

Green Flag Award and Biodiversity

Bob Mullins
GFA Judges Association
East Midlands



GFA Judging Criteria

- Total of eight judging criteria
- Biodiversity particularly relevant to three separate but inter-linked judging criteria
 - Sustainability
 - Conservation and Heritage
 - Community Involvement
- Sub-criteria has potential to affect up to 25% of total marks



Sustainability

- Environmental policy or charter and management strategy
- Pesticide use minimised and justified
- Peat use eliminated (working towards)
- Waste plant material recycled
- Resource conservation measures should be used



Conservation and Heritage

- Natural features, wildlife and fauna
- Landscape features



Community Involvement

- Knowledge of the user community and levels and pattern of use
- Community involvement in park management and/or development and results achieved
- Appropriate levels of provision of facilities for all sectors of the community



Judges look for

- Corporate commitment through statements, policies, action
- Site level commitment through audit, assessment, planning, action - best practice
- Community involvement in audit, assessment, planning, action



Best Practice

- Audits of flora and fauna leading to management plans/regimes, e.g.
 - Grasslands
 - Woodlands
 - Bird audits
- Recycling / re-use
 - Park furniture
 - Mulch
 - Brash piles
- Interpretation / information
 - Why?



Community involvement

- Education - schools
 - Environmental 'fun days'
 - Guided walks
 - Growing competitions
 - Education packs
- Audits
 - Volunteer training - species recognition
 - Bio-blitz
- Fundraising
 - Community led
- Physical improvements
 - Volunteer tasks



Leading to...



Questions

