Parks and Open Spaces: Keeping our Air Clean in a Post-Covid Era

Chair: Tomos Joyce, Project Officer
Today’s Speakers

Tony Leach
Chief Executive
Parks for London

Jacqueline Bleicher
Urban Design Director
Global Urban Design

Susannah Wilks
Director
Cross River Partnership

Fiona Coull
Project Manager
Cross River Partnership

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Project Officer
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Ross Phillips
Project Officer
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Rachael Aldridge
Project Officer
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Speaker
Speaker
Speaker
Speaker
Chair / Speaker
Chat Moderator
Webinar tech support
Today’s Agenda

1. CRP Introduction / Parks Context
2. PfL: The Role of Parks and Open Spaces
3. GUD: Placemaking Suitable for a Post-Covid Era
4. Green Spaces: Their Role in Our Streets

Have your say:
Q/A session after each presentation
Introduction to Cross River Partnership

Susannah Wilks, CRP Director
CRP Projects

- Healthy Streets Everyday
- EV Fleet-Centred Local Energy System
- Clean Air Villages
- Central London Sub-Regional Transport Partnership
CRP’s Vision

Rick Miller, 2018
Park-led Recovery

Money doesn't grow on trees...

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Delivering London's Future Together
Green Infrastructure and Low Emission Neighbourhoods
Cross River Partnership is working at pace to help support communities, Local Authorities and private bodies with their Covid-19 response.

**Physical Interventions**

1 - 2m

**Monitoring**

![Graphs and pie chart]

**Guidance**

![Books and symbols]

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**CRP’s Support for Green Infrastructure**

Delivering London’s Future Together
The Importance of Parks and Open Spaces

Tony Leach, Parks for London

Safeguarding our green spaces
Parks and green spaces: keeping our air clean

Urban parks

Effective tool for noise & air pollution mitigation.
Can reduce noise NO\textsubscript{x}, CO and PM\textsubscript{10} values and increase O\textsubscript{3} levels.
Can contribute to pollen allergies.

Green Infrastructure: keeping our air clean

Trees, SUDs, roof gardens, hedges, vertical plantings, etc

Parks & green spaces: during Covid-19

- Lockdown has had a bigger impact on mental than physical health, but parks are a lifeline
- Physical and mental health boosted by parks say 70%
- 60% have used parks at least twice a week since lockdown
- 7 in 10 younger people will continue to visit parks more than before lockdown

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park survey June 2020
Green infrastructure: post Covid 19

Levelling Up 2b - Greening Urban Neighbourhoods by providing greener streets

Through our analysis of 3,500 of the UK’s most deprived neighbourhoods (bottom four deciles on the Index of Multiple Deprivation), we have identified some 10,000 km of streets where street trees or a street park would offer significant green connectivity. Green streets that encourage and facilitate active travel and visits to wider green infrastructure.

A capital investment of £2.5 billion (plus £477m in maintenance and operations per annum) would provide all these neighbourhoods with street trees and 600 neighbourhoods with street parks.

As a result, some 15 million people would benefit from the proximity of these green streets and street parks to their homes. Green connectivity to other greenspaces and the opportunities this presents for active travel.

Greenkeeper therefore estimates that this proximity and accessibility would deliver some £390 million per year in wellbeing benefits for these deprived neighbourhoods and a further £180 million/year in general amenity. They would also benefit from the air pollution quality improvements these changes would deliver.

Using Green Book compliant methods and strong empirical evidence, Greenkeeper estimates that for every £1 invested, £3 of benefits would be generated over 30 years.

In addition, some 16,000 jobs would be involved in construction and 1,300 permanent jobs would be created, nearly all in deprived areas.

http://www.greenkeeperuk.co.uk/
Parks for London: Tools to help

Good Parks for London

Health Parks

Overall scores

A Multiple Park Analysis
The Average Current Health Status of Small Parks by Ward
Questions?

Safeguarding our green spaces
Placemaking Suitable for a Post-Covid Era

Jacqueline Bleicher, Global Urban Design
“Keeping our Air Clean: Parks & Open spaces”

JACQUELINE BLEICHER, MA.UD, RIBA, ARB

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COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

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“Jacqueline Bleicher is the founding Director of Global Urban Design (GUD), a Community Interest Company.

She is an Urban Designer, Architect, Masterplanner, Placemaker, workshop facilitator, Lecturer, Mentor, and Co-Author of “Our City? Countering exclusion in public space”, a book by Stipo, Project for Public Spaces (PPS) & the Placemaking Europe Network.

Jacqueline actively promotes co-design, urban design principles, universal design and sustainable development practices for inclusive diverse, cities, destinations and places.”
“Keeping our Air Clean: Parks & Open spaces”

- Attractive green spaces can improve mental health, reduce stress and increase physical activity.
- Pollutants deposited onto vegetation surfaces can reduce downwind pollution exposure.
- Strategically placed roadside vegetation can improve air quality via air dispersion, BVOC emissions, and pollen emissions; and indirect effects via cooling.
- Urban flora can have direct air quality effects via air dispersion, BVOC emissions, and pollen emissions; and indirect effects via cooling.
- Ozone formation from NOx + sunlight + bVOC emissions.

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“Parks & Open spaces for biodiversity and wildlife”
“Parks & Open spaces mitigating the heat island effect”
“Parks & Open spaces: Trees that absorb Co2”

- Mediterranean Hackberry (*Celtis australis*)
- Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
- Field Elm (*Ulmus minor*)
“Parks & Open spaces: Trees that improve air quality”

Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*)

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)

Littleleaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*)
Changes in UK mobility patterns in 2020

Source: Google (2020) Community Mobility Reports; CCC analysis.
“Greening our Streets - Paris”
“Improving existing parks”
“Creating large Regional Parks and Trusts”

CREATING A NATIONAL PARK FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS

A NEW 21ST CENTURY IDENTITY

Professor Kathryn Moore

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“Keeping our Air Clean: Individual Initiatives”
“UK facilitation of green infrastructure”
Questions?

Global Urban Design
A DESIGN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
Facts and Statistics

Over 9,000 Londoners die prematurely each year as a result of air pollution

£3.7 billion is the cost of air pollution to London’s economy

Physical inactivity directly contributes to one in six deaths in the UK and the morbidity it causes costs business and wider society billions of pounds a year

43% of all cars are parked on-street, taking up well over 1,400 hectares of space (equivalent to 10 Hyde Parks in size)

Psychosis and depression occur at higher rates in urbanised areas and in the UK, 1 in 4 people now experience mental health issues
“We need to urgently reconsider use of street space to provide safe and appealing spaces to walk and cycle as an alternative to car use ..”

London Streetspace Plan (May 2020)
The Healthy Streets Approach is a global policy framework that “puts people and their health at the centre of decisions about how we design, manage and use public spaces”.

It aims to make streets healthy, safe and welcoming for everyone by prioritising people and their needs.

Underpinning the Healthy Streets Approach are 10 ‘Healthy Street Indicators’ that are used to create healthy streets.
Healthy Streets Everyday (HSE) – Putting the Approach in Practice

Urban Greening

Car Free Activities

School Streets
HSE Parklet Guidance

3.2 Designing the parklet: basic principles & considerations

Location and orientation

- Site selection should be based on the availability of space and the potential for public access.
- Considerations should include proximity to existing transportation networks, pedestrian flow, and local amenities.
- Evaluate the surrounding context to ensure compatibility and enhance community engagement.

Materials

- Choose materials that are durable, environmentally friendly, and accessible.
- Consider cost, maintenance requirements, and aesthetic appeal.

Furniture

- Select seating options that accommodate various use cases and user groups.
- Ensure comfort and functionality, including considerations for accessibility.
- Consider the impact on the surrounding environment.

3.5 Finalising & Installing the Parklet

- Prepare a detailed installation plan to ensure smooth execution.
- Coordinate with relevant stakeholders to address any potential issues.
- Monitor progress to maintain quality and safety standards.

Checklist

- Verify compliance with all relevant regulations and guidelines.
- Ensure proper installation and safety inspection.
- Conduct post-installation reviews to gather feedback and identify areas for improvement.

Completed works

- Document the final parklet design and installation process.
- Share findings and lessons learned with the broader community and stakeholders.
What is a Parklet?

“A temporary pavement extension which would sit in existing parking bays”
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Benefits</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social</strong></td>
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<td>• Physical and mental health</td>
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<td>• Community</td>
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<td>• Visual and aesthetic</td>
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<td>• Upskilling</td>
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<td>• Reduction in crime &amp; antisocial behaviour</td>
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<td><strong>Environmental</strong></td>
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<td>• Air quality</td>
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<td>• Temperature reduction and shading</td>
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<td>• Biodiversity</td>
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<td>• Food production</td>
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<td><strong>Economic</strong></td>
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<td>• Increased footfall and cycling</td>
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<td>• Increased dwell time</td>
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<td>• Increased productivity, reduced staff turnover, and job creation</td>
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<td>• Revenue growth</td>
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### Parklet Design & Implementation

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<th>Basic Principles</th>
<th>Tailored Design</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Engagement</td>
<td>Use of Space</td>
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<td>Safety</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
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Providing Resilience

Parklets can rapidly adapt to changes in both the short and long term, providing additional value and ensuring community and business resilience.

(Meristem Design)
Streets for All Londoners
Questions?
Final observations
Ditch Diesel: Your Electric Vehicle Options Explained

Join us for our next Live Share session!

Thursday 30th July at 2pm
Thank You!

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