

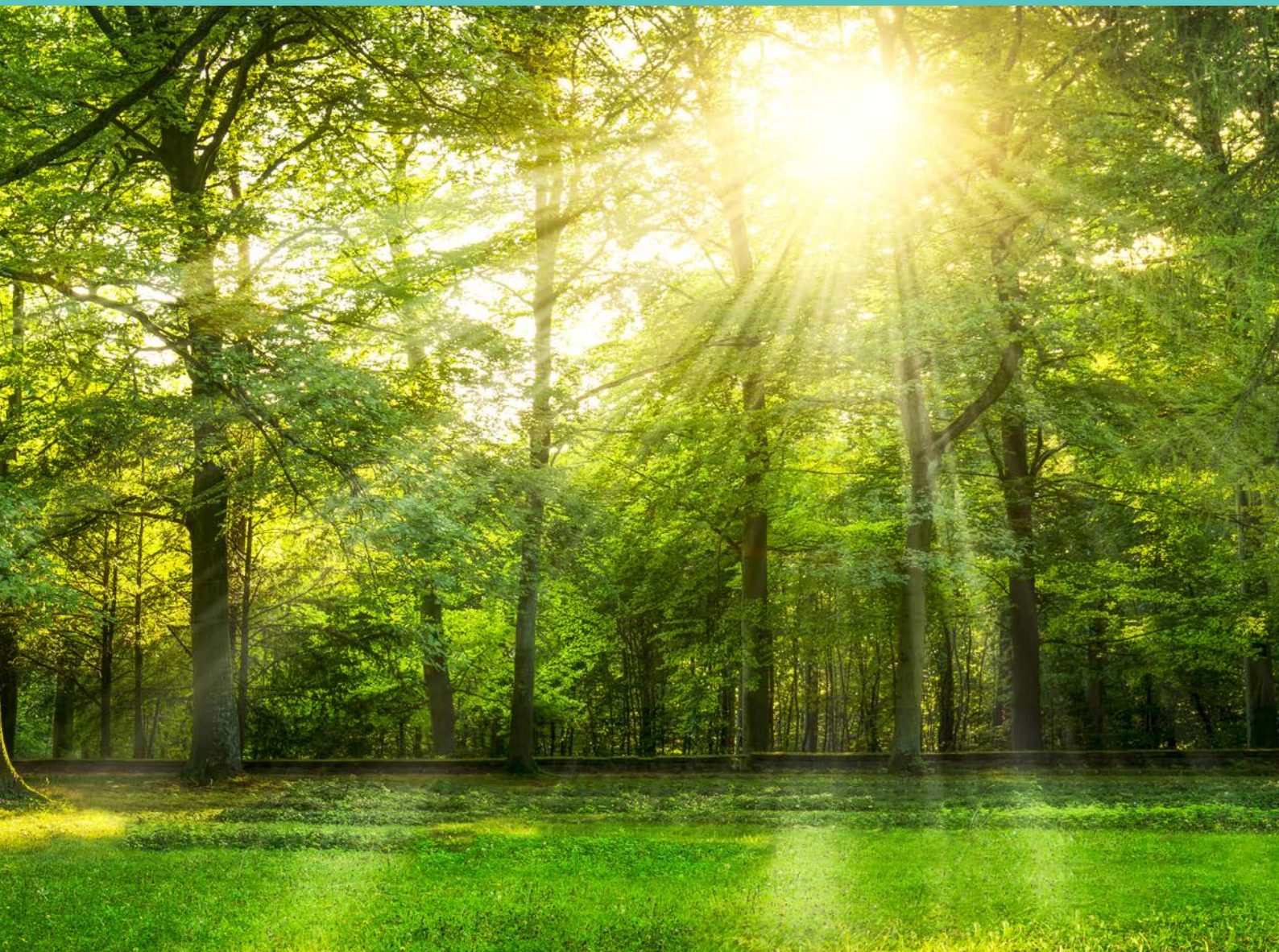


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APSE parks and greenspaces online seminar

Offering a ray of hope – Recognising the value of our parks and greenspaces in these testing times.



Thursday 11 March 2021

Microsoft Teams

10:00 **Session One**

APSE State of the Market 2021–Parks and Greenspaces and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19

- Results of the state of the Market Survey 2021
- Key findings – negatives and positives
- Facing the future with confidence

Paul O'Brien APSE Chief Executive

Green spaces – no longer just an after thought

- Identifying the value of our greenspaces
- The ingredients necessary to enhance our greenspaces
- Future requirements for sustainable green spaces

Erica Popplewell, Public Affairs Manager, The Council for Protection of Rural England

The Parks Management Forum - Representing professionals working in Public Parks and Green Spaces"

- What is the Parks Management Forum?
- What are our aims?
- Why should you get involved?
- What have we achieved so far and what do we want to achieve?
- The next steps

Paul Rabbitts MLA FRSA – Chairperson, The Parks Management Forum & Head of Parks, Heritage and Culture, Watford Borough Council

Greater Manchester Public Parks and Greenspaces Survey 2020

- The reasons for undertaking the survey
- The survey findings
- Using the data to help shape future parks and greenspace provision

Jo Regan, IGNITION Salford Programme Manager, Salford City Council

Audience question and answer session

11:30 *Virtual Coffee Break*

11:45 **Session Two**

Introducing the Green Flag Award's new Resources Hub and Research Portal

- Overview of the new International Parks and Green Spaces Resources Hub
- Presentation on the 2nd phase 'Research and Collaboration Portal' proposal in partnership with Leeds & Sheffield Universities and the Landscape Institute
- Future plans for a searchable international parks Management Plan 'database'

Nicola Dempsey, Senior Lecturer, University of Sheffield

How to Maximise the Benefits from an Asset Management System

- What should you expect from a modern asset management system?
- How can a modern asset management system cater for all roles within greenspaces?
- Using your asset management system to build new revenue streams.

Peter Hollis, Managing Director, Kogitas (MCPC) Limited

The need to develop a Parks Strategy – 'The journey so far'

- Explaining the need for strategic parks planning
- What needs to be taken into account
- Progress to date
- Opportunities for advice and suggestions

Charlie Tindill, Street Scene Service Manager, Wakefield Council

The impact of COVID-19 on Nottingham's Parks and Greenspaces

- Managing the initial impacts of Covid-19
- Developing solutions and alternative approaches
- Future proofing to develop and ensure sustainable parks and greenspaces

Eddie Curry, Head of Public Realm, Nottingham City Council

Audience question and answer session

13:30 *Seminar Close*

Seminar Objectives

About the Seminar

Humans have existed very much in a much a rural style society for thousands of years. However over the past three centuries, human development and living space has become more urbanised, with buildings and pavements replacing the fields and pathways our ancestors would have recognised. Yet despite this shift in society there is still a strong desire to retain our links with greenspaces and the natural world. This association has become even more apparent during the world-wide pandemic, when greenspaces and parks have become refuges for millions of people across the globe, as other places of recreation and social interaction have been closed.

It has been recognised that our public parks and the wider green and blue infrastructure, are playing a critical role in maintaining the nation's mental and physical health and overall wellbeing.

By providing places for everyday exercise, and recreation, parks (both urban and countryside) haven show themselves to be a vital part of our lives, especially as many of us are now having to increasingly limit our daily movements to home-working.

Yet despite their value, parks and greenspaces are still facing unprecedented budgetary cuts, which are threatening their future existence. Past APSE State of the Market Surveys on Parks, revealed that most parks managers expected revenue for parks to continue to decrease and many expect reductions in capital investment. So severe are these threats that the Government have now promised to take action with regards to preserving our parks for both current and future generations.

It is against this contradictory backdrop of ongoing budget reductions, but increasing public worth that APSE's 2021 Annual Parks Seminar intends to give colleagues some hope, by exposing them to innovative approaches to securing the long-term future of these valuable environmental assets.

Therefore this seminar is a **MUST ATTEND EVENT** for those officers and members who want to look at new ways of understanding and coping with parks and greenspace issues, whether these be financial, environmental, technological or social.

The Speakers

This seminar has been designed to look at as wide a range of topics affecting parks as possible, but with a particular emphasis on highlighting their public health and wellbeing benefits.

- APSE will be outlining the key issues for parks managers will be considered, through providing feedback on the results of APSE State of the Market report 2021 which concentrates on responses to many of the questions currently being considered by those officers and elected members tasked with sustaining their parks and green spaces.
- The Council for the Protection of Rural England will explain the findings of their research which has shown how large numbers of the public wish to see our greenspaces enhanced together with the enhancements most identified,
- The Parks Management Forum, the newly created body for representing parks professionals will explain the aims and objectives of the forum together with the current work being carried out to ensure that the voice of the UK's parks is heard and acted upon.
- The Greater Manchester Ignition Project will outline the findings of its Parks Users Survey which asked parks users across Greater Manchester to share their thoughts with local authority parks providers as to how they use their public parks and greenspaces and why they are important to them.
- Sheffield University as part of the partnership which has developed the Green Flag Award Resources Hub and the 'Research and Collaboration Portal' will look how this will create a link between universities/research organisations and parks management, to share research findings and possibly also funding opportunities for parks and green spaces.
- Kogitas, the sponsor of the seminar, will explain how important a modern asset management system is to the parks and greenspace manager helping not only with day to day issues, but helping to build new revenue streams.
- Wakefield Council will be explaining about the process they are going through to ensure that any new monies allocated to their parks needs to be spent in a manner which gains the most
- benefits for both users and stakeholders through the creation of a wide ranging park strategy.
- Nottingham City Council will give a personal view on how they have dealt with the impacts of COVID on their parks and greenspace services and how they may need to re-think their parks future proofing strategies to ensure the long-term sustainability of their greenspace assets.

As always there will be plenty of opportunities to network with colleagues to ensure the sustainability from across the UK.

APSE will continue to argue that public parks must be funded by public money, because many believe that income generation and different funding sources are not in themselves enough to ensure the future sustainability of parks, and therefore should not be seen as the only solution to ongoing budget cuts.

Therefore by providing a range of diverse and interesting speakers, APSE hopes to show there is still light at the end of the tunnel for our parks and greenspaces and that the information provided will help colleagues in their future roles to save and preserve some of the nation's greatest treasures for future generations.

Booking Details

Who should attend?

- Chief executives
- Elected members
- Service directors
- Parks, grounds maintenance, horticulture, landscape and green space professionals
- Public Health practitioners
- Climate change officers
- Biodiversity officers
- Best value officers
- Policy officers
- Trade union representatives
- Parks/landscape consultants
- Academic researchers
- Contractors and suppliers
- Voluntary organisations

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, and documentation including a video showreel following the event.

APSE member delegate fee:	£99 + VAT
Non member delegates fee:	£149 + VAT
Commercial delegates:	£249 + VAT

Click [here](#) to reserve your place on this event

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to **CKing@apse.org.uk**. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for nonattendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or mode of delivery should this become necessary. If due to emergency action by UK Governments/Administrations or Public Agencies this event is postponed, for example for reasons of public health and safety, the organisers will transfer your booking to the replacement event or provide a credit voucher against a future event booking.