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APSE Southern Region Parks and Green Spaces Seminar 2025

Connecting communities through parks and green spaces



Tuesday 18 November 2025

Leonardo Royal Hotel, Oxford, Godstow Road, Oxford,
OX2 8AL

Programme

9:30 Registration

10:00 Session 1

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

- Funding issues for neighbourhood level services
- What powers and responsibilities will sit with combined and mayoral authorities? What remains at a council level?
- With new neighbourhood funding and neighbourhood boards protect our local parks assets?

Speaker: Mo Baines, Chief Executive, APSE and Visting Professor, University of Staffordshire

40 Years of Supporting Parks

- Highlighting the changes in parks over the years
- The wide variety of experiences that this has led to.
- The current challenges facing the sector and what the future holds for parks.

Speaker: Chris Worman, MBE MPMA, Parks and Green Spaces Manager, Environment and Communities, South Derbyshire District Council

Audience question and answer session

A word from our Sponsor: Brightly Software

11:20 Meet the Exhibitors

11:30 Refreshments & Exhibition Viewing

12:00 Session 2

Chichester District Council – refurbishment of play areas project

- Preparation of specification (including stakeholder consultation);
- Project procurement
- Installation
- Learning points

Speaker: Andy Howard, Operations Manager, Chichester Contract Services, Chichester District Council

Wyre Forest District Council's Ranger Service

- The Role of the Ranger Service – rationale and purpose;
- What does it contribute to park services for the district?
- Improvements Achieved and challenges overcome;
- Outcomes, future targets and goals.

Speaker: Adam Hamilton, Biodiversity & Conservation Officer, Wyre Forest District Council

Audience question and answer session

13:00 Lunch & Exhibition viewing

14:00 Session 3

Oxfordshire's Tree Guardians – Maximising Community Ownership and Value

- How community engagement and proactive communication can forge relationships, build trust and deliver more – all through the preface of planting trees.
- Hear from Oxfordshire County Council's Tree Aftercare & Planting Service (TAPS) who are in-house direct delivery teams focused on tree planting and aftercare. TAPS will be sharing experiences on:
 - Understanding the impacts of poor communication.
 - Early engagement creates transparency.
 - Communities directing priorities.
 - Tree Guardians delivering efficiencies.

Speaker: George Milne-Day and Sam Jones, Countryside & Tree Service, Oxfordshire County Council

The Tree Council's Shared Outcomes Fund: Trees Outside Woodlands Project

- Project aims and objectives;
- Did the Project achieve its objectives?
- Lessons learnt, and future steps

Speaker: Jackie Shallcross, Shared Outcomes Project Manager, The Tree Council

Audience question and answer session

Roundtable Discussion: Trees in streets – who should maintain them? | Parks design – who do you consult? | SUDS. | Ethical income generation – ensuring charging regimes do not exclude access for families and economically vulnerable groups.

16:00 Seminar Close



Exhibition and sponsorship

To discuss exhibition and sponsorship

Matt Paton
Spacehouse

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Seminar Objectives

About the Seminar

APSE Southern Region is pleased to announce the programme for this year's Parks & Green Spaces Seminar, taking place within the green and leafy surrounds of the Leonardo Royal Hotel, Oxford, OX2 8AL.

Whilst Sustainability, Biodiversity and the Climate Crisis and their impact on public parks remains at the forefront of our minds, the prospect of local government reorganisation looms large on the horizon. In light of this, **Mo Baines, APSE Chief Executive and Visiting Professor from the University of Staffordshire** will open the Seminar examining what Local Government Reorganisation and devolution mean for local authority parks and open spaces. This will be followed by a presentation from **Chris Worman MBE MPMA, Parks and Green Spaces Manager, South Derbyshire District Council**, with a retrospective of his 40+ years of working in and supporting parks and open spaces;

Following, a word from our event sponsors Brightly Software, and a quick hello from our exhibitors, Sessions 2 and 3 will focus on the incredible contribution Local Authority Park Rangers make to their locality, how engaging with Tree Guardians can maximise community ownership and value; we will hear from Chichester District Council on the invaluable lessons learned in the refurbishment of their play areas and The Tree Council will discuss their Shared Outcomes Fund for the Trees outside woodlands project.

The final session's roundtable will provide an informal opportunity for those present to discuss various hot topics including SUDS, parks design, managing and maintaining trees in streets, and ethical income generation in parks;

Delegates will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from our Sponsors, Brightly Software, plus more exhibitors.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Leonardo Royal Hotel, Oxford on 18 November 2025.

Who should attend

Everyone with an interest in health and well-being, parks and green spaces management, sustainability and climate change.

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, delegates' documentation, lunches and light refreshments.

Member: **£195+VAT**

Non-member: **£290+VAT**

Commercial: **£420+VAT**

[Click here to reserve your place on this event](#)

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