



# **ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE**

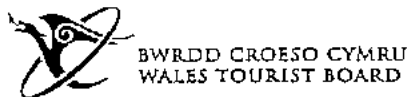
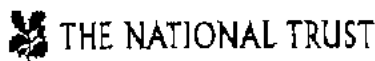
2003 Seminar Proceedings  
of the  
Countryside Recreation Network

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## Countryside Recreation Network

The CRN is a network which:

- o Covers the UK and the Republic of Ireland
- o Gives easy access to information on countryside and related recreation matters
- o Reaches organisations and individuals in the public, private and voluntary sectors
- o Networks thousands of interested people

The Network helps the work of agencies and individuals in three areas:

### *Research:*

to encourage cooperation between members in identifying and promoting the need for research related to countryside access and recreation, to encourage joint ventures in undertaking research and to disseminate information about members' recreation programmes.

### *Liaison:*

to promote information exchange relating to countryside recreation, and to foster general debate about relevant trends and issues

### *Good Practice:*

to spread information to develop best practice through training and professional development in provision for and management of countryside recreation.

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## Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

### ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

#### WELCOME AND KEYNOTE LECTURE

*Professor Chris Baines  
Consultant  
Baines Environmental Limited*

Access to greenspace is more important to us now than ever before, and it is also much more difficult. The stressfulness of urban living makes contact with nature very precious yet we live in a society which regards the natural environment as "too risky."

Sheffielders have an enviable reputation for their determination to escape to nature. My parents' generation beat a path to the open countryside, with the famous "mass trespass" liberating the open moorland, thus spawning National Parks and a right to roam in the countryside.

I grew up in and around the city, when the post-war housing boom was marching over the surrounding hills, but I had great freedom to enjoy a childhood of unfettered and innocent adventure in my happy hunting ground of Rivelin Valley.

It is not the same today! The convenience and comfort of the car means those who venture beyond the city boundary view their nature from the roadside, and in any case the post war agricultural industry has turned the once familiar lapwing, hare and curlew into rarities. Closer to home, the wilder landscapes of my childhood have been forced out of bounds by scary tabloid headlines, and most children have to seek adventure from the family garden or the television.

If visiting nature is no longer easy, then we need a strategy for bringing nature close to us and, for the most part, this will mean enjoying wildlife in our most familiar and secure surroundings. This is why gardening with wildlife has become so popular and here again the city is most definitely in the vanguard. BUGS (*Biodiversity in Urban Gardens in Sheffield*) monitors invertebrate populations in a range of Sheffield gardens and is showing the scientific establishment how rich garden habitats can be. Towns and cities are proving to be sleeping giants when it comes to wildlife.

BUGS has confirmed that gardens make good habitats in almost any circumstances, but those of us who have consciously tried to garden *with* wildlife know all too well that the results can be spectacular. My mum's garden has attracted a charm of over fifty goldfinches to her bird feeders. Frogs, toads and newts all thrive in my own garden pond, and relatively vulnerable species such as hedgehogs, song thrushes and bumblebees are all now doing better in the town than in the farming countryside.

One reason that gardens make such excellent habitat is the network of surrounding landscape in which they sit. Sheffield, like most cities, is blessed with a rich diversity of different interconnected green spaces which add up to a complex mosaic of wonderful unofficial countryside. The railway embankments, streams and canals

bind together such vital elements as overgrown cemeteries, abandoned quarries, neglected allotments and wild, revegetated derelict land. Where in the farming countryside could you hope to find so much unsprayed and relatively undisturbed greenspace?

Compared with the neglected brownfield land, the official parks and public open spaces are often relatively uninspiring. This is not always the case in Sheffield, since some of the best parks ease out gently into wilder woods, or follow unpolluted streams. There is an important role for the more formal areas of horticultural excellence, but now there is a growing interest in creating wildlife habitat in these more orthodox municipal surroundings as people turn to public parks for safe and stimulating contact with attractive wildlife.

The more natural corners of the greenspace network are a serious challenge for a city council. These are the places where dogs can be let off the lead, where kids can build dens and courting couples can find some solitude – but they are also popular for fly tipping, joy riding and other anti social activities. Achieving respectability without sterility requires considerable management skill, and most importantly, it needs a generous level of continuing support. Since revenue funding always seems to be in short supply, there is a need to be inventive.

Perhaps the answer lies, at least in part, in arguing for far greater recognition of the economic benefits that green space brings. While ever it is dismissed as no more than leafy decoration it will never gain the support that it needs. In fact, the stress relief we gain from access to the natural world is worth a fortune. Stress related illness costs the nation billions every year in health care and lost productivity. The sheltering effect of the urban forest reduces energy costs in adjacent buildings by as much as 10%. Trees filter out pollution and refresh the air we breathe, and urban wetlands can help to slow the rate of rainstorm run off, trap dispersed pollution and reduce the risk of flooding. Most people prefer to live and work in green surroundings, so greenspace enhances property value and attracts inward investment. All in all, the greenery in our towns and cities earns its living with a vengeance. Taking it seriously, making it more accessible and valuing it more realistically should make perfect sense to politicians, policy makers and the general public, and as history has shown repeatedly, if the case is made in Sheffield, then it generally inspires a revolution.

# **Countryside Recreation Network Seminar**

## **ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE**

### **WHAT MAKES GOOD URBAN GREENSPACE - PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS AND NEEDS**

*John Vaughan  
Group Director  
National Community Forest Partnership*

There is increasing recognition that the structure, content and quality of our local environment, including public greenspace, is an important contributor to how we see ourselves, our neighbours and our community. Green spaces are where we grow up, forge friendships, fall in love and take our children – they are one of the building blocks of family and community life.

Both policy makers and practitioners recognise the need for more creative thinking on both the strategic and functional aspects of urban greenspace – its contribution to creating liveable cities and sustainable communities. In a fast changing world we need to consider how well we understand and are able to respond to the desires and demands of today's (and tomorrow's) citizens for recreation, leisure and contact with nature within a safe and secure environment.

There is a growing body of social research and practical experience from which to develop this understanding, but much of our thinking still seems trapped in outdated, design-based models. By intervening in the creation and management of urban greenspace, we intervene in who people are and how they live their lives – we need to be confident that we ourselves are 'fit for purpose'.

#### **England's Community Forests**

Community Forests are a national programme to revitalise and regenerate the countryside and greenspace in and around some of our major towns and cities. Established in the early 1990s, the twelve Community Forests are using multipurpose forestry as a mechanism to create more attractive, diverse, accessible and sustainably managed landscapes around large conurbations. Over 50% of England's populations live in, or within easy reach of a Community Forest.

The Community Forest programme is jointly sponsored by the Countryside Agency and the Forestry Commission. In each Community Forest area these national agencies have forged Local Forest Partnerships with relevant local authorities and a wide range of other public, private and community stakeholders.

The long-term strategic framework for each Community Forest is set out in a broad-based, Government approved Forest Plan. Each Local Forest Partnership supports a dedicated Forest Team charged with securing the policies, partnerships, resources and actions required to turn that long-term vision into reality over a 35-40 year timescale.

The engagement of local people in planning, implementing, managing and enjoying Community Forests is fundamental to realising that vision. Community Forests bring together and integrate the many environmental, social and economic benefits that well designed and well managed greenspace can deliver to local communities – they are intimately involved in the subtle relationships between people and place. Their major objective is to create sustainable multifunctional environments within which people feel comfortable and confident in pursuing their own personal and social goals for health, wealth and happiness.

### **Some Basic Principles**

In our modern, consumer oriented world, increasingly dominated by work, entertainment and material achievement, it is easy to overlook or trivialise the role and impact of the green and public spaces within which we spend a significant proportion of our daily lives. Public spaces are part of the social capital that people use to build their personal identity and construct and activate their place in the surrounding neighbourhood.

In this context, there are some basic principles that need to underpin our thinking about what makes 'good' greenspace:

- *To someone, somewhere, every space is 'special'* – we need to appreciate and respect that in how we manipulate and manage other peoples local environments
- *Ultimately, it isn't the space itself that matters* – what is important is what goes on inside it
- *People are an integral part of the natural world, not some separate reality* – play, discovery, recreation and leisure are 'natural' processes
- *Urban and rural demands for greenspace are the same* – but their expression on the ground may look different
- *Beauty is in the eye of the beholder* – we need to see things from a users perspective, rather than that of the designer or manager

### **What Makes 'Good' Greenspace?**

Experience in Community Forests suggests three general attributes determine whether people are likely to appreciate, enjoy and care about public space: accessibility, quality and meaning.

#### **Accessibility**

If people can't find out about, get to and use public space as an integral part of their day to day activity then it ceases to have any positive social function. This doesn't mean it has no value – it may still make an important contribution to biodiversity, amenity or the physical structure and function of the urban fabric – but it will not become part of that intimate environmental envelope that wraps and enriches everyday life.

At the risk of stating the obvious, greenspace needs firstly to exist. If it doesn't then it needs to be invented – not always an easy case to argue against the competing



development interests that tend to dominate most urban areas. There is still a substantial job to be done in demonstrating the critical value of open space as an integral part of sustainable urban planning, equal in importance to housing, transport, employment and other aspects of the working metropolis.

It needs to be close at hand. Increasingly, in a world where parents are reluctant to allow young children too far from home and with a growing elderly community, proximity to home is an important attribute to enable open spaces to form part of the fine grain of everyday life

You need to know about it – or it might just as well not exist. It is surprising how often we come across people who haven't ever fully explored their own neighbourhood. You also need to be able to find it and get to it. It's no use hidden away behind a six-foot fence at the end of a dark, remote cul de sac or on the other side of the bypass through a narrow subway and up twelve steps in a wheelchair.

You need the skills and resources to be able to use and enjoy it, including knowledge, awareness, time, personal and social confidence, mobility, finance and possibly equipment. In an increasingly polarised society, the issue of 'environmental equity' needs to be recognised as part of social disadvantage.

## Quality

The design of open space, including how it works as well as what it looks like, is crucial to encouraging use and enjoyment. Key areas for attention include:

- *Location and arrival* – getting to and entering spaces should prepare and excite you about their possibilities and potential
- *Scale and connectivity* – spaces acquire added value as part of a wider network of place and possibility
- *Layout and content* – to facilitate a wide range of activities and experiences from hard play to contact with nature
- *Materials, fixtures and fittings* – need to be robust, attractive and well detailed, providing a feeling of character and quality
- *Safety and convenience* – are crucial to enabling users to relax, feel comfortable and secure and enjoy themselves
- *Character and identity* – are essential for both intrinsic interest and to enable people to locate spaces in an increasingly uniform design aesthetic
- *Flexibility and fitness for purpose* – underpin the ability of spaces to serve varied and changing needs while seemingly remaining timeless elements in the urban fabric

Maintenance and management (not the same thing!!) are as important as, if less glamorous than, design. If public spaces are to be well used, they need to be clean and cared for, without being obsessively manicured; neat and tidy, without becoming sterile; and rich in colour, form, materials and texture, without becoming overdecorated.

External factors also influence how appreciated and valued open spaces become, including:

- *Signage and information (leaflets etc.)* – to help people find places and make them aware of what goes on in them
- *Interpretation* – to help people understand and appreciate them
- *Rangers and wardens* – to support good management and facilitate use and enjoyment through leadership, interpretation and the presence of a friendly human face
- *Events and activities* – help to bring places alive and provide a magnet for new audiences

### **Meaning**

It may seem pretty obvious but if people don't like a space, they won't use it, no matter how well designed its creators may think it is. To engage people's affection and interest spaces need to be welcoming and comfortable – people need to feel OK about being there, rather than intimidated or threatened. They need to feel some sense of ownership or control of their immediate surroundings. Once there the space needs to 'do something for them', stimulating them with opportunities for activity, thought or social intercourse. This may be through contrast with home or work (escape from...) or through particular attractions or opportunities not available elsewhere (escape to...), including particularly contact with 'nature'.

### **Some Random Thoughts**

- *Nature tamed v. nature wild* – in spite of concerns about personal safety or concepts of tidiness, we still need space for real wilderness within our urban areas, in addition to more managed greenery
- *Surprise and delight* – in an increasingly 'entertainment' oriented society we still need opportunities to explore, discover and find new artefacts and experiences
- *Challenge and adventure* – not all recreation is informal and relaxed, there is a growing demand for places and activities that provide more testing physical and mental challenges
- *Solitude and socialising* – we need spaces in which people can choose to be alone or with others, according to their mood
- *Slow and fast* – public spaces need to function as both places to linger and places to pass through on our way to work, shopping or the cinema
- *Growing up and growing old* – while old and young may have differing needs, intergenerational contact delights and enriches both
- *Mind, body and spirit* – in a world obsessed with economic analysis, quantitative evidence and material progress, we should never forget the need to feed and nurture the inner person

# Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

## ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

### ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE IN CITIES AND TOWNS – A SCOTTISH PERSPECTIVE

Deryck Irving  
Development Officer  
Greenspace Scotland

#### Introduction

Historically, there has been a great deal of work carried out in Scotland's towns and cities with a view to creating and maintaining quality green areas both for public and private use. Looking around our towns and cities it is possible to find areas which have been developed for various uses over the centuries and which persist as greenspaces today. During the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century a series of projects took place around Scottish towns and cities aimed at restoring blighted landscapes left by the decline in heavy industries and tackling the environmental problems being experienced in many of the housing schemes on the periphery of our urban areas. The rationale behind these projects varied, with some being focused on wildlife/nature conservation and others on regeneration and landscape quality.

In recent years, there has been something of a change of emphasis with greenspace being recognised as a crucial contributor towards quality of life in urban areas and, as such, as an indicator of social and environmental justice. There have been two particular recent developments which aim to create a more strategic vision for greenspace and to position quality greenspace firmly within social, economic and environmental agendas.

#### Open Space Strategies

In 2001, the Scottish Executive's Central Research Unit published a report by Kit Campbell Associates entitled "*Rethinking Open Space – Open Space Provision and Management: A Way Forward*" (Kit Campbell Associates/Scottish Executive CRU 2001). The report findings included the following:

"The way in which most Scottish local authorities approach the planning of open space is fundamentally flawed" with "an over reliance on a limited range of simple quantitative standards which ignore key issues relating to quality, accessibility, resources and sustainability". The report's authors stress that "planning authorities should ... derive their own local standards for open space".

The report goes on to recommend an open space typology and to suggest desirable open space outcomes: "local authorities and their partners should aim to deliver comprehensive networks of accessible, high quality and sustainable green and civic spaces. These networks should contribute positively to the image and strategic development framework for their areas and promote economic development and social inclusion". The report finishes with the recommendation that "local authorities

should prepare comprehensive open space strategies involving cross-departmental thinking and working with local communities and appropriate external partners as a framework for their open space planning policies" and to recommend the production of a Planning Advice Note (PAN) relating to open space.

In January of this year, the Scottish Executive published such a Planning Advice Note: PAN65 Planning and Open Space (Scottish Executive 2003). PAN65 includes a typology of open space based on *Rethinking Open Space*. This typology is outlined in table 1.

Table 1: Open space typology (from PAN65)

Open space type	Description
Public parks and gardens	Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park
Private gardens or grounds	Areas of land normally enclosed and associated with a house or institution and reserved for private use
Amenity greenspace	Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons i.e. road verges or greenspace in business parks, and used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts
Playspace for children and teenagers	Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for children's play, usually linked to housing areas
Sports areas	Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces used primarily for designated sports i.e. playing fields, golf courses, tennis courts, bowling greens; areas which are generally bookable
Green corridors	Routes including canals, river corridors and old railway lines, linking different areas within a town or city as part of a designated and managed network and used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking towns and cities to their surrounding countryside or country parks. These may link green spaces together.
Natural/semi-natural greenspaces	Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation or wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas
Other functional greenspaces	Allotments, churchyards and cemeteries
Civic space	Squares, streets and waterfront promenades, predominantly of hard landscaping that provide a focus for pedestrian activity and make connections for people and wildlife, where trees and planting are included

PAN65 sets out a role for the planning system in:

- "protecting areas that are valuable and valued: and
- ensuring open space provision of appropriate quality in or within easy reach of new development"

It stresses the importance of developing and protecting open space networks to provide the landscape and townscape in urban areas and recognises that such networks can encourage more active lifestyles and promote biodiversity.

PAN65 strongly advocates the use of open space strategies as "a means of co-ordinating the aims of different council departments with responsibilities for open space, and liaising with users, community groups and the private sector."

Open space strategies, as defined in PAN65, should comprise of:

- an audit of existing open space provision
- an assessment of current and future requirements; and
- a strategy statement with a clear set of priorities and actions.

SNH recently published a set of guidance on open space audits which builds on the recommendations of PAN65. The guidance highlights the need for audits to include:

- the type, functions, location and maintenance requirements of open spaces;
- an assessment of the quality and condition of facilities and fitness for purpose;
- levels of use, the needs and aspirations for open space by the local community, and the value placed on existing resources. This should include a hierarchy to distinguish spaces of strategic, neighbourhood and local importance, and an assessment of the different functions they perform;
- an evaluation of the existing resources against the identified needs and aspirations, such as to identify areas of deficiency or surplus and other issues and opportunities.

PAN65 recommends that assessment of current and future requirements be considered as:

- "supply-led" - where the priority is the protection and enhancement of current provision (most applicable to urban parks, public gardens, natural greenspaces etc.),
- "demand-led" where the priority is to meet an identifiable and quantifiable demand for a type of open space (for example, sports facilities, green corridors and areas such as cemeteries and allotments) or
- "standards-based". The standards-based approach is presented as being of greatest use where the need for a type of space is broadly the same everywhere or where the demand is difficult to quantify. The PAN does, however, sound a note of caution over the applicability of simple country-wide standards and argues that standards should be carefully tailored to the circumstances of different areas and to the different functions of open spaces.

The strategy statement should then establish "a coherent vision with clear policies and priorities for action".

Open space audits have been carried out by a number of Scottish local authorities either across their whole areas or as more local pilots. These have served to further highlight:

- the importance of assessing quality and accessibility of greenspace -- few of the authorities have experienced any difficulty in meeting quantitative, proximity targets but most have found problems relating to the quality and condition of spaces;
- the need for audits to be participative to clearly ascertain community needs and expectations especially in relation to quality, fitness for purpose and access;
- the need for greenspace standards to be set locally to meet differences in need, expectation and local conditions – in this respect, Dundee (one of the first authorities to develop an open space strategy) have moved from the consideration of national standards to the development of a "Dundee standard" to the development of a series of "spheres of standards for different areas in the city".

### **The Greenspace for Communities Initiative and Greenspace Scotland**

Since the mid 1990s, SNH have carried a number of reviews of greenspace quality and of specific "greenspace" projects and schemes which had taken place around and within Scotland's towns and cities (e.g. McCall and Doar, 1997).

The conclusion from these reviews was that "action to improve the green environment within and around urban settlements in Scotland is piecemeal" and that existing programmes were "too small to be wholly effective". They also identified that there was "inadequate involvement of local communities such that improvements do not command the respect and care of local users" and that there had been insufficient evaluation of the impacts of individual projects or of wider schemes of work. Overall, there was an identified need for improved coordination across schemes within a more strategic approach to the management of greenspace.

SNH's response to these findings was, with partners, to develop the Greenspace for Communities initiative to make "a significant step change in the quality and quantity of greenspace management throughout Scotland's urban settlements".

The overall aim of the initiative is to: "promote sustainability, improve quality of life and enhance the competitiveness of urban Scotland". This was to be achieved by:

- increasing community involvement in the creation and management of greenspaces;
- developing partnerships to enhance local greenspace and improve the contribution of greenspace action to health, social justice, planning and economic development objectives.

The initiative, therefore, aims to enhance the quality of life of people in urban areas through the establishment and enhancement of green spaces. This sits within a wider policy context in relation to social, economic and environmental concerns. For example, initiatives on urban regeneration and neighbourhood management, the attraction of inward investment and tourism, improving the health and overall quality

of life of Scotland's population and encouraging a sense of belonging and pride in place.

In order to provide a national lead for the initiative, SNH and its partners established a new organisation, Greenspace Scotland, in October 2002. Greenspace Scotland is a national umbrella body made up of, and supporting, a network of local greenspace partnerships. Its role is as an enabler, promoter, facilitator, supporter, resourcer and catalyst. Importantly, the role is not that of developer or deliverer of greenspace projects on the ground; rather it is to create the right environment and conditions for success.

Greenspace Scotland's priority programme areas are:

- **profile and promotion** – demonstrating the benefits of greenspace to position greenspace at the heart of urban regeneration
- **coordination and partnership** - supporting the establishment and operation of local greenspace partnerships and building national partnerships
- **funding and resourcing** – securing additional resources to support local partnerships and projects
- **developing and sharing good practice** – through improved networking, commissioned research, demonstration projects, training courses and publications
- **monitoring and evaluation** – developing and implementing a monitoring and evaluation framework to demonstrate that greenspace makes a difference

Greenspace Scotland's structure and mode of operation recognises the need for partnership working across agencies (local authority, health, education, local enterprise, voluntary organisations etc.) and for linking in to existing complementary activities including Community Planning. At a national level, Greenspace Scotland's partnership includes: the local greenspace partnerships, SNH, Communities Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and Scottish Environment Link (representing the voluntary sector). Greenspace Scotland is also working on a number of national projects with other key partners including NHS Health Scotland and Homes for Scotland.

Local greenspace partnerships have a similar partnership structure with partners including: relevant local authorities, SNH, other key agencies and representatives of local communities, business and voluntary sector interests. As can be seen from Greenspace Scotland's priority programme areas above, one of the organisation's priorities is to create a network of local greenspace partnerships across the whole of urban Scotland. At present, the existing partnerships cover 15 of the 32 local authority areas in Scotland including Scotland's three largest cities, Scotland's three new towns, the heavily urbanised area around Glasgow and the post-industrial areas between Glasgow and Edinburgh and in West Fife. This equates to coverage of around 60% of the Scottish population.

Greenspace Scotland acts at a national level seeking to influence and integrate national agendas, while the network of local greenspace partnerships delivers greenspace projects with local communities. These local projects are again approached in partnership with local organisations and with local people. This ensures that projects are responsive to local needs, expectations and priorities.

At the national level, Greenspace Scotland's activities include:

- working with national agencies and interest groups to highlight the links between quality greenspace and urban regeneration, community development, community health, social justice and environmental justice – this includes general awareness raising, contribution to national debates and working in partnership on research, demonstration projects etc. Current research projects include work on the links between greenspace and quality of life; identification of good practice in the integration of functional greenspace into the design of residential development;
- enabling the local greenspace partnerships to build on national policy links and partnership arrangements at a local level ;
- seeking additional resources for local partnerships and others to engage in greenspace projects – early successes in this area include the securing of additional Scottish Executive funding for a range of greenspace projects across the network;
- working to expand the local greenspace network across urban Scotland both in response to interest from potential partnerships and through targeted interventions in priority areas (discussions with potential partners are underway in a further eight areas);
- encouraging the development and sharing of good practice through networking events, provision of information and the establishment of links between key organisations;
- monitoring and evaluating the impact of greenspace activities at the national, regional and local levels.

Greenspace Scotland is also helping to support the running of the Scottish Greenspace Forum – a broader forum of groups and individuals with an interest in the creation, management and use of greenspace.

The local greenspace partnerships mirror many of Greenspace Scotland's activities at a local level – raising the profile and recognition of the importance of greenspace; developing local partnership working and seeking resources for local projects. They also contribute to Greenspace Scotland's national work and carry out a wide range of projects in partnership with local communities. Several of the local partnerships have been in existence for far longer than the Greenspace for Communities initiative and have long-standing relationships with local communities. They also have a wealth of experience in the use of innovative approaches to engage people in local greenspace work. The existence of Greenspace Scotland as a national umbrella means that this experience and expertise is now being shared across the network for the first time. Greenspace Scotland also provides a means for this experience to inform national debates and agendas.

Although Greenspace Scotland has only been in existence for a little over a year, the signs are that the organisation is already making significant steps towards achieving its mission of:

“working together to improve the quality of life of people in urban communities through the creation and sustainable management of urban greenspaces”.



References:

Kit Campbell Associates/Scottish Executive CRU (2001) *'Rethinking Open Space: Open Space Provision and Management: a Way Forward'*

McCall, A and Doar, N (1997) *The State of Scottish Greenspace, SNH Review No 88.*

Scottish Executive (2003) *PAN 65: Planning and Open Space.*

# Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

## ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

### WORKSHOP PAPER

## GREEN FLAG AND GREEN PENNANT AWARDS

*Karen Lewis  
Green Flag Award Manager  
Civic Trust*

The workshop considered the Green Flag Award scheme and whether or not it is as relevant for country parks as it is for town parks, along with broader questions that affect all park operations regardless of location. This followed an explanation of the eight broad criteria for the Award and a position statement as at December 2003. For information the criteria are:

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Clean & well maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation & heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

The workshop contained a cross section of award winners, non-entrants and some individuals who were unaware of the scheme, which gave a broad opinion on all questions. In general consensus was reached and the overall outcome was generally positive.

### **Can a single standard apply to both country and urban parks?**

The crux of the discussion was whether or not the Green Flag Award scheme, the national quality standard for parks and green spaces, could *really* be applied to both town and country parks. The group were initially unsure, as their perception of the scheme was that it was aimed at town parks and that the lack of facilities in country parks, such as designated play areas, would be seen as detrimental. An explanation of the flexibility of the scheme and the scoring system within it (a system adaptable to suit any green space, regardless of size, type or location) and knowledge that a wide range of green spaces, not just urban and not just local authority run, had gained the award saw a shift in the initial perception.

Difficult areas for country parks were identified as community participation and access, as often such parks could be sited away from settlements with the only access being by vehicle. In such a case, although a site may be well managed, how could it meet these elements of the criteria and can the judging flexibility of the scheme overcome this problem? Furthermore, although marketing is a key criterion

some sites are already over-populated and concern was raised that over capacity can actually affect the implementation of the standard – the issue of quantity versus quality.

### **Justification for taking part in the Green Flag Award scheme?**

The **key** benefit is the independent, objective view as given by the Green Flag Award judges but other reasons were felt to be of value such as:

- It is a nationally recognised benchmark.
- It can be a prompt to force management teams to examine their existing standards which can help with best value recognition.
- It gives a structure (in preparing for the award) and recognition (if successful) for those who get involved.
- It can prompt cross departmental working and funding, from education, health or regeneration.
- The kudos from winning helps foster self worth for the staff involved and community pride in the neighbourhood.
- It can generate additional resources by linking to current political priorities though it was felt that this was more easily done by urban than country parks.
- It can elicit Member support though it was felt from current winners in the group that this would be harnessed further if local politicians were allowed to attend the annual awards events (currently this is for park managers and members of community groups only to ensure recognition is given to those at the sharp end).
- National grants such as Heritage Lottery Fund which require a management plan and other information can encourage management teams to apply for Green Flag as much of the work has already been done.

The above reinforce some largely held beliefs from within the Civic Trust gleaned from discussions with entrants but others could include increased tourism - depending on the location of the site and the events that happen within it - or economic benefits.

On a slightly negative basis it was felt that until the Green Flag Award scheme can attain the same prestige as the Blue Flag Awards, it would be hard to justify for country parks.

### **How crucial is political backing to parks management and the attainment of a Green Flag Award?**

This question was only seen as having relevance within local authorities and was not particularly essential for attaining Green Flag success but more about ensuring the survival of a parks department. Thus the question becomes far more fundamental and agreement was unanimous that political backing at local level is essential. Without it parks have not got a hope, even though with it the hope is only a slender one. This is quite a strong message and one that has not been fully explored before, at least within the Green Flag Award scheme. It was suggested that an elected mayor could be a powerful ally during his/her term of office but only if his/her interest lies in the environmental field. Similarly elected Members with a specialist interest can be invaluable but only if they are key players and as long as they remain elected.

In recent years the emphasis has been on informing park management teams about the Green Flag Award scheme and encouraging their involvement in it both as entrants and judges. However the idea that the Green Flag Award scheme really needs to be sold to the elected Member group is one we have been considering very recently and the group felt that the message could be linked to civic pride giving a public platform at a national level to the winning local authority. Some winners explained that they had used their success in winning a Green Flag to raise the political profile of their parks, which was then translated into extra resources and staff. Others however, felt that one success could lead to political pressure for more success without additional resources.

Although political backing is crucial, the power of local communities should not be underestimated. People power can unseat politicians and can be harnessed to apply pressure/influence on elected Members to improve parks.

### **How much of a catalyst could the Green Flag Award scheme be in improving parks and involving communities?**

The Green Flag Award scheme can be a big help in involving communities but a lot of hard work is still needed to publicise the award so communities know about it. Such widespread publicity should then encourage people to get involved in the management and maintenance of their local park/green space. At present though it was felt that the Green Flag Award scheme is not really in the public consciousness but is only known at grass roots level by communities who have been involved with sites that have participated. For those communities, such as Friends Groups, a real boost comes from the fact they are invited to the awards events and it was felt essential that this continues.

Although community involvement is one of the key criteria for the award, care needs to be taken to ensure that communities are enabled to have a *real role* rather than being included as a token gesture just to achieve success. Involvement at this level is not a panacea for previous lack of investment in community relations but true involvement can empower local communities and be a big catalyst if sold correctly to them. There is however a need to distinguish between local opinion and local expertise. It must also be remembered that communities are not homogenous and they can and do contain conflict. In addition park managers need to take care to involve as representative a sample of local people as possible rather than just those from the parish council or older people with time to spare.

The involvement of local communities can have a real, direct benefit on the management and maintenance of parks and green spaces. Local 'ownership' not only sends out all the right messages but it can bring physical benefits such as additional funding, complementary skills and local pride. However care should be taken to ensure that resources are not diverted to high profile sites at the expense of other sites, especially in the quest to achieve a Green Flag Award.

### **What does the parks sector need to do to meet the many challenges that face it?**

The advent of Compulsory Competitive Tendering in the 1980s saw a big change in the parks sector with the loss of many parks departments and the skills within them.

Since then the situation has seemed quite bleak but in recent years there has been a new dawn as parks and green spaces have moved up the political ladder and become central to the government's liveability agenda. It is essential now that parks embrace this new agenda, but to do so the parks management may have to adopt new ways of working to gain the maximum benefit.

In addition to looking outward for new benefits it is incumbent upon local authorities to look inwards too. The loss of many parks departments forced the closure of many apprenticeship schemes and now the sector is in crisis with not only a shortage of skills but also a gap between those people who are retiring and those just entering employment. One way to address this could be to re-evaluate the pay and grading structures to put parks staff (traditionally low paid) on a more comparative footing with other workers of a similar nature. This would give a real boost to the sector and provide career opportunities. Another would be to get involved with intermediate labour markets (ILMs) via BTCV or Groundwork etc to help bridge the current staffing crisis.

Specifically the parks sector needs to:

- get involved with all the key government agendas e.g. health, quality of life, education etc – this is the only way to get additional money and resources;
- emphasise the social/community inclusion agenda;
- be creative in looking for resources from other priority areas not just environment and consider development agencies;
- be aware some lottery programmes may be open to local authorities, be creative and work via voluntary/community groups;
- speak the government's language, use their terminology e.g. green spaces
- build support, both political and community support, and
- work with and involve front line staff not just those at management level.

In terms of the Green Flag Award scheme in particular, it was suggested that local authorities and other organisations should use the award criteria to improve their parks and green spaces even if they do not apply for the award itself - aim to achieve the standard rather than the award. However to temper this idea the group felt it could be useful to have a number of sites achieve a Green Flag Award even if all are unlikely to do so and that a realistic percentage target should be set. This would give staff, councillors and the community something to aim for. Finally it was suggested that sanctions at national level for underperforming authorities could actually force local authorities to value their green spaces and invest in them.

## **Conclusion**

In the last twenty years there has never been a better time for parks and green spaces. The current government sees improvement to green spaces as key to the delivery of its liveability agenda because such places can offer so much to the government's priority areas – health, education, social inclusion and regeneration. However in order to ride on the crest of this wave, park management teams have to adapt. They no longer run parks but instead run green health centres or outdoor classrooms; they are no longer just experts on plants but are events managers or community liaison officers; and they have to think 'outside the box' to maximise revenue opportunities. This may be seen as a tall order but it can be done and the Green Flag Award scheme has often been the catalyst for action. It does give a

common purpose for all those involved, it can force a re-think on budgets and it can harness the power of local communities, which should not be underestimated.

With thanks to Peter Frost, Senior Community Action Officer, Countryside Council for Wales for his input to this paper and his assistance as scribe.

# Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

## ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

### WORKSHOP PAPER

## INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY

*Pete Johnstone*

*Programme Manager, Doorstep Greens  
The Countryside Agency*

### **Community Involvement in Green Space**

*Sub title: What ever your cause it's a lost cause unless you involve the community!*

The reasons why many existing green spaces are run down and vandalised often stems from there being no sense of communal ownership of the site. Indeed people may feel powerless as to what they would like to see on 'their' open space. Finding the underlying causes of this lack of ownership can be complex and can include: no say in how the site is managed; poor design; lack of funding and maintenance; lack of social cohesion; or more practical reasons such as the green space is just in the wrong place, cut off from people, by a barrier such as a road or railway line.

More than likely it is these green spaces that then face a spiral of decline that result in them feeling unsafe to use and with less money being spent on them, they sink further and further into decline and active misuse. Reversing the downward spiral is not an easy task but to achieve it, I would argue you have to positively engage local people. More financial resources may be an advantage but a people orientated approach is essential.

Turning active misuse of a site into something approaching positive participation is the key. Success factors include identifying the causes of decline along with consulting and engaging people for their ideas and possible solutions. This is where community activists can play a vital role. As it is they who can enthuse, muster support and glean ideas from non-users and users alike. However, at some stage these assorted ideas must be brought together, decisions made and a plan of action formulated. It is important to remember to go back and consult on the planned improvements and change if required. Once agreed the work on funding can begin and the project implemented. Reassurance will be required throughout the process as change can be unnerving for many people. At the end of this potentially long process, do not forget to celebrate and say thank you to all those involved. Networking is as important in community involvement as it is in business!

Also do not forget that community involvement is not necessarily a one off event and the process may have to start all over again!

And here is a Health Warning to all you grant giving bodies: The community involvement process does not fit neatly into funding timescales or financial years however much you might like to think it should!

Involving the community – five factors for achieving success

1. Issue – gauge support
2. Invite ideas – consult
3. Involve the community - decision making process – plan – consult again
4. Implementation - community action - deliver the goods -community benefits
5. Celebrate!

**Further Information – Involving the Community in Greenspace**

The Greenspace Learning Network, The Countryside Agency. (web based) To register: [www.greenspace.net.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.greenspace.net.countryside.gov.uk)

Countryside Agency, (2003), **Made to measure – how to measure the success of local community action.**

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DETR, (1998), **Guidance on Enhancing Public Perception.**

English Nature, (2002), **Reconnecting People and Wildlife.**

Greater London Authority, (2001), **Connecting with London's Nature.**  
ODPM, (2002), **Green Spaces, Better Places Urban Green Spaces Task Force**

LGMB, (1998), **Involving the Public.**

New Economics Foundation, **Participation Works! 21 techniques of community participation for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

Richardson, I, and Baggott, I, (1998) **Community Involvement in Parks, ILAM Fact Sheet 98/6**

Urban Parks Forum, (2002), **Your Parks: The benefits of parks and greenspace.**

Warburton, D (1997), **Participatory Action in the Countryside**

Wates, N (2000), **The Community Planning Handbook**, London: Earthscan Publications



# **Countryside Recreation Network Seminar**

## **ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE**

### **WORKSHOP PAPER**

## **YOUTH/TEEN SHELTERS**

*Roger Hampshire  
Crime Prevention Design Advisor  
Thames Valley Police*

#### **Aim of Workshop:**

The aim of the workshop was to look at how a local council would go about the process of providing young people with meeting points (youth shelters) and free sporting facilities.

- Initially it was felt that the council would have to invite the young people to a meeting to explain their needs. However it was quickly recognised that the young people may not attend a meeting if the invites were from the local authority as they may suspect a hidden agenda.
- Therefore ways of promoting the meeting should be examined, so as to get a good response. Using the services of the schools they attend, or engaging a youth worker to meet the young people in their territory were good options.
- Could also examine various other options to encourage them to a meeting such as a theme, like a disco or barbecue or an invite with a lucky number on it.
- Once it was established what their needs were and that these were realistic and achievable it was then discussed to open up the idea to the rest of the community, including local organisations and businesses, get everyone's ideas on what and where facilities could be provided. Cost; Location; Feasibility; Safety; Design; Questionnaires.
- It must be a broad approach and not just a vision of the local council.
- Try to be creative, discuss free expressions and dreams. Compromise comes later.
- Consider having initial meetings on neutral ground.
- Manage expectations – ask how they will be achieved.
- To assist the council, community and especially the young people, it was discussed how a professional facilitator could be engaged to speak on their behalf. Alternatively a Youth Council could be formed or even have a dedicated councillor acting on behalf of the young people.
- It was most essential to collate all the procedure and fully record minutes of the various meetings of different sections of the community.

- Ways of funding were discussed and a separate fund raising committee could be established.
- It was noted that the young people themselves would be most enthusiastic to get involved in the process of funding. Not only in administration but also in participation, as participation means ownership.
- It should be recognised that a fund raising activity by one or more young people should be encouraged and even if only small amounts of monies were raised, to them it would be a significant amount and should be received with as much enthusiasm whatever the size of the contribution.
- Examine ways of providing funds and consider other agencies such as health, education, community safety and sport as these all have an association.
- Charities who provide funding expect you to try and match fund with your own or other funders, be honest and tell them exactly what other funding has been applied for.
- At every stage of the process the community must be kept informed and the more the project was promoted the more participation and support for the idea would occur.
- The council should encourage support for the project from all members of the community; this ensures a sense of ownership in the local community.

Consider the next generations, what should be the long-term goals, how will we retain a sense of ownership in the future?

# Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

## ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

### WORKSHOP PAPER

## EXPLORING RESOURCES AND FUNDING

*Ted Talbot*  
*Sustainability Group Leader*  
*Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council*

### TED'S "TOP TEN TIPS" on Managing Urban Greenspaces.

The challenge set to delegates was, within the workshop time of two hours, to collectively come up with a list of the ten most important considerations when thinking about the following issues relating to urban greenspace:

- Identifying Resources
- Managing Creatively
- Funding and Partnerships
- Sustainability

#### **Identifying resources, or, what are we managing?**

For green space this may not have the clear boundaries that other "resource managers" are used to. Urban green space can be complex and not easy to define. However, the key here is to define things clearly for your job or service and be very clear about what *you* are and aren't taking management responsibility for!

1. Human Resources
  - Staff
  - Volunteers
  - Contractors
  - Users
  - Aspirations/dreams/perceptions!
2. Built Structures/Equipment
  - Historical
  - Public Rights of Way
  - Visitor Centres/toilets/car parks
  - Vehicles & machinery, tools, computers.
3. Budgets/Systems (e.g. health & safety)/time.
4. Landscapes including land/water/air/soil.
5. Partnerships
6. Play/sports (activities & facilities!)
7. Natural resources
8. Heritage and culture
9. Access (all definitions, including social justice)/route ways.
10. Information/image.

There was a broad consensus that recognising and "managing potential" was increasingly important for greenspace sites, communities and individuals!

## **Creative management of/for green spaces:**

It follows on that the skills needed to manage the identified "top ten" resources are clearly many and varied. To do so effectively, modern urban greenspaces managers need a good network of experts to call on as well as a broad skills base themselves. Good communication is key and this is the "Top Ten" list of delegates' priorities for sound and creative management:

1. Listening to others/consultation local + wider, community work skills
2. Strategic management/planning - + local SMART objectives
3. Marketing and promotion.
4. Joined up thinking! partnership working.
5. Auditing. Monitoring/evaluation and review
6. Leadership/vision - *political awareness. Managing Upwards! Determination!*
7. Creativity/optimism/belief!
8. Implementation skills
  - Specialist knowledge
  - Doing it
  - Facilitating it
  - Empowering others to do it
9. Fundraising (*business skills /business sector*)
10. "Sustainability", understanding how to design it in and ensure continuity.

Delegates were surprised how important professions such as horticulture, forestry, sports turf management etc. were not brought to the fore more in this discussion. There was a feeling that "generic management skills" were tending to dominate current work situations where community involvement and partnership working are given priority, possibly at the expense of technical skills. Time did not allow the discussion to progress further.

Once you have maximised the capacity of your own resources, the two established ways to get even more out of them is to seek external funding and /or involve others by working in partnership to achieve shared aims. Both have considerable pit falls if rushed into, so after some discussions delegates advised the following:

### **Top Ten Tips when considering external funding:**

- \* Plan your match funding in advance
- \* Have a clear strategy/business plan & budget - aims and objectives - targeted.
- \* Plan long term – have realistic expectations
- \* Use 'buzz' words that the funder likes!
- \* Understand the monitoring and evaluation process
- \* Have an exit strategy
- \* Check your capacity - to do what you have asked for!
- \* Ensure good partnerships & consultation
- \* Look for multi-functionality, multiple benefits.
- \* Have a clear understanding of the application process

### **Top Ten Tips for Partnership working**

- Clear communication
- Clear timescales
- Honesty & commitment
- Share common goals
- Respect for each organisations integrity & identity
- Clear and agreed objectives and outputs.
- Identify incentives
- Evaluations - exit strategy
- Clarify responsibilities/resources

Think about the structures of the partnership - big fish + little fish!

### **Sustainability**

It could be argued that unsustainable management in the past has lead to the difficult situations found in many urban green spaces at present. The challenge for the future is to avoid the "boom & bust" cycle that can be generated by some types of capital project funding and regeneration initiatives. The shared, mutually supporting objectives of social, economic and environmental well-being must be integrated into both urban green spaces and their management in the future.

Green space managers must be seen to "practice what they preach" and have a duty to lead by example within local communities through sound environmental management of their facilities and operations. Climate change through global warming, pollution incidents, habitat loss, erosion and the disposal of waste all have an impact on urban sites as much as they do any other types of greenspace.

There is now a good case for incorporating sound environmentally friendly policies and principles into areas such as building design and vehicle use, bringing good publicity and often revenue cost savings to the service. Awards such as "Green Flag" are helping to endorse this approach by insisting on sound environmental practices.

After a short final discussion , the "Top Ten Tips" for managing sustainably were deemed to be the following:

- Develop and implement a simple "Environment Policy" and consider:
  - Waste (minimisation, recycling & composting)
  - Energy( use in buildings & vehicles)
  - Water (rain water storage & use, drainage design, low flush loos!)
  - Purchasing (local, fair trade, organic? Not just cheap and disposable products!)
  - Biodiversity (have you got a Local Biodiversity Action Plan?)
  - Transport (how do staff & users get to your sites? Are there good public transport alternatives to cars?)
  - People (inclusive & accessible services)
  - Information, use your site to raise awareness of the linkages between things:
- **"Think Global, Act Local!"**

## **ANNEX A**

# ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

## PROGRAMME

### **9.30 Registration and refreshments**

10.00 Welcome by chair (*Professor Chris Baines*)

10.05 **Keynote lecture** (*Professor Chris Baines*)

10.40 What makes good urban greenspace - public perceptions and needs -  
(*John Vaughan, National Community Forest Partnership*)

### **11.15 Refreshments**

11.40 Accessible greenspace in cities and towns, a Scottish Perspective (to include partnerships, targets and standards (*Deryck Irving, Greenspace Scotland*))

12.10 **Greenspace Strategy** (*Peter Neal, CABI Space*)

### **12.40 Lunch**

13.40 Workshop 1/2a/3 (delegates choose one workshop session)

*Workshop 1 chaired by 'Karen Lewis, Green Flag'*

*Workshop 2a chaired by 'Pete Johnstone, Doorstep Greens, Countryside Agency'*

*Workshop 2b chaired by 'Roger Hampshire', Thames Valley Police*

*Workshop 3 chaired by 'Ted Talbot, Barnsley MBC'*

### **14:40 Workshop changeover**

14.45 Workshop 1/2b/3 (delegates choose one workshop session)

### **15.45 Refreshments**

16.00 Reports and discussions from workshops

16:15 Moving forward - next steps (Chair)

16.30 **CLOSE**

## WORKSHOPS

**Workshop 1: Green Flag and Green Pennant Awards** *Karen Lewis Green Flag*

**Workshop 2a: Involving the community** *Pete Johnstone, Doorstep Greens, Countryside Agency*

**Workshop 2b: Youth/Teen Shelters** *Roger Hampshire, Thames Valley Police*

**Workshop 3: Exploring resources and funding** *Ted Talbot, Barnsley MBC*



## **ANNEX B**

## **BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS**

### **CHAIR AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Professor Chris Baines  
Baines Environmental Limited**

Professor Chris Baines is a horticulturalist and Landscape Architect. He is an Honorary Fellow of both ILAM and CIWEM, is Patron of the Green Flag Awards (for excellence in public parks) and he also has personal responsibility for the management of a 3-acre inner city park as Grounds Maintenance Secretary of his local residents association in Wolverhampton.

Chris is a self-employed freelance adviser to central and local government and to senior executives in the corporate sector. He has a long-established professional relationship with several leading companies in the water, minerals, construction and energy industries, and he has chaired the judging of the *Greenleaf Housing Awards* for the Housebuilders Federation for the past 15 years. He is also an award-winning writer and broadcaster. His book *How to Make a Wildlife Garden* is a continuing best seller, and *The Wild Side of Town* won first prize in the UK conservation book awards as long ago as 1987.

Chris plays a leading roll in the environmental movement. He has recently been appointed to the steering group of CABI Space and among a number of honorary posts he is national vice president of the Wildlife Trusts and of the Countryside Management Association, president of the Urban Wildlife Partnership and of the Thames Estuary Partnership, and Patron of the Bankside Open Spaces Trust in London, of CONE in the North East and of the Landscape Design Trust. He is a trustee of the Waterways Trust and in 1998 he was appointed by the Prime Minister as one of the twelve Trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund, with responsibility for investing an average of £50 million into urban parks each year

He was born in Sheffield, and his first job after leaving school was with Sheffield Corporation Parks Department. In 1995 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Sheffield Hallam University.

## **SPEAKERS/WORKSHOP LEADERS**

**John Vaughan  
Group Director  
National Community Forest Partnership**

John Vaughan graduated from Newcastle University in 1972 with a Biology degree and Diploma in Landscape Design. Since then he has worked as a Landscape Architect for a variety of public agencies including New Town, County, Metropolitan and London Borough Councils. In 1990 he was appointed Director of the Great North Forest, one of 12 Community Forests established by the Countryside Agency and Forestry Commission to develop and demonstrate new approaches to environmental regeneration in and around towns and cities. He is currently on secondment to the Forestry Commission, co-ordinating the work of the National Community Forest Partnership. He is also a Secretary of State appointee on the Northumberland National Park Authority.

**Deryck Irving  
Development Officer  
Greenspace, Scotland**

Deryck Irving is the Development Officer for Greenspace Scotland - the national body driving forward the Greenspace for Communities Initiative and providing a national lead on local action to improve the quality of life of people in urban communities through the creation and sustainable management of greenspaces

Prior to joining Greenspace Scotland he was a freelance consultant, working on Education for Sustainable Development and on the evaluation of environmental, voluntary and community initiatives. He has nearly twenty years of experience of working with such initiatives in the urban areas of Scotland.

**Peter Neal  
Head of Enabling and Delivery  
CABESpace**

Peter Neal is a Landscape Architect and Urban Designer and heads the Enabling and Delivery team of CABE Space, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment's new public space unit. He has previously worked with the masterplanning consultancy EDAW and The Prince's Foundation as a research associate. He has been involved in a wide variety of urban regeneration projects and has recently completed a new book on 'Urban Villages and the making of communities' that covers the policy and process of creating sustainable mixed-use communities and environments.

**Karen Lewis  
Green Flag Award Manager  
Civic Trust**

Karen Lewis is a professionally qualified manager with 20 years experience across public, private and voluntary sectors in demanding and challenging work environments. She is the Green Flag Award Manager working for the Civic Trust who manages the Green Flag Award and other associated schemes of Green Pennant Award and Green Heritage Site Accreditation.

In recent years she has raised the profile of the Green Flag Award scheme through events such as this, launched the scheme in Wales, co-developed the Green Pennant Award scheme with Ian Baggott of Community First Partnership, co-developed the Green Heritage Site Accreditation with English Heritage and increased the number and type of entrants to the scheme as a whole. In addition she chairs regular briefing and debriefing events with the volunteer Green Flag judges, many of whom are park managers to ensure that information from the coalface is fed into the scheme and that it can evolve to meet changes within the parks world.

Future projects include the development of a dedicated Green Flag Award website and subject to funding the launch of the scheme in Northern Ireland and Scotland

Prior to joining the Civic Trust Karen worked in a local regeneration partnership in one of the most deprived areas of Liverpool working closely with community and voluntary groups.

**Pete Johnstone  
Programme Manager  
Doorstep Greens  
Countryside Agency**

Pete Johnstone currently heads up the Countryside Agency's Doorstep Greens initiative which enables 200 communities in both urban and rural England to create or restore their own greenspace. Within the Agency in the past 10 years Pete has worked on community forests, countryside access and external funding initiatives. Previous work has included project manager with the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project in Surrey and manager of BTCV's London schools and community project. Outside work, Pete is a council member of the British Association of Nature Conservationists.

**Roger Hampshire  
Crime Prevention Design Advisor  
Thames Valley Police**

Roger joined Thames Valley Police in 1972, serving originally at Slough and after four years was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department at Witney in Oxfordshire. After a few years as a detective in a rural area was then transferred to the Serious Crime Squad and then to Oxford City. Whilst at Oxford became one of two officers who set up a dedicated method of dealing with cheque and credit card fraud. After nearly 20 years as a detective, transferred to Crime Prevention and then to Designing Out Crime. Roger retired after 30 years service but was immediately re-employed by the police as the Designing Out Crime Officer for Oxfordshire. During his police service he was commended on six occasions and has also received one commendation since then for his work in promoting facilities for young people.

**Ted Talbot  
Sustainability Group Leader  
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council**

Ted is an environmental management professional with 14 years experience of Local Government and the voluntary sector. Working predominantly in the parks, woodlands and countryside industry, Ted established and managed Sheffield City Councils Ranger Service from 1993 to 2001 and had a hand in shaping it into the well respected and cutting edge service that it is today. Sheffield is the fifth largest city in England, with a proud industrial heritage, a wealth of urban greenspace and its western borders in the Peak District National Park. For the last seven years Ted has also work with the Training Team at Losehill Hall, delivering Ranger Training and associated courses. These well established courses have provided the foundations of the European Ranger Training programme, which Ted had the privilege of trialling in Slovakia in 1997 and in the Danube National Park in Austria.

More recently, as the Sustainability Group Leader for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Ted is dealing with issues of corporate sustainability, particularly those relating to Agenda 21, biodiversity, purchasing, waste, transport and energy.

Ted also has a keen interest in traditional woodland crafts and woodland heritage, and lives with his family on the edge of Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

## **ANNEX C**

## Delegate List

Title	Name	Surname	Job/Position	Organisation
Mr	Ralph	Barnett	Countryside Recreation Leader	Suffolk County Council
Miss	Jo	Barrett	Fisheries, Recreation and Biodiversity Technical Officer	Environment Agency
Mr	Phil	Beard	Parks & Amenities Manager	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Mr	Jim	Besson	Community Facilities Manager	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Mr	Terry	Blyde	Group Co-ordinator - Sport, Play and Recreation	Walsall MBC
Ms	Alison	Boden	Snr Manager - Coast and Countryside	Wyre Borough Council
Mr	Nigel	Brigham	Regional Manager	SUSTRANS
Mr	George	Broughton	Countryside Support Officer	Cheshire County Council
Mr	David	Brown	Development Manager	Sandwell MBC
Miss	Melanie	Bull	Network Manager	CRN
Miss	Janice	Burley	Training and Development Officer	Losehill Hall
Mr	Geoff	Cartwright	Senior Lecturer	Sheffield Hallam University
Dr	Judy	Clark	Friends of Alexandra Park	C/o Hastings Borough Council
Mr	Ian	Collis	Environment Manager	Stoke on Trent City Council
Mrs	Deborah	Comyn-Platt	Technical Officer	Calderdale Council
Mr	Alan	Cordin	Ranger	Ashfield District Council
Mr	Tony	Crosby	Policy Officer - Access and Disability	Heritage Lottery Fund
Mrs	Lynn	Crowe	Principal Lecturer	Sheffield Hallam University
Mr	Jon	Dallow	Woodlands Interpretation Officer	Sheffield City Council
Miss	Rachel	Datlen	Countryside Greenspace Manager	Worcestershire County Council
Mr	Clive	Dean	Conservation and Community Officer	Northern Shropshire Countryside Service
Mr	Nick	Dickson	Countryside Officer	Suffolk County Council
Miss	Amanda	Durlik	Community Access Co-ordinator	The Waterways Trust (Scotland)
Miss	Sue	Forsyth	Urban Fringe Project Officer	Sussex Downs Conservation Board
Mr	Pete	Frost	Senior Urban and Community Officer	Countryside Council for Wales
Mr	Bruce	Granger	Ranger	Sheffield City Council
Miss	Dawn	Griffiths	Countryside Officer	Countryside Agency
Mr	Andy	Hayes	Community Projects Officer	Leicestershire County Council
Mr	Tom	Handley	Woodland Officer	React - C/o Groundwork

Title	Name	Surname	Job/Position	Organisation
Ms	Neo	Henry	Arts Project Co-Ordinator	Amber Valley Borough Council
Miss	Emma	Hinton	Project Officer	The North Chilterns Trust
Mr	John	Holmes	Shipley Country Park	Derbyshire County Council
Mr	Geoff	Hughes	Chairman	Countryside Recreation Network
Mr	Nick	Lane	Young Friends of the Parks Co-ordinator	Young Friend of the Parks
Mr	Richard	Lawrence	Project Officer	Ivel & Ouse Countryside Project
Mrs	Jo	Lindsay	Project Co-ordinator, Sherwood Forest Community Rangers	Forestry Commission
Mrs	Helen	McCluskie	Greenspace Strategy Manager	Doncaster MBC
Mr	Keiran	McMahon	Green Spaces Manager	Sport England
Miss	Kirsty	McManus	Advisory Officer (Settlements)	Scottish Natural Heritage
Mr	Antony	Stringwell	HLF Officer	Leeds City Council
Mr	Paul	Nicholson	Landscape Architect	British Waterways
Mrs	Jennie	Owen	Green Spaces Development Officer	Sport England - South East Region
Mr	Alan	Peace	Senior Warden	Dudley MBC
Mr	Alastair	Phillips	Senior Sport and Environment Manager	Sport England
Miss	Katherine	Powell	Network Assistant	CRN
Miss	Claire	Quigley	Recreation Officer	Environment Agency
Miss	Paula	Reading	Countryside Division	DEFRA
Miss	Hannah	Rigden	Countryside Stewardship Advisor/Access Co-ordinator	DEFRA
Mr	Steve	Scoffin	Director	Gateshead Council/Great North Forest
Mrs	Vicki	Sixsmith	Strategic Access Officer	Gateshead Council/Great North Forest
Mr	Paul	Smith	Map Development Manager	Ordnance Survey
Dr	Gerda	Speller	Research Fellow	University of Brighton
Mrs	Sally	Stowell	Development Manager	Sport England
Mr	Martyn	Summerscales	Assistant Parks Manager	Calderdale Council
Ms	Annie	Surtees	Senior Ranger	City of Salford
Mr	Paul	Walker		Stratford District Council
Mr	Jim	White	Woodland Projects Officer	South West Forest
Miss	Miriam	Woolnough	Countryside Management Officer	Bath & North-East Somerset Council



## **ANNEX D**

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**Accessible Greenspace Seminar**  
The C.A.B.E. Space Strategic Enabling Scheme

Peter Neal  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2003

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**Who is C.A.B.E. Space?**

- Established at the request of ODFM in May 2003
- A specialist unit within the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (C.A.B.E.)
- A small central team with a wide range of partners across the country

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**What is C.A.B.E. Space?**

- A champion and advocate for public space, especially urban green space
- Joining up the planning, design, management and maintenance agendas for urban green space
- Promoting green space and public space as a mainstream concern in policy and delivery
- Working in partnership across 'space' sectors

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**Benefiting from**

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**The Work Plan**

**Thinking space**  
C.A.B.E. Space  
Year Plan 2004/5

The role of C.A.B.E. Space is:

*'to champion the importance of urban public space, particularly parks and green spaces, in improving the quality of life'*

- Programme 1 - Enabling and Delivery
- Programme 2 - Standards and Best Practice
- Programme 3 - Policy and Research
- Programme 4 - Campaigns and Advocacy
- Programme 5 - Skills and Development

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**Current Activities**

**Thinking space**  
C.A.B.E. Space  
Year Plan 2004/5

- Programme 1 - Enabling and Delivery
- Programme 2 - Standards and Best Practice
- Programme 3 - Policy and Research

- Promotion and review of the Green Flag Awards
- Developing a Green Space Quality Indicator
- Preparing a Green Space Management Plans
- Involving Young People in Design of Public Space

## Current Activities

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Programme 1 - Enabling and Delivery  
Programme 2 - Standards and Best Practice  
Programme 3 - Policy and Research

- Economic Value of Urban Green Space
- International Study of Urban Green Space Maintenance and Management Practice
- The Relationship of Local Authority Expenditure and Quality of Green Space

## Current Activities

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Programme 1 - Enabling and Delivery  
Programme 2 - Standards and Best Practice  
Programme 3 - Policy and Research

- Set up the Enabling Programme
- Select and appoint Advisory Panel
- Provide direct support for 30 Local Authorities
- Provide assistance to 50 additional Local Authorities
- Assist up to 10 Site Specific Projects

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## The Advisory Panel

## The Advisory Panel

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- Launched through competitive application in July 2003, final selection in September
- 45 Individual advisors and 15 Corporate advisors
- Wide skills base for current and future work with a Broad regional coverage
- Initial training in August, completed in November

## Our skills base

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speaking training research  
policy planning urban  
regeneration urban design  
landscape design green space  
planning civic space design  
management maintenance  
funding site audits ecology  
biodiversity sport children's  
play special needs public art  
historic restoration

## Corporate advisors

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Parklife British Waterways EDAW  
Greenspace Free Form Arts Trust  
Writtle College The Wildlife Trusts  
Milton Keynes Parks Trust Civix  
National Urban Forestry Unit Scott  
Wilson English Heritage Camlin  
Lonsdale Llewelyn Davis  
Landscape Design Associates