

APSE Parks, Grounds & Street Services Advisory Group Meeting

Minutes Wednesday 11 September 2013

Chatelherault

1. Welcome

Cllr Norman Hampshire, Chair of the APSE Scotland Parks, Grounds & Street services group thanked all for attending the meeting in Chatelherault Country Park.

2. Attendance & Apologies

See attached.

3. Minutes for meeting 6 March 2013

Wallace Turpie, North Ayrshire Council proposed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

It was noted that there was no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 6 March.

5. Susan Whyte, Perth & Kinross Council (see presentation)

The first presentation of the group was given by Susan Whyte, Greenspace Ranger, Perth & Kinross Council. Susan presented to the group on MacRosty Park within Crieff, which was awarded a Green Flag and in particular highlighted excellent community involvement.

Susan provided a brief background of the park before the transformation, the progress of the transformation and the achievements to date which helped the park achieve the green flag status.

The park received a £1.8m heritage grant to help achieve the transformation which included a restoration of the 107 year old banstand as well as adding in new features such as £400,000 worth of new play equipment.

Susan highlighted the importance of community involvement during the transformation but also after it had been completed and detailed to the group a number of events and initiatives which the park completed through the involvement of the local community and Friends of MacRosty Park.

Susan concluded her presentation by highlighting some of the links the park was making to the Curriculum for Excellence within schools.

6. Laurence Christie, East Renfrewshire Council (see presentation)

Laurence Christie, Cleansing, Parks & Waste Strategy Manager, East Renfrewshire Council provided the group with a presentation to stimulate discussion and debate with regards to fees & charging.

This included pros & cons for fees & charges within parks including open spaces and also the issue of charging for fitness.

Following the presentation there was a detailed discussion on what other local authorities were doing as well as the “bootcamp” and “buggy fitness” classes which were popping up more and more. The discussion included whether local authorities were charging classes for using the parks & open spaces and how this possibly could be managed.

7. APSE Update

Louise McMillan, Principal Advisor for APSE Scotland provided a full update to the group on the current work of APSE both Nationally & Locally. This included information on the traded services of the organisation, information on the new Protective services pilot with PN which was now under way, the various briefings from the Association and a review of the recent and upcoming events. This included the a brief review of the recent Social Media seminar which took place in Hampden and Annual seminar, exhibition & service awards which was held in Liverpool the week before.

Louise congratulated the Scottish region on once again having a number of winning service awards including Inverclyde, Aberdeen City, City of Edinburgh & Renfrewshire.

8. Process benchmarking Parks – Margo Blair

Margo updated the group on the process benchmarking within this advisory group to date. It was decided that as a number of attendees may now have changed the reports would be re-issued to all at this meeting in order for everyone to look at the areas which had been targeted specifically & to allow for discussion at the next meeting as to where the group would like to process in the future.

9. Items for future advisory groups

Cllr Hampshire as the group to highlight to Louise an areas for future discussion.

These included:-

- High hedges bill to discuss
- National Litter Strategy (next April) zero waste findings & responses.
- National route (rural) all different councils different ways to maintain.

10. Date & venue of next meeting

The next meeting of the group will be Wednesday 27 November 2013.

11th Sept 2013

Attendee List

Name	Authority	Count
Louise McMillan	APSE	1
Andy Sheridan	Aberdeenshire Council	1
Andrew Hogarth	East Lothian Council	1
Douglas Fox	East Lothian Council	1
Cllr Norman Hampshire	East Lothian Council	1
Thomas McMenamin	Glasgow City Council	1
Donnie McManus	East Renfrewshire Council	1
Laurence Christie	East Renfrewshire Council	1
Allan Walker	Inverclyde Council	1
Justin Venton	Midlothian Council	1
Wallace Turpie	North Ayrshire Council	1
Ken Forbes	North Lanarkshire Council	1
Kirsty Glennie	Perth & Kinross Council	1
Robert Bryce	Perth & Kinross Council	1
Susan Whyte	Perth & Kinross Council	1
Iain Guild	South Lanarkshire Council	1
Stephen Kelly	South Lanarkshire Council	1
Colin McKay	Stirling Council	1
Sandra Anton	West Dunbartonshire Council	1
Bobby McLeish	West Dunbartonshire Council	1
Margo Blair	Apse Solutions	1

Apologies

Cllr Danny Gibson	Stirling Council
Alison McIlroy	Argyll & Bute Council
Andy Summers	Renfrewshire Council
Gareth Barwell	West Lothian Council