

Thursday 29 October – For immediate release

**Diary date:
Making it Safe
17 November 2009
London**

GreenSpace's next conference, Making it Safe will take place on Tuesday 17 November at the Royal Geographical Society in London. The conference, which will focus on how to successfully tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in parks and green spaces, is organised in partnership with IPGS.

Crime in our parks is a continuing and serious problem and, although much excellent work has been undertaken to reduce antisocial behaviour in green spaces, there are always new challenges and issues to address. Park managers need to stay informed and be aware of the latest developments in order to ensure that their parks are safe and welcoming to all.

Topics explored at Making it Safe will include: how to reduce the problems associated with dogs in parks, how design can influence and improve crime rates in open space, how to encourage young people to use parks in a responsible way, and how to successfully tackle graffiti and vandalism.

Paul Bramhill, chief executive of GreenSpace, said: "We all know the importance of reducing crime in public parks and green space, but it is a particularly challenging task and one that requires constant attention. This conference will provide delegates with an insight into the latest tools and methods being used to curb antisocial behaviour, and the opportunity to explore how to create safe and accessible spaces."

The one-day event will consist of packed programme of presentations during the morning session, followed by a choice of workshops, case studies or site tours in the afternoon. To find out more and book a place, please call Caroline Carsey on 0118 946 9068, email events@green-space.org.uk or go to www.green-space.org.uk.

-Ends-

-Notes to Editors-

- For further information, or to arrange a press pass, please contact:

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- GreenSpace is a registered charity which works to improve parks and green spaces by raising awareness, involving communities and creating skilled professionals. For more information please go to www.green-space.org.uk

- **Presentations include:**

Derek Pollock, Ex-OCU Commander, Metropolitan Police

Derek Pollock has over 30 years of experience policing The Royal Parks and will discuss how tackling crime and antisocial behaviour in parks is an ever-changing challenge. Both past and present issues and approaches will be explored, including the recent initiative that has seen Safer Parks teams engaging with communities to identify local problems and find lasting solutions.

Developing effective partnerships to give communities confidence

Peter Owens, Parks Community Liason Officer, Cardiff City Council

Through employing a dedicated antisocial behaviour case worker and developing a database to record incidents in the city's parks, Cardiff City Council has been able to respond to antisocial behaviour with speed, targeted provision and a positive public-facing approach. Peter Owens will explain how working in partnership with the police and private partners is vital to their success.

Providing young people with opportunities to make parks safer

Steve Rice, Neighbourhood Inspector, Merseyside Police

Operation Safespace takes place in Merseyside's parks and green space to make them safe and welcoming to all during the summer months. Steve Rice will explain how Merseyside Police and partner agencies, including Liverpool City Council and Youth Services, delivered a programme of diversionary events aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour by providing young people with opportunities to take part in a range of activities and youth engagement.

Transforming graffiti from a problem into an opportunity

Samantha Ward, Technical Officer, Calderdale Council

Graffiti can make a park look neglected and is a frequently occurring and costly nuisance for park managers. In Brighouse, this issue has been approached as an opportunity to engage young people through the introduction of a legal graffiti wall combined with workshops led by professional graffiti artists. Samantha Ward will explain how this initiative has helped to reduce unwanted graffiti in Wellholme Park, enabling young people and the community alike to feel proud of their local environment.

Successfully dealing with dogs in parks

Stephen Jenkinson, Access and Countryside Management Consultant

Dog owners are often loyal, daily users of green space, but can present certain challenges for park managers who need to ensure a site can be enjoyed by all. Stephen Jenkinson will discuss the issues and look at practical ways to manage conflicts and educate all parties involved so that dog owners can responsibly use their local parks and green spaces.

Delegates choose to attend a workshop, a series of case studies or a site tour:

Workshop 1: Dangerous dogs in parks

Mark Callis, Dog Control Manager, London Borough of Wandsworth

Certain breeds of dog are increasingly being used by young people as status symbols and intimidation tools, especially in parks and open spaces. This workshop will look at how the 'People with Dogs Project' has reduced antisocial behaviour through education and a DVD that encourages young people to consider how they are perceived by others.

Workshop 2: Designing out crime

Paul Chapman, European Projects Manager and Martin Hyde, Parks Regeneration Manager,
London Borough of Lewisham

The EU-funded QUERCUS project adopted a model to 'design out crime' in order to restore confidence in Lewisham's Ladywell Fields and create a safe environment for the new Cornmill Gardens. This workshop will focus on sharing the learning from the project and how to apply the toolkit to design out crime in other parks and green spaces.

Workshop 3: Creating safe spaces for the whole community

Adriana Marques and Tony Beckwith, Green Heart Partnership and Haring Woods Studio

The Hertsmere Community Spaces project aims to provide three innovative youth shelters that also invite use by the wider community. This workshop will explore how working in partnership to discover what both young people and local residents want, as well as any concerns about potential conflicts of interest, can result in safe and accessible spaces that all can enjoy.

Case Studies:

Turning a place around

Michael Rowland, Leisure Policy Manager, Bournemouth City Council

Boscombe Chine Gardens was once a target for antisocial behaviour, but the provision of new facilities and the inclusion of play and sport opportunities have transformed the site into a thriving community asset.

Young people speaking out

Tim Cooper, Programme Manager, Groundwork Solent

Young people from the Rowner estate in Gosport, one of the most deprived wards in the country, have taken on the role of junior wardens as part of Groundwork Solent's Mix Up scheme and have already made a real difference by taking part in community clean ups and the creation of a youth garden.

Taking youth seriously: providing a stimulating environment

Michael Rowan, Director of Mile End Park, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Being aware that the term 'vandalism' is not always appropriate for all issues that arise in Mile End Park has led to a multi-faceted approach to the challenge of making the site safe for all, including providing facilities such as youth shelters, a fire pit, skateboard park and graffiti wall.

Site Tour 1: Hyde Park

This tour will give delegates the opportunity to visit Hyde Park and learn more about how The Royal Parks work to ensure it is safe and welcoming to all.