



# The Public Parks Crisis

## How County Gardens Trusts can help

Tamsin McMillan

The Gardens Trust's Historic Landscape Project

The Historic Landscape Project has been set up to increase capacity in CGTs to carry out this work and to facilitate communication between the GT and CGTs, and also to help CGTs build relationships with other organisations such as HE, HEROs, PGUK, other amenity societies and, of course, their local planning authorities.

## At a National Level

### **The Gardens Trust**

- Raising awareness
- Campaigning
- Educating



We have heard from David and Katy about the long-term involvement of the GT, campaigning for public parks

The aims of the Gardens Trust are:

- to promote the study of the history of gardens, landscapes and gardening through research and education
- to promote the conservation of historic designed landscapes
- to campaign for the protection and understanding of landscapes

All of these aims support the public parks campaign

Find 'Uncertain Prospects' in your packs. PDF version available at <http://thegardenstrust.design-culture.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/uncertain-prospects-2.pdf>

## At a National Level

Campaigning and raising awareness:

- National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces
- The Parks Alliance has key role in Government's new 'Parks Action Group'
- National Lottery support for research projects such as 'Rethinking Parks'.



Historic Landscape Project

Several other groups are working at a national level to recognise and celebrate the varied values of parks

And to campaign against funding cuts or seek new ways to carry on in spite of them.

### ▪ **National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces**

was **constituted in 2010** by and is the umbrella organisation for the Friends Groups movement.

aim to share learning, develop good practice, and strengthen grassroots organisation, coordination and co-operation throughout the UK. Most importantly, they raise the issues impacting on our open spaces, including **seeking the effective protection and improvement of all the UK's 27,000 public parks and green spaces.**

successfully [campaigned for a national inquiry](#) into how to end the current underfunding crisis, and played a significant role in it.

**Want to see an active Friends Group for every public green**

**space**, and an active and independent Forum run by such groups in every area throughout the UK.

### **Parks Alliance**

Established 2013

Petition to protect HLF funding for parks.

We have with us today one of the Board, Matthew Bradbury, Chair and Chief Executive, Nene Park Trust

PA is key part of '**Parks Action Group**' which was established in September 2017 as a response to the select committee inquiry, to inform a new cross-departmental group of government departments.

### **Rethinking Parks published 2016**

#### **Key findings**

Public parks need to diversify their funding sources to meet size of cuts

New partners and people will contribute to parks

Cost savings needn't be at the expense of people's enjoyment of parks

# Support the Charter for Parks

## **National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces**

Lobbying government to:

- Recognise and celebrate central role of parks for communities
- Make good management a legal requirement
- Embed protection from development
- Ensure long-term resources for management / improvement
- Involve / empower local people and park users



Historic Landscape Project

Dave Morris, Chair: the Charter is still to be finalised, and we are holding a planning meeting at the beginning of May to finalise and prepare the Charter strategy - The Gardens Trust is invited to that meeting as a key 'founding' supporter

Lobbying government to

- Recognise and celebrate the central role of parks for communities
- Make it a legal requirement that public green space is well managed
- Embed protection from development and inappropriate use.
- Ensure long-term resources for management and improvement
- Encourage involvement and empowerment of local people and park users.

# Support the Charter for Parks

**Endorse the charter:** contact [chair@natfedparks.org.uk](mailto:chair@natfedparks.org.uk)

**THE CHARTER IS JOINTLY ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS SO FAR:**

National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces, The Parks Alliance, Fields In Trust, UNISON, Friends of the Earth, Greenspace Scotland, 38 Degrees, Keep Britain Tidy, The Gardens Trust, Parks Agency, The Conservation Volunteers, North West Parks Friends Forum, London Green Spaces Friends Groups Network, Parks for London, Campaign to Protect Rural England (London), London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies, Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, Friends of Birkenhead Pk, Clissold Pk User Group, Haringey Friends of Parks Forum  
*Version 7.3.2018*



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To find out more or endorse the Charter, please contact Dave Morris  
[chair@natfedparks.org.uk](mailto:chair@natfedparks.org.uk)

## What can we do at a Local Level?



Find in your packs a new handout prepared by David Lambert, summarising how CGTs can get involved.

Photo Abington Park

## Support and Join Friends Groups

- Over 6000 already exist
- 20,000 parks still need one
  
- Follow on social media
- Make contact
- Offer labour
- Share skills
- Set up partnership projects
  
- City Park Forums



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Friends Groups are becoming crucial for the successful management of parks and in securing additional funding (an average of £35k per year)

Over 6000 exist, but 20000 parks still need one.

- make contact with individual friends groups, and/or friends forum; - ask what help would be useful

Share skills - research

Offer labour

Set up partnership projects – research, events, gardening and maintenance - with friends groups (eg small grants)

**Sharing of volunteers benefits both groups – boost each**

**other's membership.**

**City Park Forums are umbrella groups for Friends...** eg  
Bristol Parks Forum, which Avon GT continues to be a member  
of

Images: Friends of Abington Park; Friends of Bestwood  
Country Park, Notts, learning a new skill: traditional hedge  
laying <http://www.fbcp.org.uk/photos-of-events---2018.html>

## Partnership Project: Devon

### **Devon Gardens Trust and the Friends of Homeyard Botanic Garden in Shaldon**

- DGT supported successful HLF bid
- Restored landmark building
- Funded and planted trees, with Friends and schoolchildren



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Devon GT worked with the Friends of Homeyards Botanical Garden on a successful HLF bid to restore the gardens

worked with local schools to plant 21 trees – they literally lent some labour.

Homeyards Botanical Garden created by Maria Laetitia Kempe Homeyard in the late 1920's. Her husband, William Newcombe Homeyard was the inventor and manufacturer of Liqufruta cough syrup. The garden was created from steeply sloping fields with a north facing aspect and the first piece of land was purchased by Mrs Homeyard a year after her husband's death. She lived in Ness Cottage at the eastern end of the gardens. The garden design was possibly influenced by various Cornish gardens, as her mother's family owned properties in Veryan and Portscatho.

The main feature of the gardens is the series of paths and terraces, offering glorious views of Teignmouth and beyond, with a Cupressus macrocarpa avenue leading down to a spring-fed pond. A sham castle was built in 1931 and was once used as a summer house. Now, sadly it is in a dilapidated state. Mrs

Homeyard died in 1944, and in 1950 Teignmouth Town Council purchased the gardens from the Public Trustee. The gardens were officially opened in 1955. In the early 1990's a Friends group was established and has cleared and restocked the pond, and published a leaflet on the history of the garden. Work in the gardens from 1995 to 2000 has seen the removal of the Cupressus macrocarpa avenue and the thinning of the dense screen planting along the garden boundary with Horse Lane. These works have provided considerably more light to this part of the garden. The maintenance of hard landscape features is ongoing and since 1997 the main flight of steps through the garden from Torquay Road were reconstructed.

## Sharing skills: Hertfordshire

### Friends of Jellicoe Water Gardens, Hemel Hempstead



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The Jellicoe Water Gardens was neglected and decaying in **2011** when **GHS and Kate Harwood put on a Study Day at Hemel.**

On the back of that, Kate started a Save our Serpent campaign and not only did the threat to build on the Water Gardens vanish but **the local council (Dacorum) apply for HLF to restore it.** As Erika has already said, this led to the gardens' removal from the Heritage at Risk Register.

The **Friends have successfully applied for funding from local sources** and have started a programme working with the local people to raise awareness, etc. They have an oral history project, a wildlife one (bat walks, pond-dipping etc) and heritage walks programme as well as a volunteers' garden where they hope to help children garden. They are also involved with a local centre for less-abled adults.

## Form New Friends Groups

Support formation of new Friends groups via CGT projects

e.g. East Midlands CGTs joint research and recording project – generate interest in park users and local community



Historic Landscape Project

Whenever possible, try to support the formation of new Friends groups through your projects.

For example, the East Midlands CGTs Project, of which you'll hear more later, will look at 8 sites. 2 don't yet have Friends group – Billing Road Cemetery and Mablethorpe. Hope to generate enough interest in local community, leading to formation of Friends Group as a legacy of the project.

## Support Park Improvements

### **Devon Gardens Trust**

Supported Plymouth City Council in HLF-funded rejuvenation of Freedom Fields and Devonport Park



### **Dorset Gardens Trust**

Small Grants Scheme supported

- Borough Gardens, Bournemouth
- Durlston County Park



Historic Landscape Project

Devon GT has supported Plymouth City Council in its excellent rejuvenation of Freedom Fields and Devonport Park. HLF have given PCC many millions of pounds and both parks are looking fantastic. Devonport Park in top photo.

The Dorset Gardens Trusts operates a Small Grants Scheme and offers grants to private owners as well as public authorities in the county. The garden owner is required to provide matched funding. They have supported the Upper, Middle and Lower Borough Gardens, Bournemouth- repairs to the cascade (EH Register)

and at Durlston Country Park (EH Register) with two Small Grants for the preparation of a Management Plan for the historic landscape as part of an HLF application and also a contribution to repairing the stone walls lining the carriage drives.

Bottom Photo Upper Gardens

<https://www.bournemouth.co.uk/things-to-do/bournemouth-upper-gardens-p2235053>

## Research and Recording

Research work = one of CGTs' vital strengths  
Key to understanding **significance**, which is crucial in conservation



CGTs have become extremely skilled in research, and this is key to conservation, especially with the emphasis now on understanding Significance.

- CGTs are busy researching local landscapes that would otherwise go unrecognized (as well as ones of national importance).
- This work includes days in the archives, but also involves walking the ground with a site survey and recording and an appreciation and noting of what survives in the landscape today as well as finding the details of its past.
- And of course, what you'll see about CGT research is that they are increasingly making sure that work is written up concisely, consistently, professionally.

Photos, Cuckfield, Sussex;  
Padworth

## Kent Compendium Review Project

The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens  
for Medway



War Memorial Gardens, Rochester



March 2015

The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens  
for Medway



Jacksons Recreation Ground and Fort Pitt  
Gardens, Chatham



November 2013

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Numerous examples of CGTs researching public parks and open spaces...

In the early 1990s, Kent Gardens Trust in association with Kent County Council produced a register of significant parks and gardens within the county (The Kent Gardens Compendium). This has been of considerable benefit to the various planning departments in Kent in enabling them to identify sites which will need to be protected. This is common to many CGTs.

But KGT since felt that this register needed to be updated and formalised in greater detail, so embarked on the Kent Compendium Review Project. Since 2009, a group of volunteers have been trained to systematically research and record gardens identified as being of significant historical or social interest.

all the reports are written up in an HE approved format and lodged with the HER.

Volunteers have now looked at parks and gardens in the areas covered by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Sevenoaks District Council and the reports have been presented to the two councils and

should provide valuable source material to the respective planning departments. They have also done some reports for Thanet District Council, Medway Council and now with Dover. They are very grateful to all the councils they have worked with for their support (which has often extended to finance).

# Produce a County Gazetteer

## Gloucestershire GLT:

- gazetteer of parks
- review of local council's Open/Green Space Planning Strategies



## Typology

- Parks & gardens – accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events
- Natural & semi-natural green spaces including woodland
- Green corridors
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Amenity green space
- Provision for children & young people
- Allotments, community gardens & urban farms
- Cemeteries, disused churchyards & other burial grounds
- Civic & market squares & other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians

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Chris Archibald, who is here today, undertaken huge amount of research for Gloucestershire GLT

## Gazetteer of parks

Interesting point = definition of public park... The list will include those spaces whose primary function is 'parks and gardens'  
Started to look at Open or Green space strategies in each council area.

Chris says:

The 2 urban areas (G City C & CBC) seemed fairly straightforward. Then I started to look at the rural areas – 3 have a strategy, F of Dean are putting one together.

When I looked at the Cotswold DC strategy I got even more confused as to 'what is a public park?'

It was a question I had asked at the beginning of this exercise but I could not find a satisfactory answer.

# Produce a County Gazetteer

## Devon GT:

- Nearly 20 years of research
- Over 170 sites, including 87 public parks
- Registered and unregistered sites
- Contributes to Local List



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Search

17th April 2025. A MONTHLY LIST OF NEW OPERATIONS

ABOUT RESEARCH CONSERVATION EDUCATION EVENTS PRESERVATION PRIORITY PUBLICATIONS GALLERY LINKS JOIN US

Devon Gardens Trust is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of gardens in the UK county of Devon

### Beaufort Park

**Statutory Designation:** Beaufort House is listed Grade I

District: Plymouth  
Parish: Plympton  
Grid ref: SX 248 340  
Map ref: Landranger 221  
Type of site: Urban park

**Description:**  
Formerly the grounds of Beaufort House, the seat of the Beaufort family, Beaufort House was, for a time used as the Plymouth museum. It was a Grade I listed building and a Registered Green and Blue List building. Francis Drake was Mayor of Plymouth 1581-2 and during his tenure opened Beaufort Park as a public park. There is a stone tablet to the wall here with the following inscription: "To mark the 100th of the game was played by Adamant Francis Drake, Mayor 1581 in commemoration of the opening of Beaufort Park". The park is mainly lawn with much tree in a garden style, with a brick covered path and formal building near Beaufort House. The principal access is marked by a bridge and there are several access points from neighbouring streets.

Beaufort Park  
Beaufort Park view through

**Planning**  
Conservation Area: 'No'  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: 'No'  
Area of Great Landscape Value: 'No'

## Produce a County Gazetteer

### Hampshire GT:

- Resurvey of parks surveyed by Hampshire County Council in 1996
- Recording change



"We are finding a mixed picture of heroic efforts at maintenance and improvement, and some very neglected sites"

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### Hampshire

Fareham DC has welcomed our work: "very well written, thorough and researched. This will be most useful, now and in the future. Well done to all involved".

A few copies of Sally Miller's summary report available today

*Top Photo Blendworth Crescent pocket park, Havant, now a building site, photo, Tony Hurrell, 2017*

## East Midlands Collaborative Project

- Joint project with five CGTs
- Training new volunteers from varied backgrounds, including local community
- Research, recording, significance
- 2 year pilot: 8 sites
- Unregistered public parks
- HLF Our Heritage funding application
- Working with existing Friends groups including Abington



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Collaborative project between the East Mids CGTs (Nthants, Lincolnshire, Notts, hopefully also Leics & Rutland, Derbyshire). HLF 'Our Heritage' application.

The project will seek to prioritise those significant (but un-Registered) designed landscapes which are considered most under threat. Whether prioritised or not, examples like Abington Park will make excellent training grounds for research, survey and recording. Stated Aims:

- To actively engage communities, helping them to learn about the significance of historic parks and gardens in their local area and conservation issues affecting them.
- To build future skilled volunteer capacity to ensure the continued study, protection and enjoyment of designed landscapes.
- To produce standardised research and recording output including Statements of Significance to enhance the protection of individual parks and gardens.

How to Deliver: Identify and mobilise local community groups for each site within the pilot project (building foundations of "Friends

of" groups).

Run education and training programmes on garden history, research, survey and recording, report writing (including Statements of Significance), conservation processes such as responding to planning applications, contributing to local and neighbourhood plans.

Organise fun activity days.

Writing Statements of Significance for individual sites which will be widely available via website(s).

Feedback of structured data and SoSs to HERs and P&GUK.

Outcomes:

- Helping to establish active and informed Friends groups for cherished public parks and gardens.
- Increasing active and appropriately skilled membership of our county gardens trusts.
- Enhancement of key local and national datasets.
- Production of Statements of Significance.
- Further HLF bid(s) to extend the research and recording to other designed landscapes, such as private estates.

Abington Park in Northampton is a good example of a public park, previously a private estate bequeathed to Northampton Corporation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and commemorating Queen Victoria's Jubilee. It is not included on Historic England's Register, but it contains several Listed Buildings, and is now also designated as a Conservation Area. It also already has a Friends Group. (However there are still management issues to resolve in relation to the historic elements of this landscape.)

## Share your Research

Research only becomes a useable tool in conservation once it is made available to those who need it:

- HERs
- Local Lists / Plans
- P&GUK
- Enriching the List

**Its importance for conservation grows exponentially, once it is linked to the planning system**



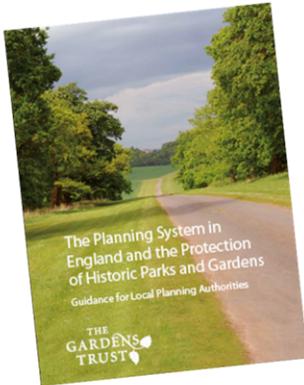
Historic Landscape Project

- This research is largely being inputted to HERs and PGUK, also into Local Lists and Local Plans

- PGUK update: relocated to Hestercombe Trust, Somerset  
Philip White: We are now at the stage where we would like feedback from County Gardens Trust recorders on the P&GUK report form

Your help at this stage would be invaluable as we would like to relaunch the new website at the Gardens Trust AGM in the certain knowledge that the County Gardens Trusts were consulted on its design.

## Gardens Trusts in the planning system



- Requirement for consultation: Article 18/Schedule 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.
- Before granting planning permission for development, LPAs are required to consult the Gardens Trust and Historic England.
  - Historic England in relation to Grades I and II\* registered sites
  - The Gardens Trust in relation to Grades I, II\* and II registered sites
- [consult@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:consult@thegardenstrust.org)

Statutory consultation requirements have been in place since 1995 in relation to 'development likely to affect' registered parks and gardens

**LPAs must consult the Gardens Trust on planning applications affecting all sites on the Register of Parks and Gardens.**

▪The GT turns to CGTs for help –their local knowledge, research, site visits and advice is invaluable

▪A response is written, sometimes by a CGT, sometimes by the GT and sometimes by both.

Last year, the GT is was consulted on around 1700 applications affecting historic landscapes in England, which we suspect is probably rather less than we should have been, and we hope that the planning leaflet will help to ensure the GT is more widely and consistently consulted.

▪The Gardens Trust receives local planning authority consultations relating to Grade I, II\* and II landscapes

▪All applications are logged in the GT Casework Log by the GT Casework Manager and circulated in a weekly list to CGTs

▪The GT Conservation Officer goes through the weekly list and determines which applications require a response

Set out in recent leaflet.

We also collate information on the outcome of planning applications, which is added to the Casework Log and gives a more complete picture of the conservation of historic designed landscapes, and demonstrates the impact of our work in the sector.

Don't forget that many CGTs are working on local list landscapes as well as the statutory consultation ones from the National Heritage List – increasingly this work is recorded on the Log also.

## Protection through Planning

- Comment on planning applications
- Remember to protect **setting**
- Check LPA weekly lists for applications affecting *unregistered* parks
- Help to ensure GT and CGTs are consistently consulted
- Watch out for changes which may *not* need planning permission



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look at monitor and comment on planning applications; GT is delighted that the majority of CGTs are responding to planning threats

Remember to protect **setting**, not just development within a park. new edition of 'The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning (Second Edition)' on 22 December, 2017.

Check LPA weekly lists for applications affecting unregistered parks. GT NOT a statutory consultee. Ask to be added to the LPA consultation lists.

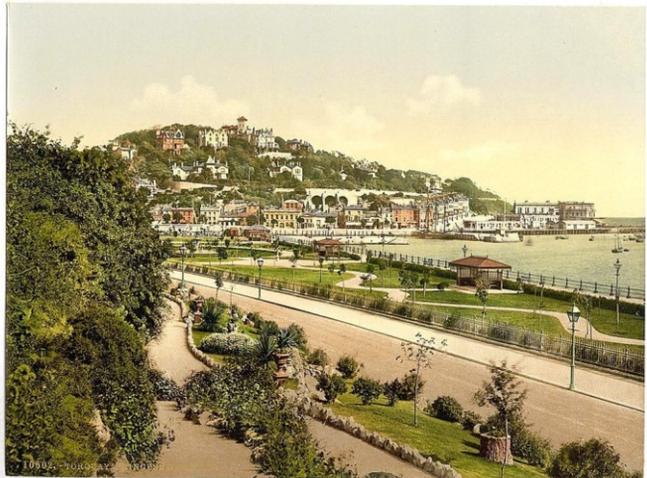
help to ensure the GT is more widely and consistently consulted on planning applications affecting registered sites. Continue to circulate the GT Planning Leaflet (further copies available on our website)

Watch out for changes which may not require planning permission, eg demolition of unlisted structures. Give conservation and historic management advice, including

commenting on local plans Example

## Influence Policy and Development

- Provide conservation and management advice to protect and enhance significances, eg Devon GT and Torbay Council
- Influence local planning policy, eg SCAPPS & Southampton City Council



### **Give conservation and historic management advice,**

It is more than likely that you will know more than the planners about the particular requirements of individual parks

### **Devon GT – advised Torbay Council over many years re improvements to Royal Terrace and Princess Gardens, Torquay.**

DGT - - Torbay Council Conservation, Planning & Parks officers have involved me over many years in plans for improving. Had input into masterplan.

Works included:

- Install new benches around the sunken garden
- Commission restoration of the fountain (winter 2017-18)
- Reinstate Fleur-de-Lys planting layout

In addition full maintenance of the gardens has now passed to the Natural Spaces team enabling them to have full control over maintenance and repairs, including to paths, edging etc.

Finally Torbay Council are preparing a funding bid for restoration of

the War Memorial.”

**including commenting on local plans Example  
SCAPPS (Southampton Commons and Parks Protection  
Society)**

The City Council wanted a policy in its overall planning strategy saying it should **try** to avoid loss of public open space. Permission would be given for development taking land from a park if land equal in area and quality was provided in replacement.

SCAPPS succeeded in getting that word 'try' removed. In consequence (& it's been an important turning point on several occasions) replacement land **has** to be provided if development is permitted taking land from parks and public green spaces. It was this wording that saved a small city centre park – Town Quay Park - from complete loss to housing development

SCAPPS pressed hard for change to wording of policies in the local plan for the city centre. As Graham Linecar told us 'Southampton has an unfortunate tendency to see tall buildings as an economic virility symbol'. A policy in the draft plan would have allowed tall buildings on roads facing the Parks.

SCAPPS objected because the result could be a continuous line of individual tall buildings on some frontages to the Central Parks. Eventually new wording was added requiring developments facing the Parks to respect and enhance the setting and character of the Parks, and the tall buildings policy was modified to allow only occasional, not continuous, tall buildings on any individual frontage – a concession but still a matter of regret to SCAPPS because tall buildings inevitably intrude in views within the Parks.

## Campaign

London PGT: 'Save Victoria Tower Gardens';  
GT, Wiltshire GT & Friends of Lydiard Park →  
withdrawal of development plans



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But don't necessarily just get involved at planning application stage.

Victoria Tower Gardens to south of Houses of Parliament.  
Site of international competition to design a new Holocaust Memorial to accompany several monuments already there and to build a Learning Centre underground. Seems unobtrusive but:  
Expected to attract 1m visitors per year – influx of people too high for small park.  
Even though underground needs long ramp, splitting park. Above ground servicing.  
Competition brief advises 'Victoria Tower Gardens has an existing memorial-narrative with a series of monuments associated with democracy: the abolition of slavery, the fight for universal suffrage and civic sacrifice. What it doesn't mention is that the site has also been designated as a 'Monument Saturation Zone' by Westminster Council.

LPGT working with the 'Save Victoria Tower Gardens Campaign'. Not opposed to creation of the centre and memorial but believe this is the wrong place. Change.org petition

Left is Lydiard Park. Private home gifted to borough council for use as public park. Swindon BC been in discussions re leasing it out privately. Additionally, developer has been in discussions to build 48 houses on its perimeter. GT and Wiltshire Gardens Trust has been very much in support of Friends of Lydiard Park. Has been withdrawn

## Oppose Budget Cuts

Comment on local authority budget plans

E.g. Bristol Parks Forum opposition to £4.5m funding cuts

Successful online petition



Historic Landscape Project

### Comment on local authority budget plans

Bristol City Council's published budget proposals show that they planned to stop funding parks from April 2019. The Council proposal was for the Parks Service to operate on a 'cost neutral' basis from April 2019 which means a budget cut of £4.5m.

Instead, they would rely on revenue generated from parks' events and other sources. Bristol Parks Forum, which Avon GT continues to be a member of and has a representative at their meetings, was naturally opposed to this idea, especially in view of the short time-scale. The locals set up an on line petition objecting to these cuts.

Last November, council decided to drop cost neutral plans, though a budget reduction of £3m is still proposed. Letter from Mayor: "I have fielded many questions from the media and stakeholders about original budget proposals and decision in February to achieve cost neutral budget by 2020. Well I am delighted to announce my decision (supported by the Mayor and Cabinet) to reduce the level of cuts we were proposing to make to the Parks budget to the tune of £1.69 million. This decision was made in the light of the experience

of other core cites and the evidence towards cost neutrality over 3 years just could not be achieved without totally decimating the service and that is not our direction of travel.”

Photo Eastville Park, Bristol

[https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=eastville+park+bristol&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwihzPCQstXaAhULL8AKHftWAQcQ\\_AUICygC&biw=1920&bih=900#imgrc=5FNF5wm8JEONSM](https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=eastville+park+bristol&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwihzPCQstXaAhULL8AKHftWAQcQ_AUICygC&biw=1920&bih=900#imgrc=5FNF5wm8JEONSM):

## Raise Awareness

- Write letters to local councillors and MP
- Supply news to local press
- Help to educate local community and other stakeholders: exhibition, publication, leaflet, open day, app etc
- Promote a sense of ownership



**The more people get to know a park, the more they will care what happens to it.**

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Write letters to local councillors and MP

Supply news to local press

Help to educate the local community and other stakeholders (via exhibition, publication, leaflet, open day, app etc)– the more people know about a park, the more they will care what happens to it.

Example: Dorset GT: We also operate a scheme where we write and design a notice board and make a contribution towards the Board at :

Pageant Gardens – DGT Local List, Paddock Gardens, Sherborne - DGT Local List

Members of our Research and Record group have written a guide book for the Borough Gardens, Dorchester (HE Register).

Photos Arnot Hill Park, Nottm

## Report Problems

- Report vandalism and anti-social behaviour to park managers, Friends groups and local authority
- Contact HE's Heritage at Risk programme about actual and potential threats, such as proposed development



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## Enjoy your local park!

- Visit your park regularly and explore a variety of ways to enjoy it



- Use social media
- Broadcast its popularity and value to all

Continue to use your park and broadcast its popularity to all.

explore a variety of ways to enjoy it

Bottom: players of augmented reality game Pokemon Go en masse at monthly community event Highfields Park, Nottingham.

Use social media (don't forget to tag the park / local authority!)

Top right:

[https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=eastville+park+bristol&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwihzPCQstXaAhULL8AKHfTWAQcQ\\_AUICygC&biw=1920&bih=900#imgrc=ATZkN9XsxiB3zM](https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=eastville+park+bristol&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwihzPCQstXaAhULL8AKHfTWAQcQ_AUICygC&biw=1920&bih=900#imgrc=ATZkN9XsxiB3zM):

Left: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-22231625>

Retired history teacher and chairman of the Northamptonshire Postcard Club, Doug Goddard has brought together postcards which show Abington Park over the years. It was opened in 1897 and includes the former village of Abington, the site of a medieval manor house.

## Enjoy your local park!

"Our local parks and public green spaces are vital for everyone and every community - and for all age groups and interests.

They are an essential and unique service promoting relaxation, recreation and play, wildlife and bio-diversity, attractive walking and cycling routes, green jobs and skills, heritage, flood control, health and social well-being, and community cohesion."



*Draft Charter for Parks, NFPGP, April 2018*

The Charter for Parks reminds us of some of these values....

Photo: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-22231625>

Retired history teacher and chairman of the Northamptonshire Postcard Club, Doug Goddard has brought together postcards which show Abington Park over the years. It was opened in 1897 and includes the former village of Abington, the site of a medieval manor house. V



THE  
GARDENS  
TRUST

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Twitter: @leapthehaha

Facebook: The Gardens Trust

[www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

Resource Hub

Historic Landscape Project

Thanks to all our inspiring speakers and to the Friends for their tour and to all of you who have come today and shared your enthusiasm