

APSE parks, open spaces and horticultural services seminar

Protecting the nation's green heritage



APSE one day seminar at Tatton Park, Knutsford

Thursday 17 March 2016



seminars

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9:30 Registration and exhibition viewing

10:30 **Session 1:**

UK Public Parks - A HLF Perspective

- State of the UK Public Parks II: a changing environment
- Re-thinking parks - findings and successes
- A future perspectives for UK's parks

Speaker: Drew Bennelick, Head of Landscape and Natural Heritage UK, Heritage Lottery Fund

Parks State of the Markets Survey and associated parks/greenspace issues.

- APSE State of the Market Survey 2016
- Analysis and trends
- Key conclusions

Speaker: Wayne Priestley, APSE Principal Advisor

Powers to generate income in parks and greenspaces

- The legal position
- Case examples
- Future Opportunities

Speaker: Richard Auton, Director, Walker Morris LLP

Panel and audience question and answer time

11:15 Coffee break and exhibition viewing

12:00 **Session 2:**

Make Haigh while the sun shines

- Developing and delivering a sustainable solution for Wigan's Country Parks.
- The Haigh Woodland Park case study

Speaker: Keith Bergman, Strategic Development Manager. Outdoor Leisure and Enterprise. Inspiring healthy lifestyles (Leisure Trust).

Counting the Success- Valley Gardens Harrogate, 3.1 million visitors can't be wrong

- Maintaining and sustaining a quality park
- Developing a counting system for park visitor numbers
- Ensuring sustainability and relevance for future visitors

Speaker: Sue Wood, Horticultural Officer, Harrogate Borough Council

13:00 Lunch and exhibition viewing

14:00 **Session 3:**

Tree Time – Branding to galvanise support to reverse the decline in Edinburgh's urban trees

- Conveying the threats – sharing the responsibility
- Offering a solution
- Challenges, successes and the way forward

Speaker: Charlie Cumming, Chief Executive, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust

Japanese Knotweed - Putting the brakes on a runaway problem

- Defining the Problem
- The importance of survey data
- Developing a Plan of Control

Speaker: Sean Hathaway Environment Officer, City and County of Swansea

'Growing Plants for Success' The Importance of In – House Plant Nurseries

- Benchmarking of plant costs and quality
- Sales to external customers of surplus plants
- Quality plants for award winning displays
- Managing plant stock to customers' requirements
- New Nursery build

Speaker: Gary McManus - Operations Manager and Chris Jones, Cofton Nursery Manager, Parks & Nature Conservation, Birmingham City Council

15:30 Seminar close

Seminar objectives

The world's population is becoming increasingly more urbanised and as a result, the demand on green space has become greater, both in terms of areas for new development and as areas for public recreation. Added to this, parks and green spaces have been given greater recognition due to their ability to promote and provide the environment to improve our health and general wellbeing. As places for exercise, for exposure to cultural events, and for contact with the environment, parks show themselves to be a vital part of our everyday lives especially as many of us are now increasingly confined to home, commuting and our places of work.

Despite their value, parks and greenspaces are facing unprecedented budgetary cuts which are threatening their future existence. The APSE 2015 State of the Market Survey on Parks, revealed that 93% of parks managers expected revenue for parks to decrease in 2016 and capital investment to decrease by 71% over the same period. More worryingly, 80% of the same respondents expected their parks budgets to decrease by up to 20% over the coming five years. It is against this backdrop of fiscal unsurity, APSE's 2016 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.

The seminar is a must attend event for those officers and members who want to look at new ways of dealing with parks and greenspace issues, including obtaining the data to prove how important these resources are to the general public along with the measurable benefits they bring both soocial, economic and environmental. How to develop partnerships with like-minded bodies who can help not only finance new developments, but also bring a new perspective on the future role and value of parks and green spaces as income generators. Linked to this, is learning how to tackle the more operational issues, some of which can drain valuable resources whilst contributing little to the overall health of the environment.

APSE acknowledges that parks managers may need to look to non-professionals to help maintain parks in the future, but equally acknowledges there will always be a need for managerial and horticultural skills which enthusiastic amateurs cannot provide, therefore there are case studies within the seminar to support this view.

As an active advocate for local authority parks and green space services, APSE will continue to argue that public parks must be funded by public money, because income generation and different funding sources will only help the sustainability of parks, and should not be seen as the solution. However, through providing a range of diverse and interesting speakers, APSE hopes to show there are options available and that there is still light at the end of the tunnel for our parks and green spaces and hopes that the information provided will help colleagues to be able to make that journey.

Experienced speakers will address key issues including:

- The importance of gathering data which highlights the value of the parks and greenspaces to a variety of users.
- The latest information from other local authority parks services through its State of the Market findings
- How local authorities can work with national bodies and private sector organisations alike to create new and sustainable greenspaces.
- Creating self-financing parks and greenspaces through partnerships and new perspectives.
- Meeting the challenge of maintaining high quality parks that are attractive and relevant to the modern user.
- Using technology to measure visitor numbers.
- Looking at new funding sources to fund greenspace improvement work – are they practical?
- Invasive species – planning for their control
- Maintaining horticultural skills and plant production in-house – a realistic option.

The conference is planned to allow considerable time for debate and questions.

Who should attend?

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

Reserve your place now by completing the booking form and faxing it or emailing to Alistair Holcroft at APSE on 0161 772 1811 or aholcroft@apse.org.uk

The Venue

Tatton Park

Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QN



Booking form

Office Use

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APSE Parks, Open Spaces and Horticultural Services Seminar, 17 March 2016, Tatton Park

main contact name: _____ authority: _____

address: _____

post code: _____

telephone: _____ fax: _____ email: _____

Please detail here any special dietary/access requirements for the delegates listed below:

APSE issues a written confirmation for all delegate bookings received. If you have not received your confirmation letter within 5 working days of sending your booking form, then please contact APSE on 0161 772 1810.

Payment information

What's included: The delegate place covers attendance, delegate documentation, lunch and light refreshments. Please note that hotel accommodation and travel costs are not included. A list of recommended hotels in the area is available on request.

APSE members delegate fee:- £169 + VAT

Non-members delegate fee:- £276 + VAT

Private sector organisation:- £360 + VAT

Please indicate preferred method of payment (tick):-

VAT registration number 519 286 915

- Please find enclosed cheque (made payable to APSE)
- Please invoice me

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by post, email to aholcroft@apse.org.uk or fax to 0161 772 1811. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. 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 venue should this become necessary.

Delegate name	Delegate position	Delegate email

Please return completed form to Alistair Holcroft, APSE, 2nd floor Washbrook House, Lancastrian Office Centre, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester M32 0FP or fax direct to: 0161 772 1811 Telephone: 0161 772 1810 - E-mail: aholcroft@apse.org.uk