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Best in Grass

Effective grassland management strategies for local greenspace



Thursday 7 November

MS Teams

Programme

09:30 *Session one*

The Growing importance of changing grassland management approaches

- Why was there a need for this seminar?
- Climate change, biodiversity and grasslands
- Areas to be covered and why?

Matt Ellis, APSE Principal Advisor

Nature-based benefits associated with enhanced grassland management

- Carbon storage and biodiversity gain from managing grasslands differently.
- Raising awareness amongst local authorities and the public
- How Plantlife can help

Mark Schofield, Road Verge Advisor, Plantlife

Over 20 years creating green and resilient urban places where people and nature can thrive

- Who are Green Estate CIC & Pictorial Meadows?
- A unique range of designed products
- Why choose Pictorial Meadow for meadow management

Owen Hayman, Landscape Manager, Pictorial Meadows (Sponsor)

Audience question and answer session

10:45 *Comfort break*

11:00 *Session Two*

Climate change, biodiversity and the need for grassland management strategies

- The need to create a strategy
- Gaining support and strengthening wider corporate strategies
- Implementing the changes and the benefits achieved

Thomas Guilbert-Newell, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Why changing grassland management approaches have led to rewilding and improved habitats for wildlife

- Previous grassland management operations and the need for change.
- Identifying and implementing the required changes
- Recognised benefits to biodiversity and the wider environment

Debbie Sutton, Amenities Manager (South), Highland Council

Audience question and answer session

11:55 *Comfort break*

12:05 *Session Three*

Meadow management and the road to gaining public support

- Operation Bingo! – Identifying public concerns.
- Creating a more considered and publicly acceptable approach
- The successes of a well-researched communications campaign

Richard Parmee, Babergh District Council, South Suffolk Mid Suffolk District Council

'Love Your Verge #' Green deserts to wildlife havens

- Drivers for change
- Managing verges and grassland to benefit wildlife
- The need for good communications and public awareness raising

Giles Nicholson, Service Manager for Environment and Greenspace, Dorset Council

Audience question and answer session

13:00 *Seminar close*

Seminar Objectives

About the Seminar

Local authorities are facing a multitude of issues, none more so than trying to reduce the impacts of climate change and increase levels of biodiversity. Many have turned to the planting of large numbers of trees to help absorb carbon, reduce the impact of flooding and provide valuable habitats for wildlife. But trees take many years to establish and whilst critically important there may be other shorter-term actions which can bring similar benefits – grasslands.

Grasslands have a huge potential for locking up carbon, not only due to the plants we can see on the surface, but also due to the relationships between the plants, fungi, bacteria and many other species which help enrich the soil with carbon. However, how we manage these grasslands, ranging from large open spaces to our roadside verges and even our lawns and gardens is important.

By bringing together a wealth of different local authority and environmental experts and practitioners, APSE hopes to show how its members can manage their grassland areas in a more environmentally sustainable manner and, in doing so, reduce the impacts of climate change whilst simultaneously increasing the opportunities for biodiversity. The seminar will also look at how to gain elected member, staff, and public support for the necessary changes to traditional grassland management.

In the fight against climate change and the drive to increase levels of biodiversity, this seminar will provide invaluable information and practical examples of how to manage grasslands which can be implemented not only at local levels, but play a contributory role towards helping achieve national environmental targets and objectives.

Who should attend?

This seminar will be a valuable experience for a wide variety of local authority officers as well as elected members, stakeholders and voluntary groups:

Parks and open space officers,

Parks and Greenspace elected member portfolio holders

Climate change officers

Ecology officers

Friends of Parks Groups

Highway officers with responsibility for roadside verges

Council media officers

Friends of Parks representatives

Greenspace planners

Booking Information

Venue

This is an online event to be held on Microsoft Teams

A meeting link will be set after booking

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, delegates' documentation.

APSE member delegate fee: **£99+ VAT**

Non member delegates fee: **£184 + VAT**

Click [here](#) to reserve your place on this event

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY:

Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to megerton@apse.org.uk. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for nonattendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or mode of delivery should this become necessary. If due to emergency action by UK Governments/Administrations or Public Agencies this event is postponed, for example for reasons of public health and safety, the organisers will transfer your booking to the replacement event or provide a credit voucher against a future event booking.