

Green Infrastructure – Is it just a matter of joining up the green dots?

Key Issues to Consider!!

Andrew Jones

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Green Infrastructure is the life support system
- the network of natural environment components and green and blue spaces that lies within and between cities, towns and villages and which provides multiple social, economic and environmental benefits

BENEFITS

- Climate Change adaptation and mitigation
- Flood alleviation and Water management
- Quality of Place
- Health and Well-being
- Land and Property values
- Economic growth and Investment
- Labour productivity
- Tourism
- Recreation and Leisure
- Land and Biodiversity
- Products from the land

CURRENT CONTEXT

- Biodiversity Conservation -
publically/politically resonant
- Climate Change Paradox
- Constraint v Benefit
- Legislation & policy - fit for purpose
- New paradigm required - how do we achieve?

ISSUES

- Green = Bio-diverse?
- Biodiversity - a component part
- Breaking out of the past?
- Easily understood? - It needs to be strategically planned at a spatial scale which recognises the interdependencies and transference that exist across and between administrative and political boundaries!
- Theory v Reality – translating values into action

ISSUES

- Multi-functionality
- Translating to the Regional and Local Context
- Focus - New Development v Retrofit
- Powers and Responsibilities
- Who Pays? - Economic values in public decision making – (externalities/internalities – market based conservation)
- Allies and Adversaries – who, why?
- What & Who is the new Ecologist?