

Communities and Local Government Committee,
House of Commons,
London.
SW1A 0AA.

Monday, 19 December 2016

Dear Members of the Committee,

The Communities and Local Government Select Committee - Inquiry into Public Parks and Open Spaces

As you know The Parks Alliance (TPA) have taken a keen interest in the Committee's Inquiry into the Future of Public Parks and we look forward to hearing what conclusions you reach following the wide range of evidence that you have received on the topic.

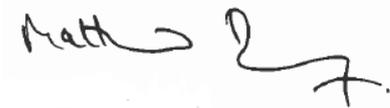
We were also interested to hear the evidence that you received from the Minister responsible, Andrew Percy MP, on 5th December 2016. We were particularly pleased to hear his enthusiasm for parks and willingness to work with others to promote good practice. As part of the inquiry, the Committee has asked a wide range of individuals and organisations for their views on the merits of a Statutory Duty relating to public parks. We addressed this in our written evidence and I am writing to make clear that our position is as set out in our written evidence. This is summarised in Paragraph 4.8 of our written evidence.

"The Parks Alliance recognises that many people, particularly users of public parks would welcome the provision of such assets becoming a statutory service. We note too, that successive governments have chosen not to make it one. For The Parks Alliance, the question boils down to is there a credible plan for ensuring the viability of our Public Parks and Open Spaces? If there is not, then the case for it to become a statutory service is considerably strengthened. Were the Committee to recommend that parks and open spaces become a statutory service, this would be supported by The Parks Alliance".

(paragraph 4.8)

I hope that this is helpful as the Committee continues its deliberations. I am copying this letter to Andrew Percy MP as well for information.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Bradbury, Chair, The Parks Alliance

Cc: *by email Andrew Percy MP, CLG Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
by email Helen Finlayson, Second Clerk, Communities and Local Government Committee*