



The Land Trust

How to work with Communities

Euan Hall
Chief Executive



Public Open Space Delivers



- Economic regeneration.
- Health benefits.
- Social cohesion.
- Environmental Improvements:
 - Flood defence,
 - Mitigates climate change.
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour.

Does all this sound familiar?



The Big Society



- **Localism: People should shape the place they live.**
 - get involved.
 - make local decision,
 - run local amenities including public space.
- **Financial accounting, fundraising, marketing, land management, bio-diversity action plans, public liability, risk management, health and safety etc.**
- **The job of a volunteer?**



Millennium Greens

- 1996 – 245 Space successfully created/restored.
- Involved local people, established local trusts.
- Funding short term.
- Management of greens is now a liability?
- Who picks up the tab?
- Many have fallen into disrepair.
- Others search for the next hand out - even the successful ones.
- Problems of on going management have now been acknowledged.
- **But it simply doesn't have to be this way.**



The Land Trust

- **Cost effective solution for all public open space;**
 - (not just Brownfield)
- **Holds land for public benefit – forever;**
 - (also interim Management)
- **Endowment Funding;**
 - (or other sustainable source eg. service charge, renewable energy).





The Current Portfolio



- **Currently own 21 sites managed at a local level by:**
 - Wildlife Trusts.
 - RSPB
 - Local Authority
 - Community groups.
- **Objective community benefit and community involvement.**
- **Providing advice, managing risk support and holding funds.**



Our Approach the Small “o”



- Empowering communities to take ‘ownership’ of the project, from design to delivery and beyond.
- Removing the hurdles.
- Allowing the community to focus on the achievable not the painful!
- Ensures that future generations are still involved rather than creating a transient band of disillusioned and disenfranchised volunteers.
- Emotional ownership without the liabilities.



The Big Society in Action



- Over 17,000 school children on educational activities.
- Over 20,000 people on structured health activities.
- Over 6000 Training Activities
- Over 23,000 community events including innovative projects working with children with 'behaviour problems.'
- Over 3 000 volunteer days.



It Also Makes Commercial Sense

- **Exit route for non core land to amenity activity.**
- **Protection & maintenance of asset value.**
- **Generating increased rental value.**
- **Creating value for the wider economy.**
- **Removes the risk to reputation, sustainability or credibility.**
- **Releases burden of operational management (cost/time).**
- **Removes a liability from the balance sheet.**
- **Provides CSR benefits.**
- **Increasing retail footfall.**



Thank You

