



THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC PARKS POLICY, PRACTICE & RESEARCH

Thursday 13 July 2017, 9.30am – 5.00pm

The British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, Westminster, London

CONFERENCE OUTLINE

Following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee Inquiry, this one-day national conference provides a timely opportunity to promote innovative thinking and learning to meet the challenges which parks face.

Where do we go from here?

This conference aims to foster a research and practice-informed dialogue about park futures leading to ways forward to maximise the value and sustainability of parks as public assets in the twenty-first century.

The conference will create opportunities for dialogue, learning and exploration of important questions, issues and challenges that cut across all models of park management whether local authorities, trusts, charities or private sector. These include questions about health and well-being, social and educational use, community involvement and strategies for generating income. The conference will be of interest to policy-makers, practitioners, researchers, local authorities, the voluntary sector, think tanks, and government.

CONFERENCE AIMS

- * To bring together researchers, policy-makers and practitioners interested in exploring the role and value of public parks in the twenty-first century.
- * To showcase learning from both research and practice (across different sectors) on ways to support parks and maximise their diverse benefits.
- * To discuss positive ways forward for the future of public parks in light of the findings and recommendations of the Select Committee Inquiry, and given current economic constraints.
- * To build new and enhance existing relations between researchers, public policy-makers, practitioners and organisations working in the management and governance of public parks and green spaces.
- * To develop a network of people and organisations that work with, or conduct research on, parks and green spaces in the UK that may lead to the generation of new research questions and research collaborations.



PROGRAMME

09:30 - 10:00

Refreshments and Registration

10:00 - 10:15

Welcome & Introduction

Adam Crawford, Director of the Leeds Social Sciences Institute, University of Leeds
& Matthew Bradbury, Chair, The Parks Alliance.

10:15 - 11:20

Session 1: The Role and Value of Parks in the 21st Century – Insights from Research

Chair: Adam Crawford, University of Leeds

Opening Presentation: The State of Research on Public Parks & Future Directions

Katy Layton-Jones, University of Leicester

The Leeds Parks Project

Anna Barker & David Churchill, University of Leeds

Questions & Discussion

11:20 - 12:30

Chair: Jenifer White, Historic England

Anna Jorgensen, University of Sheffield

Andrew Smith, University of Westminster

Robin Smale, Vivid Economics

Questions & Discussion

12:30 - 13:15

Lunch & Networking



13:15 - 15:00

Session 2: Maximising the Value of Parks: Innovations and Lessons from Practice

Chair: Matthew Bradbury, The Parks Alliance

Drew Bennellick, Heritage Lottery Fund

Tony Durcan, Newcastle City Council & Victoria Bradford-Keegan, National Trust

Mark Walton, Shared Assets

Clare Olver, Natural Health Service, Mersey Forest

Sarah Hughes-Clarke, idverde

Tony Stringwell, Parks and Countryside, Leeds City Council

Sue Morgan, Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust

Questions & Discussion

15:00 - 15:15

Refreshments Break

15:15 - 15:45

Session 3: CLG Select Committee Inquiry

Chair: Paul Hamblin, National Parks England

Clive Betts MP, Chair of the Inquiry

Peter Neal, Landscape Consultant

15:45 - 17:00

Session 4: Public Parks - Ways Forward

Chair: Julia Thrift, Town and Country Planning Association

Eddie Curry, Chair, 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, Cities Institute, London Metropolitan University

Ellie Robinson, National Trust

Matthew Bradbury, The Parks Alliance

Questions & discussion

17:00

Close

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