





## Speaker: Matthew Twohig

Green Team Coordinator

London Borough Of Tower
Hamlets







# APSE Best Service Team Finalist 2017 - Parks, Grounds and Horticultural Services

- Workforce retention though up-skilling and training
- The Council's *Find it, Fix it, Love it* APP Ensuring quick response times and involving residents
- Investing in new machinery and plant to enhance effectiveness and reduce water-logging







# Tower Hamlets-Green Team. The Journey continues













#### **The Green Team Vision**

To provide high quality green spaces for both residents and visitors to Tower Hamlets









#### **Overview of Tower Hamlets**

- Fastest growing Population of any local authority (2011 census)
- Large disparity between wealth and poverty
- High child poverty rate
- Following a mayoral decision in August 2012 the grounds maintenance service was brought back in house in April 2013.
- Mayoral priority to increase the standard of all parks and open spaces







### **Scope Of The Green Team**

- Horticulture Maintenance to over 140 parks and open spaces
- Monitoring of external service providers
- Infrastructure Repairs and Inspection of Play areas
- Park Gate Locking Function

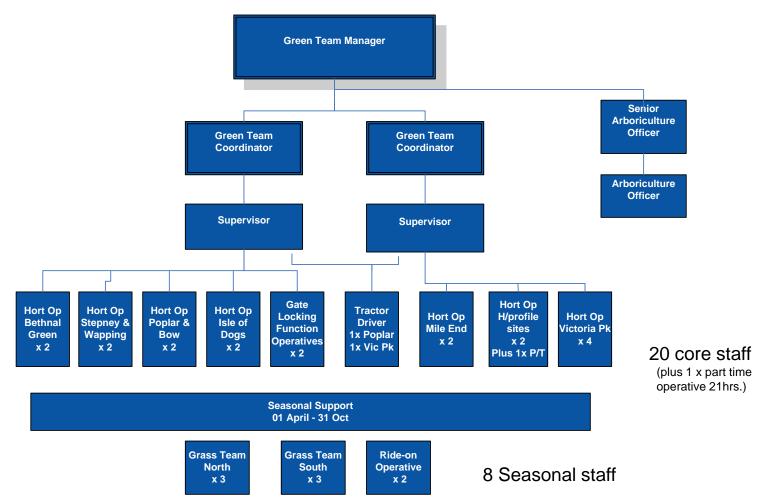








#### Resource to Deliver Service









#### Where We Were

- Poor overall standards
- Poor value for money
- Contract that was not fit for purpose
- High level of complaints
- General user dissatisfaction
- Demotivated Workforce
- Skills Shortage

#### Where We Are

- Records number of Green Flag awards
- Victoria Park achieved Green Flag peoples choice awards 3 times in 4 year
- No members enquiries or corporate complaints regarding maintenance
- London in Bloom Gold







# The Key To Sustaining success



 Motivation and training for staff is vital to maintain the standards set







## **Training**

- Full Competency based Management system in place including yearly skills Audit.
- Full Training plans in place for each staff member
- Training including internal and externally organised training









## Safety

,

 Full safety systems in place for the monitoring and management of

PUWER

HAVS

COSHH







### Results

Higher staff retention

Outstanding safety record

Award Wining Standards

High customer satisfaction







## Implementing Technology

- FIFI LI App designed to improve reporting time within the borough
- Gate keeper app designed to record locking of parks gates and record anti social behaviour
- Both functions to be combined into PSI mobile

#### Find it Fix it Love it



FiFiLi the Swiss army knife of applications for Tower Hamlets residents and visitors alike. See something in the Borough you love and think everyone should know about? Come across something that needs fixing and want someone to do something about it?











#### Results

Faster smarter
Streamlined
reporting

11926 Total FIFIL request since June 2015 saving the department over 47k on call centre charges.

NB: This does not include saving from officers time.







# Investment and Income

- Income Generation from internal and external sources
- New machinery procured using income generated throughout the last four years
- Additional resources utilised using funds generated













## Results

Increased Productivity

Ability to maximise resources at key times

Corporate recognition

Eased budget pressure







## Moving Forward

- Promotion of the Green Team both internally and nationally
- Promotion of Tower Hamlets Parks through national awards
- Achieve a fully generic skill set across the workforce







# **Any Questions**



#### **Helping Pollinators Locally**

**Paul Evans** 

www.buglife.org.uk @buzz\_dont\_tweet



#### Why is insect pollination important?

Insect pollination is essential to growing our food

"One out of every 3 mouthfuls"

90% of world's crop species

In UK worth c.£600m p.a. or 13% of UK agricultural revenue .

£13 billion across EU

£132 billion around the world







#### The alternative to insects







#### ⑤ buglife

#### **Insect pollination and our ecosystems**

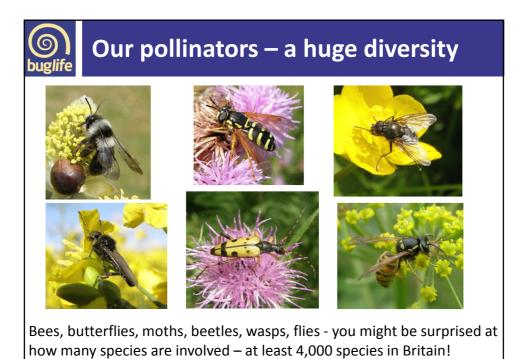
Insect pollination is essential to maintaining a healthy and thriving environment

80% of British wild plants are pollinated by insects

Much of our other wildlife depends on them



Thick legged flower beetle (Oedomera nobilis)







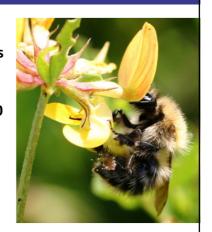
#### **Our Pollinators in trouble**

Over half of our bee species have suffered declines over the past 50 years

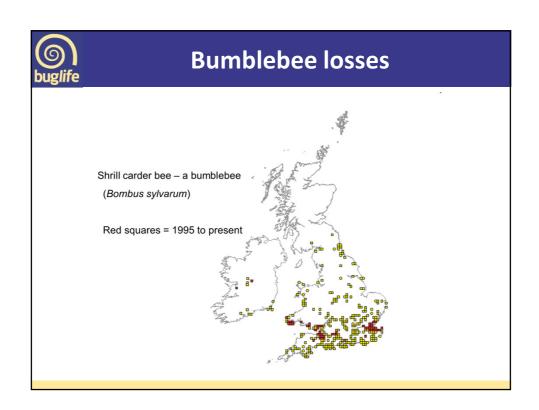
Six of 25 bumblebee species have declined in UK by at least 80% in last 50 years

38% of hoverfly species in decline

71% of butterfly species in decline



Over 250 UK pollinators are in danger of extinction







#### A UK-wide wildlife priority

# National Pollinator Strategy for England (2014)

- A shared plan of action which looks to everyone to work together and ensure pollinators' needs are addressed as an integral part of land and habitat management.
- More, bigger, better, joined-up, diverse and high-quality flower-rich habitats



## National Pollinator Strategy for England- Supporting pollinators across towns, cities and the countryside

1. Working with large-scale landowners, and their advisers, contractors and facility managers, to promote simple changes to land management to provide food, shelter and nest sites.









## National Pollinator Strategy for England- Supporting pollinators across towns, cities and the countryside

2. Ensuring good practice to help pollinators through initiatives ...... including managers of public and amenity spaces, utility and transport companies, brownfield site managers, local authorities, developers and planners.







## National Pollinator Strategy for England- Supporting pollinators across towns, cities and the countryside

3. Encouraging the public to take action in their gardens, allotments, window boxes ...to make them pollinator-friendly or through opportunities such as community gardening and volunteering ......







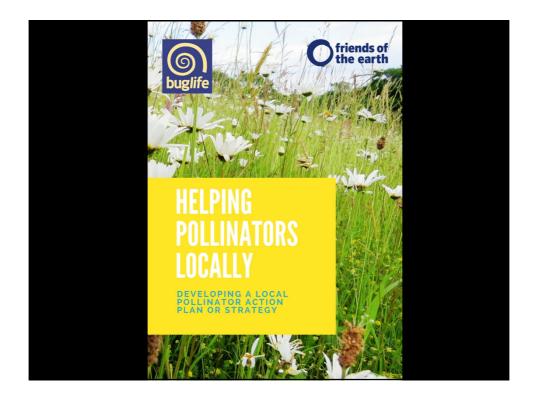


## But many more opportunities to do things locally

Local authorities are well placed to take positive action for pollinators

- Conserving pollinators through Local Planning and GI work
- Managing land to benefit pollinators







#### **Local Pollinator Action Plans**

A Local Pollinator Strategy or Plan is a call for action – inviting all parts of the local authority and local community to do something to help pollinators.

"Everyone can do something and every little thing can help".





## Developing and implementing a Local Pollinator Plan

- Ensures the needs of pollinators are enshrined across all local authority work
- Helps identify previously unknown opportunities for pollinators
- Ensures all aspects of pollinators are addressed and the conservation of pollinators is put at the heart of land management
- Identifies opportunities for collaborative and locally-owned initiatives





#### Some benefits of a Local Plan

- Increased public engagement and awareness in pollinators
- An improved local environment for the enjoyment of local people with associated health and well-being benefits
- Potential savings on local authority managed green space
- Helping to develop and improve green infrastructure
- Opportunity to shout about pollinator work already underway





#### Using Land to benefit pollinators

- · Local Wildlife Site Management
- Reviewing parks management and opportunities to manage land for the benefit of pollinators
- · Reviewing amenity plantings
- Changing mowing regimes on road verges etc.
- Reviewing pesticide policy and looking to cease use of neonicotinoids
- Providing training to staff to raise awareness of the needs of pollinators









#### **Opportunities within public greenspace**

• Existing grassland areas





• Delaying cutting will extend foraging period for pollinators













#### Raising Awareness in the community

- Providing advice to local gardeners, allotment holders and community groups
- Raising awareness of pollinators to local residents and businesses
- Working with schools to create pollinator-friendly habitats







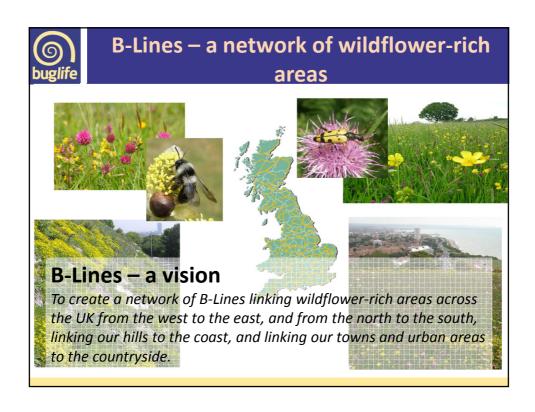
#### There is public support...



A Friends of the Earth and Buglife YouGov survey has revealed:

- Almost two thirds of the population (63%) agree that local councils should be doing more to protect Britain's bees
- 81% of the public back calls for councils to help Britain's under-threat bees by cutting areas of grass less often in parks and roadside verges to allow wild flowers to grow
- 88% support councils reducing the use of bee-harming pesticides
- 92% support local authorities in planting more wildflowers and other bee friendly plants in their local parks and community spaces











Trees and shrubs are vital - blossom in sheltered, sunny places can attract huge numbers of pollinators, along with herbs such as dead-nettles, ground ivy and dandelions

Legumes, composites and umbellifers, and shrubs such as elder, bramble and rose are key food sources, later in summer, teasel, thistles and hogweed can be particularly important





Thistles, yarrow and scabiouses give early autumn food, with ivy often the most important autumn flower; providing a vital final feast for overwintering adults



## A few things to take away today - Nesting and overwintering areas

- Ditches and ponds provide valuable wetland flowers as well as larval habitat for hoverflies
- Woody habitats provide sources of dead and decaying wood used for nesting
- Banks can be important nesting areas for solitary bees and bumblebees
- Hedgerows and features (banks/ deadwood) provide shelter, overwintering sites, and corridors for movement





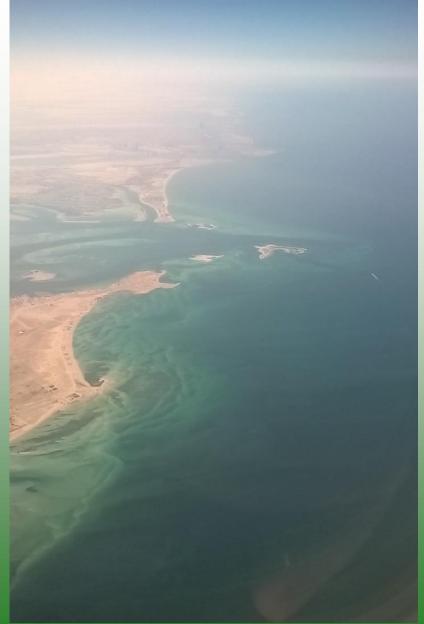


## Parks in Abu Dhabi City The United Arab Emirates











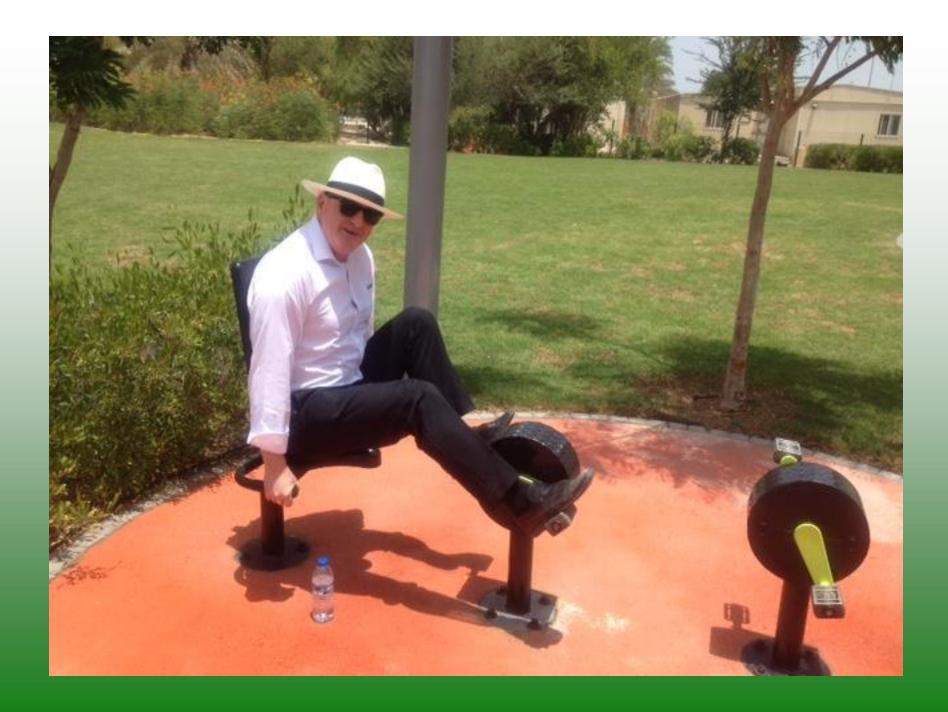




































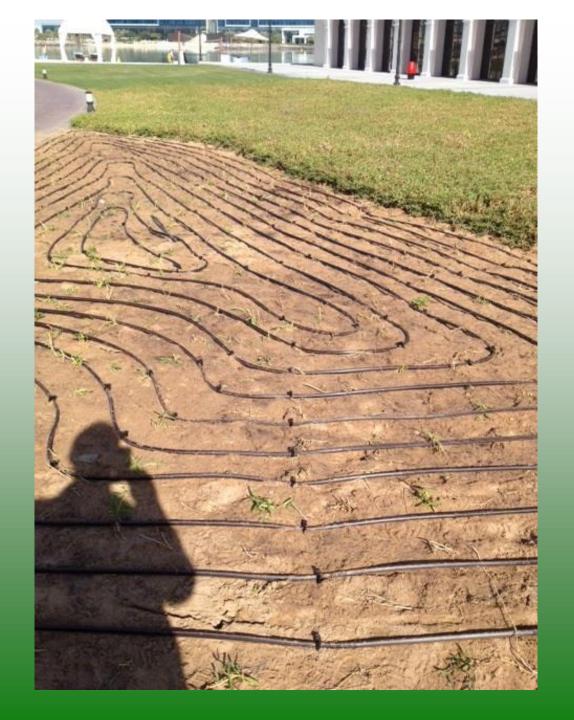


















## منتـزه خليـفة KHALIFA PARK

## إدارة الحدائق والمنتزهات الترفيهية PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES DIVISION

- . This park is made for you please keep it clean
- · Parents must take care of their children
- Playing football is prohibited
- . Sheesha ( Arjeela ) is prohibited
- · For any enquiry, please contact administration
- . Do not climb trees or pluck flowers
- Barbeques are allowed only in designated areas, after getting permit from security office and following the attached instructions

- هذه الحديقة انشئت من أجلك الرجاء المافظة على نظافتها
  - برجی الانتباه علی أطفالكم حرصاً علی سلامتهم
    - يحظر لعب الكرة حفاظاً على الأعمال الزراعية
      - يمنع منعاً باتاً استخدام الشيشة ( الأرجيلة )
      - يرجى مراجعة الإدارة في حالات الضرورة
        - ممنوع تسلق الأشجار وقطف الأزهار
- يسمح بالشوي فقط في أماكن مخصصة وبعد الحصول على
   تصريح من مكتب الأمن و اتباع التعليمات المرفقة بالتصريح

