



Mr Clive Betts MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

2 December 2016

Dear Mr Betts,

Communities and local government select committee inquiry into public parks – examples of good practice from abroad

Thank you for inviting the TCPA to give oral evidence to the inquiry into public parks on 14 November.

Towards the end of the session, as part of the TCPA's evidence, I said that the benefits that parks and green infrastructure provide to society in England are happening almost by default, and that we are not planning, designing, managing and maintaining our green infrastructure to optimise its benefits in the way that other countries are doing. You later asked me if I would send you examples of good practice from abroad, which is the purpose of this letter.

All of the following projects take a holistic approach to creating and / or managing green infrastructure for a wide range of benefits, such as: people's physical health, mental health, economic growth, climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation (eg reduction in flash flooding, reduction in heat island effect) ect. However, for ease of reference particularly impressive aspects of each one are highlighted in the heading.

- 1. Green infrastructure to help climate change adaptation:** from 2009-12 the TCPA was the lead partner in the award-winning EU funded project, Green and Blue Space adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns (**GRaBS**). As part of this we created the GRaBS database of green infrastructure and climate change case-studies, which you can download from this page: <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/green-infrastructure-adaptation-in-europe>
- 2. Green infrastructure and new housing: Hammarby Sjostad, Stockholm, Sweden**
See: <http://www.aeg7.com/assets/publications/hammarby%20sjostad.pdf>
- 3. A well-governed and robustly funded parks organisation: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board**
Managing a network of parks for culture, local character, tourism, health, sustainability etc.
See: <https://www.minneapolisparcs.org>

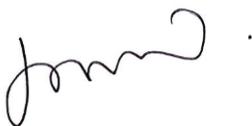
4. **Atlanta Beltline – creating a network of green spaces to connect neighbourhoods, get people out of cars, stimulate economic growth, encourage volunteering and citizen engagement, involve the private sector.**
See: <https://beltline.org/about/the-atlanta-beltline-project/atlanta-beltline-overview>
5. **Using green infrastructure to reduce flash flooding: The City of Copenhagen Cloudburst Management Plan**
See: http://www.deltacities.com/documents/WEB_UK_2013_skybrudsplan.pdf
6. **Training and integrating marginal communities eg refugees – Parks Victoria, Australia**
Parks Victoria is impressive in many ways, but this seems particularly relevant in terms of training, education and integration.
See: <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/about-us/news/first-park-ranger-traineeship-a-refugees-dream-come-true>

We hope that the above examples will inspire the committee to raise its sights in terms of what our country's valuable networks of green spaces could do for us if only they were enhanced and managed deliberately to achieve specific benefits for society and the economy.

Finally, the TCPA has just signed the contract to be the lead partner on a new five-year project, funded by INTERREG Europe, to look at the economic benefits of green infrastructure. Called PERFECT (planning for environment and resource efficiency in European cities and towns), this project will start on 2 January. For more information see: <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/news/tcpa-secures-new-eu-project-on-green-infrastructure>

We would, of course, be happy to talk to the committee about any of the above if it would be useful.

Yours sincerely,



Julia Thrift
Director of Projects
Julia.thrift@tcpa.org.uk