

LAF National Conference – Workshop Feedback Form

Name of workshop: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

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Presentation main points:

Explanation given of what Green Infrastructure is, practical uses. Workshop delegates referred to Green Infrastructure Guidance taken from Natural England web site – weblink:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033?category=49002>

Key issues and concerns:

- Green Infrastructure is constructed but not built – antithesis of the built environment.
- Partners in the green infrastructure work were identified as:
 - Housing Developers
 - Housing Providers
 - Local Authorities –planning department, they are the main influence, health agenda link
 - Cycling lobbies
 - Parks/Greenspace Forums
 - Local Nature Partnerships
 - Local Wildlife Trusts
 - Friends of Groups
 - Volunteers
 - Open Spaces Forum
- It is not the users role to say what green infrastructure is, however they know when it is taken away
- LAFs are there to build relationships with key workers
- Connectivity is very important

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- LAFs can look at examples of developments and whether green infrastructure contributed to the objectives of the development
- If the green infrastructure concept is not built into the local authority it will not be built into developments
- Where developments are taking place green infrastructure is a very useful concept to build on to get new facilities for community access, Rights of Way and enjoyment
- If there is a green infrastructure strategy in place it enables the decision to be made to determine where development money can go. Community Infrastructure Levy can be directed to finance green infrastructure investment.
- Examples were given of different LAF involvements in local green infrastructure strategies e.g. looking to consulting on soft design, creativity for connections e.g. to Country Parks, wider countryside
- Connecting is one of the main issues
- Green infrastructure is one way of increasing access to other pleasant environments, people will be more likely to access them
- Maintenance of green infrastructure is an issue
- Green infrastructure is a useful tool but not useful all the time.

Learning points/conclusions:

- LAFs have a role in Green infrastructure
- LAFs should influence Green Infrastructure Strategy. LAFs cannot get involved in every development therefore need to work at a more strategic level.
- LAFs need to input into the development and re-writing of Green Infrastructure strategies to provide experience knowledge and advice
- LAFs are there to promote green infrastructure, defend it, protect it and uphold the values of the Green Infrastructure strategy.