

Sustainable Management of Green Spaces



“The only true test of a manager in any walk of life is whether they are making the most of the resources at their disposal”

Changing Definitions

- It's interesting to Google 'Sustainable' or 'Sustainable management'
- Evidently – notably - there's now an innate and necessary link between sustainable management and conservation, ecology & being greener
- That prompted me to check through an old dictionary in the office...

Changing Definitions – ‘Sustainable’

1988 – Oxford dictionary

- No definition for the word or term ‘Sustainable’ at all

2001 – Oxford dictionary

- Capable of being sustained
- (Of economic development, energy sources, etc.)
capable of being maintained at a steady level without exhausting natural resources or causing severe ecological damage:
sustainable development

Changing Definitions

- Move forward again – to the wealth of internet dictionaries and similar sites – and even the 2001 definition is out of date.
- Now – commonly – there's a more sophisticated and developed set of definitions, including a third element
- Able to be maintained at a certain rate or level
- Conserving an ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources:
- *Able to be upheld or defended*

So...

- There's now a clear and common understanding that doing something sustainably is right and is good
- And this applies across sectors, organisations and businesses
- Let's think about how this relates to grounds maintenance and managing green & public spaces

Why be sustainable?

Pressures

- Limited resources:
- Time
- Money
- Staff
- Energy & Fuels

Opportunities

- Better practice
- Improved biodiversity
- Supporting native wildlife
- Community engagement
- Encouraging & Reviving traditional skills

Current practice in Frome

- Involving Communities & People
- Encouraging Volunteers
- Reduced and more sensitive cutting regimes
- Favouring resilient and hardy planting
- Grasses, Shrubs, Perennials & Trees
- Electric vehicles

Future ideas

- Electric tools, from hedge cutters to chainsaws
- Increased recycling
- Upcycling & Re-use
- Uncut grass & Wildflowers
- 1 tree planted for every new build
- Sites managed without petrol or diesel

Just as important...

- Joining sites together (Green Infrastructure)...
- ...but celebrating & enhancing the feel, heritage and identity of each site
- Communicating – posters; signs; social media

