

The Green Infrastructure Partnership: what it is and why you should be involved

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What is 'green infrastructure'?

'Green Infrastructure can be broadly defined as a strategically planned network of high quality natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, which is designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services and protect biodiversity in both rural and urban settings.'

Building a Green Infrastructure for Europe, DG
Enviro, EU 2013



The multiple benefits of green infrastructure (GI):

- *Foster a better quality of life and human well-being*
- *Improve biodiversity*
- *Protect us against climate change*
- *Encourage a smarter, more integrated approach to development*



The economic benefits of GI:

‘Investing in Green Infrastructure (GI) makes sound economic sense – a single area of land can offer multiple benefits, provided its ecosystems are in a healthy condition.’



The Green Infrastructure Partnership:

‘We will establish a Green Infrastructure Partnership with civil society to support the development of green infrastructure in England.’

Natural Environment White Paper, 2011



The Green Infrastructure Partnership:

From 2012 until 31 March 2014...

- Was co-ordinated by Defra
- Grew to 300+ members (individuals and organisations)
- Members volunteered to run themed workgroups (little or no project funding from Defra)

The Green Infrastructure Partnership:

Key workstreams from 2012 until today...

- GI and the built environment
- Planning large-scale GI and ecosystems services
- Delivering GI at a local level
- Valuing and funding GI

Government steps back...

- In 2013 Defra announced that it would no longer be able to co-ordinate the GIP
- Asked for members' views
- TCPA offered to take on the GIP (with no funding!)
- Members welcomed TCPA's proposal

Why the TCPA?



Town & Country Planning Association,
founded as the **Garden Cities
Association** in **1899** by
Sir Ebenezer Howard in response to 19th
century problems.

Independent charity, membership
organisation...

www.tcpa.org.uk



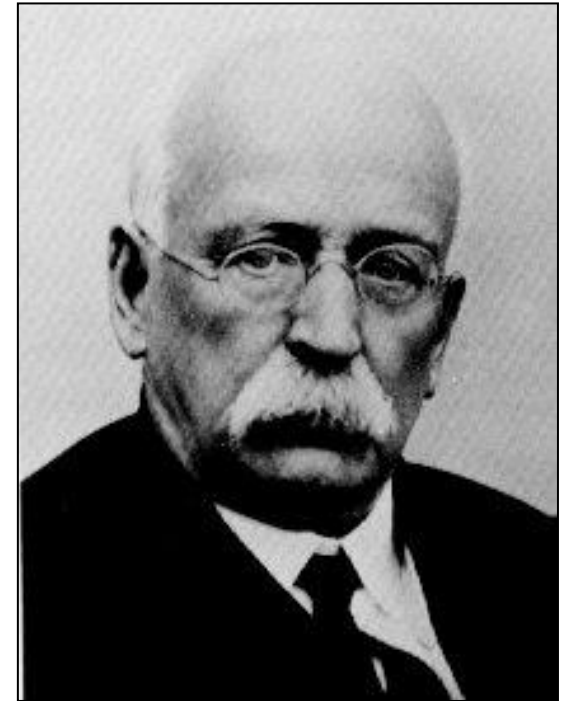
TCPA's objectives:



Secure a **decent, well designed home for everyone**, in a human-scale environment combining the best features of town and country

Empower people and communities to influence decisions that affect them

Improve the planning system in accordance with the principles of **sustainable development**



Garden cities:

19th century cities:

Overcrowding, squalor, poor health...

But, well-paid work, opportunities, social life...

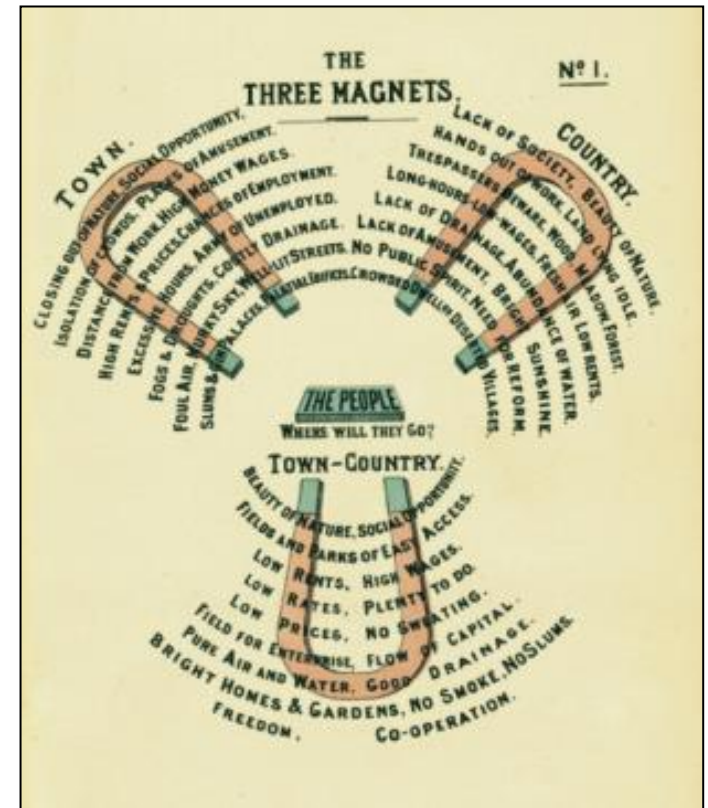
19th century countryside:

Acute poverty, few opportunities, social isolation...

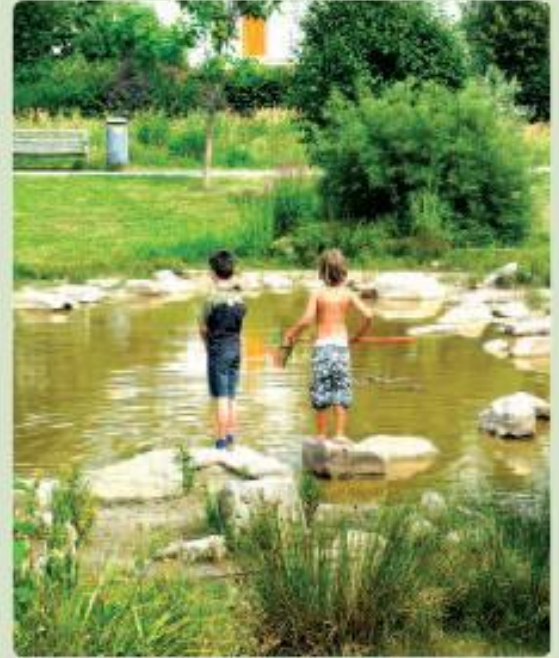
But, fresh air, home-grown food...

Howard's vision was to bring together the best of both:

'town and country must be married'

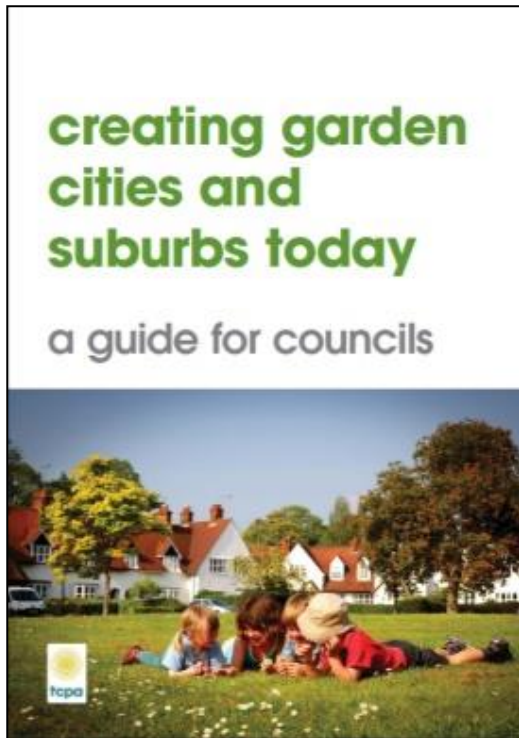


Garden cities:



The Garden Cities were underpinned by a famously strong vision developed by the TCPA's founder, Ebenezer Howard, who in his seminal text of 1898, *To-morrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform*, described how 'the advantages of the most energetic and active town life, with all the beauty and delight of the country, may be secured in perfect combination'.

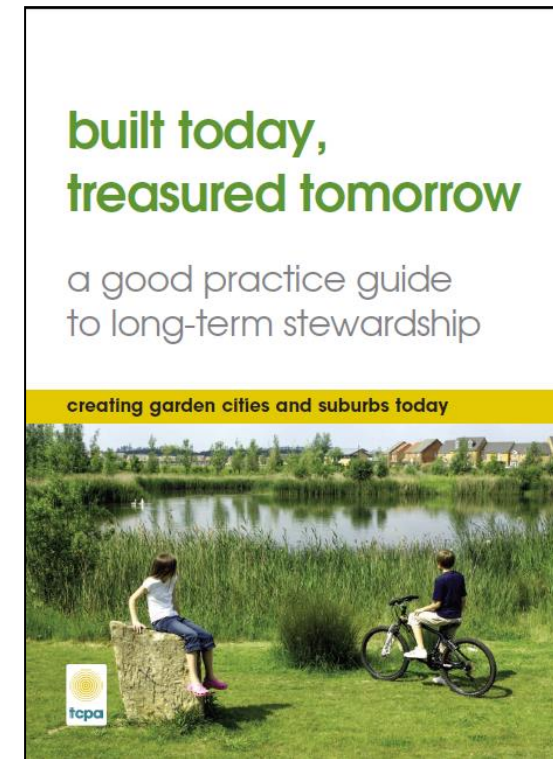
TCPA's garden cities campaign...



March 2013



November 2013



December 2013

TCPA guidance for planners (2012):



Practical guidance for planners to provide local authorities with all they need to ensure local plans deliver a network of wildlife-rich places in their area.

planning for a healthy
environment –
**good practice
guidance for
green infrastructure
and biodiversity**

Town & Country Planning Association
The Wildlife Trusts

July 2012

TCPA: planning and public health:



July 2012



November 2013

TCPA GRaBS project objective:

‘to ensure existing and new mixed use urban development is adapted to the impact of climate change through improving local and regional planning policy particularly through planning to put in place green and blue Infrastructure’



Urban heat island effect and GI:

- A 10% **decrease** in urban green leads to a potential 8.2°C **increase** in surface temperatures by the 2080s
- A 10% **increase** in urban green will keep temperatures at, or below, current levels until the 2080s



The role of planning in GI:

‘a green infrastructure is best achieved through an integrated approach to land management and careful strategic spatial planning’

EN Natura Newsletter June 2010

The Green Infrastructure Partnership:

- Managed by TCPA from 1 April 2014 (!)
- Free to join – simply email gip-uk@tcpa.org.uk



The Green Infrastructure Partnership:

- TCPA has no funding for GIP
- We are seeking a range of sponsors....
- Landscape Institute was first to sign up.



The Green Infrastructure Partnership:

- TCPA to create a GIP website www.gip-uk.org
- Expanding across the UK
- Ensuring the GIP is the first place to learn about the multiple benefits of GI; how to fund it; how to implement it, international GI news...



An exciting time for GI:

- Local parks being seen in wider context...
- New ways of funding green space being sought...
- Links between climate change and GI opening up opportunities for funding...
- Natural Capital Committee will be influential...

www.defra.gov.uk/naturalcapitalcommittee



The Green Infrastructure Partnership:

Free membership - join now email: gip-uk@tcpa.org.uk

@GIPartnership 

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