encams.org)

**Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs)** are used by all organisations that need to measure their performance in order to know how well they are doing and to see how they can improve.

**Best Value Performance Indicator BV119e (user satisfaction survey)** is a sample survey carried out every three years to find out, using a methodology and timetable agreed by Communities and Local Government, the percentage of residents satisfied with local parks and open spaces.

**Best Value Performance Indicator BV199** is a reliable indicator of the public perception of street cleanliness levels and the local environment. A survey guidance handbook, produced by Defra, explains the use of data as a management tool and is available from [www.leq-bvpi.com](http://www.leq-bvpi.com)

Further information on best value indicators is available from the **Audit Commission** website at [www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk)

**The Audit Commission and IDeA** also provide a resource to bring performance management information together in a more effective and consistent way. This Performance Management section of the IDeA Knowledge website draws information from the Performance Management, Measurement and Information Project (PMMI) and other useful resources.

**Towards an Excellent Service** is a performance management framework that enables assessment of services such as sport and recreation and parks and open spaces services. This information is available at [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

## Case Study – Erewash Council

### Managing performance to provide first class parks

Erewash Council is committed to providing first class parks and amenity services, by involving their customers at every stage.

The council has produced a set of Performance Standards, which point out the minimum standards they guarantee. The standards are designed to be specific and measurable, which enables officers to manage and report performance annually.

The council has set standards based on analysed data, aiming to improve the current levels of customer service. Satisfaction with services is measured through a variety of consultation methods including questionnaires and surveys. Each of the four services – allotments, cemeteries, outdoor sports and parks – receives a yearly score for the percentage of residents satisfied. The aims for the following year are then set and published for the public to comment.

All complaints made to the Parks Division are recorded on a computer database. The aim is to respond to 80% of written correspondence within five working days or to send an acknowledgement within that time, followed up by a substantive response within 15 days. Targets have also been set for each of the four services to reduce the number of written complaints received in a year.

Other performance measures include inspecting play areas weekly and making safe any vandalised equipment within two hours of the report, and increasing levels of tenancy on council managed allotment sites by 2% a year. Measures also involve dealing with reports of unswept grass cuttings on adjacent hard surfaces within a set period of time.

The performance of the Parks service is being managed in a more strategic way in that it works towards complying with and measuring the number of nationally accredited award schemes achieved.

For more information, please see [www.erewash.gov.uk](http://www.erewash.gov.uk)



# Part 3

## Tackling issues

### **3.1 Creating quality parks and green spaces**

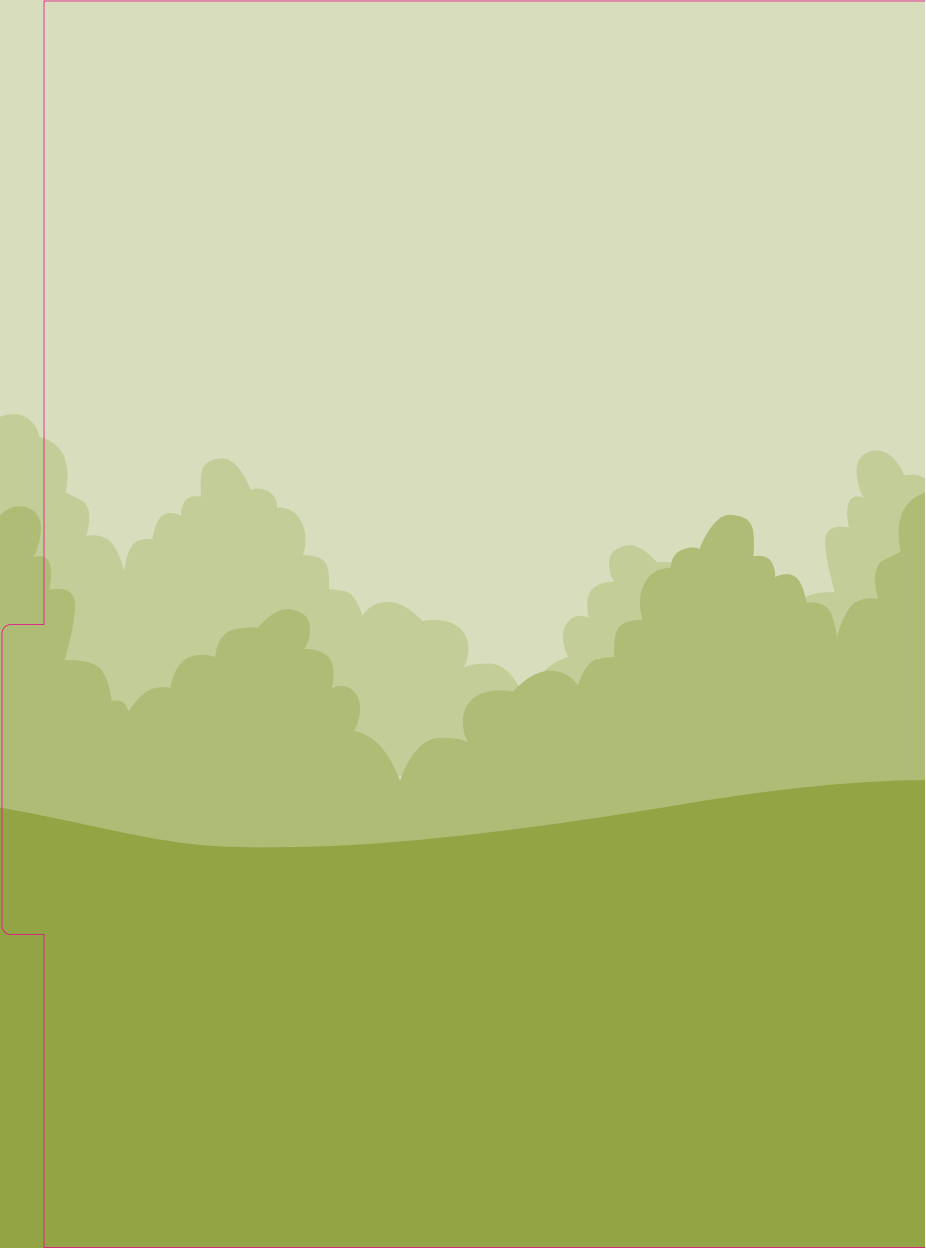
- 3.1.1 Designing-in quality
- 3.1.2 Meeting community needs
- 3.1.3 Creating healthy space
- 3.1.4 Creating sustainable spaces

### **3.2 Maintaining quality spaces**

- 3.2.1 Developing management plans
- 3.2.2 Managing sites for biodiversity and heritage
- 3.2.3 Managing cemeteries
- 3.2.4 Managing risk
- 3.2.5 Managing litter, dogs and other animal fouling

### **3.3 Encouraging greater use and better behaviour**

- 3.3.1 Promoting greater use
- 3.3.2 Enhancing access to parks & open spaces
- 3.3.3 Promoting positive behaviour





### 3.1.1 Designing-in quality

- **Creating, regenerating and refurbishing spaces provides an opportunity to include features that make spaces attractive, sustainable and fit for purpose**
- **Good design can ensure spaces are easier to use, meet community needs and operate more efficiently**
- **The process of design can engage local communities and help create a sense of ownership and involvement in the long term management and maintenance of the space.**

This section highlights the importance of designing high quality green spaces which people want to use and enjoy.

Good design creates high quality, functional and attractive spaces that meet people's needs and aspirations. Bad design can cost time and money to put right.

As well as implementing national design policy, projects should contribute to and help fulfil local design policies in any local green space. If there are no design policies then they need to be developed to ensure there is a quality-led approach to the creation and care of green spaces.

Council strategies such as the Sustainable Community Plan and Local Development Framework, green space strategies and area-based urban design frameworks, will help clarify appropriate uses for the site and to identify design parameters.

Within the network of green spaces, a well-designed park or open space should be flexible enough to meet changing needs. A well-designed place has the following qualities:

- **Sustainability**

- **Character and distinctiveness**
- **Definition and enclosure**
- **Connection with other spaces**
- **Accessibility for all**
- **User-friendly layout**
- **Adaptability and robustness**
- **Biodiversity.**

### The design process

The design process will make a vision into reality and define a space by giving it purpose. The key stages of a project are prepare, design, construct and use.

The client is responsible for achieving design quality. If the client is the local authority it may or may not have an in-house design team. If the client is the community, then it is likely that an awareness and understanding of good design may be needed before a project begins. Training and visiting other places that inspire and raise aspirations are useful tools in this process.

Involvement of the community throughout the design process will help to understand and fulfil their expectations. It is also critical in creating a vision and to establish management and maintenance arrangements for a site.

As well as defining the function and attractiveness of the space, its design determines the management and maintenance regimes required to ensure it remains fit for purpose. Management plans should be commissioned as part of the design process and the cost of annual maintenance budgeted for within the overall project costs.



Once a vision has been agreed with local people and other stakeholders, it can be translated into designs and plans.

A well-structured design brief for the site should be developed in consultation with the local community and potential site users.

A good client will think about making outdoor spaces available to everyone from the start. This is also required by the **Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c.50)**, which places a duty on providers of services to take reasonable steps to make sure that disabled people can make use of their service. See [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)



Green spaces should be accessible and easy to use. They can provide excellent pedestrian and cycle routes, and should link to main pedestrian movements. Spaces should have a clear structure that recognises and reconciles differing uses and integrates the site with the surrounding area. They should also be designed to be user-friendly with, defined routes, clear entrances and landmarks. People also need places where they can be comfortable and places to shelter. Good design creates places that people will want to use and respect, creating natural surveillance.



### Tools for delivery and success

#### **By Design, Urban design in the planning system: main document**

This guide provides advice on principles of good urban design for all aspects of the built environment including green spaces. It is available from [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

#### **Improving planning, design, management and maintenance**

This report of the urban green spaces taskforce working group 4, sets out some basic principles to consider when planning and designing green spaces. It is available from [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

#### **The Urban Design Compendium**

examines the factors that make neighbourhoods stimulating and active places in which residents feel comfortable and safe. It aims to provide practical advice to developers, funding agencies and partners on the achievement and assessment of the quality of urban design for the development and regeneration of urban areas. [www.englishpartnerships.org.uk](http://www.englishpartnerships.org.uk)

**CABE design guidance** A recent quick reference guide 'Design at a Glance' provides a good introduction to national design policy. CABE's design review panel offers free advice to planning authorities and others on the design of selected development projects in England. Published guidance includes *Creating Successful Masterplans*, 2002, *Start with the park*, 2005, and *It's our space: a guide for community groups working to improve public space*, 2006. The *Spaceshaper* toolkit is a way to measure quality of public space before investing time and money in it. See [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

## Case Study – Southampton

### Neglected Z-shaped park restored

Central Parks comprises a series of five interlinked parks arranged in the form of a straightened 'Z' over 21 hectares within the heart of Southampton City Centre. £4.6m was spent on restoring the heritage site in 2001.

The parks, which are Grade II listed and contain eight listed monuments, were established in the 19th century upon four ancient town fields known as Lammas Lands, i.e. land privately cultivated for six months of the year and available as common land for the remainder.

No overall designer or master plan for the parks had been established, and it appears that the historical layout evolved over the later part of the 1800s as a series of functional cross routes and ornamental promenades.

Over the following century the identity of each of the five parks developed in response to alterations made to the fabric of the park itself and to the continuing changes to the surrounding urban form.

Consequently, many of these changes also led to deterioration in the overall quality of the parks and, by the end of the century they had collectively suffered from years of under funding and neglect.

It was against this backdrop that LDA were appointed in 1996 to prepare a 50-year Design Development Plan for the parks. This was in parallel with an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Urban Parks Programme to secure funding for 28 items of restoration and improvement works identified through research and public consultation exercises.

Funding was secured for 75% of the £4.6m total budget for the works in 1997 and LDA were re-appointed to undertake the detailed design and implementation stages of the project. Work commenced on-site in late 1998 and was completed on time and on budget in June 2001.

The results have clearly been well-received as demonstrated by the multitude of users, and feedback shows that the money was well spent. Central Parks won the Green Flag Award in 2005 and has since retained it.

For more about this and other related case studies see CABE at [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

### 3.1.2 Meeting community needs

- **Everyone should have access to good green spaces. It is often the least advantaged who are worst served by a standard service**
- **A cross-section of community members, representing a range of particular groups, should be involved in the design, planning and care of green spaces, so that new facilities cater for their needs**
- **Local authorities have an obligation to assess their policies and practices against the requirements of the Local Government Equality Standard.**

This section looks at the importance of including all members of the community in the provision of parks and green spaces.

People want to live in attractive places that are clean and safe, with good parks, play areas and green spaces. The government believes everyone should have access to quality green spaces. However, it is often the least advantaged who are worst served by a 'standard' service.

Providers and managers should pay attention to how green spaces can best be made available to people at risk of exclusion, including children and young people, minority ethnic groups, those with poor basic skills or with health and disability issues and those living in the most deprived communities or rural areas.

High quality green spaces can provide opportunities for all members of the community to come together and to help build tolerance and understanding.

Green space managers need to consider the following in meeting community needs.

- **Opportunities** Which interest groups might be approached to spearhead new activities in green spaces?
- **Partnerships** Which representative groups may provide a forum for identifying the concerns, needs and aspirations of other groups?
- **Tensions** What local tensions might exist between different age groups or between people of different ethnic backgrounds?
- **Barriers** What might be the physical, social and logistical barriers preventing some people from using green space?
- **Needs and aspirations** What do people actually want from their green spaces?

Addressing these questions will help make sure the green space provides for all members of the community. A cross-section of community members, representing a range of interests, should be involved in the design, planning and care of green spaces, so that facilities meet their aspirations.

#### Providing for children and young people

Parks and green spaces offer a wealth of opportunities for improving the quality of life for children and young people. Good quality spaces can provide an environment for formal and informal play, exercise and learning. For children, this can help them to make new friends, improve their self-esteem and behaviour, keep them fit and healthy and encourage creative thinking and learning.

It can also help to achieve wider social objectives to tackle childhood obesity, reduce health inequalities for those in the poorest communities and encourage social interaction among children.



Green spaces should support the development of young people by providing opportunities to suit their developmental needs. Play space strategies play an important role.

The range of green spaces, from parks and gardens to woodlands and city farms, provides creative play spaces for children and young people to explore and discover.

It is critical that children are involved in making decisions about the design and care of the spaces they use. Where this has been tried it has been a resounding success. It ensures that appropriate provision is made for different ages, abilities and interests of children and young people in the area, and that they have a stake in and respect for the space they have helped to shape.

Schools, youth groups, children's services, outreach play, youth workers and youth-based organisations along with the local authority and other green space providers should play a key role in identifying children's needs and involving them.

The current capital renewal programme for schools also presents excellent opportunities to improve the environment around many schools.

Checklist for sustainable outdoor play spaces:

- **A place with a varied, creative and stimulating environment**
- **A place that provides what children and young people actually want (have you asked them?)**
- **A place located within reach of home and local transport where there is natural surveillance**
- **A place that is easily accessible and attractive to children of all abilities**
- **A place where they feel safe and secure whilst allowing for freedom and imagination**



- A place that is flexible enough to adapt to changing fashions and interests
- A place that is clean and well-maintained (see Green Flag Award criteria too).

### Providing for ethnic communities

To ensure that people from different ethnic groups want to use and are able to use green spaces, some basic principles should be considered:

- Create a sense of belonging so that everyone feels part of the community
- A commitment to cultural equality and development of the right skills and resources to involve them effectively
- Consulting with the whole community and informing people about what facilities and activities are available
- Tackling issues of safety, conflict and anti-social behaviour by addressing local racism, running specific activities for women and providing staff or volunteers who reflect local ethnic diversity
- Encourage culturally relevant events and provide targeted activities for different ethnic groups
- Support diversity within decision making structures and create a climate for ethnic inclusion
- Use appropriate terminology by finding out from different communities how they prefer to be addressed
- Use translated materials where necessary.

### Planning for people with disabilities

Green space managers have a responsibility to ensure that services and facilities are inclusive and disabled people are able to use services. Applying the Local Government Equality Standard to the design and management of green spaces can help ensure that the spaces are accessible.

### Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995

- Since December 1996 it has been unlawful to treat disabled people less favourably than other people for a reason related to their disability
- Since October 1999 service providers (businesses, local authorities etc.) have had to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people, such as providing extra help or making changes to the way services are provided
- Since October 2000, service providers have had to make reasonable adjustments to the physical features of their premises to overcome physical barriers to access.

### Complying with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

Complying with the DDA involves four stages:

- **Improving access to green spaces** by removing the barriers that prevent people getting the most benefit
- **Developing an access policy** which is a top-level document demonstrating a commitment to the principles of improving access
- **Developing an access plan** to show how the policy will be put into action



- **Carrying out an access audit** which is a detailed examination of the access arrangements to a physical site including buildings, structures and landscape.

The Act requires green space providers to make changes that are 'reasonable'. There is no rulebook and the duties are evolving so managers will need to continue to consider if their service is accessible. It makes sense to think ahead and incorporate changes and inclusive design principles into any other refurbishments or new provisions that may be planned.

Examples of reasonable changes:

- **Relaxing a ban on animals so that an assistance-dog user can make use of services**
- **Providing adequate seating for those with impaired mobility**
- **Installing a ramp and a handrail for wheelchair users where there are steps, or in new builds by providing level access**
- **Replacing a gate handle with one that is easier to reach and grip**
- **Using colour contrast to ensure that entrances and exits are easier to identify for visually impaired people**
- **Information might need to be provided in accessible formats such as large print, resizable websites or formats such as 'Easy Read' for learning-disabled people**
- **Conducting disability-awareness training so that staff understand and can respond to the needs of disabled people.**



### Children with Disabilities

Particular attention should be paid to providing opportunities for children with disabilities. Until recently there has been little recognition of the entitlement of disabled children to the same opportunities for development through play as other children. Developing an accessible play space is about enabling all children to be with and learn from each other. Moreover, enabling disabled children to be able to use all potential formal and informal play spaces helps to promote their health as well as their play opportunities. It also builds relationships and neighbourhood networks that can bind communities and promote social inclusion. Each child is different – not every piece of equipment in a play space needs to be usable by every child, but access to the social experience of play is essential.

### Tools for delivery and success

#### Providing for children and young people

**The Every Child Matters Inspection Framework** and the **Children's and Young People's Plans (CYPP)** guidance recognises the role of green spaces in offering benefits for children. This sets out the framework for local authorities to work with partners in producing a plan which describes the actions and provisions local authorities will use to achieve the five outcomes that every child will be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing. [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

**Play England** is a five year project to promote strategies for free play and to create a lasting support structure for play providers in England. With CUBE Space it

provides support to local authorities to develop play strategies and secure funding allocated for play from the Big Lottery Fund. The aim is for all children and young people in England to have regular access and opportunity for free, inclusive, local play provision and play space. [www.playengland.org.uk](http://www.playengland.org.uk)

**Involving Young People in the Design and Care of Urban Spaces** guide and the **Spaceshaper** consultation tool which measures the quality of a public space before investment of time and money. For more information visit [www.cabespace.org.uk](http://www.cabespace.org.uk)

**The Children's Play Information Service** provides a series of guidance factsheets including the **Playground Development Checklist** which has advice for designing a playground. This is available to download at [www.nbc.org.uk](http://www.nbc.org.uk)

**Developing Accessible Play Space – A Good Practice Guide** includes research and good practice to help create play spaces that consider the needs of disabled children and their families. It highlights how to improve existing spaces and create new ones. This is available to download at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**Learning through Landscapes (LTL)** provides a one-stop shop for any issue relating to school grounds. They give children and young people a say in the way their school grounds are used and improved. More information at [www.ltl.org.uk](http://www.ltl.org.uk)

**The Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto** sets out a vision to enable every young person to experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of their learning and personal development. The manifesto brings together a coalition of organisations to support schools and others providing these valuable opportunities. For more information see [www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)



**Delivering Play Spaces in NDC Areas**

is a document which provides important lessons for creating and operating children's play spaces and discusses wider issues about community participation, particularly in deprived areas. Further details can be downloaded at [www.extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/index.html](http://www.extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/index.html)

**The Children's Play Council (CPC)**

is an alliance of national and regional voluntary organisations, local authorities and partnerships with the aim of developing the provision for play in England and advancing children's right to play. Visit [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

**Providing for ethnic communities****Black Environment Network (BEN)**

promotes equality of opportunity for ethnic communities in the built and natural environment. It aims to integrate social, cultural and environmental concerns in the preservation, protection and development of the environment. More information is available at [www.ben-network.org.uk](http://www.ben-network.org.uk)

**Planning for people with disabilities****The Disability Rights Commission**

provides information and advice on the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and inclusive environments. [www.drc-gb.org](http://www.drc-gb.org)

## Case Study – Mint Street Park, Southwark

### Homeless people help regenerate park

Problems of dog fouling, litter, vandalism and illegal fires, compounded by street drinking and rough sleeping, typified Mint Street Park in Southwark, London.

Untouched since the 1970s, the park had no lighting and was enclosed by high walls with narrow slit entrances, which people would walk around rather than through. The one hectare park was used by a number of homeless people when the weather was fine. Other visitors looked on them with suspicion and fear.

The site suffered badly from vandalism and abandoned cars. The park also became a meeting place for drug users and street drinkers.

The opening of Tate Modern in 1998–99 triggered improvements, as heavy use put existing open spaces under increasing pressure. Local people formed Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST) and, fearing it would be built on, worked on a proposal to restore the park. A steering group including local residents and businesspeople, core BOST staff, landscape architects, representatives from the London Borough of Southwark's parks and youth services, and the St Mungo's hostel for homeless men led the process of regeneration.

Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) money started the project, later matched by Southwark Council. This funding enabled scores of improvements to be implemented. One of the entrances was widened and a new up-lit walkway through the park created.

New seating and column lighting were provided, herb beds sown and flower displays planted. A diagonal design approach was used. The outstanding results attracted a huge number of lunchtime visitors from local businesses.

What sets this apart from other park improvement schemes is its truly innovative partnership with homeless people and the homeless charity and hostel St Mungo's. Putting Down Roots, a gardening project for homeless people, was formed in 2000 to represent this partnership. Realising the extent to which the homeless community used the park, the Putting Down Roots project and BOST involved street drinkers and homeless people in all stages of the consultation process, carrying out surveys to find out what they wanted.

Most notably this resulted in the street drinkers re-designing an area where they congregated. So far it has not been vandalised. Their involvement was continued through the gardening project, giving homeless people the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the upkeep of the park. Thanks to the work of the project, the north-eastern edge of the park is now edged with borders of scented lavender.

The local hostel also adopted the principle of Street League, which uses the power of sport to transform people's lives, to organise football games at Mint Street Park.

For more about this and other related case studies see Decent parks? Decent behaviour?, 2005 at [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

## Case Study – Lewes, East Sussex

### Wild space inspires young people to get involved

Being involved in the natural environment inspires young people to protect and enhance it, and the size and complexity of a project does not deter them.

Fifteen years ago, following a successful campaign to save the site of a disused railway marshalling yard from redevelopment, the Lewes Railway Land Nature Reserve was created. From the outset, the management recognised the importance of the area for children and set out its commitment to encouraging a genuine working relationship with younger people for the benefit of the site and the people of Lewes.

Working in collaboration with Lewes District Council, a Junior Management Board (JMB) was set up in 1996, to give children an official and structured way to feed in ideas and to influence the management and maintenance of the site. Children aged between 8 and 14 are recruited on to the Board from local primary and secondary schools, and meet about four times a year, sometimes more often if they are working on a specific project. There are generally about ten children on the Board.

Thanks to the involvement of the Junior Management Board, small but significant changes have been made to the disused railway land. Meetings with dog owners helped, for a while, to reduce the amount of dog mess on the site. The manager of a local sports centre was persuaded to switch off its floodlights when it is not being used to reduce light pollution of the site and reduce energy wastage. Local teenagers helped design footbridges across the ditches, which were then built by students at the University of Brighton.

An important part of the JMB's role is to think about how other children might use the disused railway land, and to encourage them to use it in a responsible way. They have produced a Lewes Railway Land Kids' Guide, which introduces children to the site and tells them about the kind of wildlife they can find there. At their meeting in January 2004, the JMB responded to ideas about creating a 'fire site' on the nature reserve, to encourage people to make fires on one part of the land only.

For more information about this and other related case studies see CABE at [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)



### 3.1.3 Creating healthy spaces

- **Green spaces can play an important role in promoting physical and mental health benefits**
- **Green space and public health practitioners should work together to provide safe and attractive opportunities for healthy activity, including walking, cycling, play, sport and other physical activity such as green gyms**
- **The range of green spaces provides opportunities to meet a different range of interests – it is not just about sport but a wider interpretation of leisure and activity such as growing food.**

This section describes the important role that green spaces play in public health.

There is considerable evidence supporting the health benefits arising from green spaces. Good quality green spaces should provide an opportunity for the local community to improve their own physical and mental health by meeting the variety of needs of each community.

As a guide, the green space network should provide:

- **Venue for physical activities, including sport, walking, cycling**
- **Opportunities to socialise and, therefore, to tackle isolation**
- **Physical activity and sport programmes to address wider crime and youth justice**
- **Potential for building social networks**
- **Places to relax and have quiet time**
- **Potential for community participation**
- **Access to nature**
- **Access to healthy food (allotments)**
- **Green travel routes and corridors.**

Many parks services have teamed up with local Primary Care Trusts and organisations, such as BTCV, to fund and operate specific health-related activities. For example, healthy walks and green gyms aimed at encouraging more people to use the environment for healthier lifestyles.

### Benefits of growing food

Green spaces are not simply restricted to parks, play areas and country parks but also include allotments, community gardens and urban-based farms.

These provide a range of healthy activities as well as sustainable, local supplies of fresh food. They are valuable green spaces that can help improve people's quality of life by promoting healthy food, exercise and community interaction. As such, they make important contributions to sustainable development, community well-being, education, health promotion, leisure and recreation. They should, therefore, be a key part of the local authority's green space and community strategies.

### Tools for delivery and success

#### National health policy

**Choosing Health: making healthier choices easier (Health White Paper)** recognises how the quality of the local environment affects individual health.

**Health as a way of life (Chapter 5)** sets out the Government's vision for supporting individuals to choose a healthier lifestyle.

**The Health Trainers Programme** is an initiative which will roll out in the 88 primary care trusts in the most health-deprived areas in England. It aims to help individuals make healthier choices and tackle

health inequalities. By early 2007, 1,200 health trainers will operate in England, targeting approximately 74,000 people. Health trainers will have a proactive role in the community and will be the link between health professionals and communities, directing individuals to relevant local services.

**Renewal.net** is an on-line guide containing information, guidance, case studies and project summaries on successful neighbourhood renewal strategies. This site also includes information on green spaces and the health agenda. For further information go to [www.renewal.net](http://www.renewal.net)

**Local Exercise Action Pilots (LEAPs)** are locally run pilot programmes that test and evaluate new ways of encouraging people to take up more physical activity, especially those who do little exercise and those at risk from health problems. More information can be found at [www.leap.org.uk](http://www.leap.org.uk) and [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

**BTCV Green Gyms** offer people of all ages and fitness levels the opportunity to interact with nature and improve their fitness by taking part in practical conservation activities. Being outside, interacting with nature is also beneficial for mental health, helping to reduce stress and overcome depression. [www.btcv.org.uk](http://www.btcv.org.uk)

**Walking the Way to Health (WHI)** is an initiative of the British Heart Foundation and Natural England. It aims to improve the health and fitness of more than a million people especially those who are either under-active or in poor health. The website includes advice and case studies for professionals on setting up healthy walks schemes [www.whi.org.uk](http://www.whi.org.uk)

**Sustrans**, the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, is the co-ordinator of the hugely popular National Cycle Network which includes more than 10,000 miles of walking and cycle routes on traffic-free



paths, quiet lanes and traffic-calmed roads. A copy of the National Cycle Network map, illustrating routes throughout the UK, can be downloaded at [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

**Cycling Gains! How local authorities can benefit from increased cycling** is a leaflet published by the National Cycling Forum outlining the benefits to local authorities of encouraging more people to cycle. For additional information: [www.cyclingengland.co.uk](http://www.cyclingengland.co.uk)

**For people, for places, for health** outlines the role of Groundwork in contributing to the delivery of public health targets and includes case studies of local projects. This report is available to download at [www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk)

**The Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens (FCFCG)** is the representative body for city farms, community gardens and similar community-led organisations in the UK. It provides advice and support and publications available at [www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk)

**Allotments Growing in the Community – A Good Practice Guide to the Management of Allotments** was commissioned by the LGA with financial support from Defra, Communities and Local Government, the Greater London Authority and the Shell Better Britain Campaign. This guide aids those responsible for allotments by supplying information on best practice, case studies and further information for all allotment managers on practical and strategic management. A copy of the guide can be ordered from the LGA at [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

**Creating healthier communities: a resource pack for local partnerships** (3rd edition), published by the former ODPM and the Department of Health in 2005, provides a wide range of information on health, health policy and reducing health inequality in an area. Visit: [www.renewal.net](http://www.renewal.net)



## Case Study – Leicester City Council

### Park work makes students better citizens

A zero-budget partnership between Leicester Council's parks service and Leicester College is empowering students to improve their own lives as well as park-life. Agencies give their time free as the scheme fulfils their targets too.

One of the council's senior park officers worked with Leicester College to set up 12-week courses that help students with autism or moderate learning needs gain citizenship awareness skills. The Primary Care Trust and Voluntary Action Leicester also came on board – thanks to the officer's talent in making valuable contacts.

The visitor centre in one of Leicester's parks is used for lectures on rainy days but, on good days, learning takes place outside.

The course incorporates citizenship issues with a range of other subjects, such as administration, IT, event organisation, photography and catering. Some tasks are directly related to park-life, such as planting seeds, looking after the garden and wildlife, tackling littering and recycling.

The course also tackles issues that the students struggle with, including diet and obesity problems, smoking, reading and writing. Each student takes part in the teaching as well as the learning by, for example, writing on the white board to show off their new-found knowledge.

Being outside opens up opportunities for all kinds of health education and practical ways of improving health. The first group, for instance, tested out an exercise programme that begins with a 3km Walking to Health walk around the park – and this has since been incorporated into the routine. There has also been a football tournament, and a dietician has talked to the group.

Because students aren't working in a cramped classroom, attendance records have been excellent.

The courses are constantly reviewed to make sure they fit the aims of the parks service and their resources. The council, though, is confident that the courses can be sustained for the long-term, especially as the Leicester parks have noticeably improved thanks to the students' involvement. Some of the students have even come back to the park with their families to do voluntary work once the course has finished.

Of course, by basing the learning on the park and open space issues, the students also get experience of working for the city council's Park Services. Quite a few of the students are from an ethnic minority background and have no family tradition of going to the park. Few of them would have considered doing a park-based job.

Partner trusts have been quick to notice the positive changes in the college students' mental attitude and physical health since the start of the course.

For more information, please contact [Denise.Jarvis@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Denise.Jarvis@leicester.gov.uk)



## Case Study – Bolton

### Local food-growing improved health

A community composting scheme was developed for back-to-back terraced houses with backyards in Bolton. The resulting compost was used to fuel a local food-growing project.

The Trust rented from Bolton Council six poorly drained, heavily contaminated and derelict allotments in a block. With a grant from the DETR's Environmental Action Fund and North West Water, the Lancashire Wildlife Trust worked with local groups, making compost, bringing in soil and making the site productive. Organic kitchen waste is now collected from 100 households, using an old electric milk float.

The Trust supported organic growing in order to encourage biodiversity. Some people joined the project to grow their own food, others for the exercise and some just to meet people and relax.

The Wildlife Trust has acted as enabler, adviser and confidence-builder to other community food-growing initiatives, with the result that there are now ten growing groups in Bolton with about 200 people involved. Five of these groups have come from target estates in the Borough, which are not all on allotment sites.

The food-growing groups have now come together to form GOG, the Gathering of Organic Growers in Bolton, a step which is critical to their sustainability.

### 3.1.4 Creating sustainable spaces

- **A network of green spaces have an important role in contributing to the sustainability of communities, for example in managing flood risk and urban drainage, and providing habitat for wildlife**
- **Parks have an important role to play in addressing climate change**
- **Practical flood defence can be incorporated in beautiful green spaces**
- **Adopting best practice in the use of pesticides and herbicides will help reduce the risk of contamination of surface water bodies and the impact on wildlife.**

This section sets out the importance of green spaces in providing environmental functions and improving the wider environment in which we live.

Securing the future: delivering the UK's sustainable development strategy outlines the Government's sustainable development strategy in the wider context of enabling individuals worldwide to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. One of the five principles of the strategy is the need for natural resource protection and environmental enhancement by living within our environmental limits. Some local authorities have signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on climate change (2000) to pledge to actively tackle climate change in their area and work with others to reduce emissions country-wide. Green spaces help manage the effects of climate change, contribute to sustainable development and improve the local environment.

Green space provides several environmental functions which should be considered when planning, designing and managing individual spaces and the wider green space network. Environmental functions include: water management and urban drainage, accessible wildlife and habitat; improved air quality, shelter and shade, renewable energy sources, and helping to adapt to climate change.

### Green infrastructure

Creating a continuous and varied network of good quality green spaces – green infrastructure – is essential to maximise the environmental, economic and social benefits of green spaces. It incorporates small and large spaces, within and between cities, towns and villages that is both public and private, with and without public access. Furthermore, the spaces are often multi-functional – for example, providing a recreational resource as well as an urban drainage function.

Green Infrastructure is particularly important at the regional and sub-regional scale and it can create the setting for regional or sub-regional housing growth especially to link existing and planned communities through connected, easily accessible green space. This is likely to be even more crucial given the likely impact of climate change on urban environments. Many regions and sub-regions, have, or are, developing green infrastructure strategies as part of delivering regional infrastructure or economic strategies. Delivery will require partnerships across administrative boundaries, drawing on local green space strategies. Organisations such as Regional Assemblies, Regional Development Agencies, Natural England, CABE, Forestry Commission, Community Forests are working alongside local authorities in the planning and delivery of green infrastructure.



## Climate change

The concentration of buildings and urban areas during urbanisation leads to the formation of a specific climate characterised by higher night time temperatures (sometimes referred to as a phenomena known as 'urban heat islands'), restriction of wind which disperses pollutants and increased run-off. There is general consensus amongst experts that temperatures will increase, there will be more dramatic events such as floods and storms, summers will be warmer and drier, winters will be warmer and wetter, and sea levels will rise. However, as the ambient temperature of urban green space is generally cooler than the surrounding area, it is likely that demand for green space will also increase.

There is evidence that urban green spaces can help areas to adapt to climate change through cooling, absorption of pollutants, and water management. Networks of green space may also help wildlife to better respond to changing environmental conditions. Parks services can play a number of roles in actively tackling climate change.

Services can seek to reduce their carbon footprint through efficiencies and adopting environmentally-friendly technology.

High quality urban green spaces can also serve to tackle climate change by influencing on people's behaviour. For example, organised projects to improve local parks could provide an opportunity to educate and support individuals and communities to adopt more environmentally-friendly lifestyles. Many voluntary and community sector organisations already have experience in this area and are likely to be useful partners. The provision of good quality green space can also reduce people's need and desire to travel for recreation purposes.

The management of parks and green space will need to change and adapt to these emerging environmental pressures in order

to ensure that the multi-functional nature of these spaces and the many benefits they offer can be sustained. For example, keeping green spaces green will become more difficult, with grassed areas coming under increased water stress as a result of the predicted hotter drier summers. Differing species of plants may suffer or thrive in new climatic conditions.

### Water management

Even without the effects of climate change, green spaces have an important role in contributing to the sustainability of communities through managing flood risk and urban drainage.

Green spaces slow down the movement of water from heavy rainfall into drains or sewers and watercourses. Their porous surfaces allow water to be held in the soil, and trees help extend the time taken for rainfall to reach the ground and watercourses. This reduces peak flows and cuts the risk of flooding from drains, nearby rivers, or from rivers further downstream. Green spaces and gardens also allow water to filter down and replenish groundwater.

Local authority park managers should consider that in areas where streams and rivers pass through parks they can hold floodwater to reduce flow levels downstream. These watercourses can be designed to maximise downstream flood protection by allowing parts of a park to become flooded. The best design for flood protection is often a natural-looking river with meanders and wetlands.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) are designed to slow the movement of rainwater between where it falls and where it is discharged into a watercourse. The aim is to reduce the effect of large urban areas of hard surfaces.

### Minimising the use of herbicides

Parks services have an important role in minimising the impact of their service on the environment. The use of pesticides and herbicides can be detrimental to water quality and impact on biodiversity. The Environment Agency monitoring data shows that diuron, which is used in many amenity management situations, is commonly found in rivers and streams. Residues of the herbicides mecoprop-p and 2,4-D are also regularly found.

The level of awareness and training amongst those who apply pesticides and contract control and monitoring are vital to ensure the appropriate use of pesticides, if at all. Managers, working closely with their contractors where relevant, should take care when deciding whether or not to use a pesticide; by questioning whether there is another method of control or combination of methods that could be used, and the wider impact of using such controls.

The Green Flag Award Scheme assesses the environmental sustainability of management and maintenance procedures, including the use of pesticides. It recommends that parks managers develop a strategy to reduce pesticide use, addressing:

- **Where are pesticides used?**
- **What would happen if there was no treatment i.e. is there a pest problem?**
- **Is there a way of altering the environment to prevent the problem?**
- **What physical or mechanical control methods are available?**
- **What biological control methods are available that can supplement environmental, physical and mechanical methods in use?**
- **What are the least toxic chemical controls available that can supplement environmental, physical, mechanical and biological methods in use?**



More generally, planning and prevention are the key steps to reducing the use and impact of pesticides where used:

Ensure that users of pesticides have current training and certification and are ideally members of the National Register of Sprayer Operators.

- **Make a full assessment to ensure that the right product is used at the right time in the right place**
- **Prevent pesticides reaching water sources in the first place by following best practice during storage, transport, application, disposal and clean up operations**
- **Always take professional advice from a BASIS registered (or equivalent) advisor**
- **Check sprayer equipment has been tested and calibrated under the arrangements of the National Sprayer Testing Scheme**
- **Establish the best control methods using a combination of cultural and chemical techniques**
- **The user/applier should carry out a COSHH assessment.**



### **Tools for delivery and success**

**Securing the Future** is the government's sustainable development strategy, launched in conjunction with the strategic framework for delivery in March 2005. This document provides the context for action on sustainable development which aims to enable individuals worldwide to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. To view go to [www.sustainable-development.gov.uk](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk)

**Biodiversity by Design a guide for Sustainable Communities** is a toolkit on the Town and Country Planning Association website which includes guidance and case studies on planning green infrastructure. Visit [www.tcpa.org.uk/biodiversitybydesign](http://www.tcpa.org.uk/biodiversitybydesign)

**Green Infrastructure Sustainable Communities** is a leaflet by The Milton Keynes and South Midlands Environment & Quality of Life (EQOL) Sub Group, which sets out principles and processes relating to green infrastructure adopted in response to the high levels of growth projected for the area. It can be downloaded from [www.culturesoutheast.org.uk](http://www.culturesoutheast.org.uk)

**Countryside In and Around Towns** This document presents a new vision for the countryside in and around England's towns and cities. Available from [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

**Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change** is a supplement to PPS 1. It recognises the value of green space in relation to climate change.

The following guidance documents relating to flood planning are available:

- **Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25): Development and Flood Risk** outlines Government policy on development and flood risk, and requires flood risk to be taken into account at all stages of the planning process
- **Planning for flood risk: the facts** provides detailed background information required when planning for flood risk.

For more information on PPSs visit [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**Adapting to Climate Change Impacts: A Good Practice Guide for Sustainable Communities** sets out the climate change adaptation issues that planners and developers

should consider at each stage of the development process, and ways to respond to them. The London Climate Change Partnership has prepared several reports and guides on tackling climate change which are relevant beyond London too. [www.london.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership](http://www.london.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership)

**UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP)** helps organisations assess how they might be affected by climate change, so they can prepare for its impact. A range of guidance and reports are available [www.ukcip.org.uk/about/](http://www.ukcip.org.uk/about/)

**The Environment Agency (EA)** manages river-restoration projects to restore natural riverbeds and habitats. The EA provides information on flood risk management including the management of land use, river systems and flood and coastal defences, flood warning and emergency responses. More information is available at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

**The Chartered Institute of Water and Environment Management (CIWEM)** provides information on sustainable management and development of water and the environment. For more details visit [www.ciwem.org](http://www.ciwem.org)

**British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)** aims to provide help and practical advice to enable relevant local groups to build their own healthy and sustainable communities [www.btcv.org.uk](http://www.btcv.org.uk)

**Every Action Counts** is partnership based campaign, which highlights the importance for community groups of building a sustainable future and tackling climate change in small action steps. As part of the campaign, Community Champions encourage local community groups, clubs and societies to develop an action plan to take small actions and to build a sustainable future 'one planet living'. [www.everyactioncounts.org.uk](http://www.everyactioncounts.org.uk)



**Ecoregen** is an organisation which aims to create sustainable environments by encouraging communities to maximise the benefit from their surroundings while fostering the environmental conservation of that area. Visit [www.ecoregen.org.uk](http://www.ecoregen.org.uk) for more information.

Raising the Standard, Green Flag Award Manual contains advice to parks managers of the use of pesticides. [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)

For guidance on product use and control methods, amenity training courses and certification guidance please refer to the BASIS website at [www.basis-reg.com/training/courses\\_list.asp](http://www.basis-reg.com/training/courses_list.asp)

Important for environmental protection is effective contract tendering and monitoring, so you know who is spraying what, where, why and when. For further details on contract management, refer to the National Association of Agricultural Contractors website [www.naac.co.uk](http://www.naac.co.uk)

For guidance on statutory obligations covering the use of pesticides in public areas, consult the Amenity Leaflet produced by the Pesticides Safety Directorate at: [http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/uploadedfiles/Web\\_Assets/PSD/Amenity\\_Leaflet.pdf](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/uploadedfiles/Web_Assets/PSD/Amenity_Leaflet.pdf) and the more detailed Code of Practice referred to in the summary leaflet.

The industry's Amenity Forum has advice on treating specific weeds, along with contract management guidelines on pesticides use in the amenity sector. Their site is at: [www.amenity.org.uk](http://www.amenity.org.uk)

For amenity sprayer equipment testing and checking please refer to the National Sprayer Testing Scheme website at: [www.aea.uk.com/sprayer/index.htm](http://www.aea.uk.com/sprayer/index.htm)

For information on certification and training of sprayer operators, please go to: [www.nroso.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nroso.nptc.org.uk)



## **Case Study – Chinbrook Meadows, London**

### **Reducing flood risk imaginatively leads to Green Flag Award**

Urban development in the river valley and natural flood plain over the past 150 years has increased the risk of flooding in the River Ravensbourne catchment. The traditional approach to flood alleviation had been to increase the capacity of the river channel by culverting and channel widening to allow water to flow quickly away from built-up areas. Unfortunately this cannot prevent catastrophic floods such as occurred in the centre of Lewisham in 1968 – affecting hundreds of businesses and residents.

A proposal to reduce flood risk and further widen the channels along the Quaggy caused the formation of a local community group – Quaggy Waterways Action Group. The group successfully campaigned for an alternative approach to flood management that would allow the green spaces along the network to store water during peak flows and also facilitate a more natural and attractive meandering river. This approach was then taken forward by the Environment Agency.

The new approach is important because it integrates green space design with water management. It reduces storm water run-off for Lewisham Town Centre as well as providing improved recreational parks for local communities and more variation in habitats that in turn encourages greater biodiversity.

One of the key green spaces in the catchment, Chinbrook Meadows, was, until 2002, an under-used small park divided by a deep channel. High bushes and fences were put up to reduce the risk of visitors falling in and injuring themselves. This was replaced by a meandering naturalised channel with associated wetland, improving biodiversity within the park and reducing flood risk to adjacent properties. The park was redesigned and upgraded with new footpaths, tree and flower planting, gates, lighting, bridges, sports facilities, educational resources and art features. Chinbrook Meadows won the Green Flag Award in 2003 and has retained it since then.

Today the river and surrounding landscape benefit both wildlife and people, providing an attractive recreational and educational resource as well as protecting residents and businesses downstream in Lewisham from flooding. These changes involved a multidisciplinary design team, enabling major visual and ecological improvements to be made.

Sutcliffe Park has been designed as a multifunctional green space, and has integrated green space design with water management. Recent research by the Environment Agency has shown that, since the improvements, more people visit the park for exercise and to enjoy wildlife, and that they stay in the park for longer.

For more information about this and related case studies see CABE Space, Start with the park, 2005 [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)



### 3.2.1 Developing management plans

- **The increasing demands on green spaces, their complex function and interaction for a wide range of activities makes a site management plan invaluable**
- **Site management plans help ensure effective use of resources and activities**
- **A site management plan is a key element in securing recognition for achievement and attracting additional resources.**

This section explains why management and maintenance are crucial to the long-term viability of our green spaces.

Managing a green space today demands much more than horticultural care. The increasing role and demand for green spaces in supporting the success of communities makes site management extremely valuable.

Management plans help to ensure that the green space strategy is put into practice. The primary purpose of creating a site management plan is to aid efficient and effective management of a green space, over a specified time. The plan might also support the following:

- **Consultation, involvement and consensus**
- **Continuity and capacity, including training**
- **Preparing for change**
- **Information and recording**
- **The development of a framework for decisions**
- **Standard setting**
- **Strategic planning**
- **Action planning**
- **The upholding of design principles.**

The plan should identify ambitions and expectations, such as improved facilities and more visitors, and provide a way of measuring progress and address the following questions:

- **Where are we now?**
- **Where do we want to be?**
- **How will we get there?**
- **How will we know when we have arrived?**

Management plans are a key element of the assessment for the Green Flag Award Scheme. Most funding bodies, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, also require a management plan in place to secure grant funding.

A green space management plan should link to an overall Parks and Green Spaces strategy which will be shaped by the Local Strategic Partnership and its Community Plan defining a local area's priorities. The Parks and Green Spaces strategy will identify its contribution to these wider priorities and provide an umbrella for each individual management plan.

### **Tools for delivery and success**

**A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans** is a guide that explains the principles and process to create a management plan for publicly accessible parks and green spaces. It can be downloaded from [www.cabespace.org.uk](http://www.cabespace.org.uk)

**The Green Flag Award** can be used to improve the quality of management and maintenance, making parks and green spaces welcoming, healthy, safe and secure and involving the community. See [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)

**Living Places: Caring for Quality** reports on research about the way local authorities are improving their management of public space. It includes questioning tools to help improve management. It is available from [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

## Case Study – Wellington Park, Taunton Deane Borough Council

### Sound planning secures Green Flag Award

The Wellington Park Management Plan produced by Taunton Deane Borough Council sets out the future management, maintenance and development of Wellington Park. The plan formed the basis for the Green Flag awarded to the site in 2003 and was also designed to comply with Heritage Lottery Fund contract conditions. ([www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)). The plan provides both a long-term vision and the detail on developmental and operational issues required to make that vision a reality.

The production of the plan was a team effort involving everyone from gardeners to heads of service and all those with a part to play in the restoration of the park. The management plan creates a framework that brings together a wide range of policies. It includes a vision and a set of aims, detailed survey and data collection on a range of issues (historic, legal, strategic significance, ecological and community involvement). Most importantly the management plan shows the analysis of this information before setting management objectives and operational prescriptions. Finally, it gives details of a monitoring and review process.

The team has made very effective use of the Green Flag criteria to structure their analysis

of the park. It carried out a 'mock assessment' of the park where everyone involved in developing the plan used the Green Flag score sheets to judge their own park. They discussed their results, worked out the strengths and weaknesses of the site and produced an action plan. Their analysis is based on the section headings (A welcoming place, Healthy, safe and secure, Well-maintained and clean and so on). This simple process brought in all partners and provided a common understanding of what was required for Wellington Park and how to achieve it.

The management plan fits with a parks and open spaces strategy and with the wider policy objectives of Taunton Deane Borough Council. The plan states that 'there is a consensus amongst parks staff that parks are climbing up the corporate policy and political agendas and that the restoration of Wellington and Vivary Parks along with the production of a parks and open spaces strategy are contributing to this process'.

As the Green Flag judging feedback report said: 'this was an excellent plan, a thorough document which was well presented and well researched'. For more information see [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)

For more information about this case study see CABI Space, A guide to producing park and green space management plans, 2004.

## Case Study – Oldham

### Style change to satisfy Green Flag Award judges

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council took a strategic approach to assessing its green space against the Green Flag Award criteria.

The Parks and Countryside Service has been evolving its own house style of management plan, largely to satisfy the judging process of the Green Flag Award.

Staff in the service had experience of certain management planning approaches, which they had found useful but which they felt did not satisfy Green Flag Award requirements. Parks staff looked at other authorities that had succeeded in gaining the Green Flag Award to see how they had written their management plans – and two Parks staff are also Green Flag Award judges.

The service also had a Heritage Lottery Fund-based management plan, which they felt was far too detailed. Depending on the type of site, the plan-writing team usually included the Head of Service and Operational Manager on parks sites or the Head Ranger and site-based management staff for countryside sites.

A small number of staff took the lead in bringing together information, in keeping with the house style. Key stakeholders were then consulted and involved – ‘friends’ groups and front-line staff such as gardeners and information centre staff – and specialists were brought in as necessary.

For more information about this case study see CABA Space, A guide to producing park and green space management plans, 2004.





### 3.2.2 Managing sites for biodiversity and heritage

- **Green spaces provide one of the best opportunities for experiencing the natural world**
- **They protect and enhance biodiversity in built environments**
- **They also enhance the local distinctiveness of an area and build on the cultural and heritage value inherent in such spaces.**

This section looks at the important role green spaces play in supporting many environmental aspects and wildlife, and as part of the heritage of a local community.

Biodiversity in towns and cities depends on the quality, connectivity and variety of green spaces. The grassland, shrubs, trees, open water, and even bare ground of these spaces provide a habitat vital to sustaining many plants and animals. Because most people live in towns and cities, green spaces provide one of the best opportunities for them to experience the natural world.

For these reasons biodiversity should now be a part of local authorities' key strategic plans and these plans should be included in Community Strategies.

Different sites will offer different opportunities. For example, a park will offer a different experience of nature than a designated nature reserve or wilderness area. Sometimes providing a site managed for wildlife, such as wildflower meadows, can be cheaper than a high-maintenance large area of grass, and is more attractive. Buildings in green spaces may also provide an opportunity to incorporate green roofs.

The following are principles for managing biodiversity:

- **Know the economic, environmental and social benefits of biodiversity and how changes can disrupt or enhance them**
- **Set out in a management plan the techniques and long-term resources required to achieve healthy ecosystems**
- **Establish the role of each site in the wider green infrastructure of an area**
- **Identify the distinctiveness and character of the landscape looking at its geology, hydrology, landscape design and use of man-made structures**
- **Protect habitats and species. These require consideration during the construction process and may benefit from the expertise of an ecological clerk of works**
- **Recognise the heritage of a park or urban space. This can include historic buildings, records and collections held in museums, archives and libraries as well as objects and sites linked to the UK's industrial, maritime and transport history.**

Historic areas pose further challenges to those involved in their planning and maintenance. Green spaces, with their landscape design, buildings and structures, often reflect the history of communities and add to their local distinctiveness. This is not just relevant to historic Victorian parks. Cemeteries and burial grounds, for example, often present special heritage and biodiversity opportunities for the local community. Every effort should be made to continue the public use of green spaces of historic importance.

### Principles for managing heritage

- **Act as responsible stewards of council owned property by setting an example for other owners**
- **Make the most of heritage assets, including promoting better access for all the community**
- **Develop a good understanding of heritage significance in order to make informed decisions about change**
- **Ensure high quality and co-ordinated management**
- **Ensure good management planning, including full and up-to-date information on the extent, nature and physical condition of historic green spaces, and ensure a council-wide strategy**
- **Plan maintenance and repair programmes.**

### Tools for delivery and success

#### Biodiversity

**Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation** is an outline of policies that provides guidance on the preservation of biodiversity and geological conservation through the appropriate planning procedures. **PPS9 Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: A Guide to Good Practice** is the accompanying document to PPS9 and explains statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system. Both can be found on [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk) and on [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)

**Preparing community strategies: Government guidance to local authorities** is a tool to assist local authorities to develop local improvement strategies. For more information visit [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)





**Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities** is by the **Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)**, an independent charity working to improve the art and science of town planning. The report can be downloaded at [www.tcpa.org.uk](http://www.tcpa.org.uk)

**Life-Support – Incorporating Biodiversity into Community Strategies** explains the key social, economic, educational and health benefits of including local biodiversity in to the objectives of Community Strategies, as set out in the Government's England **Biodiversity Strategy**. More details about biodiversity and the brochure can be accessed from [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP)** are developed as part of the Local Area Plan process to identify local issues and priorities. For more information visit [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk)

The **National Federation for Biological Recording** is the UK organisation for practitioners involved in biological recording and brings together suppliers, managers and users of information about species, habitats and wildlife sites. For more information visit [www.nfbr.org.uk](http://www.nfbr.org.uk)

**Making contracts work for wildlife: how to encourage biodiversity in urban parks** is an essential tool for professionals who have a role in developing and encouraging biodiversity in urban parks and green spaces. Find out more at [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

## Heritage

**Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historical Environment –** Circulars 01/2001 and 09/2005 discuss arrangements for handling heritage applications that amend the existing PPG 15: Planning and the historic environment. The circulars should be read in conjunction with the guidance and are available to download at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**Paradise Preserved: An Introduction to the Assessment, Evaluation, Conservation and Management of Historic Cemeteries.** This document explains the importance of the sites, providing information on how to evaluate a site and use statutory designations to protect them, with instructions and information on conservation management plans. Download this document at [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

**Historic Environment Local Management (HELM)** is a partnership project established in 2004, led by English Heritage and supported by the DCMS, Communities and Local Government and Defra. The project aims to share best practice and build both the capacity and confidence of those involved with the historic environment. HELM provides and funds written information and training. Some relevant documents include:

- **Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets**
- **A database of local authority publications on the historical environment displayed as a searchable bibliography.**

For further information go to [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk)

**Guidance notes by the Heritage Lottery Fund**, include information on managing heritage sites. For more information please visit [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

**English Heritage (2003) Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets** is a document that includes some guiding principles for decision makers. The document is available from [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk)

## Case Study – Knowsley

### Wildflowers raise residents' satisfaction

Areas of close-mown grass have been transformed into annual and perennial wildflower landscapes on land between tower blocks and along prominent road corridors into Kirkby. Feedback from residents has been overwhelmingly positive.

This was first initiated at the request of local people following other successful projects elsewhere in the borough. The projects have evolved through a partnership with the environmental charity Landlife.

The project initiated two hectares of creative conservation landscapes in the area, and developed creative conservation skills within the locality. Feedback to a locally distributed questionnaire was very rewarding, 97% of respondents saying they wanted more wildflower landscapes and 64% saying that they were more likely to venture outside when there were such landscapes.

Staff at the local health practice also wrote to express their thanks and state their belief that the flowers had actually uplifted the community.

The key to the success of this project has been building on the knowledge and skills base within the borough and raising the confidence and aspiration of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council contract staff.

The process of development on the Kirkby sites involves an open process of discussion and review, but has a precise and defined specification. Areas are nominated that were previously under a high-cut amenity grass regime for wildflower treatment.

Site walks take place between council staff, contractors and Landlife. Short grass areas were sprayed with herbicide by the council and wildflower seed hand-sown into short dead turf. The sandy soils in Kirkby make this technique particularly amenable. Sites are checked and inspected by Landlife in early spring for good germination and assurance of success, and additional seed is held back for sowing bare areas. Also, sites are flailed after flowers are past their best and have partially set seed.

As a result the borough was christened the Wildflower Borough in 1992, and Landlife has since established the Millennium National Wildflower Centre at Court Hey Park in Knowsley, Merseyside, itself helping to set new standards of good practice for creative conservation.

For more about this and other related case studies see CABA Space, Making contracts work for wildlife: how to encourage biodiversity in urban parks, 2006 at [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

For more information about this case study contact Ian Smith 0151 489 6000.

## Case Study – Chester-le-Street

### Retraining staff leads to regenerating a wildlife area

Riverside Park is a heritage site containing a designated 13-hectare wildlife area and riverside walk, providing space for biodiversity and wildlife in Chester-le-Street.

The Park runs alongside the River Wear, was created in the 1930s and substantially redeveloped during the 1980s and early 1990s.

In 2002 the budget, staff and limited equipment relating to these elements were transferred to a dedicated on-site grounds maintenance team. However, having little experience of managing a site for biodiversity, the new management rapidly set about gaining a grounding in the basics of conservation management and seeking additional expertise.

Developing an overall management plan for the park was an early step. The park is a Green Flag Award winner and the park's management plan links closely with maintaining that status.

A particular concern was to reorganise the management of the wildlife area, which had been extensively planted with native trees to create a woodland with rides, glades and open meadow area with pond. Since planting, the site had received little management and development. It was looking neglected and had become under-used.

The management feels the wider range of operations now undertaken and the new skills learned have had a positive effect on staff, including greater retention. The manager meets the grounds maintenance team weekly to review work and walks the site at least once a month to keep abreast of management needs.

The next challenge is to extend the management for biodiversity to the wider park. Working with the biodiversity officer, the manager will be identifying opportunities across the site. The on-site presence of permanent staff helps greatly with public relations. Regular visitors get to know the staff and can ask questions and get direct answers.

The 51-hectare park has been designed to cater for a wider range of visitors and is a diverse mix of formal gardens, a play area with paddling pool, a large events area and the Park Centre, which is home to the Chester-le-Street Bowling Club. There is good provision for formal sports features and numerous local clubs are based at the sports complex. The park also includes the Durham County Cricket Club ground.

For more about this and other related case studies see CABI Space, Making contracts work for wildlife: how to encourage biodiversity in urban parks, 2006 at [www.cabi.org.uk](http://www.cabi.org.uk)

For more information about this case study contact Julie Lewcock 0191 387 1919.



### 3.2.3 Managing cemeteries

- **Important provision of burial facilities for the community**
- **Safe environmental haven for local flora and fauna as well as a quiet, contemplative space**
- **Must not be forgotten when planning local green or open space strategies.**

Churchyards and cemeteries are a special subgroup of open space. They provide a unique function as places for remembrance, quiet recreation, heritage and biodiversity. This presents different challenges for green space managers. This section examines their place as part of the local environment.

Cemeteries have a particular, primary, function – the provision of burial facilities for their communities – and principally serve a defined subgroup of the public – bereaved people. But most have an important secondary function in providing a relaxing and contemplative open space for their communities as a whole. Many, by design or otherwise, offer a safe environmental haven for local flora and fauna.

Much of the land will already be owned by local authorities. The Church of England is another significant owner of burial grounds, although these will be numerous rather than large. In some cases, maintenance responsibility will lie with the local authority following the closure of the burial ground to further burials. The private sector is relatively small, although in some areas, such as London, it may be significant.

In most cases, the continuing use of a burial ground in its primary function is no bar to its contribution to the network of open space available for a community. Such land should be fully taken into account when considering local green or open space strategies, in accordance with PPG17.

### Tools for delivery and success

**Guide for burial managers** – this guide encourages an appreciation of the wider role of burial grounds in the community as well as providing a framework of standards for burial ground managers to operate within. [www.dca.gov.uk](http://www.dca.gov.uk)

**Paradise Preserved** is the first-ever guidance on the conservation and management of cemeteries. It is primarily for local authority cemetery managers, conservation officers, elected members and local people interested in getting involved in caring for their own cemetery. [www.englishnature.org.uk](http://www.englishnature.org.uk) and [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

### National Federation of Cemetery

**Friends** are a group of cemetery heritage and conservation minded voluntary groups and supportive cemetery managers caring for the future of Britain's Victorian cemeteries and other burial grounds. [www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk](http://www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk)

**Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management** aims to improve standards of services to the bereaved by providing professionals, authorities and companies with policy and best practice guidance and educational and training programmes. [www.iccm-uk.com](http://www.iccm-uk.com)

**The Association of Burial Authorities** – was formed in 1993 to fulfil the need for a consumer-orientated organisation to co-ordinate the activities of burial grounds and provide a tangible link between them and the public. [www.burials.org.uk](http://www.burials.org.uk)

**Cemetery of the Year Award** is a competition that was devised for two reasons: to encourage and reward high standards amongst Britain's cemeteries and to raise public awareness of the role that cemeteries fulfil within the community. [www.namm.org.uk](http://www.namm.org.uk)

### Green Heritage Site accreditation.

Publicly accessible cemeteries and burial grounds can enter the Green Flag Award Scheme and apply for Green Heritage status, to recognise and reward good management and maintenance practices. See Green Flag Awards Scheme [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)

**Natural Death Centre** – Natural or woodland burial is one of the fastest-growing ecological movements in the UK, and the Natural Death Centre provides information on green burials. They hold events and meetings, in particular there is an annual event as part of a nationwide programme 'The National Day of the Dead', with co-ordinated events around the UK and at some natural burial sites. In 2004, as part of these events it issued five National Awards (and 36 Regional Awards). [www.naturaldeath.org.uk](http://www.naturaldeath.org.uk)

### **Case Study – Carlisle Cemetery & Crematorium**

This crematorium was voted the best in the UK in 2004 by 'The Natural Death Handbook'. The awards were given after taking into account the positive comments received from visitors to the buildings and grounds. The judging panel was also impressed with the quality of services and the helpful way in which information and guidance was communicated to the public'. The site won the same category in 2000, and collected the award for Best Cemetery with Crematoria in 2006.

A quarter of a million pounds was spent on improving facilities at Carlisle's Crematorium and Cemetery grounds. A new look crematorium opened to the public in late October 2003. The new facilities provided:

- **A better waiting area which has been extended to cope with larger funerals**
- **New exiting arrangements to improve disabled access and allow mourners more time to spend with next of kin outside of the chapel**
- **New improved décor including furniture and fittings**
- **Additional security measures following advice from the Carlisle and Eden Crime & Disorder Partnership.**

Grounds maintenance is undertaken by the Council's in-house workforce from its Green Spaces Team. The horticultural standards have been achieved as a result of having a dedicated, horticulturally trained supervisor who works on-site with trained

gardeners. The sense of ownership by both the Bereavement Services team and the gardeners is seen as a major contributory factor to their success.

In addition to more than 70,000 graves maintained by the Council in three cemeteries and six closed churchyards, there are more than 3,900 trees, herb rich grassland and a wide variety of wildlife. Use of chemicals is limited, and peat or slug bait is not used at all. All grass cuttings and green waste is sent to the City Council's composting unit. The annual clippings from 120 cemetery yews are used in Germany to make the anti-cancer drug 'taxol'.

Planting includes butterfly-friendly species and lots of groundcover, with conservation zones sheltering shrews, voles, toads, frogs and newts, and occasionally deer. Many old graves are signed as wildflower and conservation areas. The cemetery is also an important lichen reserve, with the generally rare pignut found here commonly. Leaf and wood piles have been provided for the large population of hedgehogs, while the woodland graves have been designed to be a red squirrel reserve with special feeders. A family of red squirrels has now established itself within the main cemetery. There is a wide range of nesting and visiting birds

Woodland burials, using a cardboard coffin, and with an oak tree to replace a stone memorial, help to create a nature reserve, and save about £1,000 over a conventional burial. To save land, recycled graves are available in the wooded Victorian sections. These graves will be used for further burials in 100 years, as a further sustainable approach.

### 3.2.4 Managing risk

- **Greater priority is given to risk management than ever before**
- **There is a need to be risk aware, not risk averse.**

This section examines the importance of considering risk in planning for, developing and maintaining parks and green spaces. In today's society there is a heightened risk consciousness and a 'compensation culture'. Public authorities have been encouraged to respond by placing greater emphasis on risk management. However, dealing with risk should not reduce the opportunity to create exciting and innovative parks and open spaces. The challenge to provide environmental sustainability and make attractive, economically successful places naturally involves taking risks. Therefore, aim to be risk aware, not risk averse.

#### What is risk?

Risk is the chance of harm occurring, and the likelihood of it happening.

Risks defined by the public and related to open spaces are most commonly about the use of the space and are mainly personal security issues.

Risk is not an absolute standard. For example, a designer may wish to create a challenging and exciting green space for the public to explore. Health and safety professionals may see things in a different way. They are trained to identify and judge hazards that may harm individuals and so they may focus on potential for tripping or slipping in the design of the green space.

Design and management cannot eliminate risks, so it is important to design and manage for the norm, not for a worst case scenario. It is important to start from the assumption

that parks and open spaces are safe places. As well as decreasing incidences of crime in the British Crime Survey, statistics from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) show that in 2002 the number of accidents in natural areas is only 11 % of the number of accidents inside the home. RoSPA strongly believes that open space should be 'as safe as necessary – not as safe as possible', although it strongly advocates independent inspections and risk assessments.

Government policy emphasises promoting the quality of parks and open spaces. Following a report in 2007, the Government agreed with the Better Regulation Commission (BRC) that trying to eradicate risk completely is unrealistic and often undesirable and that risk needs to be managed in a sensible and proportionate way.

So how can professionals respond to pressure for a greater emphasis on countering risk in parks and open spaces?

- **Keep hold of a strong design concept – test risk against the vision for the space and do not allow later decisions to undermine it. Phased designs can also help in terms of learning from patterns of use established in early phases**
- **Come to shared judgements on risk with the full range of stakeholders**
- **Keep the debate going after projects have been completed – the chance of risk will change over time and cannot always be predicted**
- **Develop a good understanding of health and safety regulations so that you can respond positively to fear of litigation or actual litigation**
- **Use techniques such as mapping hotspots to inform local authority solicitors and help them take a strong stance to reduce claims and identify potentially fraudulent ones**



- **If risk aversion seems likely to take over the design or management process, remind others that a sense of safety is gained when parks and open spaces are of good quality and well used**
- **Remember that legal requirements quoted in rule books are only relevant if features are present, not if they are absent.**



### **Tools for delivery and success**

**ALARM** is the national forum for risk management in the public sector. It provides publications, education and training – see [www.alarm-uk.org](http://www.alarm-uk.org)

**The Better Regulation Commission** is an independent advisory body to Government. Its report, Risk, Responsibility, Regulation: Whose Risk Is It Anyway?, 2007 recommends a public debate about the management of risk involving individual citizens see – [www.brc.gov.uk](http://www.brc.gov.uk)

**The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)** is the government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space. CABE Space is the part of CABE aiming to bring excellence to the design and management of public spaces in our towns and cities. Its publication What are we scared of? The value of risk in designing public space, 2004 is about how we deal with risk in our use of public space. At time of going to press CABE Space was compiling further research on how design can uphold public space quality in the face of risk aversion. See [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)





**The Children's Play Council (CPC)** is an alliance promoting children's right to play and the development of play provision in England. Its policy briefing *Managing Risk in Play Provision: A position statement*, is about how play provision aims to respond to children's needs and wishes. See [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

**The Health and Safety Executive (HSE)** is promoting sensible risk management including revised guidance on risk assessment to make it clearer to businesses what is, and is not, expected of them. CDM 2007 will increase the focus on effective planning and management of construction projects to improve risk management. See [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

**The Occupiers' Liability Act 1957** provides a statutory framework for occupiers' liability towards visitors. See [www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)

**PLAYLINK's** play policy provides a robust, explicit framework for organisations to demonstrate that they have acted reasonably in offering children acceptable levels of risk in provision for play. It offers risk assessment workshops for play providers and its publication *Risk & Safety in Play: the Law & Practice for Adventure Playgrounds* (ISBN: 0-419-22370-3) is a code of practice with application for many outdoor play spaces. [www.playlink.org.uk](http://www.playlink.org.uk)

**The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)** is a registered charity involved in the promotion of safety and the prevention of accidents in all areas of life. It provides information, advice, resources and training. It also makes available home and leisure accident data to search independently. Its publication *RUA Dummy 2?* aims to help young people understand the difference between dangerous situations and a positive risk taking situation. See [www.rospace.com](http://www.rospace.com)

## Case Study – Exchange Square, Manchester

This case study illustrates how views about risk varied between the multiple stakeholders involved in an innovative design for a public square. While some of the original design features were retained, such as the distinctive water feature, others were modified or dropped.

Manchester's Exchange Square is a significant area of public space located in the heart of the city's Millennium Quarter district. Manchester Millennium Ltd., the public/private partnership set up by the Government and Manchester City Council, was the client responsible for commissioning the redevelopment of the square following the damage caused by the IRA bomb. The scheme selected for the redevelopment was perceived to be a challenging and exciting design. Various issues concerning risks were positively incorporated into the design of the scheme rather than attempting to remove them altogether. The square is now well used and a place for people to meet, and the water feature is popular with all age groups.

There were risk issues concerning the different users of the square (e.g. skateboarders), its daytime and night-time use, the water feature, access for emergency and utility vehicles to pedestrianised areas, and changes of level.

Access routes into and out of the pedestrianised areas of the square for emergency and utility vehicles was considered a risk. Rather than use painted lines on the surface of the Square, bollards were used to mark the route for vehicular access.

The texture of the black granite paving on the upper plaza posed another risk due to concerns that the uneven finish could be a trip hazard, and it was ground down to reduce the problem.

Some stakeholders felt a 90-metre long water feature containing sawn boulders that formed stepping-stones was high risk. Concerns over maintenance costs and possible water leakage and slippery or icy pavements were debated. The risk of people – and especially children – slipping, trapping their legs between rocks, or even drowning were of major concern. It was agreed to construct the water feature and the noise that emanates from it provides a warning of its existence to blind and partially sighted people.

The designers responded to the brief to be innovative by proposing ersatz palm trees to be located near some major retail stores. They were perceived to be a significant risk by some commercial and council stakeholders, because parts might fall off or members of the public might climb them. The ersatz palm trees were replaced with tilting steel windmills, providing an alternative and distinctive feature for the site.

While the original design addressed various risks, subsequent use of the space has resulted in further adaptations. The use of the ramps by skateboarders was subsequently resolved by retrofitting stainless steel armrests to the ramps and sidewalls to prevent this use. The later installation of a large TV screen has also resulted in people tending to sit on the ramp walls facing it, thus reducing the potential for random intermingling in the space that was anticipated by the designers for movement.

### 3.2.5 Managing litter, other environmental crimes, dogs and other animal fouling

- **Litter, detritus and other waste can signal a lack of care for the area, encouraging additional offences like fly-tipping and other environmental crimes**
- **Local authorities should promote the message that dog owners must clean up after their pets and make full use of the enforcement powers that are available to ensure owners do so**
- **New powers and tools are strengthening the ability to act.**

This section looks at some of the issues that can affect the quality and use of our green spaces.

#### Litter

There is a danger that unless a green space is clean and maintained to a high level it can quickly descend into neglect and misuse, devaluing the site and deterring users.

#### The main culprits

Flattened **chewing gum** is the most common form of staining with heavy accumulations in locations where people congregate. It is also very costly to remove.

**'Food on the go' litter** includes disposable containers branded by an outlet's name or logo such as pizza boxes, burger packaging, sandwich packets, plastic cutlery and drinks cups.

**Smoking-related litter** such as cigarette butts is unsightly and difficult to clean up, particularly the small filters which avoid detection by regular cleansing processes.

**Drugs-related litter** includes needles, syringes, foils, swabs, spoons, plastic bottles and cans. Drugs-related litter has a higher impact on a community than any other type of litter and the cleansing response differs accordingly. However, there are close links between drug and sex markets and therefore it is likely that sex-related litter would be found in the same locations as drugs-related litter.

#### Ways to tackle litter & waste in parks

Some authorities have succeeded in tackling litter through a combination of co-ordination, education and enforcement:

- **Co-ordination of cleansing and maintenance services, including rapid response teams**
- **Education through anti-litter publicity campaigns in the local press and media, engaging the interest and commitment of park users and, through schools, local schoolchildren**
- **Enforcement with greater use of fixed penalty notices and litter abatement notices publicised through local media to reinforce the anti-litter message**

From 1 July 2007, smoking will be banned in all enclosed public spaces including pubs, cinemas, offices, factories and public transport. To tackle a potential increase in cigarette litter it will be essential to provide cigarette litter bins which display signage that encourages safe litter disposal. The use of bins also reduces potential fire hazard from cigarette ends that have not been properly extinguished.



## **Other environmental crimes**

### **Graffiti and fly-posting**

Graffiti and fly-posting are not viewed as major problems in parks and open spaces. Such acts of vandalism tend to occur mainly in built up areas and predominantly in urban areas. Where they do occur in parks and open spaces they can cause considerable detriment to the character and environment. In most cases responsibility for dealing with the problem rests with local authorities and they have a range of legislation at their disposal to help them deal with it.



### **Abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping**

These are not major problems in parks, but can be in open spaces, particularly those that are some distance from built up areas. In the case of hazardous fly-tipped waste there is legislation to help local authorities and other enforcement authorities e.g. the Environment Agency, to deal with these problems and those responsible for them.

### **Control of dogs**

Green spaces are particularly popular for dog walkers although conversely, this deters others from using them. Concerns regarding dog mess and the spread of disease (toxocarasis) especially to children, alongside certain religious groups' sensitivities about contact with dogs, need to be considered when planning open park spaces.



Stray dogs can be a deterrent to individuals' use of green spaces as the strays can be intimidating and, in some cases, dangerous. If dog owners let their dogs get dangerously out of control the police and courts have a range of powers to deal with the offenders by fining or imprisonment of up to two years. In extreme cases, the dog can be destroyed.

Dog fouling is likely to be a multi-departmental issue and is the responsibility of officers in various roles, for example dog wardens, cleansing and grounds maintenance operatives, police community support officers, neighbourhood wardens and environmental enforcement officers. The efforts of this wide-ranging task force need to be co-ordinated if they are to be as efficient and effective as possible. Information on dog fouling hotspots, offenders and success stories should be monitored and shared with partners to enable effective management of this issue.

### Other kinds of animal fouling

Fouling by birds, horses, cows and cats, whatever impact it makes on environmental quality, does not constitute an offence. It does, however, fall within the definition of refuse and therefore local authorities have a duty to clear it under section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

An increase in litter from food eaten 'on the go' has undoubtedly contributed to a rise in bird fouling in town centres. With this in mind, any strategy to deal with the problem should also consider the need to reduce this kind of litter. The litter section covers the issue in more detail.

### Tools for delivery and success

**The Local Environmental Quality Survey of England (LEQSE)** includes overall trends in environmental quality indicators – such as levels of litter, detritus and graffiti – which are useful when deciding on campaigns. The survey includes a category that tracks trends in parks and open space. For the latest survey information visit [www.encams.org](http://www.encams.org)

**The Chewing Gum Action Group** was established in October 2003 and aims to find sustainable solutions to irresponsible gum disposal. The group has also developed best practice guidelines and case studies for

local authorities who are looking to tackle this issue in their area. This is available at [www.encams.org](http://www.encams.org)

**Voluntary Code of Practice for 'Food on the go'** outlines options for reducing litter from fast food sold for immediate consumption, including fast food, sandwiches and snacks. It also focuses on waste minimisation and public education. It sets out a series of recommended actions for all businesses in this sector and provides templates for litter management checklists. A copy of the voluntary code is available to download from [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**Defra** has issued guidance on dealing with drug-related litter, available from [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**ENCAMS Knowledge Banks** provide information on the areas listed below giving background details, research methods, suggested actions and highlighting relevant legislation and case study material:

- **Litter**
- **Smoking-related litter**
- **Chewing gum**
- **Food on the go**
- **Drugs litter**
- **Schools and litter**
- **Graffiti and fly-posting**
- **Abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping.**

Available from [www.encams.org](http://www.encams.org)

**The Control of Fly-posting: A Good Practice Guide** is a manual from communities and local government to assist local authorities and other agencies in controlling and limiting the incidence of fly-posting. It is available at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**Flycapture** is a web-based, fly-tipping database for England and Wales. It also provides a means to target resources on fly-tip hotspots. See [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)



## Enforcement

**The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005** clarified the meaning of litter for the purposes of Part 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 by specifically including 'cigarettes, cigars and like products' as being litter.

**The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (section 87)** says that if a person drops, throws down, deposits and leaves litter in any place in the open air, they are committing an offence. In everyday conversation litter usually refers to wrappers or other remnants associated with smoking, eating and drinking that are discarded carelessly by members of the public or else spilt during commercial and waste management operations. Measures are also included in this act to deal with illegally deposited waste.

**Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA), Sections 33, 34 and 59** The local council, as the waste collection authority, may serve a legal notice on the occupier of private land where there is fly-tipping that needs to be removed or reduced. The occupier then has 21 days to appeal. If they are unsuccessful and the waste remains in place, the local authority has the power to remove it and recover costs from the land occupier or, if they can be traced, the fly-tippers themselves. If the land has no occupier and the fly-tipper cannot be traced, the local authority or the Environment Agency has the power to remove the waste. More information on legislation is available from [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

**The End of Life Vehicle Directive (ELVD)** sets out procedures for recycling and re-using end-of-life vehicles and their components, reducing the disposal of waste. The End of Life Vehicles Regulations 2003 transposed most of the requirements of the ELVD, including the new standards for recognised treatment facilities (ATFs), the Certificate of Destruction (COD) and

reduction in heavy metals in new vehicles. The producer obligations mean that from 2007, vehicle manufacturers or importers must make available an 'adequate' network of facilities so that final owners can have their vehicles taken back at no charge.

**The Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005** gives local authorities the power to remove abandoned cars from the streets immediately and creates two new offences to help local authorities deal with nuisance parking.

Since 2001 local authorities have been able to adopt the powers of the **DVLA** to act on untaxed, as well as abandoned vehicles. More information is available at [www.dvla.gov.uk](http://www.dvla.gov.uk)

### Dog issues

**Dogs Trust** is a useful website giving information and guidance on dog ownership, providing factsheets, publications and links to further information for dog owners, including **Every dog owner's duty** which has information on poop and why you need to scoop it! Aimed at dog owners, this guide provides background information and sources of further information. Go to [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)

**The Kennel Club** has a **Good Citizen Dog Scheme** to educate dog owners about their responsibilities. More details can be found at [www.thekennelclub.org](http://www.thekennelclub.org)

### Enforcing dog issues

**Section 55 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005** allows local authorities, town and parish councils to issue **Dog Control Orders**. These are designed to control the way dogs are handled and allowed to behave on areas of land

within the organisation's authority. The control applies to land open to the air on at least one side and to which the public has access with or without payment.

**Defra** has produced a set of guidance documents to accompany the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act with the Dog Control Guidance now available to download from [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996** makes it an offence to fail to clean up after any dog fouling, subject to a maximum fine of £1,000. Authorised officers can also give offenders the option of paying a fixed penalty fine of £50 rather than going to court. Local authorities can no longer designate land under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 as this part of the legislation has been repealed but they can still enforce on existing designations of land.

The system of **dog by-laws** has now been replaced by dog control orders under part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act. However, existing by-laws will remain in force until such time as a dog control order, covering the same issue, is created on that land.

### Other kinds of animal fouling

Further information on fouling by birds and 'food on the go' litter can be found online at [www.encams.org](http://www.encams.org)

Fouling by water fowl is a significant problem in some areas. Canada Geese in particular can cause problems in urban parks and gardens. The Management of Problems Caused by Canada Geese is an information booklet produced by the Department for Bird Control in non-agricultural environments. It is available from [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)



## **Case Study – Cleaner Cambridge Campaign**

### **Volunteers clean up hotspots**

The Cleaner Cambridge Campaign organises events to promote a cleaner and greener environment in Cambridge. Multi-agency events involving citizens, students, university and council staff have explored potential solutions to litter.

The group has no official funding, but in line with the logo – ‘Working together to Keep Cambridge Clean’ – it has developed innovative approaches for businesses, the local council and individuals.

A ‘Pick and Punt’ event saw citizens clean up the popular picnic spots on the River Cam and the island Laundress Green in 2006. The group, in partnership with a local punt company, encouraged residents, students and visitors to ‘pick and punt’ by litter picking from the waterways while punting along the river. The aims were to keep the area looking clean, supplement City Council litter management, encourage a collective responsibility, reduce the amount of litter entering the river and increase recycling of street litter.

The event was promoted by the Wildlife Trust and was used to raise awareness of the natural waterside environment. A local company provided the punts for a nominal charge that was then donated to the trust. The event was featured on the ITV ‘Big Clean Up’ 2006.

For further information, please email: [cleanercambridge@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:cleanercambridge@cambridge.gov.uk)



## Case Study – Shoreditch

### Dog Day dealt with fouling

The Shoreditch Park Dog Day was organised to celebrate the positive relationship between dogs and people.

The event, held in August 2005, was set up in response to concerns raised about 'dogs in the park' from feedback given by local people who attended an improvements consultation day.

The many innovative aspects of Dog Day included making the unpleasant aspects of dog ownership fun and involving owners in creating solutions to environmental health priorities such as dog fouling.

A veterinary group was on hand to give free advice on how to care for pets, while Blue Cross and Pets as Therapy promoted animal welfare and the therapeutic benefits of dog ownership.

More than 50 dogs were entered for the popular Dog Show Contest. Park users were also given the opportunity to have their say on ideas for improvements, including the location of dog litter bins in the park.

Dog Day is part of a wider programme of improvements to enhance the green spaces in Shoreditch Park. Free Form worked with Shoreditch Trust and London Borough of Hackney Parks Department to carry out this work.

For more information please visit [www.freeform.org.uk](http://www.freeform.org.uk) or contact Alan Rossiter, Associate Director – Public Arts Development, Free Form. Tél: 020 7241 7472, email: [alan@freeform.org.uk](mailto:alan@freeform.org.uk)



## Case Study – Rotherham

### Ranger helps transform park and vandal culture

Rawmarsh Park in Rotherham was a crime hotspot with graffiti, litter and abandoned vehicles. But turning vandals into park guardians has taken just two years – a success story that stems from creating the new post of urban park development ranger.

Following a major regeneration, many groups now use the park to run their own events – a change in attitude which was expected to take at least three, rather than two, years to achieve.

Ultimately, the goal was to make the 33-acre park a popular and valued space and to give the community a sense of ownership. The ranger developed a partnership network involving around 35 agencies and, above all, the young people who previously had been causing damage.

During the first 12 months in post, the ranger organised a small-scale Junior Ranger programme. Getting challenging youngsters involved was often difficult, but once they had signed up to the programme, many were keen to do something worthwhile.

The Junior Rangers get involved in everything from planting bulbs to painting and litter-picking – a giant step forward from the

anti-social activities the youngsters were involved in only two years ago. The Junior Rangers help police the park rather than damage it.

The ranger also helped develop a multi-agency strategy called the GRA-FIX, aimed at tackling the problem of graffiti and anti-social damage. Damage was recorded on a daily basis, and then checked against a visual database of graffiti tags. In the local school, a confidential hotline was set up for young people to submit information. Once culprits were identified, they were invited to a meeting along with parents, the police and council representatives.

Marketing the work has been low-key to avoid tempting young people to spoil the project merely to gain attention and notoriety.

Thanks to the high levels of community consultation and the progress the park had made, £350,000 was awarded from the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder programme. The money has been spent on paths, fences and CCTV.

Initially, the urban ranger post was funded by the Big Lottery, but as the council saw the value of the role, it was upgraded into a permanent post. The less anti-social behaviour in the park, the more seriously the ranger's work has been taken.

For more information, please contact [paul.spriggs@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:paul.spriggs@rotherham.gov.uk)

## Case Study – Sheffield

### Deep Pits – Manor Fields Park

As part of development of the Manor Fields Park, Sheffield City Council erected new boundary walls and railings around the park perimeter.

The aim of the redevelopment was to provide a new open space but the opportunity was used to prevent illegal vehicle access and prevent abandoned vehicles appearing in the park.

The wall uses natural stone and metal work to provide an attractive and distinctive boundary. Simple and traditional materials were used to provide a robust and pleasing design, taking inspiration from the natural stone walls and traditionally laid hedges which were common in the area before it was developed for housing.

The design was developed in conjunction with local artists who worked with metal and stone. The themes have also been used elsewhere in the park. The wall is a highly visible element of the local landscape and has become a distinctive landmark.

For more information please visit Sheffield City Council [www.sheffield.gov.uk](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk)

## Case Study – National Trust

### Evidencing Trust site dumping

The National Trust does not carry out prosecutions itself but provides evidence on fly-tipping to the Environment Agency, local authorities and to the police.

The Trust encourages staff to collect information on any fly-tipping incidents, and has held training sessions for its countryside staff in connection with the Environment Agency. On one occasion, a warden filmed a fly-tipping incident and the video footage was used in a successful prosecution.

The Environment Agency has provided training to the National Trust Estate Team on action to take if they see someone fly-tipping. There are certain details to collect in order to document an incident and to support a potential case as evidence.

Staff are now vigilant about noting registration numbers of suspicious vehicles and take photographs where necessary. Every fly-tipping incident is recorded – date, times, location, volume, type of waste, crime numbers, staff time involved etc.

A volunteer came across fly-tipping consisting of several huge loads of chalk and clay in a car park near a National Trust visitor centre. An architect's drawing was found near the waste. The findings were passed to the police who followed it up and the architect was fined £1,500.

For the National Trust it is a challenge to implement preventative measures for fly-tippers, while trying not to deter visitors from their estates.

Local councils have contacted the Trust and offered to install CCTV surveillance if fly-tipping is a regular problem. CCTV has been used in lanes outside some estates owned by the trust and this has led to a reduction in fly-tipping. The Trust has raised the profile of the fly-tipping issues in one area by providing talks and submitting articles to the local paper.

For more information, please contact:  
[mike.collins@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:mike.collins@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### 3.3.1 Promoting greater use

- **Green spaces are an asset to any community. They need to be promoted to encourage greater use**
- **Green space managers need to focus on users and respond to demand**
- **Making it easy to find out what is going on in local parks and green spaces will encourage greater use**
- **Include events that might appeal to non-users, infrequent visitors, minority groups or more vulnerable members of the community.**

Green spaces are a fantastic asset to any community. Their value needs to be promoted. It is important that people know what their local parks and green space offer so they can use them more fully. This section examines how this can be achieved.

The key to attracting people to a park is to know what users want from it. Decisions about what facilities to provide, park opening times, promotional activities and communication can then be made.

In addition, you need to identify what makes your parks special or different from others. The majority of parks have local, historical and ecological benefits that can be used in promotions. An events programme or facilities, particularly those facilities for children, may increase the number of visits.

Promotional and communication can be as simple as providing good quality information about availability and opening times, but they can also involve imaginative approaches such as organising events and healthy walks.

The process of developing green space strategies and site management plans will already have made links with the local

community and provided an understanding of what people want. A communications plan will help put strategies and plans into practice to attract people into parks, and to formulate an integrated programme of activity.

#### Outline of a communication plan

- **Analysis of users and facilities**
- **Objectives and goals**
- **Unique selling points**
- **Communications activities**
- **Resources (people and money)**
- **Implementation (timelines and milestones).**

#### Promotional events

Parks and green spaces have always been used as venues for a wide range of events. A programme of events provides a great way to encourage a wide section of the community to visit and enjoy the space. By including events that might appeal to non-users, infrequent visitors, minority groups or more vulnerable members of the community, the events programme can help to broaden the visitor base by providing a reason to visit.

As well as providing a fun and entertaining day and opportunities for socialising, events can highlight the significance and importance of the park or green space and encourage greater participation and 'ownership'. In this way events in parks can help strengthen and support communities, and recruit volunteers to assist in the management or enhancement of the park or green space.

## PARK CLEAN

by a local byelaw  
of canine faeces. This  
charge of a dog (other than  
son) to remove any faeces  
g within the area of the Park.

erve this requirement may  
n criminal prosecution  
MINIMUM PENALTY £500



Bins are provided in the Park where  
can be deposited.

In addition, the process of organisation leading up to the events can:

- **Strengthen the relationship between local authorities and community groups**
- **Increase park use and encourage new audiences to experience the benefits of parks and green spaces**
- **Raise community awareness of the holistic value of parks and green spaces**
- **Ensure that the involvement of the community will help preserve the park for the future**
- **Give community groups the experience and confidence to create and manage their own events.**

There are many opportunities to involve local schools, for example by running competitions on flora, fauna, wildlife or local history. This could be incorporated as part of their education curricula. Schools can be contacted directly, or through the Education Unit within the local authority.

Other organisations create events and are often looking for venues. For example, most schools, sports and youth clubs hold fundraising events and local authorities can use the green space for these groups' events.

### Communication tools

The type of activities and promotions you are going to carry out needs to be communicated to those who might use the park. General communications are also vital to help you increase the positive use of parks and ensure that green spaces are valued as part of a healthy, well-balanced lifestyle.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH  
is an offence  
dog to foul  
or grass

## Signage

Good signage in and around the green space is an important tool for communication. In order to maximise the potential to communicate, signs should be attractively designed, well-positioned and kept in a good state of repair.

Site notice boards should conform to a coherent style. Regular maintenance schedules should be established to carry out spot checks and repair or remove any information which is out of date.

## Official presence

Staff working in green spaces should be easily identifiable, well-informed and willing to help users so that they are seen as an asset to the site and make visitors feel more comfortable. All staff need to be given adequate training on the green space, its history and facilities and how to deal with the public.

Neighbourhood wardens and community support officers can also prove useful allies to parks' staff by providing a reassuring presence and helping with enforcement.

## Manage the media

Local parks make good local stories and a local newspaper could highlight your summer programme of events or involve the community in deciding how the park should be developed and maintained. It is therefore essential to manage the media effectively not only to promote the authority but also to defend its reputation.

## Tools for delivery and success

### Events

**Park It!** is a series of heritage-inspired events in parks and green spaces, sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund and run by GreenSpace. These events are community led and are an opportunity to improve skills. Information is available from [www.park-it.org.uk](http://www.park-it.org.uk)

**Plan it! How to plan a community event in your park** produced by GreenSpace as part of the Park It! Programme, provides helpful advice on activity ideas, funding, event development, and the promotion and evaluation of events. It is available as a free download from [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)

**Love Parks Week** is an awareness-raising campaign run by GreenSpace. More information is at [www.loveparks.org.uk](http://www.loveparks.org.uk)

**The Green Flag Award** scheme website has a calendar of events that will provide many ideas for events. Further information is included on The Green Flag Award below or visit [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)

**www.renewal.net** provides case studies and guidance on community participation including how to tackle exclusion and how to get the community involved in improving the local environment. Although it is aimed at neighbourhood renewal areas the principles are generally applicable.

**Playday** is supported by the Children's Play Council. On Playday each year, children nationwide take part in play celebrations organised by local groups. As well as providing a great day out for the children, the events stress the importance of play to children and their communities. For more information access [www.playday.org.uk](http://www.playday.org.uk)



Green  
Flag  
Award  
2005



## Awards

The **Green Flag Award** scheme highlights success of parks and can be used as a promotional tool.

**Raising the Standard**, a manual produced by the Green Flag Award, includes advice on marketing and promotions. The website for the award also includes an events calendar with information on successful ideas used at winning sites.

The **Green Heritage Site** status, sponsored by English Heritage, rewards organisations for excellence in promoting and maintaining parks and green spaces over 30 years old which are of local or national historic importance. The **Green Pennant Award** acknowledges the contribution of voluntary and community groups in managing top quality green spaces across England and Wales. For more information visit [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)

**Britain in Bloom** is a national campaign run by the **Royal Horticultural Society** whose competitions reward local environmental improvements and can be used to measure change. **Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards** is a non-competitive award scheme for new small resident-led cleaning and greening projects. It is a process that assesses progress and offers advice. For more information visit [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

## Play Quality Awards scheme

The Play Quality Award recognises the commitment of organisations to providing high quality play areas for children and inclusive facilities and services for disabled people. For more information about the awards and how to enter go to [www.rospa.com](http://www.rospa.com)

**The Cleaner Safer Greener Network Award Scheme**, run by ENCAMS, recognises excellence and innovation in improving local environmental quality. It aims to share good practice which sets new standards. Online information is available at [www.encams.org](http://www.encams.org)

## Media

The **IDEA** has a section on media relations giving practical guidance on many aspects of developing and implementing a media strategy. For more details see [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

**The Reputation Campaign** also established the importance of media relations when promoting services to the public. It provides steps to improve media relations. The campaign website has more information online at [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)



### Case Study – Leicester

**Passport to Parks is a national award-winning 'brass rubbing' style trail around ten of Leicester's finest parks.**

Each passport has a map of Leicester's parks and information on how to get to them. There are also blank pages for each park, where a 'brass rubbing' (with a crayon or pencil for example) of the 'passport to parks' symbol can be made. The symbol is mounted on a wooden post situated in each park, and each park has a different symbol. As visitors search for the park's symbol they also discover the wealth of ancient monuments, wildlife and recreational facilities in the parks.

For each passport received with five or more park symbols collected, participants will receive a free pass/family pass to another City Council leisure facility courtesy of the Leisure Services Section.

For more information please visit [www.leicester.gov.uk/parks](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/parks) or contact Barry Ingram, Senior Parks Officer on 0116 229 3632

### 3.3.2 Enhancing access to parks and open spaces

- **It is important to ensure all people from all sectors of the community are able to enjoy parks and open spaces**
- **Planning and design can improve existing spaces, and in new developments can provide access for all**
- **People need to know where open spaces are and how they can get to them safely**

This section looks at possible ways to improve access to parks and green spaces. Also provided are tools to improve access on site.

It is essential for people to be able to reach services that impact on their quality of life. These services include healthcare, transport, employment and leisure facilities such as parks and open spaces. It is important therefore to consider and optimise access, ensuring it is available to all in the community.

How much a park or green space is used and enjoyed is influenced by how safe and easy it is for people to get to. Public transport, road networks and the immediate neighbourhood are all factors which can be barriers to access. Every effort should be made to ensure that parks and green spaces are within easy reach of the whole community, whatever their means of travel and level of mobility.

#### Assessing and improving access

Access plans are extremely useful when considering and reviewing the issue of access. They are an opportunity to assess the current situation and plan improvements.

The following factors provide a general starting point when assessing access. It is also important to consider any specific local circumstances that may need to be taken into account.

- **Busy main roads**
- **Railway lines**
- **Poor public transport**
- **Poor quality walking**
- **Poor quality cycling infrastructure**
- **Individuals' ability to travel.**

#### Point the way

Ensure there are suitable signs to direct people to your park. Directional signs from local public transport routes or car parking areas will help people find their way. If your park is easy to find, people will be more likely to return.

#### Access points

Consideration should be given to the location of entrances and external factors such as busy roads. Separate access for cars, cycles and pedestrians can reduce conflicting use and encourage more visits.

Creating a welcoming environment is critical to attracting people to visit and make use of green spaces.

#### Tools for delivery and success

More information on access for disabled people can be found in the Meeting Community Needs section.



**Design and access statements: how to write, read and use them** is a short guide showing how to write, read and design access statements. It accompanies the Government circular **Guidance on Changes to the Development Control System** and provides practical advice on getting the best from statements to help deliver well-designed, inclusive places. It can be downloaded at [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

**Access plans, helping your application** is a guidance document by **The Heritage Lottery Fund** on how to create access plans. It includes topics such as barriers to access, the Disability Discrimination Act, physical access improvements, guidelines for developing an access audit and successful planning. For more information visit [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

**The Department for Transport** produces current transport guidance available to all, but aimed at local authorities, covering strategy, good practice, guidance and reports. This covers safety when crossing busy roads to access a green space and placing pelican crossings close to park entrances where possible. It also looks at stops for public transport near to park entrances and improving cycle access by working with the local highway authorities to have the park included on official and signposted cycle routes. There is comprehensive coverage of all the main topics of interest including:

- **Local Transport Plans**
- **Access**
- **Cycling and walking**
- **Travel plans**
- **Street works**
- **Highway maintenance.**

A registration facility for e-mail alerts can be found at [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)



**The Sensory Trust** has developed **Access Chain**, a tool that explores different parts of the visitor experience. The guide calls for an inclusive approach with disabled people involved fully in the process. For more information and to download the guides listed go to [www.sensorytrust.org.uk](http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk)

**Easy Access to Historic Landscapes** was commissioned by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund to aid owners and managers of historic parks, gardens, cemeteries and urban squares in providing easy access for visitors with disabilities. For more information go to [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

**By All Reasonable Means** is a national guide commissioned by the Countryside Agency to help countryside and urban green spaces managers and owners improve accessibility of their sites, routes and facilities for disabled visitors. Based on the Least Restrictive Access approach, this guide provides a framework of standards and techniques for improving outdoor access. For information visit the Natural England website [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

**Accessible natural greenspace in towns and cities: A review of appropriate size and distance criteria** provides guidance on developing policies that place importance on protecting and improving natural spaces to ensure sustainability. The report includes subjects such as urban pollution, accessibility and biodiversity. It aims to show the link between size and distance criteria and sustainability. For the full report refer to [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

**National Register of Access Consultants** is an independent register of accredited Access Auditors and Access Consultants who meet professional standards and criteria established by a peer review system. It is the only UK-wide accreditation service for individuals who undertake access auditing and access consultancy. For more information go to [www.nrac.org.uk](http://www.nrac.org.uk)

**Making the Connection, produced by the Social Exclusion Unit**, highlights the accessibility problems faced by disadvantaged groups which can be addressed through local transport plans, other local authority functions and by working with other local partners. The report also emphasises that accessibility shouldn't be restricted to transport as it is also affected by decisions on the location, design and delivery of other services and by people's perceptions of personal safety. Accessibility is covered in more detail at [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

**Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC)** is an independent advisor to the Government on the delivery of a high quality inclusive environment that provides access to all members of society, including disabled people. Best practice advice is available at [www.dptac.gov.uk](http://www.dptac.gov.uk)



## Case Study – the Twiggeries, Warrington

### Woodland now accessible to residents

The Twiggeries, a willow coppice that once served a thriving basket making industry but later became derelict land, has become more accessible through Ranger Service and local community work.

The willow coppice had become dense almost impenetrable woodland but has been managed to create areas of wetland, scrub and grassland that allow better access. It now provides a variety of habitats that support a range of wildlife including diverse year-round resident birds, interesting insects and flora.

The Ranger Service has also spent time improving access, enhancing and protecting the habitat for wildlife, often in partnership with local community groups. A pond at the edge of the woodland has been reclaimed and a boardwalk with dipping platform erected.

Boardwalk construction will be continued to form part of a woodland walk, and further landscape improvements will be made to enhance access for visitors and the wildlife potential of the Twiggeries.

The Ranger Service seeks the opinions of anyone using the site in order to assist in its management. By establishing closer links with local people they aim to set up and run projects which will benefit the Twiggeries and the local community.

## Case Study – Liverpool

### Park access extended to suit all

Everton Park, a green space close to the centre of Liverpool, was developed in the 1980s as part of reforming a deprived area of the city.

A nature garden was created within the park in the 1990s with funding from the Urban Programme. The spot was constructed following extensive community consultation and now comprises a lake divided by a stone weir with footpaths and meandering boardwalks.

The site has developed as an opportunity for members of a wide range of groups to access green space. A wide variety of native flora provides a wildlife haven within semi-natural habitats formed to provide educational opportunities for local residents and groups.

Local community leaders, clergy and the schools work together in protecting the facility and encouraging responsible use of

the garden. Those running the adjacent Shrewsbury Community Centre allow gardeners and visitors to use its facilities at the centre. The park also houses two mess rooms that have been renovated by the Probation Service to provide shelter and space for simple interpretation and teaching.

Everton Park Nature Garden has also been further enhanced by the construction of an Accessible Garden for the disabled, which involved consultation with local groups. A group of local wheelchair users provided measurements for the raised beds to provide a tantalising sensory experience for visitors to the Accessible Garden.

Tactile paving, handrails to stepped areas and the introduction of an accessible interpretation board highlighting, by way of a map indicating, accessible short loop walks all help to make this an inclusive garden.

For more information please see [www.liverpool.gov.uk/leisureandculture/parksandrecreation/parksandgardens](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/leisureandculture/parksandrecreation/parksandgardens)



### 3.3.3 Promoting positive behaviour in parks

- **Parks provide safe environments that are used by an estimated 33 million people a year. However, the actions of a minority can fuel feelings that people don't care and perceptions that crime and anti-social behaviour is present**
- **Creating well-designed and well-used spaces should be a key element of approaches to prevent anti-social behaviour, rather than simply fortifying the existing environment with security measures**
- **Promoting activities for everyone, including perpetrators of anti-social behaviour is a vital part of the approach**
- **Guidance and legislation, including model by-laws or codes of conduct can be adopted to prevent and tackle unsuitable behaviour and should be implemented sensitively so as not to deter use.**

This section examines the importance of creating the right sort of space that can be used properly by the community.



Parks and open spaces are essentially safe places to be, but poor design and maintenance can attract unacceptable behaviour. This can lead these spaces to decline, creating additional problems for green space managers.



There are four main techniques to overcoming perceptions of, and actual, unacceptable behaviour. These should be used alongside each other.

- **Design**
- **Use of space**
- **Communications**
- **Use legislation as a tool to enforce acceptable behaviour.**

Using a range of techniques to promote acceptable behaviour should be an integral part of any green space management plan. The following elements can be considered contributory to success. They should be used together.

1. Restore original designs, where possible, at sites of heritage importance.
2. Ensure all designs are of a high standard, involving relevant professionals (landscape architects and designers) and valuing the contribution of users.
3. Manage risk sensibly and retain features that attract people to parks: the paddling pool, play area and shrub beds.
4. For natural surveillance, take advantage of buildings within parks e.g. the outlook from cafés, flats and offices.
5. Involve the community early in the process and continually.
6. Involve 'problem' groups as part of the solution where possible, and work hard to avoid single-group dominance in the park.
7. Build a relationship with community groups which can result in their achieving external funding and exerting a legitimate authority.
8. Provide activities and facilities to ensure young people feel a sense of ownership. Address young people's fear of crime as well as that of adults.
9. Use publicity to let people know that management believes in the place. Send a clear message to vandals and criminals: 'your time is up, you are no longer welcome, things are about to change'.
10. Ensure that people know how to report damage and incidents.
11. Make sure that maintenance budgets are adequate to support after-care.
12. Use additional security measures sensitively as part of overall improvements.
13. Respond rapidly to vandalism and anti-social behaviour, but bear in mind it is highly localised and caused by a minority.
14. Work in partnership. Others may be trying to manage similar problems and may be willing to get involved and share resources.
15. Research the range of tools and powers available and use appropriate enforcement where necessary to tackle problems.
16. Reintroduce staff and gardeners, who provide a level of authority and a point of community interaction. Ensure they are provided with back up.
17. Ensure that initiatives are part of a co-ordinated approach.

### Designing-out crime

The term 'designing-out crime' has a variety of meanings when it comes to implementation. This ranges from place-making, which emphasises the quality of place as an incentive for good behaviour to thrive, and where some targeted security measures are included, to 'target hardening' where the existing environment is fortified with security measures, restricting movement and potential damage or theft.



The principles of good design, as described in section 2, should be followed when taking a place-making. Nevertheless there are some specific design considerations that relate to designing-out crime which have the potential to be incorporated in the design process.

### Seven ways to plan-out crime

- 1. Access and movement** – places with well-defined routes, spaces and entrances that provide for convenient movement without compromising security
- 2. Structure** – places that are structured so that different users do not cause conflict
- 3. Surveillance** – places where all publicly accessible spaces are overlooked
- 4. Ownership** – places that promote a sense of ownership, respect, territorial responsibility and community
- 5. Physical protection** – places that include necessary, well-designed security features
- 6. Activity** – places where the level of human activity is appropriate to the location and creates a reduced risk of crime and a sense of safety at all times
- 7. Management and maintenance** – places that are designed with management and maintenance in mind to discourage crime.

The document can be viewed along with useful best practice examples at [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

Security measures can also be useful if carefully and sensitively applied where most needed. These include:

- **Non-sacrificial coatings over walls e.g. to prevent graffiti**
- **Locking gates at night**

- CCTV
- Anti-social behaviour contracts and orders (ASBOs)
- Securing infrastructure such as bins and seats to prevent removal.

### People make places

Creating welcoming and well-used spaces should be a key element of approaches to encouraging acceptable behaviour. Parks are well-placed for providing space for diversionary activity such as sports programmes, junior ranger schemes and gardening clubs. Activities can be carried out as part of an integrated approach with social, health and other agencies. This should be done through consultation and direct involvement to help people develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for their spaces. Designating special areas for particular age groups should be considered only if these needs cannot be reconciled. There should not be a default mechanism to off-the-shelf solutions, such as teen shelters, unless there is a proven demand and ownership for new features.

Some local authorities have adopted a code of conduct to replace or supplement by-laws to promote a more welcoming atmosphere by encouraging good behaviour and respect for other users.

#### A code of conduct model

- Many people enjoy the quiet and tranquillity of parks and open spaces. Please respect your fellow users
- Please do not disturb any wildlife and leave all plants and flowers for others to enjoy
- Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Please keep your dog under control and use the waste bins provided
- Games and sports are encouraged. But please use designated areas and be considerate to other park users
- Considerate skateboarders and cyclists are welcome in the designated areas. Please watch out for other park users, especially children, and elderly and disabled people
- Most of our parks and open spaces are accessible at all times, but please observe any notices that may restrict access or activity
- You are encouraged to use our parks for organised events or outings, but please contact us first to let us help you to make them successful and safe
- Please use the litterbins provided or take your litter home
- Please contact us with your comments and views on how we can improve this park. Any problems with maintenance of the facilities or grounds should be reported to (insert contact details or a helpline number).

Friendly, well-informed and helpful staff will also encourage responsible use, as will ensuring that spaces are attractive, welcoming and well-used. The presence of on-site staff, in all significant parks and green spaces, and at least during daylight hours, is a good way to involve people in their green and open spaces and has wider benefits than just discouraging inappropriate behaviour.

#### Legislation and enforcement

There are now legislative measures available to managers to discourage unacceptable behaviour in parks and open spaces. The barriers to implementation often lie within local authorities, where policies have been set against enforcement. It is important



therefore to address such barriers. Links to relevant legislation are set out in the tables in Section 4.

Model by-laws can be adopted by local authorities to prevent and tackle unsuitable behaviour and uses of green spaces. Many park managers use them to set out opening hours, and restricted and prohibited activities. By-laws are local laws that create criminal offences, but before they can come into effect, a Secretary of State must confirm them. It is also important to consult the local community before the introduction of closing times or restrictions on popular uses. A regular review of by-laws and replacement or removal of unsuitable by-laws that are redundant, should be considered.

### **Tools for delivery and success**

The **Green Flag Award** can be used to improve the quality of management and maintenance, making parks and green spaces welcoming, healthy, safe and secure. See [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)

**Respect** is a cross-Government strategy to tackle bad behaviour and create a modern culture of respect. It involves collaboration between central Government, local agencies and local communities with a view to reducing anti-social behaviour and creating mutually respectful communities. For further information please see [www.respect.gov.uk](http://www.respect.gov.uk)

**CABE Space, Decent parks? Decent behaviour?: the link between the quality of parks and user behaviour, 2005** provides evidence that good quality design and management are the key ingredients for safer parks. For more information, including a wide range of case studies where improvements focus on place-making, visit [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

**Youth Works** is a national charitable partnership which enables 'at risk' young people to play a constructive role in community regeneration in order to:

- **Improve the social and environmental economic prospects of deprived neighbourhoods**
- **Tackle the causes of youth crime and criminality**
- **Build community capacity to bring about and sustain local change.**

More information is available on [www.youth-works.com](http://www.youth-works.com)

**Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) or Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)** in Wales are made up of designated responsible authorities that have a statutory duty to work with other local agencies and organisations to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder. Further information is available from [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

**Defining and Measuring Anti-Social Behaviour** is a Home Office document, which sets out a range of methods for defining and measuring local anti-social behaviour, highlighting the good and bad points of each. Presented in three main sections, the report provides:

- **Definitions of anti-social behaviour**
- **Benefits and purpose of collecting data**
- **Appropriate methods of collecting data.**

The report details a series of issues for practitioners to consider when identifying the most appropriate response to anti-social behaviour. This document and related information can be found at [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

**The Criminal Damage mini-site**, at the same website as above, has facts and figures about criminal damage with an emphasis on the financial and emotional cost, and explains what the Home Office is doing to address the problem. It also hosts regular online sessions for practitioners with experts in criminal damage. The website is at [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

**The Tilley Awards** are presented by the Home Office to recognise excellence in partnership activity to reduce crime. For more information visit [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

**The Home Office** has published a series of short, practical guides on vandalism and criminal damage which investigate the issues and describe the tools and powers that can be used to tackle them. Each of the guides can be downloaded in full from [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

**The IDEa** has devised a dedicated interactive web-based resource as part of its commitment to improve local government so that councils can better serve people and places. Information at [www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk](http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk)

**The National Community Safety Plan (NCSP)**, first published in 2005, updated in November 2006, sets out the Government's safety priorities for 2006-09. It outlines a new holistic approach to community safety through a proactive role from national Government, through to regional and local partners, neighbourhoods and citizens. The NCSP is available to download at [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

**Restorative justice** is relatively new to England. It involves bringing together parties in a particular conflict. Offenders are allowed to acknowledge the impact of what they have done and make reparation and/or collectively the parties can decide how to deal with the problem – see [www.restorativejustice.org.uk](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk)



**The Communities and Local**

**Government website** details the by-law making powers for pleasure grounds, public walks, open spaces and burial grounds and includes the arrangements and procedures for the confirmation of local authority byelaws including model sets and guidance notes. See [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**Defra's website** has information on byelaws relating to commons, village greens and LEQ issues at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**The Crime Reduction Website** is an interactive resource where practitioners can find practical advice, have access to reports on research into vandalism and criminal damage, exchange ideas on new initiatives, and identify local solutions. In particular, it contains toolkits that adopt a comprehensive, partnership approach to tackling the issues. More information can be found at [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

**By-law-making powers.** A section of Communities and Local Government's website concerns the by-law making powers of pleasure grounds, public walks, open spaces and burial grounds. By-laws relating to commons and village greens can be found on Defra's website. See [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

## Case Study – Pearson Park, Hull

### Actively embracing cultural diversity reclaims a park for the people

Tensions between asylum seekers, refugees and residents had turned Hull's 8-hectare Pearson Park into an intimidating place.

Urban Park Rangers and Sports Development staff initiated sports activities over the summer holiday period, slowly making the participants integrate. Soon, teams were picking the best players, regardless of race, and going to the pub together afterwards.

The City Council announced in December 2003 that it would give the park and community centre permanent revenue aid. Hull residents have enjoyed many new events staged in the park and the police have reported that since a community centre was opened, youth nuisance crime has fallen by around 75%.

For more about this and other related case studies see CABI Space, Decent parks? Decent behaviour? The link between the quality of parks and user behaviour, 2005 at [www.cabi.org.uk](http://www.cabi.org.uk)







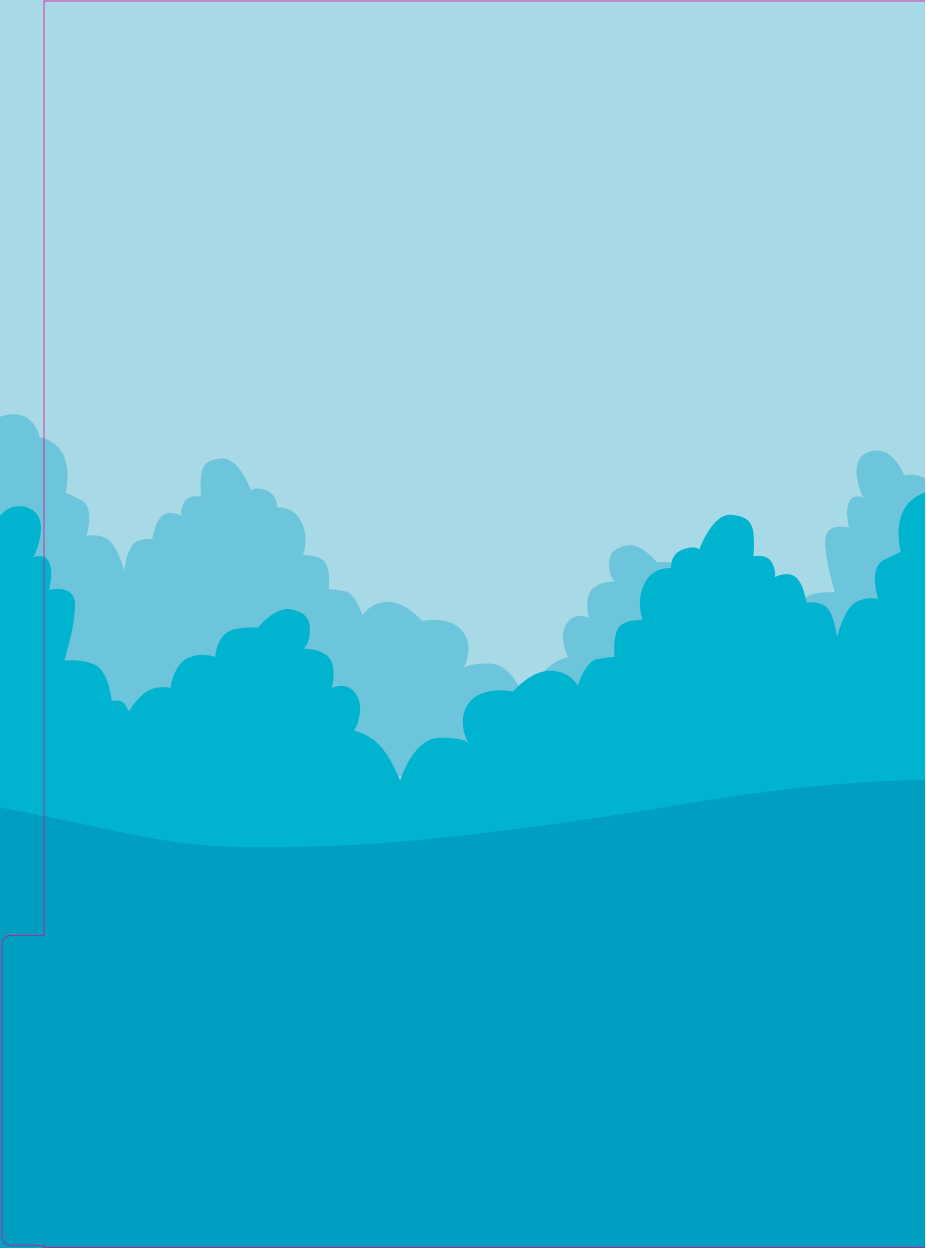
# Part 4

## Actions

4.1 Actions

4.2 Powers and tools

4.3 Glossary



### Key steps to create quality parks and open spaces

To make green spaces attractive, safe and functional, it is essential to take a strategic approach to their management.

This requires commitment from many local and public authorities, communities, voluntary bodies and businesses to work towards a shared vision for green spaces.

The following key steps, drawn from this guide, provide a good basis for effective action, and for engaging with practitioners to share experience and learn from innovations and responses that work.

- **Provide local leadership to engage, listen and respond to local needs – to develop a shared vision and strategy for fulfilling it**
- **Assess needs and opportunities for your green spaces, and plan to improve provision, especially in areas of deficiency**
- **Give power to the community – the community knows what it wants, so those responsible for public spaces need to find out and feed back**
- **Work with partners, both internal and external, to identify common aims and enable the pooling of resources, skills and knowledge, and to focus action**
- **Create a sound evidence base that explains the costs of managing and maintaining parks and green spaces. This is vital for negotiating for long-term resources**
- **Measure and monitor success. Knowing what you need to deliver and whether you have succeeded is critical for retaining support. Use the Green Flag Award Scheme as an indicator of success**
- **Create spaces for all the community that are fit-for-purpose, which have good design, involve the community and recognise special needs**
- **Manage and maintain spaces to high quality standards – implement management plans, and use policy and process tools appropriately**
- **Encourage and promote the constructive and beneficial use of green spaces by encouraging good behaviour and tackling bad. Use a network of staff, wardens, volunteers and the community to provide a presence**
- **Apply the tools – guidance, powers, programmes and good practice – and encourage innovative management.**

Section	Legislation	Advice and guidance
<b>Part 2 – Introduction</b>		
1.2 The challenge		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The value of public space: how high quality parks and open spaces create economic, social and environmental value: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Urban Green Spaces Taskforce Report: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Spaces, Recreation and Sport (PPS17) and guidance: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Green Flag Awards: <a href="http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk">www.greenflagaward.org.uk</a></li> <li>• New Deal for Communities: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
1.3 National strategies for creating parks and open spaces		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Towns and Cities: the Future. Delivering an Urban Renaissance: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Sustainable Communities: Building for the future: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Strong and Prosperous Communities – The Local Government White Paper: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Making it happen: the Implementation Plan: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Making it Happen: A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>

Section	Legislation	Advice and guidance
<b>Part 2 – Strategic Management</b>		
2.1 Leading local delivery	The Local Government Act 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milton Keynes Parks Trust: <a href="http://www.mkparks.co.uk/parks-trust">www.mkparks.co.uk/parks-trust</a></li> <li>• The Land Restoration Trust: <a href="http://www.landrestorationtrust.org.uk">www.landrestorationtrust.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Improvement and Development Agency: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• The Academy for Sustainable Communities: <a href="http://www.ascskills.org.uk">www.ascskills.org.uk</a></li> <li>• CABE Space: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• The Power of Well-being: <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk">www.opsi.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Living Places case studies: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
2.2 Assessing local needs and opportunities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Spaces, Recreation and Sport (PPS17) and guidance: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• The Local Development Framework (LDF): <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Town and country planning for playing fields: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Flag Award: <a href="http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk">www.greenflagaward.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Green space strategies: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Guide to Preparing Open Space Strategies: <a href="http://www.london.gov.uk">www.london.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Useful principles for producing strategies: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Defining the problem: <a href="http://www.renewal.net">www.renewal.net</a></li> <li>• Generalised Land Use Database</li> <li>• Maps of GLUD: <a href="mailto:gis@communities.gsi.gov.uk">gis@communities.gsi.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• GreenSTAT system: <a href="http://www.greenstat.org.uk">www.greenstat.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Planning policy guidance: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk">www.planningportal.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Guidance notes promoting best practice in the planning service: <a href="http://www.pas.gov.uk">www.pas.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Start with the Park: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Creating Successful Masterplans: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
2.3 Empowering communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involving young people in the design and care of public spaces: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Environmental regeneration projects: <a href="http://www.groundwork.org.uk">www.groundwork.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Improvement of parks and green spaces: <a href="http://www.green-space.org.uk">www.green-space.org.uk</a></li> <li>• National practical conservation charity: <a href="http://www.btcv.org.uk">www.btcv.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Citizen Engagement and Public Services: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Creating Local Development Frameworks: <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk">www.planningportal.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Neighbourhoods, devolution and communities: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Citizen Engagement: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Connecting with Communities: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Parks and GreenSpace: Engaging the Community: <a href="http://www.green-space.org.uk">www.green-space.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Helpful advice on how to deliver projects of excellence: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Spaceshaper toolkit: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Planning for Real Neighbourhoods Initiative Foundation: <a href="http://www.nif.co.uk">www.nif.co.uk</a></li> <li>• Placecheck: <a href="http://www.placecheck.info">www.placecheck.info</a></li> <li>• Guide for involving children and young people: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• It's our space: a guide for community groups working to improve public space, 2007: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> </ul>

<p>2.4 Creating effective partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Crime and Disorder Act (2008)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Strategic Partnerships: <a href="http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk">www.neighbourhood.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Partnership working advice: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships: <a href="http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk">www.crimereduction.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Business in the Community enabling partnerships: <a href="http://www.btic.org.uk">www.btic.org.uk</a></li> <li>• GreenSpace Regional Forums: <a href="http://www.green-space.org.uk">www.green-space.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Friends' type partnerships with users: <a href="http://www.green-space.org.uk">www.green-space.org.uk</a></li> <li>• The voluntary and community sector: <a href="http://www.btcv.org">www.btcv.org</a> <a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org">www.wildlifetrusts.org</a> <a href="http://www.groundwork.org.uk">www.groundwork.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.green-space.org.uk">www.green-space.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.farmgarden.org.uk">www.farmgarden.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Performance management framework: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
<p>2.5 Making best use of resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trading powers for local authorities –The Local Government Act 2003 – trading powers (esp. sections 93 and 94)</li> <li>• Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Safer and Stronger Communities fund: <a href="http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk">www.neighbourhood.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Planning agreements: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Local Area Agreements toolkit: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• LSP Evaluation: <a href="http://www.lga.gov.uk">www.lga.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Grant finder services: <a href="http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk">www.governmentfunding.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Business Improvement Districts: <a href="http://www.ukbids.org">www.ukbids.org</a></li> <li>• Neighbourhood Renewal Fund: <a href="http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk">www.neighbourhood.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• The Big Lottery Fund: <a href="http://www.lotteryfunding.org.uk">www.lotteryfunding.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Heritage Lottery Fund: <a href="http://www.hlf.org.uk">www.hlf.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Paying for parks: eight models for funding green spaces, 2006: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
<p>2.6 Measuring performance</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Flag Award: <a href="http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk">www.greenflagaward.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Britain in Bloom: <a href="http://www.rhs.org.uk">www.rhs.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Housing Design Awards: <a href="http://www.designforhomes.org/had">www.designforhomes.org/had</a></li> <li>• Sustainable Communities Awards: <a href="http://www.ascskills.org.uk">www.ascskills.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Local Environmental Quality Survey: <a href="http://www.encams.org">www.encams.org</a></li> <li>• Best Value Performance Indicators: <a href="http://www.leg-bympi.com">www.leg-bympi.com</a></li> <li>• BV119e user satisfaction survey: <a href="http://www.leg-bympi.com">www.leg-bympi.com</a></li> <li>• BV1199: <a href="http://www.leg-bympi.com">www.leg-bympi.com</a></li> <li>• Information on best value indicators: <a href="http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk">www.audit-commission.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Performance Management, Measurement and Information Project: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Performance management framework: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>

Section	Legislation	Advice and Guidance
<b>Part 3 – Tackling issues</b>		
3.1.1 Designing-in quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Discrimination Act 1990</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on duty to provide access: <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk">www.opsi.gov.uk</a></li> <li>Urban design in the planning system: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>Urban design compendium: <a href="http://www.englishpartnerships.org.uk">www.englishpartnerships.org.uk</a></li> <li>CABE design guidance: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
3.1.2 Meeting community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Discrimination Act 1990</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every Child Matters Inspection Framework: <a href="http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk">www.everychildmatters.gov.uk</a></li> <li>Children's and Young People's Plan: <a href="http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk">www.everychildmatters.gov.uk</a></li> <li>Play England: <a href="http://www.playengland.org.uk">www.playengland.org.uk</a></li> <li>Involving Young People in the Design and Care of Urban Spaces: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>Children's Play Information Service: <a href="http://www.nbc.org.uk">www.nbc.org.uk</a></li> <li>Playground Development Checklist: <a href="http://www.nbc.org.uk">www.nbc.org.uk</a></li> <li>Developing Accessible Play Space – A Good Practice Guide: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>Learning through Landscapes: <a href="http://www.ltl.org.uk">www.ltl.org.uk</a></li> <li>Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto: <a href="http://www.dfes.gov.uk">www.dfes.gov.uk</a></li> <li>Delivering Play Spaces in NDC Areas: <a href="http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/index.html">http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/index.html</a></li> <li>The Children's Play Council: <a href="http://www.ncb.org.uk">www.ncb.org.uk</a></li> <li>Black Environment Network: <a href="http://www.ben-network.org.uk">www.ben-network.org.uk</a></li> <li>The Disability Rights Commission: <a href="http://www.drc-gb.org">www.drc-gb.org</a></li> <li>It's our space: a guide for community groups working to improve public space, 2007: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
3.1.3 Creating healthy spaces		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier (Health White Paper)</li> <li>The Health Trainers Programme</li> <li>Case studies of successful neighbourhood renewal strategies: <a href="http://www.renewal.net">www.renewal.net</a></li> <li>Local Exercise Action Pilots: <a href="http://www.leap.org.uk">www.leap.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk">www.dh.gov.uk</a></li> <li>BTCV Green Gyms: <a href="http://www.btcv.org.uk">www.btcv.org.uk</a></li> <li>Walking the Way to Health: <a href="http://www.whi.org.uk">www.whi.org.uk</a></li> <li>National Cycle Network: <a href="http://www.sustrans.org.uk">www.sustrans.org.uk</a></li> <li>How local authorities can benefit from increased cycling: <a href="http://www.cyclingengland.co.uk">www.cyclingengland.co.uk</a></li> <li>Contribution to the delivery of public health targets: <a href="http://www.groundwork.org.uk">www.groundwork.org.uk</a></li> <li>The Federation of City Farms &amp; Community Gardens: <a href="http://www.farmgarden.org.uk">www.farmgarden.org.uk</a></li> <li>Allotments Growing in the Community: <a href="http://www.lga.gov.uk">www.lga.gov.uk</a></li> <li>Creating healthier communities: <a href="http://www.renewal.net">www.renewal.net</a></li> </ul>

<p>3.1.4 Creating sustainable spaces</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securing the Future: The Government's Sustainable Development Strategy: <a href="http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk">www.sustainable-development.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Biodiversity by Design a guide for Sustainable Communities: <a href="http://www.tcpa.org.uk/biodiversitybydesign">www.tcpa.org.uk/biodiversitybydesign</a></li> <li>• Green Infrastructure Sustainable Communities: <a href="http://www.culturesoutheast.org.uk">www.culturesoutheast.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Countryside in and around Towns: <a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk">www.naturalengland.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) Development and Flood Risk: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Planning for flood risk, the facts: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Adapting to Climate Change Impacts: <a href="http://www.london.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership">www.london.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership</a></li> <li>• UK Climate Impacts Programme: <a href="http://www.ukcip.org.uk/about/">www.ukcip.org.uk/about/</a></li> <li>• The Environment Agency: <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• The Chartered Institute of Water and Environment Management: <a href="http://www.ciwem.org">www.ciwem.org</a></li> <li>• British Trust for Conservation Volunteers: <a href="http://www.btcv.org.uk">www.btcv.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Every Action Counts: <a href="http://www.everyactioncounts.org.uk">www.everyactioncounts.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Ecoregen: <a href="http://www.ecoregen.org.uk">www.ecoregen.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Green Flag Award: <a href="http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk">www.greenflagaward.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Guidance on product use and control methods: <a href="http://www.basis-reg.com/training/courseslist.asp">www.basis-reg.com/training/courseslist.asp</a></li> <li>• Contract tendering and monitoring advice: <a href="http://www.naac.co.uk">www.naac.co.uk</a></li> <li>• Guidance on statutory obligations covering the use of pesticides in public areas: <a href="http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/uploadedfiles/WebAssets/PSD/AmenityLeaflet.pdf">www.pesticides.gov.uk/uploadedfiles/WebAssets/PSD/AmenityLeaflet.pdf</a></li> <li>• Advice on treating specific weeds: <a href="http://www.amenity.org.uk">www.amenity.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Amenity sprayer equipment testing and checking: <a href="http://www.aea.uk.com/sprayer/index.htm">www.aea.uk.com/sprayer/index.htm</a></li> <li>• Certification and training of sprayer operators: <a href="http://nroso.nptc.org.uk">http://nroso.nptc.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
<p>3.2.1 Developing management plans</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• The Green Flag Award: <a href="http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk">www.greenflagaward.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Living Places: Caring for Quality: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
<p>3.2.2 Managing sites for biodiversity and heritage</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk">www.planningportal.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Preparing community strategies: Government guidance to local authorities: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities, Town and Country Planning Association: <a href="http://www.tcpa.org.uk">www.tcpa.org.uk</a></li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life-Support – Incorporating Biodiversity into Community Strategies: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk">www.defra.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Local Biodiversity Action Plans: <a href="http://www.ukbap.org.uk">www.ukbap.org.uk</a></li> <li>• National Federation for Biological Recording: <a href="http://www.nfbr.org.uk">www.nfbr.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Making contracts work for wildlife: how to encourage biodiversity in urban parks: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historical Environment: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Paradise Preserved: An Introduction to the Assessment, Evaluation, Conservation and Management of Historic Cemeteries: <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk">www.english-heritage.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Historic Environment Local Management (HELM): <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk">www.helm.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Guidance Notes by the Heritage Lottery Fund: <a href="http://www.hlf.org.uk">www.hlf.org.uk</a></li> <li>• English Heritage (2003) Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets: <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk">www.helm.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
3.2.3 Managing cemeteries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guide for Burial Managers: <a href="http://www.dca.gov.uk">www.dca.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Paradise Preserved – Guidance on Conservation of Management: <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk">www.english-heritage.org.uk</a></li> <li>• National Federation of Cemetery Friends: <a href="http://www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk">www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management: <a href="http://www.iccm-uk.com">www.iccm-uk.com</a></li> <li>• Association of Burial Authorities: <a href="http://www.burials.org.uk">www.burials.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Cemetery of the Year Award: <a href="http://www.namm.org.uk">www.namm.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Green Heritage Site Accreditation: <a href="http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk">www.greenflagaward.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Natural Death Centre: <a href="http://www.naturaldeath.org.uk">www.naturaldeath.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
3.2.4 Managing risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Occupiers' Liability Act 1957</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk, Responsibility, Regulation: Whose Risk Is It Anyway? 2007: Better Regulation Commission: <a href="http://www.brc.gov.uk">www.brc.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• ALARM risk management forum: <a href="http://www.alarm-uk.org">www.alarm-uk.org</a></li> <li>• The Better Regulation Commission: <a href="http://www.brc.gov.uk">www.brc.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• What Are We Scared Of? The Value of Risk in Designing Public Space 2004: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Managing Risk in Play Provision: A Position Statement – The Children's Play Council (CPS): <a href="http://www.ncb.org.uk">www.ncb.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Health and Safety Executive: <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk">www.hse.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Occupiers' Liability Act 1957: <a href="http://www.countryside.gov.uk">www.countryside.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• PLAYLINK – Play Policy: <a href="http://www.playlink.org.uk">www.playlink.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA): <a href="http://www.rosipa.com">www.rosipa.com</a></li> </ul>
3.2.5 Managing litter, other environmental crimes, dogs and other animal fouling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Act 1990</li> <li>• Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003: <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk">www.opsi.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Refuse Disposal Amenity Act 1978: <a href="http://www.encams.org">www.encams.org</a></li> <li>• The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk">www.defra.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Environmental Quality Survey of England: <a href="http://www.encams.org">www.encams.org</a></li> <li>• The Chewing Gum Action Group: <a href="http://www.encams.org">www.encams.org</a></li> <li>• Voluntary Code of Practice for "Food on the go": <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk">www.defra.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Guidance on drug related litter: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk">www.defra.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• ENCAMS Knowledge Banks: <a href="http://www.encams.org">www.encams.org</a></li> <li>• The Control of Fly-posting: a Good Practice Guide: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 55 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk">www.defra.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• The End of Life Vehicle Directive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flycapture fly-tipping database: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk">www.defra.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Abandoned and untaxed vehicles: <a href="http://www.dvla.gov.uk">www.dvla.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Dog owners' information: <a href="http://www.dogstrust.org.uk">www.dogstrust.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Good Citizen Dog Scheme: <a href="http://www.scottishkennelclub.org">www.scottishkennelclub.org</a></li> <li>• Dog Control Guidance: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk">www.defra.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Fouling by birds and food on the go litter: <a href="http://www.encams.org.uk">www.encams.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Fouling by water foul: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk">www.defra.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
3.3.1 Promoting greater use		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park it – Series of heritage inspired events: <a href="http://www.park-it.org.uk">www.park-it.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Plan it! How to Plan a Community Event in Your Park: <a href="http://www.green-space.org.uk">www.green-space.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Love Parks Week: <a href="http://www.loveparksweek.org.uk">www.loveparksweek.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Green Flag Award: <a href="http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk">www.greenflagaward.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Guidance on community participation: <a href="http://www.renewal.net">www.renewal.net</a></li> <li>• Playday – The Children's Play Council: <a href="http://www.playday.org.uk">www.playday.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Green Pennant Award: <a href="http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk">www.greenflagaward.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Britain in Bloom – National Campaign – The Royal Horticultural Society: <a href="http://www.rhs.org.uk">www.rhs.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Play Quality Awards: <a href="http://www.rospa.com">www.rospa.com</a></li> <li>• Cleaner, Safer, Greener Network Award Scheme – ENCAMS: <a href="http://www.encams.org">www.encams.org</a></li> <li>• Media Relations: Guidance: <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• The Reputation Campaign: <a href="http://www.lga.gov.uk">www.lga.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Leicester case study: <a href="http://www.leicester.gov.uk">www.leicester.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
3.3.2 Enhancing access to parks and open spaces		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and Access Statements: <a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">www.cabe.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Access Plans, helping your application – guidance, Heritage Lottery Fund: <a href="http://www.hlf.org.uk">www.hlf.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Transport guidance (various) – Department for Transport: <a href="http://www.dft.gov.uk">www.dft.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• The Sensory Trust – Access Chain – Tool to test visitor experience: <a href="http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk">www.sensorytrust.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Easy Access to Historic Landscapes: <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk">www.english-heritage.org.uk</a></li> <li>• By All Reasonable Means – A national guide: <a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk">www.naturalengland.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities: <a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk">www.naturalengland.org.uk</a></li> <li>• National Register of Access Consultants – an independent register: <a href="http://www.nrac.org.uk">www.nrac.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Making the Connection by the Social Exclusion Unit highlights accessibility problems faced by disadvantaged groups: <a href="http://www.dft.gov.uk">www.dft.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC): <a href="http://www.dptac.gov.uk">www.dptac.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>

### 3.3.2 Promoting positive behaviour in parks

- Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention – Home Office and ODPM 2004: [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)
- Green Flag Award: [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)
- Respect programme: [www.respect.gov.uk](http://www.respect.gov.uk)
- CABE Space, Decent Parks, Decent Behaviour: [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)
- Youth Works: [www.youth-works.com](http://www.youth-works.com)
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships: [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)
- Defining and Measuring Antisocial Behaviour: [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)
- Criminal Damage mini-site: [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)
- The Tilley Awards: [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)
- Practical guides on vandalism and criminal damage: [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)
- Interactive web based resource: [www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk](http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk)
- National Community Safety Plan: [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)
- Restorative justice: [www.restorativejustice.org.uk](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk)
- Communities and Local Government website: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)
- Defra: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)
- Crime Reduction Website: [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)
- Byelaw-making powers: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)



### 4.3 Glossary

**ALARM** is the national forum for risk management in the public sector.

**Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPs)** are used by all organisations that need to measure their performance in order to know how well they are doing and to see how they can improve.

**Black Environment Network (BEN)** is an organisation that promotes equality of opportunity for ethnic communities in the built and natural environment. It seeks to integrate social, cultural and environmental concerns in the preservation, protection and development of the environment.

**Britain in Bloom** is a national campaign to inspire local communities of any size to transform their local neighbourhoods through planting and landscaping, and by overcoming problems of litter, graffiti and vandalism. The campaign, organised by the Royal Horticultural Society, encourages town centre managers, businesses, community groups, volunteers and schools to work together to promote the character of the area and to promote recycling and conservation.

**BTCV** – this organisation provides help and practical advice to enable relevant local groups to build their own healthy and sustainable communities.

**CABE** – The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) is the government’s advisor on architecture, urban design and public space. CABE Space is the part of CABE aiming to bring excellence to the design and management of public spaces in our towns and cities.

**Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)** bring together a wide range of responsible authorities, including the local authority, police and fire services, Primary Care Trusts, probation

boards with other organisations, including parish councils, schools, social landlords, transport providers and retailers.

**Children's and Young People's Plans (CYPP)** recognises the role of green spaces in delivering benefits for children. This sets out the framework for local authorities to work with partners to produce a strategic plan, which describes the actions and provisions local authorities will use to achieve the five outcomes for children and young people.

**Children's Play Council (CPC)** is an alliance of national and regional voluntary organisations, local authorities and partnerships, with the aim of developing the provision for play in England and advancing children's right to play.

**Communities and Local Government** formally known as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, was created to build the capacity of communities in order to shape and protect their own future.

**Crime Concern** is a social business identifying sustainable solutions to crime and anti-social behaviour. With three operational divisions offering prevention, offender justice and consultancy services, this organisation works with local people, community groups and crime and disorder agencies.

**Cycling England** was launched in 2005, by the Minister for Local Transport to replace the National Cycling Strategy Board and is the national body which co-ordinates the development of cycling across England. This organisation aims to foster the conditions to increase cycling and make it safer.

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)** is the United Kingdom government department responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities in England.

**Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, DPTAC**, is an independent advisor to the Government on the delivery of a high quality inclusive environment that provides access to all members of society including disabled people.

**Ecoregen** is an organisation that aims to create sustainable environments, encouraging communities to obtain the maximum benefit from their surroundings, while simultaneously fostering the environmental conservation of that area.

**End of Life Vehicle Directive (ELVD)** sets out measures that aim to recycle and reuse end-of-life vehicles and their components, reducing the disposal of waste.

**English Heritage** works to protect and promote the historic environment.

**Environment Agency (EA)** manages river-restoration projects to restore natural riverbeds and lakes, and works with industry to protect the environment, human health, and look after wildlife. The EA provides information on flood risk management, which includes the management of land use, river systems and flood and coastal defences, flood warning and emergency responses.

**Etching** is a highly damaging form of graffiti involving scratching glass with a drill bit or sharp implement. Common on buses and trains, etching is a serious and costly problem for transport organisations.

**Every Action Counts** is partnership based campaign, which highlights the importance for community groups of building a sustainable future and tackling climate change in small action steps.

**Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens (FCFCG)** – this is the representative body for city farms, community gardens and other community-led organisations in the UK.



**Flycapture** is the new web-based, fly-tipping database for England and Wales to help local authorities and the Environment Agency tackle fly-tipping – managed by the Environment Agency on behalf of Defra.

**Generalised Land Use Database (GLUD)** is now freely available as small area statistics to all local authorities. This categorises every parcel of land in England into one of nine different land uses, including green space.

**Green Flag Award Scheme** – this is an annual voluntary award scheme for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The scheme offers major benefits for participating organisations, their green spaces and for local communities.

**Green Heritage Site** rewards organisations for excellence in promoting and maintaining parks and green spaces of local or national historic importance. The award is sponsored by English Heritage, and parks must be a minimum of 30 years old to qualify.

**Green Pennant Award** acknowledges the contribution of voluntary and community groups in managing top quality green spaces across England and Wales. The award is part of the Green Flag Award scheme.

**Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** provides grants to individuals as well as large and small groups making bids for local, regional or national bids on culture, language, conservation and education.

**Historic Environment Local Management (HELM)** is a partnership project established in 2004, led by English Heritage and supported by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Communities and Local Government and Defra. The project aims to share best practice and build both the capacity and confidence of those involved with the historic environment.



**Home Office** is the Government department responsible for internal affairs in England and Wales. It works to build a safe, just and tolerant society, to enhance opportunities for all and to ensure that the protection and security of the public are maintained and enhanced.

#### **The Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government (IDeA)**

is an interactive web-based resource to support local government.

#### **Learning through Landscapes (LTL)**

provides a one-stop shop for any issue relating to school grounds. They give children and young people a say in the way their school grounds are used and improved.

**LAAs** are developed by LSPs and used to unite the objectives of public authorities, businesses and the voluntary and community sectors. They provide the opportunity to pool funding and resources and redirect to areas of need.

#### **Local Exercise Action Pilots (LEAPs)**

were locally run pilot programmes, running from 2003, which tested and evaluated new ways of encouraging people to take up more physical activity – especially those who do little exercise and those at risk from health problems.

**Magistrates' Association** represents 80% of serving volunteer magistrates, more than 29,000 members. A publication produced by the Magistrates Association, Costing the Earth gives information and guidance on environmental offences, including fly-posting.

**National Fly-tipping Prevention Group (NFTPG)** is a group of organisations dedicated to devising solutions to fly-tipping.

**Planning Advisory Service (PAS)** advises councils on providing a faster, fairer, more efficient and better quality planning service.

**Play Quality Awards scheme** recognises the commitment of organisations to providing high quality play areas for children and inclusive facilities and services for disabled people. The award is made by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and is in two categories: Play Operator Awards and Individual Site Awards are aimed at organisations that promote the importance and value of play and the inclusivity of disabled people.

**Respect** is a cross-Government strategy, which aims to tackle bad behaviour and nurture good, creating a modern culture of respect. It involves collaboration between central government, local agencies, local communities and ultimately every citizen working together to build a climate of respect, significantly reducing anti-social behaviour and where communities can live together in peace.

**Respect Task Force** is a cross-Governmental organisation responsible for co-ordinating and delivering the Respect Action Plan.

#### **The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund**

is part of the Safer and Stronger Communities block for each LAA. It combines funding streams into a single fund which will be used to reduce crime and the fear of crime, improve public spaces, improve the quality of life for people living in disadvantaged areas and to build local communities' capacity to influence the way decisions are made and services are provided.

**Sustrans** is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, is the co-ordinator of the hugely popular National Cycle Network which includes more than 10,000 miles of walking and cycle routes on traffic-free paths, quiet lanes and traffic-calmed roads.



**Tags** – a writer's personal signature, or logo, made with a marker or spray paint, it is the basic and most common form of graffiti.

**Toxocariasis** is an illness, which, in the most serious cases, can cause blindness. The illness is caused by swallowing Toxocara eggs from the common roundworm of the dog – *Toxocara canis*. The eggs are passed in the faeces of infected dogs; with infected soil samples found in the vicinity of children's play areas – even though dogs are often banned from these areas – and on streets.

**Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)**, also known as the third sector, are valuable contributors to partnerships. The VCS is able to access many sources of funding, particularly for capital works, which can help to match public sources of funding.

**Walking the Way to Health (WHI)** is an initiative of the British Heart Foundation and Natural England. It aims to improve the health and fitness of more than a million people, especially those either under-active or in poor health.





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