

## **APSE Parks, Grounds, Streets Advisory Group Meeting**

**Minutes Wednesday 2 March 2016**

### **Chatelherault Country Park, Ferniegair**

#### **1. Welcome**

Group Secretary Stuart Pryde thanked all for attending the meeting in Chatelherault.

#### **2. Attendance and Apologies**

See attached.

#### **3. Minutes for 18 November 2015**

The minutes were noted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

There was no matters arising from the minutes of the above meeting.

#### **5. Edinburgh Living Landscape programme**

Alan Bell, Parks & Gardens Manager, City of Edinburgh Council provided the group with a detailed presentation covering the Council's Living Landscape programme. This included information on who they communicated the initiative to all staff and elected members, as well as the local communities. Communication included a large number of community briefings which involved embracing social media to help keep all up to date. The Council also ensured there were notice boards in all parks providing information on the initiative including maps of the parks involved.

Alan highlighted the importance of involving staff in the process and keeping them well informed to help bridge any potential resistance staff may have had in terms of the changes taking away some of the tasks they completed during their roles. It was important to reinforce that any reduced tasks in some areas enabled more/ increased tasks to be completed in other areas e.g. increased grass cuts on football pitches etc.

During the analysis the team also used Landscape quality systems which helped monitor litter. It was noted that there was little litter in the floral meadows, if any was dropped it was dropped at the edge enabling staff to easily collect this.

Following discussions questions included information on staff time through social media, training requirements and how biodiversity achievements are to be recorded.

#### **6. Precedents and Practice for adoption of open space from new build housing developments**

The group held a detailed discussion on the above area which included:-

- Core principles
- Current arrangements
- General opinions
- Encountered issues

It was noted during discussions that some local authorities were handing back areas to individuals and housing associations. It was also highlighted that changes in management of Factors potentially caused issues as different interpretations of the contract.

**7. Issues affecting service delivery including: Budget cuts & charging for bootcamps, dog walking services & reducing or removing use of glyphosate based herbicides**

Discussions were held on each of the above areas. Some of the points raised included local authorities requesting voluntary Code of Practice sign ups for bootcamps and dog walking.

In relation to glyphosate herbicides it was noted that no local authority within the room had stopped using this method. A number of other methods were noted but feedback from those within the group felt that these methods weren't as effective.

**8. Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse review update**

Emma Leel, Project Manager Litter & Flytipping, Zero Waste Scotland provided a short update to the group highlighting as soon as the draft was available for consultation this would be provided to local authorities. The group noted that they would like to ensure consultation to allow for feedback to be given on any changes being made to the CoP.

It was also highlighted that perhaps a topic for the Aviemore event could be Litter Action Plans. Louise agreed to discuss this further with Emma, hopefully confirming a speaker from ZWS at Aviemore within the Parks/ Grounds/ Streets session.

**9. APSE update**

Louise Melville provided the APSE update including briefings; research including new Scottish elected member publication and the recently launched Scottish Solar PV Toolkit; training and the APSE Energy programme.

During the update Louise asked the group whether there would be interest in having an advisory group forum as part of the programme at Aviemore. It was agreed this would be of benefit therefore Louise confirmed she would email all to gather thoughts on which day they would prefer this to take place.

There was also a request from the group to introduce a small working group which would look at process benchmarking and potentially the CoPLAR consultation when available. Louise agreed to email all to ask attendees if any wished to be involved in this PN working group.

**10. Date and venue of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the group will be confirmed following the Scottish APSE AGM meeting taking place at the start of June.

**11. AOCB**

No other competent business.

**Parks, Grounds & Street Services Group**

**2 March 2016**

**Attendee List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Authority</b>
Louise Melville	APSE
Stuart Pryde	East Lothian Council
Emma Leel	Zero Waste Scotland
Craig Haining	North Ayrshire Council
John Haskell	Fife Council
Elaine Downie	Fife Council
Stephen Duffy	Fife Council
John Campbell	Fife Council
Iain Stewart	South Lanarkshire Council
Kirsty Glennie	Perth & Kinross Council
A Hogarth	East Lothian Council
Colin MacKay	Stirling Council
Craig Gardner	Stirling Council
Rob Bryce	Perth & Kinross Council
Gordon Allan	Angus Council
Kevin Robertson	Angus Council
Allan Walker	Inverclyde Council
Gordon Crockatt	East Ayrshire Council
John Hay	East Ayrshire Council
James Baillie	Falkirk Council
Steven Vause	Falkirk Council
Graham Downs	Falkirk Council
Andrew McCloy	East Renfrewshire Council
Donnie McManus	East Renfrewshire Council
Jane Pritchard	Perth & Kinross Council
Lesley Ann Cassidy	Perth & Kinross Council
Jim Wilson	Dundee City Council
Angela Robb	Dundee City Council
Nick Jackson	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Craig McIntyre	Renfrewshire Council
Ken Gray	Renfrewshire Council
Alan Bell	City of Edinburgh Council
Karen Reeves	City of Edinburgh Council
Ken Forbes	North Lanarkshire Council
Juston Venton	Midlothian Council
Tony Fleming	West Lothian Council
Eirwen Hopwood	West Lothian Council
Linda Wilson	North Lanarkshire Council
Kathy Knox	Clackmannanshire Council

### Apologies

Cllr Norman Hampshire	East Lothian Council
Cllr Donald Balsillie	Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Denis Dixon	City of Edinburgh Council
Thomas McMenamin	Glasgow City Council
Kenny Inglis	Clackmannanshire Council
Andy Johnstone	West Lothian Council