

apse

online seminar

APSE Central Region Event

Building Resilience and Strengthening Communities



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THE IMPORTANCE OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE






Where and how we live is changing faster than ever before





Maintaining connections, or reconnecting, with nature can help address these impacts





The response to the coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the need for local green space provision and shown there are inequalities in provision and accessibility



The People and Nature Survey April – June 2020

- 9/10 adults view the protection of the natural environment as important to them
- 4/10 have spent more time in the natural environment than before the pandemic





The People and Nature Survey April – June 2020

However,

- Access to green infrastructure and the natural environment is linked to socio-economic status
- You're less likely to be using green spaces if you live in an area of high deprivation, have a low income or are not currently working
- Older people, minority ethnic groups and those with long term illness are less likely to have recently visited green spaces.





Increasingly recognised that we are facing three challenges linked to the natural environment

- The impacts of a changing climate
- The impacts of declines in biodiversity, and
- The increasing need to strengthen connections between people and the natural world as the way we live rapidly changes





The way we ‘frame’ these challenges can have important psychological impacts.

We have a language of “emergencies”, “crisis”, “breakdowns” and “threats”, this feeds what’s increasingly called ‘eco-anxiety’ and a sense that at a local level communities and individuals can’t make effective change.

We need to communicate in a language of “hope”, “recovery”, “inclusion”, “wellness”, and “empowerment” to help foster community resilience



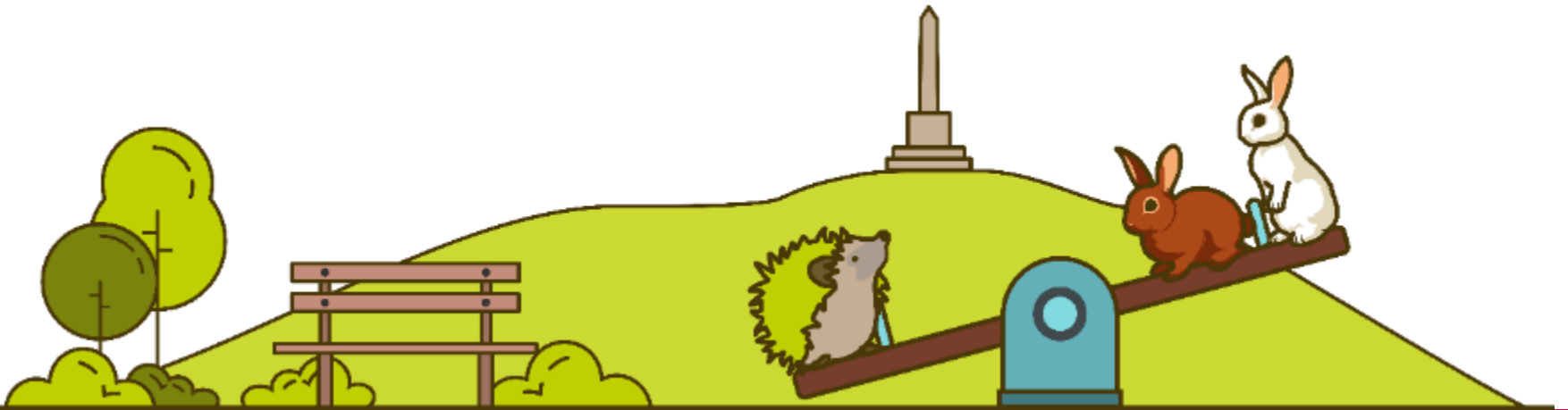


This presentation will discuss
Protecting ultra-local green spaces
Creating social green infrastructure
Setting standards
Harnessing emerging policies to improve social
wellbeing





Green Guarantee
valued by you, protected by us



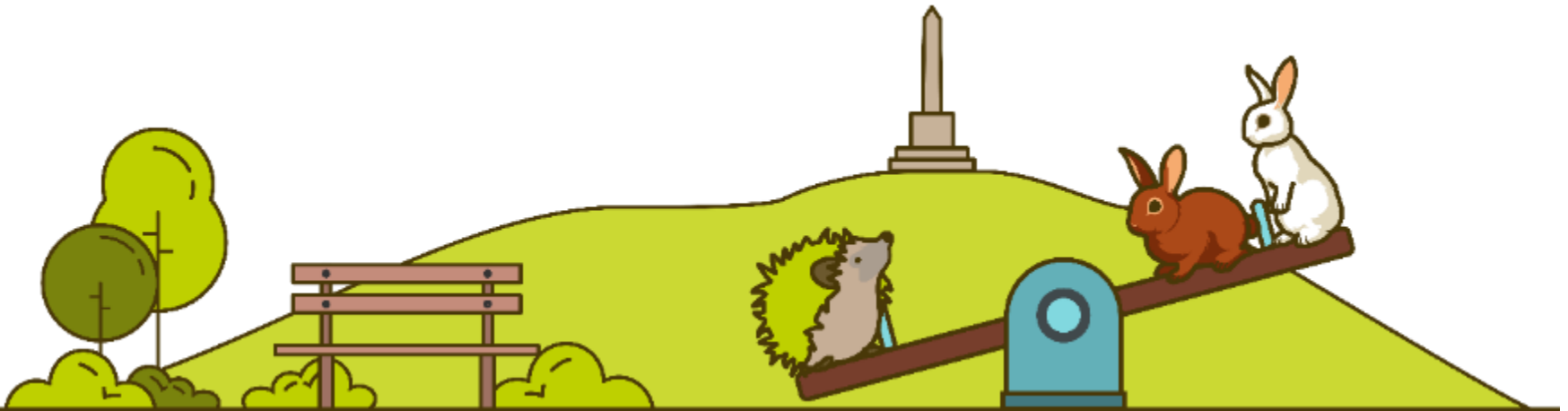
**Protecting Ultra-Local
Greenspaces**



The Green Guarantee was a commitment by the Council to protect over 150 Council owned green spaces valued by local communities

Between 2016 and 2018 200 Green Guarantee sites have been approved by cabinet.

Sites include; allotments, amenity sites, formal parks and gardens, woodlands and urban green spaces.

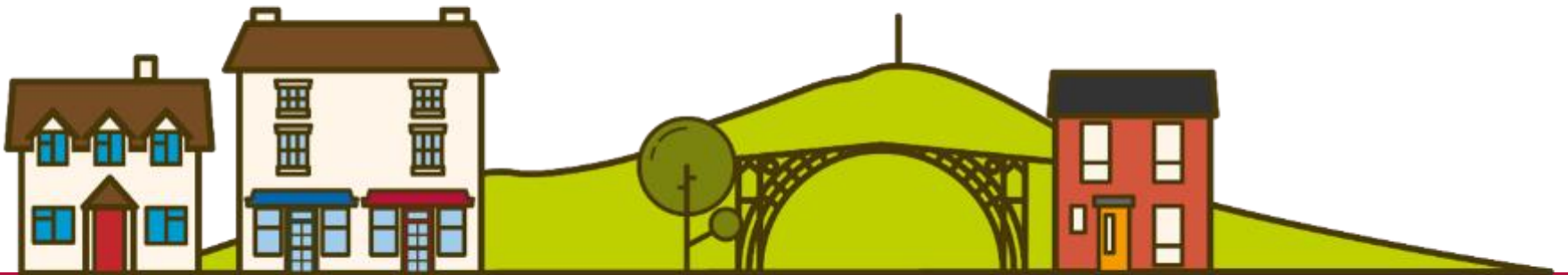


Green Guarantee
valued by you, protected by us



Sites are protected by removing delegated authority for both sale and change of use. Both of which would require full cabinet approval.

Delegated responsibility is retained for works in the community interest such as site enchantments for leisure and recreation and the removal/replacement of infrastructure.



Green Guarantee
valued by you, protected by us



The site protection forms a foundation for local community groups.

The designation helps volunteer groups make bids for funding for capital works and community engagement projects



Green Guarantee
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Green Infrastructure isn't just physical infrastructure
Its also social infrastructure too

#MyWildTelford was launched in May 2020

To celebrate and champion the natural environment and bring
local communities together



**Creating social green
infrastructure**



World Environment Day 2020

Launched infographics promoting

- The benefits of nature to our wellbeing
- How to make a window box for wildlife
- How to encourage garden wildlife
- The value of #ourforest community
- How our meadows help to capture carbon

BENEFITS OF NATURE TO OUR WELLBEING



Everyday experiences with nature matter for our wellbeing

↓ REDUCES ↓	Chronic Stress	Good mood	↑ INCREASES ↑
	Depression	Empathy	
	Anxiety	Concentration	
	Negative thoughts	Focus	
		Productivity	
		Personal fitness	

Notice the small things in nature that are around you and make every day amazing!



It doesn't take much for nature to do you some good

 Only 10mins in green space can increase your well being - so find a green space near to you and visit it a little, but often!

WINDOW BOX WILDLIFE



Not everyone has access to garden space, but you can still encourage wildlife onto your patios or balconies with window boxes

- 1 Lay a layer of 'crocs', broken pots or gravel at the base of your window box to help it drain.
- 2 Fill the box with a light peat free compost. 
- 3 Fill with nectar rich plants, use a wildflower seed mix or use young plants like lavender and borage that are great for bees and hoverflies!
- 4 Add other features. The more diverse your window box, the more wildlife you'll attract. Make a simple bug hotel by adding some small sticks/logs or add a small tray or yogurt pot and let it fill with rain water.





Since launch in May

- More than 100k impressions
- More than 5k engagements
- 500 retweets
- 900 likes
- Currently running a Green Space Advent Calendar promoting a local green space a day on the run up to Christmas



My Wild Telford @My_Wild_Telford · Nov 30

🌲❄️ COMING SOON #MWTAdvent! ❄️🌲 Count down the day's until #ChirstmasEve with @My_Wild_Telford. . Gather your reindeer's and sleigh your way through @TelfordWrekin's #Telford50Trail! Explore and discover the hidden sites and special places of interest near you! #MWTAdvent



Individuals do not have equal physical, cultural and social access to green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure is not always available to support the people who need it the most. (IWUN 2019)

There are a number of tools to help set/measure standards

- Outdoor Recreational Value Mapping (ORVaL)
- Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt)
- Accessible Woodland Standards (AWS)

Setting Standards



Outdoor Recreational Value Mapping (ORVaL)

Map-based web application designed to help quantify the benefits of accessible outdoor recreation sites in England and Wales.

- Provides information on modelled visitor numbers
- How they travel (active travel/car)
- Models demographics who visit the greenspace
- Models how many visits are new or repeat visits
- Models a welfare value in £ per year.

Setting Standards



Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt)

“everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural greenspace

- Of at least 2 hectares in size no more than 300m from their home
- At least on accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home
- A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserve per 1000 of the population”

Setting Standards



Accessible Woodland Standards (AWS)

No person should be more than 500m away from
2ha of accessible woodland

No person should be more than 4km away from
20ha of accessible woodland

Setting Standards



Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity net gain is a new approach to development and land management that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than before.

2021 the Environment Bill will mandate that developments deliver 10% gain in biodiversity

Either through onsite provision or through a combination of offsite developer contributions.

Harnessing Emerging Policy



Biodiversity Net Gain

These net gain initiatives can contribute to reshaping and improving the UK's natural environment

And at the same time actively address social disadvantages.

Spatial planning at a regional/borough scale will be key in ensuring net gain also delivers social benefits in areas of most need.

Harnessing Emerging Policy



Panel 2:

Kully Boden, Derby City Council

Scott MacDonald, Derby City Council

Richard Partington, AceOn Energy

Mark Latham, Telford & Wrekin Council



GB 11409



GB 11132



GB 14074

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