

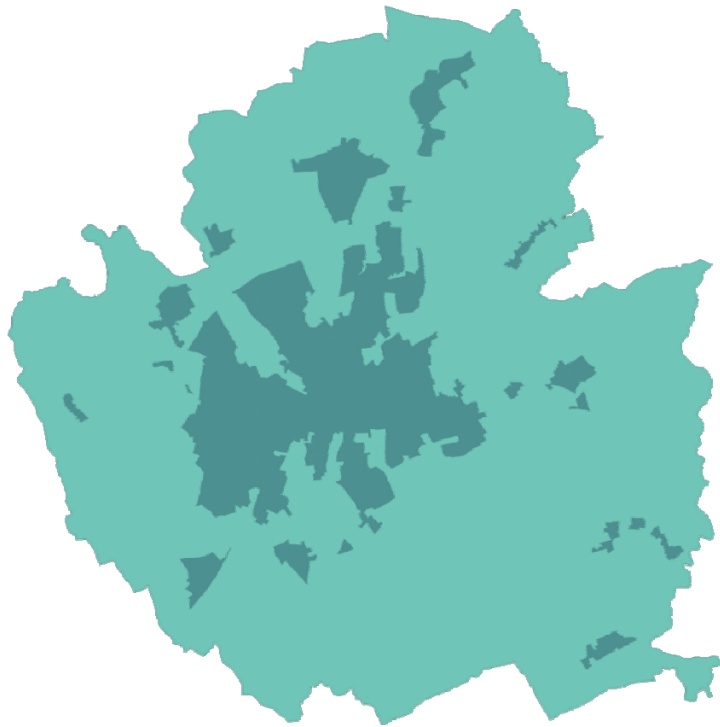
Dave Meigh



## Helping local residents to manage green space assets

- Community management of a range of green space operations in York including allotments
- Volunteer programme
- Secrets of success

# City of York Council

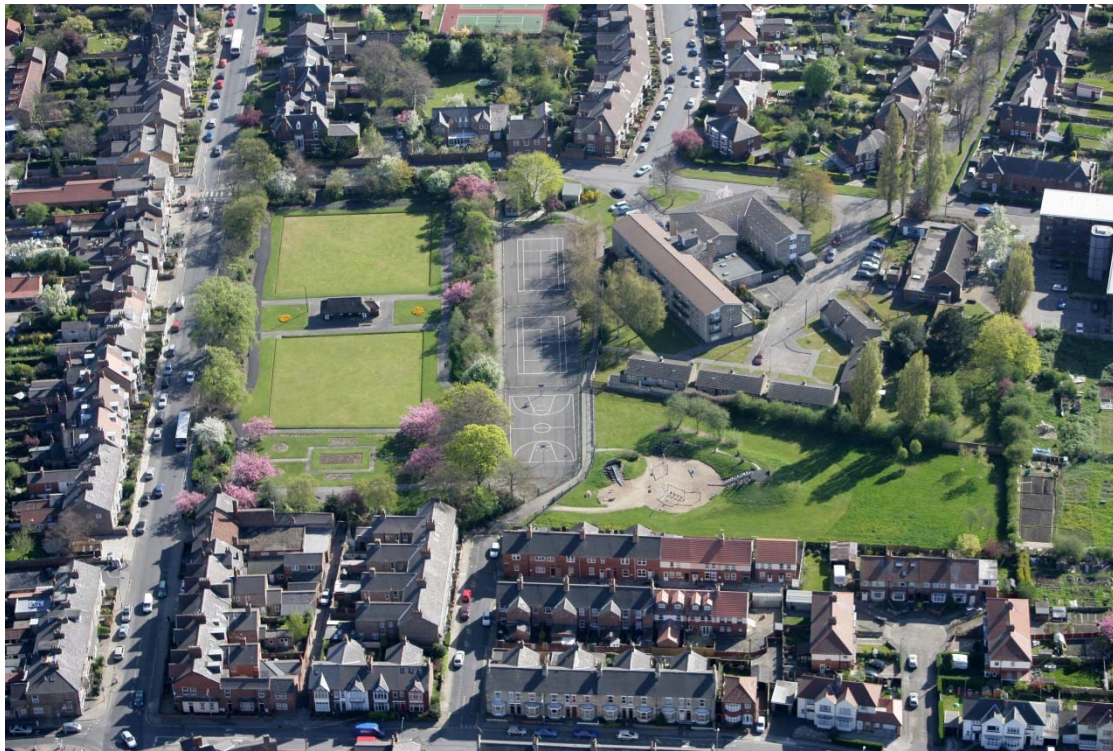


- Unitary since 1996
- Based around York City Council, with parts of three neighbouring councils
- Population of 200,000+
- Varied political leadership
- Tradition of mixed service provision

# York journey

- 1996 – 2000's reactive rather than proactive response community management
- 2012/13 acceptance of individual unsupervised volunteers
- 2014 budget reductions started to kick in
  - Withdrawal of permanent gardening staff
  - Sites left unlocked over night
  - Fewer parks staff & ranger service closed down

# Glen Gardens



- Edwardian pocket park
- Green Flag
- Play area
- Tennis courts
- Basketball court
- Bowling green
- Pavilion / toilet
  
- Nov 2014 permanent staff withdrawn, left unlocked at night





<http://glengardens.org>

# Bowls 1



- 11 greens on 5 sites (1 site majors on croquet)
- 2013 - £20-40 pa to play
- 2014 - Club Green Fee of £2k introduced
- 2015 - given notice – full self management by 1.3.2017

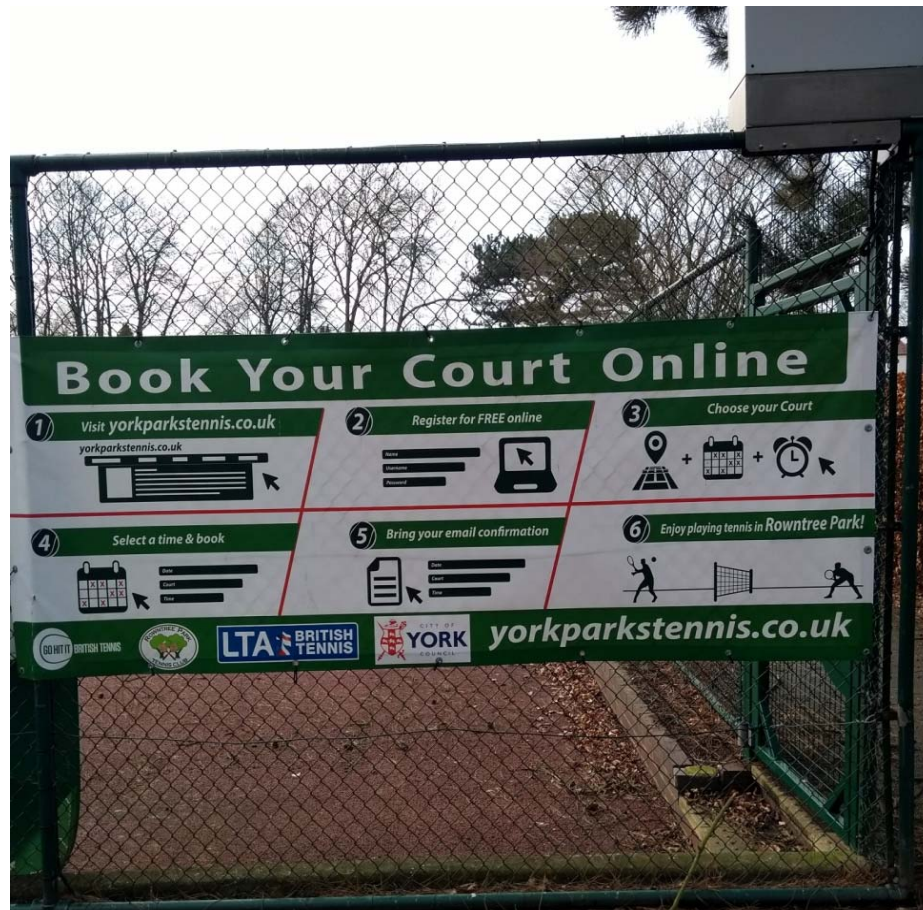
# Bowls 2



- Machinery handed over
- Training e.g. irrigation
- Investment e.g. new water tank, fencing, paths, storage
- 25 – 99 year lease at peppercorn rent
- Some self maintaining / others buying services
- Closure of 2 greens



# Tennis



- 10 courts on 3 sites
- 2 sites have become full self managed
- 25 year lease at peppercorn
- “Public” access



# Hull Road Park York Mens Shed



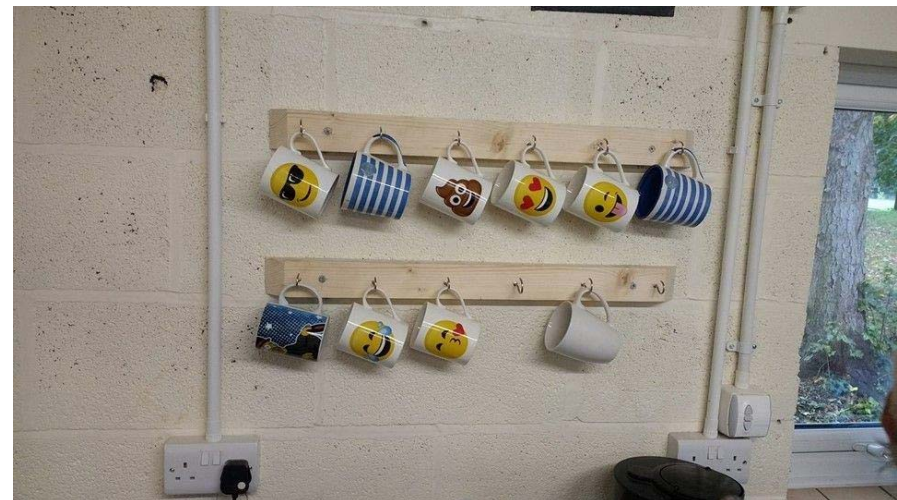
[www.yorkmensshed.co.uk](http://www.yorkmensshed.co.uk)

# Hull Road Park York Mens Shed



- Empty building
- £20k+ investment
- 25 year lease
- Rent free

- Presence in the park
- Maintenance resource





# Allotment service

- 16 managed sites
  - 1250 + tenants
  - Volunteer site secretaries
  - 5 sites with associations
- 
- Additional site self managed since 1998



# Allotment journey 1

## 2016

- April – Tenant associations and site secretaries briefed on direction of travel
- Sept. - Letter to all tenants setting on why change was needed with the invitation to input into the process
- Nov. & Dec. – 5 workshops with over 60 people attending and 30 written submissions



# Allotment journey 2

## 2017

- January - Executive Member approval to proceed to next stage
- Jan – April task group of 12 tenants
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) or Community Interest Company (CIC).
- May - York Allotments Charitable Incorporated Organisation (YACIO) formed with 5 founding trustees

# Allotment journey 3

## 2017

- Summer - staffing issue resolved
- August - Charity Commission approval
- September - Executive Member approval of organisation
- October - Executive agreed 7 year lease
- October - transfer of Colony tenant data base
- November 1<sup>st</sup> - YACIO went live

# Individual volunteering @ Jan 2018

- Snow wardens (224)
- Leaf blowers (10)
- Litter pickers (165)
- Lock / unlockers (84)
- Angling Bailiffs (12)
- Gardeners (123)
- Goose “scarers” ! (8)



# Secrets of success 1

- Council environment
  - Political
  - Corporate
  - Access to a capital
  - Delegated authority
  - Community team
  - Community Payback





# Secrets of success 2

- Right people at the right time
- There has to be something in it for them



– Photo c/o York Press

# Secrets of success 2

- Personal
  - You have to be prepared to let go
  - Spot an opportunity
  - Trust
  - Time



# Thank You

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(best to email as I will out on checking the tea)

York Asset Transfer policy -

- [www.york.gov.uk/info/20146/community\\_venues/1356/community\\_asset\\_transfers](http://www.york.gov.uk/info/20146/community_venues/1356/community_asset_transfers)