



**APSE Central Region Event**

# **Plants, Trees, and Automobiles**

**A Greenspace and Highways Forum**

**Including regional AGM**

**Tuesday 30 June 2026**

**Tamworth Assembly Rooms**

**FREE** event for  
Central region  
members  
[Sign up here!](#)



# Programme

09:30 Registration and refreshments

10:00 **Session 1: Welcome**

**Welcome from the Chair of APSE Central Region: Cllr Mark Pengelly**

North Northamptonshire Council

**Planting the Seed – Growing the Future**

**Welcome to Tamworth and introduction from**

**Robert Weaver, Executive Director – Place**

Tamworth Borough Council

**Grassland Management Strategy and Research Project: Pollinators at Bereavement Sites**

**Tom Guilbert-Newell**

Sustainable Environment Officer

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

**40 Years of Supporting Parks – An overview and a look forward**

**Chris Worman MBE**

Parks and Green Spaces Manager

South Derbyshire District Council

*Audience Q&A*

11:00 **Session 2: Trees and Highways**

**The Value of Trees Project – Leicestershire**

**Karen Notman**

Midlands Highways Alliance Manager

Leicestershire County Council

**The Critical Role of Trees Along Highways: Enhancing Health, Safety, & Accident Prevention**

**Nicola Howell**

SHEQ Lead (Highways and Trees)

Nottingham City Council

**The Hidden Hazard: Abuse Against Roadworkers**

**Richard Harris**

Account Director (Place)

Staffordshire County Council

*Audience Q&A followed by Coffee Break*

**11:45 APSE Central Region Annual General Meeting**

This short session provides an invaluable opportunity for APSE Central Region to review its activities over the last year and a look forward to the future.

You can view the AGM agenda and papers [here](#).

12:00 **Session 3:**

**Future of Parks and Greenspaces**

**North Northamptonshire's Environmental Justice Index**

**Andra Stopforth**

Biodiversity and Nature Recovery Manager

North Northamptonshire Council

**From Parks to Pavements: Connecting Green Infrastructure and Highways to deliver Active Travel**

**Kellie Thompson**

Group Manager for Active Travel & Public Transport

Telford & Wrekin Council

**Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution - What does it mean for Local Authority Parks and Open Spaces?**

**Mo Baines**

Chief Executive, APSE

*Audience Q&A*

13:15 **Networking Lunch**

14:15 **Close**

## About the venue

The event will be held in the **Saxon Suite** at the Tamworth Assembly Rooms.

Owned and operated by **Tamworth Borough Council**, it is the town's premier concert and events venue, in existence since 1889, and recently refurbished. Located in the heart of the town, minutes from the historic **Castle and Gardens** along the river, Tamworth is exceptionally well connected by rail both from north/south and east/west. Please find detailed directions overleaf.



# About

Join APSE for a Greenspace and Highways Forum, a seminar designed for Midlands councils committed to driving sustainability and environmental leadership in the public realm. This event, **FREE** for APSE members in the Central Region, will explore key strategies and case studies from Midlands councils leading the way. The aim is to foster collaborative discussions across parks, greenspaces and highways teams, and provide a great opportunity to network with colleagues from across the region over lunch.

Green spaces and highways are amongst councils' most visible and important services to residents, integral to their wellbeing, health and safety, and attractiveness of their local area, whilst providing vital habitats for wildlife. Councils will gain the tools and inspiration to lead the way toward a cleaner, greener local environment for the benefit and wellbeing of all.

## Finding the venue

**Tamworth Assembly Rooms  
Corporation Street  
Tamworth, Staffordshire  
B79 7DN**

The event will be held in the **Saxon Suite** at the Tamworth Assembly Rooms.

The venue is 11 minutes' walk away from Tamworth Railway Station.

For those driving, we recommend parking at **Hospital Street car park** just 3 minutes' walk away, which has long stay parking at a charge.

*Note: The 'Assembly Rooms Car Park' opposite the venue is limited to a maximum of 4 hours, which will not be sufficient considering early arrival for registration / if the event overruns. We cannot not be held responsible for any fines resulting from parking there and overstaying!*

**Find the venue location using [Google Maps](#)**

