



Parks Action Group Vision Workstream

LGA 'Action on Parks' Conference

24th May 2018

Matthew Bradbury & Sue Morgan

The Parks Alliance

PAG - Context



The Government recognises the value of parks and green spaces in providing **vibrant and inclusive locations for communities to socialise, volunteer, work, and exercise**. Green spaces **foster health, well-being, integration, and social engagement**.

“We are committed to working to **safeguard the future of parks and green spaces** so that they and new parks might be passed on to future generations even more green and well used than when they were passed down to us.”



PAG - Context



July 2016: The Communities and Local Government Select Committee conducted an inquiry to examine **the future of public parks**, with a specific focus on asking why parks matter, what challenges the parks sector is facing, and how a sustainable future can be secured for parks.

September 2017: The creation of the '**Parks Action Group**'
(Cross Departmental and Cross Sector)



PAG - Context



January 2018: Members identified **6 priorities** for its work:

- Explore the funding landscape and propose solutions.
- Set Parks and Green Space Standards
- **Share A Vision for Parks and Green Spaces**
- Empower Local Communities.
- Increase Knowledge and Build Skills
- Increase Usage by All



Vision & Values Task



The Vision and Values working group will focus on bringing together and coordinating the key outputs of the other five workstreams into a strategic action plan. This will include mapping the gaps and collating the 'evidence' before making 'the business case' and developing a clear vision for Parks and Green space.



Draft PAG Vision



The Parks Action Group supports the vision that good quality, well-managed and easily accessible parks and green spaces, free to the public at the point of use, provide vibrant and inclusive locations for our communities to socialise, volunteer, work, exercise, appreciate nature, relax and have fun. We expect society to recognise the increasing importance that parks will have in fostering health, well-being, integration, social engagement and sense of place; as well as the many essential economic and environmental benefits that parks do and will increasingly provide.

The Government will, at all levels, champion parks as community assets and demonstrate commitment to working with all stakeholders to safeguard, enhance and protect the future of parks and green spaces for the long-term by securing sustainable, balanced funding and the trust and support of the communities they serve.



Actions



- Identify and map the parks managers fora, information exchange and GI networks - identify the gaps (geographic and sub-sectoral) and solutions to fill and bridge – including a possible information hub/Wiki Parks
- **Identify the gaps between the reality and the vision** for parks – drawing on best practice and research and sector stats



Identify the gaps between the reality and the vision

- **Vision:** Good quality, well-managed and easily accessible parks and green spaces, free to the public at the point of use, provide vibrant and inclusive locations for our communities to socialise, volunteer, work, exercise, appreciate nature, relax and have fun. We expect society to recognise the increasing importance that parks will have in fostering health, well-being, integration, social engagement and sense of place; as well as the many essential economic and environmental benefits that parks do and will increasingly provide.

The Government will, at all levels, champion parks as community assets and demonstrate commitment to working with all stakeholders to safeguard, enhance and protect the future of parks and green spaces for the long-term by securing sustainable, balanced funding and the trust and support of the communities they serve.

- **Reality:**
 - What do your gaps look like (and how do they feel)?
 - How do we best understand, map and present them?
 - Membership of a parks Forum (which one)? Would you like to be?





Thank You