

Chair: Paul Hamblin
Natural Parks England

SESSION 3: CLG SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY



THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC PARKS

POLICY, PRACTICE & RESEARCH



Historic England

idverde



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



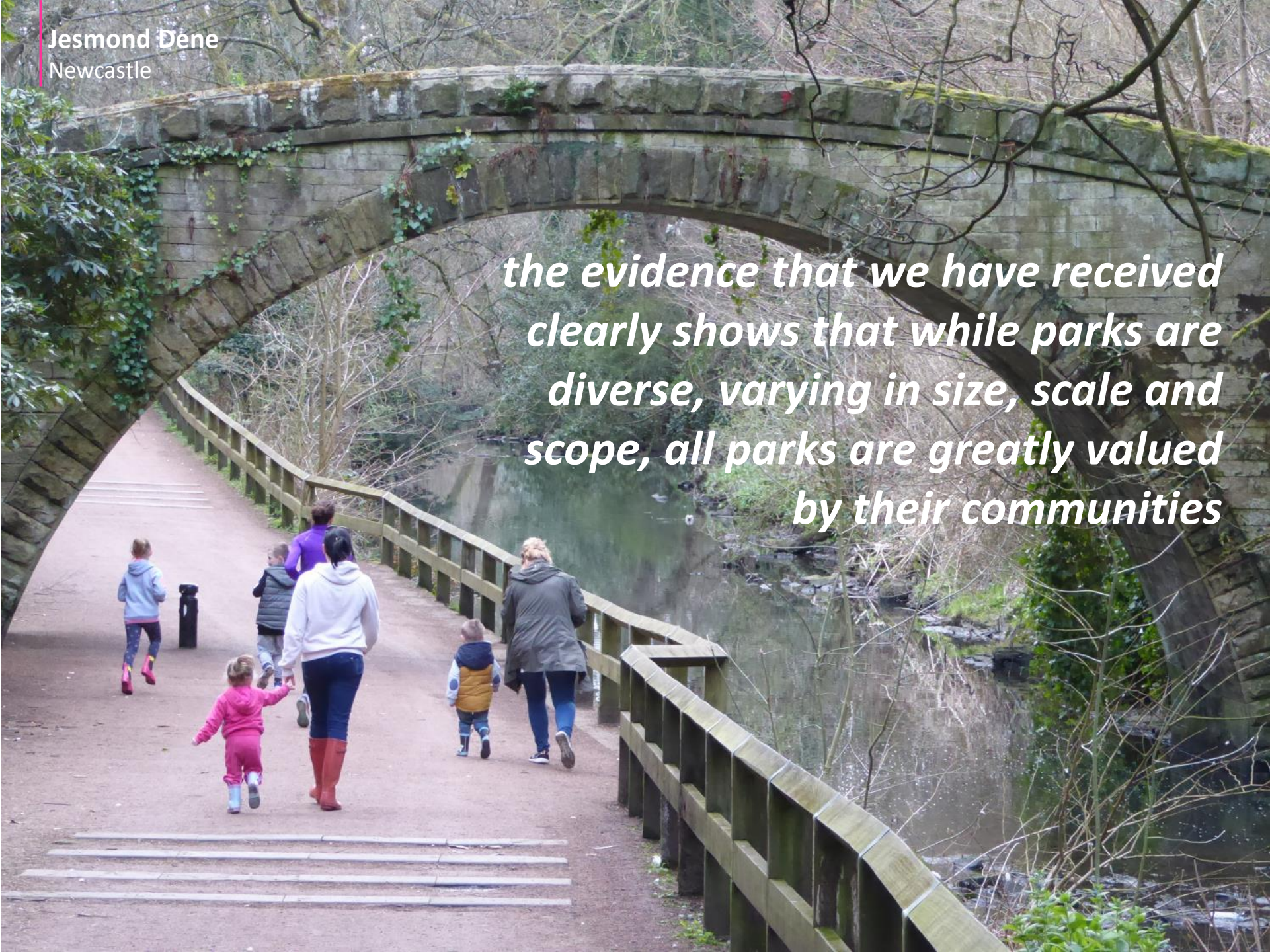
Clive Betts MP, Chair of the CLG inquiry into public parks

Peter Neal, Landscape Consultant

QUESTIONS



*the evidence that we have received
clearly shows that while parks are
diverse, varying in size, scale and
scope, all parks are greatly valued
by their communities*





the distribution of parks is unequal across the country, with many deprived communities struggling to access the benefits which green spaces can provide

A wide, paved pedestrian path curves through a lush green park. In the foreground, a man in a grey t-shirt and white shorts walks away from the camera. Further down the path, several other people are walking, including a woman in a blue shirt and a man in an orange shirt. To the right of the path, there is a grassy area with some tall grasses and a black metal fence. In the background, there are more trees and a building with a balcony. The sky is blue with some clouds.

*green space should be at
the heart of planning as it
fundamentally important
to creating and shaping
communities where people
want to live, and
where they are able
to thrive*

Atlanta Beltline
Georgia, USA



Parks and Public Space

Ensure all New Yorkers live within a 10-minute walk of a park

For generations, parks have been among New York's most cherished forms of public infrastructure. From internationally-renowned flagship parks such as Central and Prospect Parks, to neighborhood playgrounds, to emerging recreational areas on our waterfront, parks provide vital public spaces for New Yorkers. All together, our city boasts more than 52,000 acres of City, state and federal parkland, representing 25% of the city's area.

Parks and public space play indispensable roles in our neighborhoods. They provide places to exercise. They are community forums for formal and informal interactions. They serve important ecological functions. They are also an important catalyst for economic development, raising property values and breathing life into neighborhoods.

Despite parks' importance, over two million New Yorkers still live more than a 10-minute walk from one. And the need for a variety of parks and public space will only become more acute as our population increases. As New Yorkers' recreation interests grow to include cricket pitches and kayak launches, we must also make sure our parks evolve.

To respond to this growing demand for more parks and public space, we have embarked on what has become New York's third great era of park building. The first era began in the second half of the 19th century, when Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner Calvert Vaux designed over 1,900 acres of city parkland including our most iconic open space, Central Park. The second great era began with the appointment of Robert Moses as City Parks Commissioner in 1934. Taking advantage of New Deal funding, he more than doubled park acreage in the city. But in the 1970s, our parks were poorly maintained. Dangerous and unkempt, they lay neglected. In 1981, Mayor Edward Koch started a turnaround with a capital plan to rebuild our system. In the last 10 years, we have accelerated our progress into the third great era of parks transformation,

including the historic investment in parks and public spaces made in 2007, heralded by the launch of PlaNYC.

Because the supply of vacant land and capital budgets are both finite, creating new parks will require creative new strategies. We will continue to reuse unconventional sites such as Concrete Plant Park in the Bronx, where a former industrial concrete mixing plant has been transformed into a striking new waterfront park, or the High Line, which transformed an abandoned elevated freight rail line into one of Manhattan's star attractions.

We must also work to protect the great investment in parks and public spaces that we have made. The long-term health of our parks and public spaces requires continued maintenance, stewardship, and attention.

We have made substantial progress. Since 2007, we have improved access to parks and public space, ensuring more than a quarter million more New Yorkers live within a 10-minute walk of a park. This new wave of construction includes almost 180 Schoolyards to Playgrounds sites and nearly 260 Greenstreets. Construction has begun on four of eight new destination parks. We have planted over 430,000 new trees.

But simply having access to parks is not enough; the type and quality of parks and public space matter as well. To accommodate our diverse open space needs, we have begun to re-imagine what the public space outside of parks can be, as well as design sustainable, high-performance open spaces that have the potential to enhance ecosystems.

Our Plan

To meet the quality and access needs of all New Yorkers, we must continue to improve our existing parks, identify new opportunities to transform underutilized sites throughout the city, and enhance stewardship of our public space.

Areas Within a 10-Minute Walk of a Park

- AREA WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK OF PARK IN 2007
- AREA WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK ADDED SINCE 2007
- AREA NOT WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK OF PARK
- LANDFILLS, AIRPORTS & AREAS EXCLUDED FROM ANALYSIS

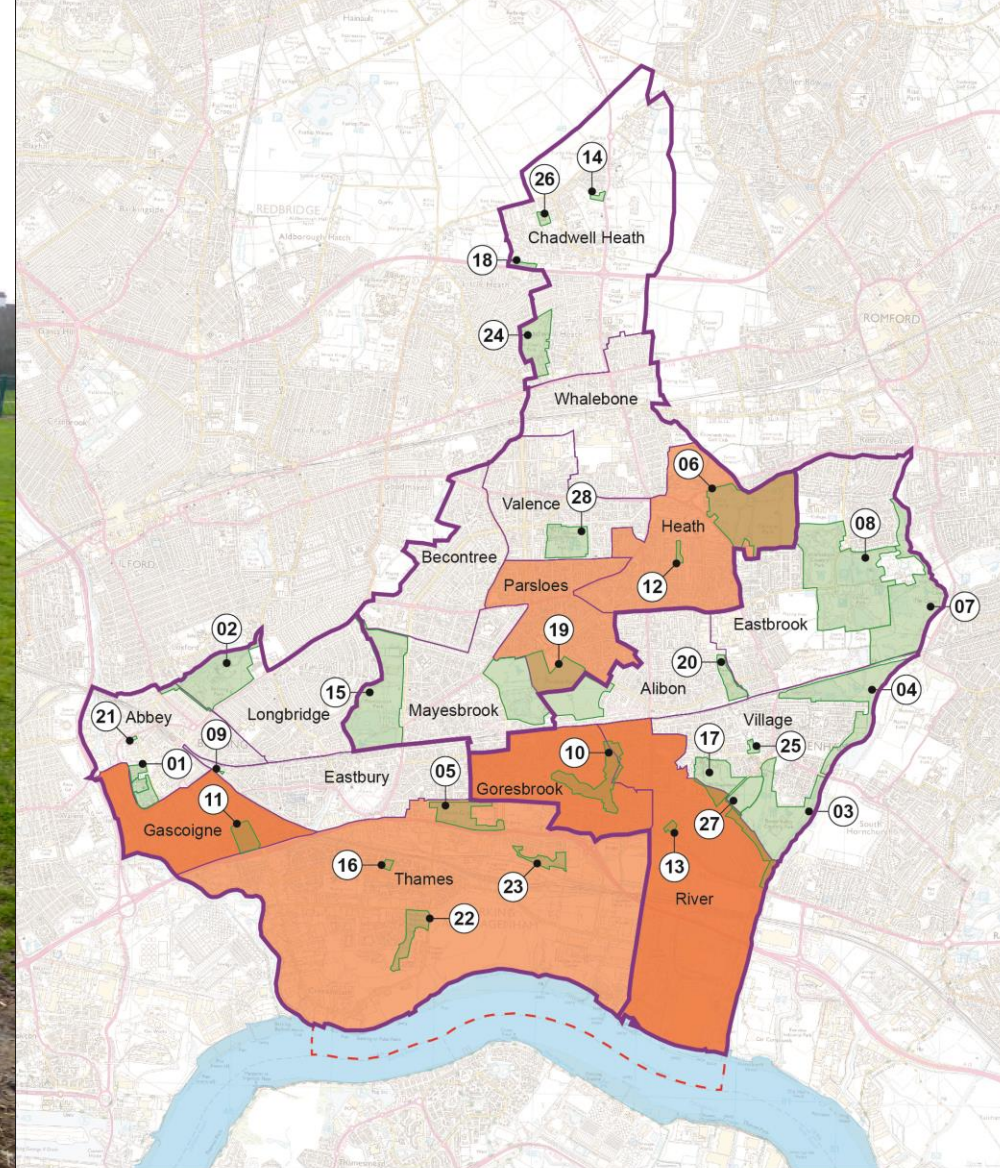


Source: NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation



*local authorities should
work collaboratively with
Health and Wellbeing
Boards to prepare and
publish joint parks and
green space strategies*

Stockdale Park
Western Sydney Parklands



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 01 Abbey Green / Abbey Ruins | 09 Essex Road Gardens | 17 Old Dagenham Park | 25 St. Peter and St. Paul's Churchyard |
| 02 Barking Park | 10 Goresbrook Park | 18 Padnall Lake Open Space | 26 Antony Green |
| 03 Beam Parklands | 11 Greatfields Park | 19 Parsloes Park | 27 The Leys |
| 04 Beam Valley Country Park | 12 Heath Park Open Space | 20 Pondfield Park | 28 Valence Park and House |
| 05 Castle Green | 13 King George's Field | 21 Quaker Burial Ground | |
| 06 Central Park | 14 Kingston Hill Recreation Ground | 22 Ripple Nature Reserve | |
| 07 Chase Nature Reserve | 15 Mayesbrook Park | 23 Scrattons Farm Eco Park | |
| 08 Eastbrookend Country Park | 16 Newlands Park | 24 St. Chad's Park | |

Above Average Childhood Obesity at Reception Age (2011/12 - 2013/14)



North Tyneside Council

WIDENING HORIZONS
Parks North Tyneside

Healthy Parks, Healthy People, Healthy Communities

A Parks Strategy for North Tyneside


2011-2021



www.northtyneside.gov.uk twitter.com/NTCouncilTeam



*encourage and facilitate the
evaluation and benchmarking of
emerging models for parks
management, and the sharing of
best practice within England and
from elsewhere in the UK or
internationally as appropriate*



*it is increasingly important
that we find ways to quantify
the wider value of parks in
order to access new sources of
funding and target investment*

Floodplain Forest

The Parks Trust, Milton Keynes



*innovation in management
models and funding sources
is also needed*

Cornwall Park
Auckland, New Zealand

Chair: Julia Thrift

Town and Country Planning Association

SESSION 4: PUBLIC PARKS – WAYS FORWARD



1. What is your response to the remit and findings of the SC Inquiry?
2. Which innovations in research and/or practice promise to unlock the value of individual parks, while ensuring sustainability and equity of park provision?
3. What new directions for research arise from developments in policy and practice?

QUESTIONS



Eddie Curry, Core Cities Parks and Greenspaces Group

Nick Temple-Heald, idverde

Graham Duxbury, Groundwork

Sarah Royal, National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces

Ken Worpole, Emeritus Professor, London Metropolitan University

Ellie Robinson, National Trust

Matthew Bradbury, The Parks Alliance

