



# The Parks Action Group: an update

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# The Parks Action Group

- Communities and local government select committee public parks inquiry – examine impact of reduced L.A. budgets on parks & open spaces Feb 17
- MHCLG tasked with reporting on ensuring future sustainability of parks
- Parks Action Group (PAG) launched Sept 17 by Government
- Government – MHCLG, Defra, DoH, Home Office, DCMS, DoE
- Sector – APSE, Parks Alliance, NFPGS, Fields in Trust, LGA, HLF, National Trust, Natural England, KBT, Groundwork
- Joint launch meeting
- Meetings and workshops

# Workstreams

- Vision and values
- Finance
- Knowledge and skills
- Standards
- Increasing usage
- Empowering communities

# Knowledge and skills

- Opportunities to promote knowledge and skills
- Consider ways best practice can be shared across sector
- Review parks managers roles and identify how to build capacity
- Interactive map of networks
- Research into roles, responsibilities, structures, gaps in knowledge and experience, current training provision, gaps / needs
- Focus groups, survey, interviews, analysis, report soon
- Champions, mentors
- Urgency of situation



**PEOPLE**

FRIENDS OF PARKS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMES & MANAGEMENT

RISK, HEALTH & SAFETY

PLAY & EVENTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VISITOR MANAGEMENT

HEALTH & WELLBEING

MARKETING & PROMOTION

CHARITABLE FUNDING

**INCOME & PERFORMANCE**

INCOME GENERATION

NEW FACILITIES

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY/S106

FRANCHISE DEVELOPMENT

**OPERATIONS**

BUDGET MANAGEMENT

APPRENTICESHIPS

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

SKILLS RETENTION

PROCUREMENT

SUCCESSION PLANNING

**VISION STRATEGY POLICIES**

**ENVIRONMENT**

CLIMATE CHANGE

AWARDS

ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY OPERATIONS

NATURAL CAPITAL

FLOOD ALLEVIATION

BIODIVERSITY

STRATEGY & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

# Progress to date

- Lots of meetings
- Workstreams ideas and initiatives
- Goodwill of the group
- Bureaucracy grinds slow
- Civil service capacity
- Funding
- Projects, support, different perspectives and view of future
- Vision, strategy
- Overarching issue remains local government funding
- Urgency and frustration

# #saveourparks

- Mail on Sunday
- Campaign
- Shift blame game
- Govt response – 7 days
- Pocket parks
- Defra questions
- Budget / CSR / Fair Funding review / Green Paper social care
- The end of austerity?



# The future

- Action
- Movement on finances
- Building support networks
- Sharing ideas
- Please engage
- The frontline of austerity
- 25 year strategy of government to leave environment in better condition for next generation
- Parks and urban greenspace a good place to start

**LOCAL SERVICES**

**LOCAL SOLUTIONS**

# Contact details

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