The Parks Action Group

The Growing Cause for Concern

- Backdrop of reducing parks budgets – 'age of austerity' and non-statutory service.

- Growing awareness of multiple value of parks to a wide variety of organisations and to wider environment

- Large investments over past 10 years – HLF

- Large body of academic research on benefits of parks and wider greenspace

- **Government instigated public inquiry into value of parks and impacts of ongoing budget cuts.**

The Purpose of the Report

DCLG Committee established to look at :

- Roles of parks

- The challenges facing the sector

- Future sustainability

- Conclusions and recommendations

- APSE produced one of almost 400 written responses

The Parks Action Group
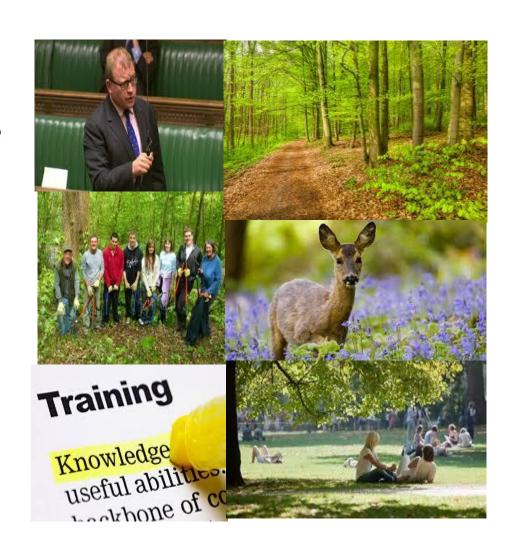
- Two working groups created at behest of **Marcus Jones MP** – Minister for Parks and Green Spaces to respond to Inquiry recommendations

- **Cross Departmental Group** - Defra, DoH, DoE, Home Office etc.

- **Parks Action Group** – includes **APSE**, HLF, Groundwork, Parks Alliance, LGA, Nat.Fed. of Parks and Greenspaces, National Trust, Natural England, Fields In Trust.

- Terms of reference currently being developed.

- Likely other relevant organisation co-opted as required.

Terms of Reference –APSE Initial Thoughts

- Government champions parks and green spaces
- Identification of sources of funding
- Future management models - disseminating best practice
- Ensure Health and Well Being Boards are engaged
- Health and Safety
- Promoting Friends Groups and volunteers
- Inclusion of parks and greenspace in Local Plans
- Performance Indicators/benchmarking
- On Line parks information hub
- Establish skill needs of future parks managers – provide skills and tools
- Develop natural capital accounting systems
- Ensure PAG funding is effectively used

Your opportunity to be Heard

- APSE representing the views of local authorities
- Regular feedback and input through:

  Advisory Groups

  Briefing notes

  Seminars

  Network Queries

  Training courses

  Performance Networks