



Open  
Spaces

# APSE Parks, Horticulture and Grounds Maintenance Advisory Group

Efficiencies and Income Generation, The City's Open  
Spaces Bill and taking the community with you.

Colin Buttery, Director of Open Spaces

20<sup>th</sup> March 2018



## Open Spaces

# Geographic coverage



City of London – protecting green spaces since the 1850s



# Open Spaces Statistics

## Open Spaces

- Land area of over 11,000 acres
- 200 City Garden sites
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's)
- National Nature Reserve
- European Special Area of Conservation (SAC's)
- Over 23 million visitors per annum (pa)
- 900 volunteers contributing a total of 50,000 hrs (pa)
- Protected by Acts of Parliament dating back to 1850's to 1880's, properties held in trust as charities.
- Circa 370 employees across the Open Spaces
- 24 Apprentices appointed in 2017/18 across Dept



Open  
Spaces

# Expenditure by Property 2017/18

(in £'000)

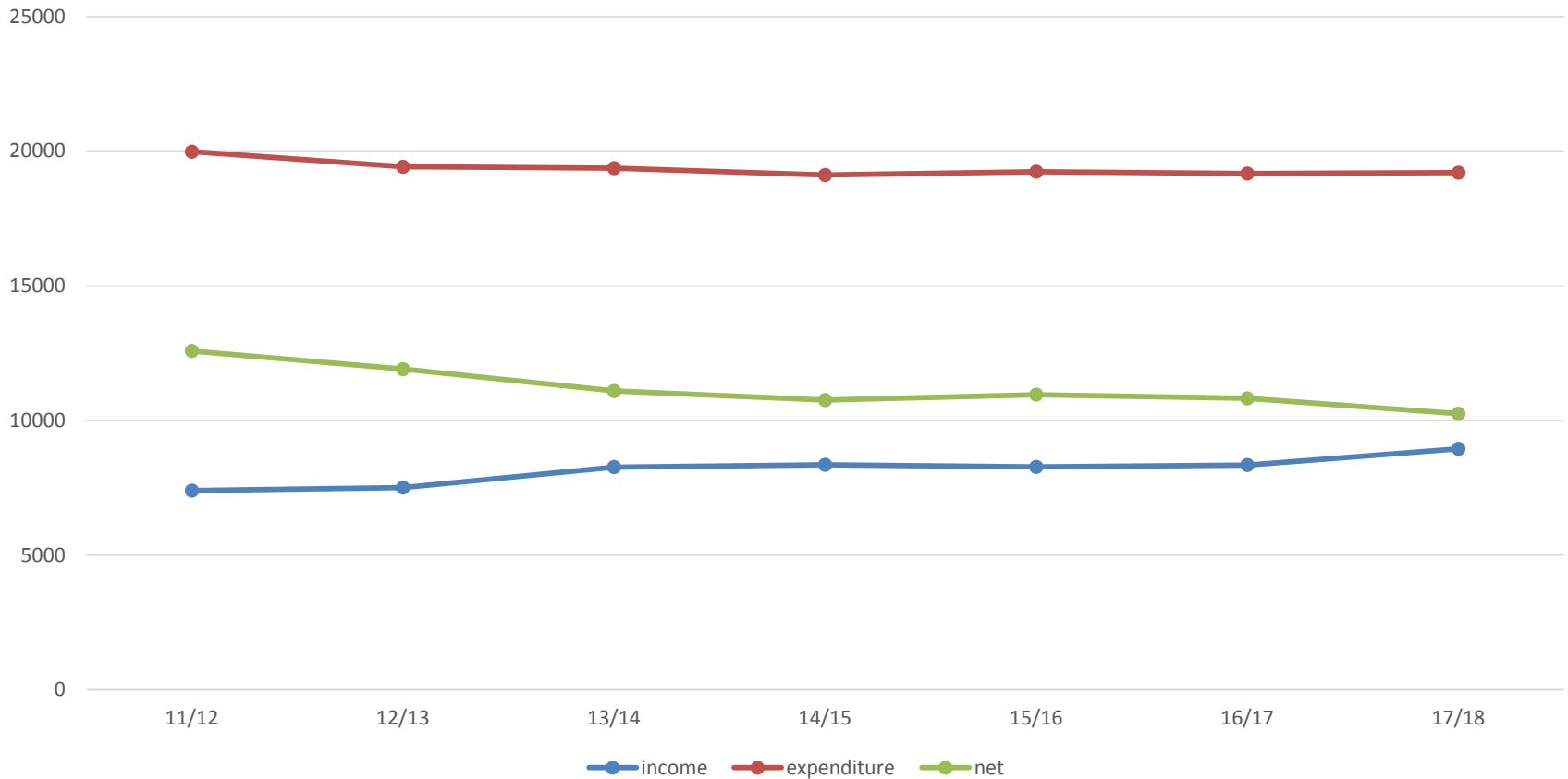
• Epping Forest	4,106
• Hampstead Heath	5,615
• Highgate, Queen's Park & Keats	1,352
• Burnham Beeches & Commons	1,904
• City Gardens & West Ham Park	2,397
• City Cemetery and Crematorium	2,974
• Learning Programme	394
• Directorate	466
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,208</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>8,616</b>



## Open Spaces

# Expenditure and Income

Open Spaces - Income & Expenditure Since 2011/12



City of London – protecting green spaces since the 1850s



# The Open Spaces Bill (City of London)

## Open Spaces

- The Bill has progressed through Parliament in 2017: Royal Assent anticipated by Easter 2018
- Reflecting modern needs for property and land management, giving freedoms and flexibilities, including: Events, licences and leases, wayleaves, commercial activities, FPN's, and powers to require name & address.
- Defines consultation processes and structures



# Practical Steps

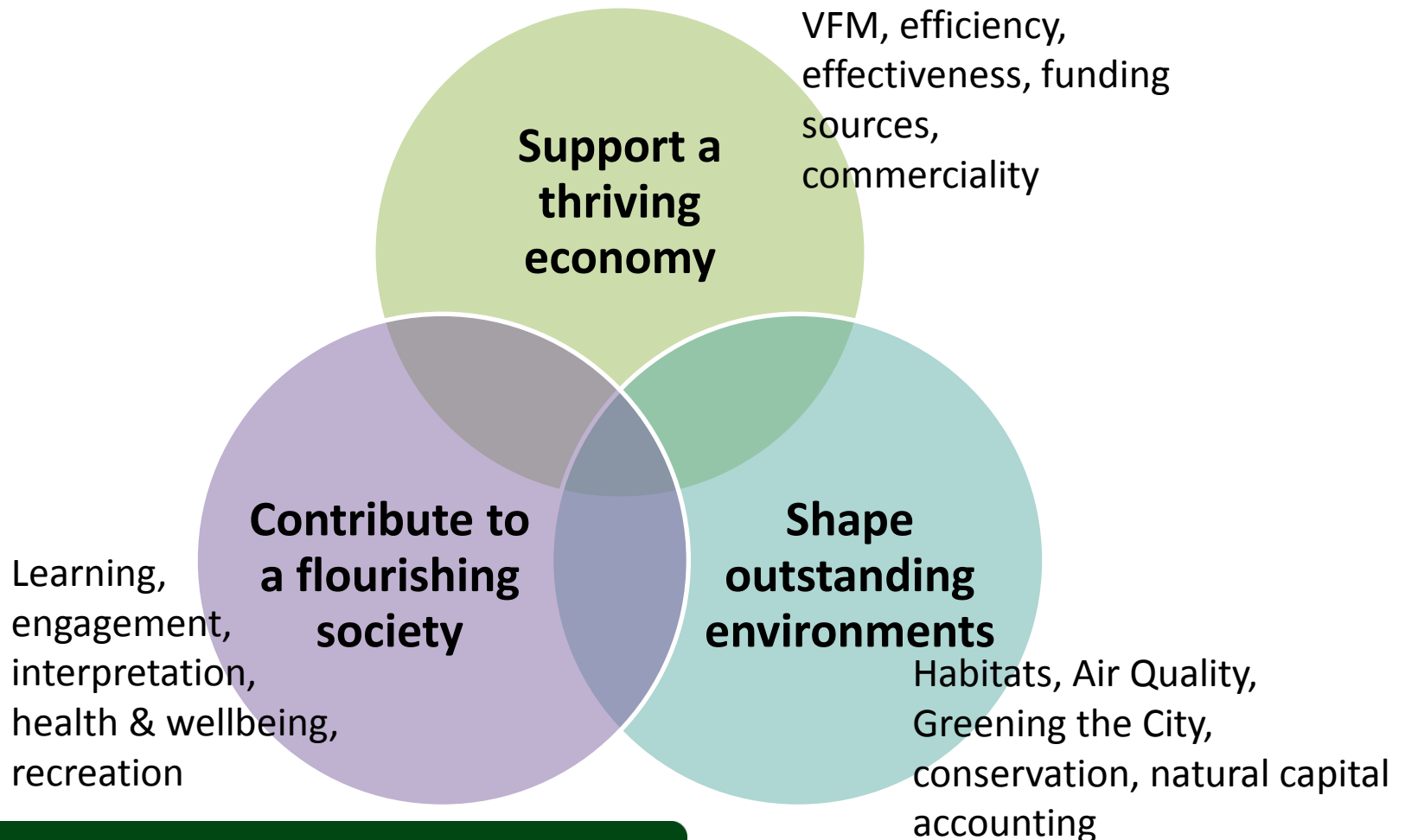
## Open Spaces

- Established Consultative Group or Committee for each site to aid communication of challenges & debate
- Identify tendering opportunities e.g. Catering (resulting in good and bad outcomes!)
- Consider existing activity and build on strengths e.g. Sports and Events (Digital)
- Plan for better use of built assets
- Stop doing certain activities (?)
- Hold posts vacant/delete posts(?)
- Seek external funding (Grants, stewardship, Lottery, & Charitable funding)
- Green energy and other capital based spend to save projects



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Spaces

# Finally : Corporate Plan



City of London – protecting green spaces since the 1850s





# **Strategies for Developing & Coordinating Volunteer & Friends Group Activity**

**Sarah Royal** CEO NFPGS & Birmingham  
Open Spaces Forum

**Dave Morris** Chair NFPGS & Haringey Forum

# Co-ordination Across The UK

- Volunteering comes in many forms e.g. TCV, Groundwork, Keep Britain Tidy, local conservation groups etc.
- Community self-organisation, empowerment and networking - as represented by...
- National Federation  
*representing movement of 6,000 local groups*
- Regional Networks – London  
*600 groups, Area Forums in 17 boroughs*
- Area Forums – Birmingham  
*120 local groups. Council's key partner*



# The Role of the Volunteer

- Volunteers are the Added Value to a green space
- Generally can't expect a volunteer to cut grass, manage trees, fix paths etc
- Volunteers need support, guidance, equipment and training
- Should be fun, not duty
- With correct maintenance and communication by the landowner, volunteers can bring in so much extra



# Importance of Friends Groups and Forums

- **Current economic crisis**
- **What a group can achieve**
  - *Eyes and ears*
  - *Promotion and usage*
  - *Access to extra funding*
  - *Some help with maintenance*
  - *Helps to protect green space*
  - *Strong community voice*



Remember every group & space is different!!

- **Sustaining involvement – Area Forums**
  - *Communication and networking*
  - *Joint benefits, e.g. insurance*
  - *Representation, stats, lobbying*
  - *Partnership with management*



# How The Grass Roots Movement Can Protect our Parks

- Networking, best practice, inspiration
- Achievements of Area Forums
  - *examples of Birmingham and Haringey*
- Achievements of National Federation
  - *Community voice*
  - *Lobbying*
  - *Parks Action Group*
  - *Charter for UK Parks*



**Wide benefits to parks, people and communities!**

# Any Questions?

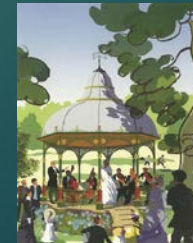
Sarah Royal  
**ceo@natfedparks.org.uk**

Dave Morris  
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# Function & funding for park architecture

PAUL RABBITS – HEAD OF PARKS, OPEN SPACES & PROJECTS, WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
*BANDSTAND GEEK*



**WATFORD**  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

# Contents

- ▶ Defining Park Architecture – “Parkitecture”
- ▶ Assets or liabilities?
- ▶ Fanciful vs Functional? Can we afford it?
- ▶ Finding functions – innovations
- ▶ Finding funding
- ▶ The future?



# Defining park architecture

## “Parkitecture”

- ▶ Buildings
- ▶ Fountains
- ▶ Bandstands
- ▶ Conservatories and Palm Houses
- ▶ Lidos and Paddling Pools
- ▶ Memorials
- ▶ Statues
- ▶ Furniture & Features (seats, shelters, gates, follies, clocks, bridges)
- ▶ Public art

# Defining park architecture

## “Parkitecture” functions

- ▶ Features as either being needed for maintenance, those intended for park users, and those that simply were there to commemorate. They include buildings (from royal palaces, mansions, museums, park lodges, palm houses and conservatories, refreshment rooms, cafes and pavilions); to structures such as pagodas, bandstands, shelters, paddling pools and lidos; to features there to educate and stimulate such as drinking fountains and clocks; and finally the plethora of landscape features including gates, statues, memorials, benches and bridges. *Parks historian Hazel Conway*
- ▶ ‘Parkitecture – the basic ingredients of what makes a great park, from the benches we sit on to the bandstands we play on. They are the essence of what gives parks a sense of place’ *Parks historian from Watford*

# Defining park architecture

## “Parkitecture” functions

- ▶ Our public parks are testament to so many and the heritage within is often significantly undervalued. The landscapes themselves are wonderful, but the ingredients that make up these great parks – their parkitecture – makes them magnificent parks.

# Defining park architecture Buildings



Kensington Palace



Danson Park, Bexley

# Defining park architecture Buildings



# Defining park architecture Buildings



Abbey Park, Leicester



Ventnor Park, Isle of Wight

# Defining park architecture Buildings



Eden Bridge Gardens, Carlisle



Wardown Park, Luton

# Defining park architecture Buildings





# Defining park architecture Buildings



Eaton Park, Norwich



Valley Gardens, Harrogate

# Defining park architecture

## Fountains



# Defining park architecture

## Fountains



# Defining park architecture

## Fountains



Paisley Gardens, Glasgow



Beacon Park, Lichfield

# Defining park architecture

## Bandstands



# Defining park architecture

## Bandstands



Priory Gardens, Great Malvern



Handsworth Park, Birmingham

# Defining park architecture Conservatories and Palm Houses



Corporation Park, Blackburn

# Defining park architecture Conservatories and Palm Houses



West Park, Wolverhampton



Botanical Gardens, Sheffield



# Defining park architecture Lidos and Paddling Pools



Tooting Bec Lido, London

# Defining park architecture Lidos and Paddling Pools



Tooting Bec Lido



Hyde Park, Serpentine Lido

# Defining park architecture

## Memorials



# Defining park architecture Memorials



West Smethwick Park, West Bromwich

# Defining park architecture Memorials



Victoria Park, Leicester



Wilton Lodge Park, Hawick

# Defining park architecture

## Statues



# Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



Victoria Park, London



Roundhay Park, Leeds

# Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



Mewsbrook Park, Littlehampton



# Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



Preston Park, Brighton



Forbury Gardens, Reading

# Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



West Smethwick Park, West Bromwich



The Embankment Gardens, Bedford

# Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



# Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



Alexandra Park, Oldham



Queen's Park, Loughborough

# Defining park architecture

## Public art



Beacon's Park, Lichfield



Palfrey Park, Walsall



Burslem Park, Stoke

# Assets or liabilities?

“Park buildings are a maintenance liability and can attract vandalism. They can also be visually intrusive and will be reduced to a minimum needed, consistent with the effective management of the parks. Where listed buildings exist they will, if possible, be found a long term use. Other buildings will be progressively eliminated”.

*Extract from a local authority report in 1995*

# An asset or a liability?



Ryelands Park, Lancaster



# An asset or a liability?



Weston Park, Sheffield





# Fanciful or functional?

## Can we really afford it?

- ▶ Often fanciful BUT often functional – eg park lodges
  - Tudor
  - Gothic Revival
  - Picturesque
  - Classical
  - High Victorian Gothic
  - English Vernacular Revival

The first building the park visitor encountered were houses for Park Keepers and Superintendents and their style reflected current tastes in architecture. BUT now they have all gone... what do we do with such buildings in parks?

# Fanciful or functional? Can we really afford it?

- ▶ New uses needed
- ▶ Many features empty, disused or derelict
- ▶ Often listed or within parks on the EH Register
- ▶ Cost restrictive
- ▶ New uses - are they sustainable?
- ▶ Difficult to convert
- ▶ Prone to vandalism or vulnerable

# Fanciful or functional? Can we really afford it?



# Finding functions – innovations

Stewart Park, Middlesbrough

Derelict Stable Block converted to:-  
Café  
Education Room  
Askham Bryan College Campus



# Finding functions – innovations

Caldecott Park, Rugby

Toolshed Café - toolshed to café!!



# Finding functions – innovations

Jephson Gardens,  
Leamington Spa

Aviary to café



# Finding functions – innovations

Stanley Park, Liverpool

Palmhouse to dereliction



# Finding functions – innovations

Stanley Park, Liverpool

To Isla Gladstone Centre – conferences, café, restaurant, conference centre, wedding venue





# Finding functions – innovations

Stanley Park, Liverpool

Bandstand to wedding venue



# Finding functions – innovations

Cassiobury Park, Watford

Restored and relocated back in the park

- Yoga
- Morris Dancers
- Brass
- Folk to rock



# Finding functions – innovations

Walsall Arboretum, Walsall

Store sheds to Visitor centre, exhibition space, café and offices



# Finding functions – innovations

Greenhead Park,  
Huddersfield

Conservatory ..... to....



# Finding functions – innovations

Greenhead Park,  
Huddersfield

..... Café facility and visitor  
cente



# Finding functions – innovations

Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd

Lido facility to dereliction.....



# Finding functions – innovations

Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd

..... and what to do with it?  
Lido and leisure centre



# Finding functions – innovations

Priory Park, Dudley

Dull pavilion to new park centre





# Finding functions – innovations

Grosvenor Park, Chester  
Lodge extended to incorporate a café



# Finding functions – innovations

Lordship Recreation Ground, Haringey

Old toilet block to bike hire and repair shop,  
café facility and to rear a bandstand shell



# Finding functions – innovations

Forbury Gardens, Reading

Old toilet block to café  
facility and toilets



# Finding functions – innovations

Eaton Park , Norwich

The Rotunda

Café

Changing rooms

Toilets

Friends of Eaton Park

Norwich Parks Tennis

Eaton Park Run



# Finding functions – innovations

Albion Square, Hackney

Gardener's hut

Uses?



# Finding funding

- ▶ Heritage Lottery Fund
- ▶ Landfill Communities Funds (Veolia, Biffa, WREN)
- ▶ Historic England
- ▶ Historic Scotland
- ▶ Cadw
- ▶ Architectural Heritage Fund

# Saving the funding

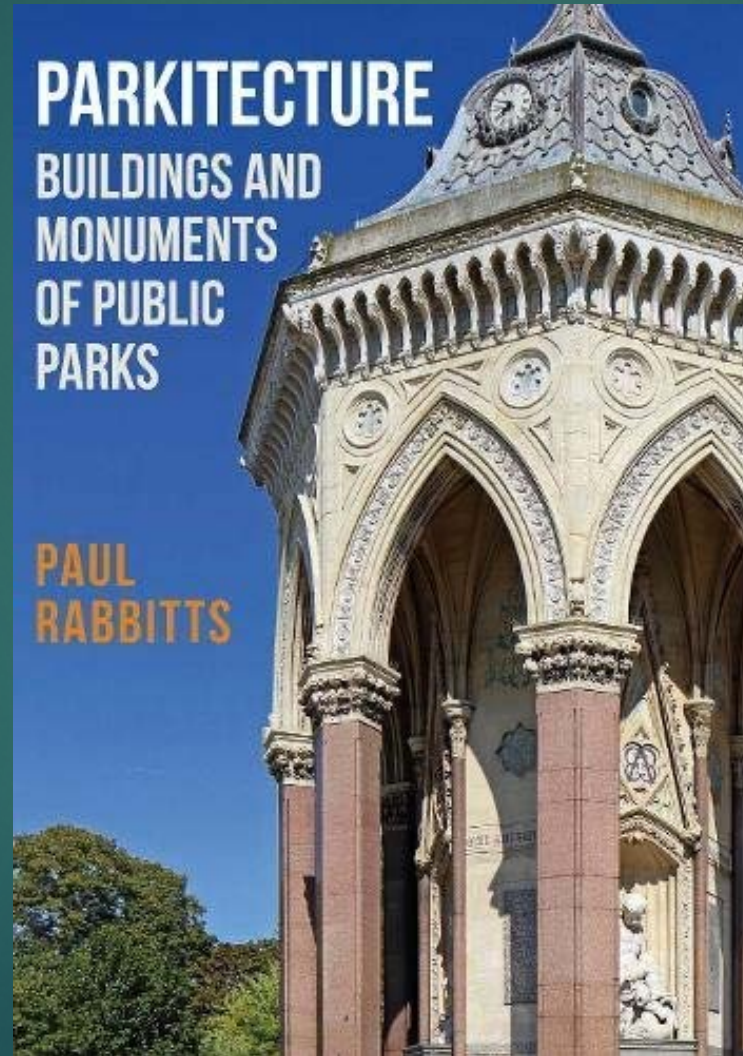
- ▶ Heritage Lottery Fund
- ▶ <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/protect-heritage-lottery-funding-for-parks>
- ▶ CLOSING 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH – YOU HAVE 2 DAYS – PLEASE SIGN IT!!!!

# The future? Parkitecture of the future?





# Shameless plug



Available from Amazon  
£14.99