

# DESIGNING A HEALTHY LANDSCAPE

AIPH CONFERENCE 1 APRIL 2014

PRESENTATION BY VAL KIRBY, FLI

# The Landscape Institute

- ❑ The Royal Chartered body for Landscape Architects
- ❑ A professional organisation and educational charity
- ❑ Works to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for the public benefit
- ❑ Champions landscape, and the landscape profession, to inspire great places to live, work and visit
- ❑ Uses the European Landscape Convention definition of landscape
  - ❖ An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of human and/or natural factors

# LI's Policy & Communications Committee

- ❑ Leads on policy position statements
  - ❖ Green Infrastructure
  - ❖ Climate change
  - ❖ Housing (due May 2014)
  - ❖ Water (soon)
- ❑ Makes representations to government on emerging policies
  - ❖ Such as planning reform, CAP, flood risk and water management, natural environment
- ❑ Works with stakeholders with shared objectives
  - ❖ Government departments, professional bodies, others eg TCPA, Design Council CABI





Birkenhead Park, designed Paxton,  
1847

# Public Health and Landscape – creating healthy places

- ❖ Much history of landscape and the profession goes back to places created for the sake of people's health and wellbeing, such as Bourneville, Port Sunlight, Victorian parks
- ❖ Spur to this Position Paper the imminent transfer of responsibility for public health in England to local authorities – opportunity for more collaborative approach
- ❖ Our audience – public health and planning professionals
- ❖ Our approach – evidence based: led to the five principles of a healthy place



## Key messages

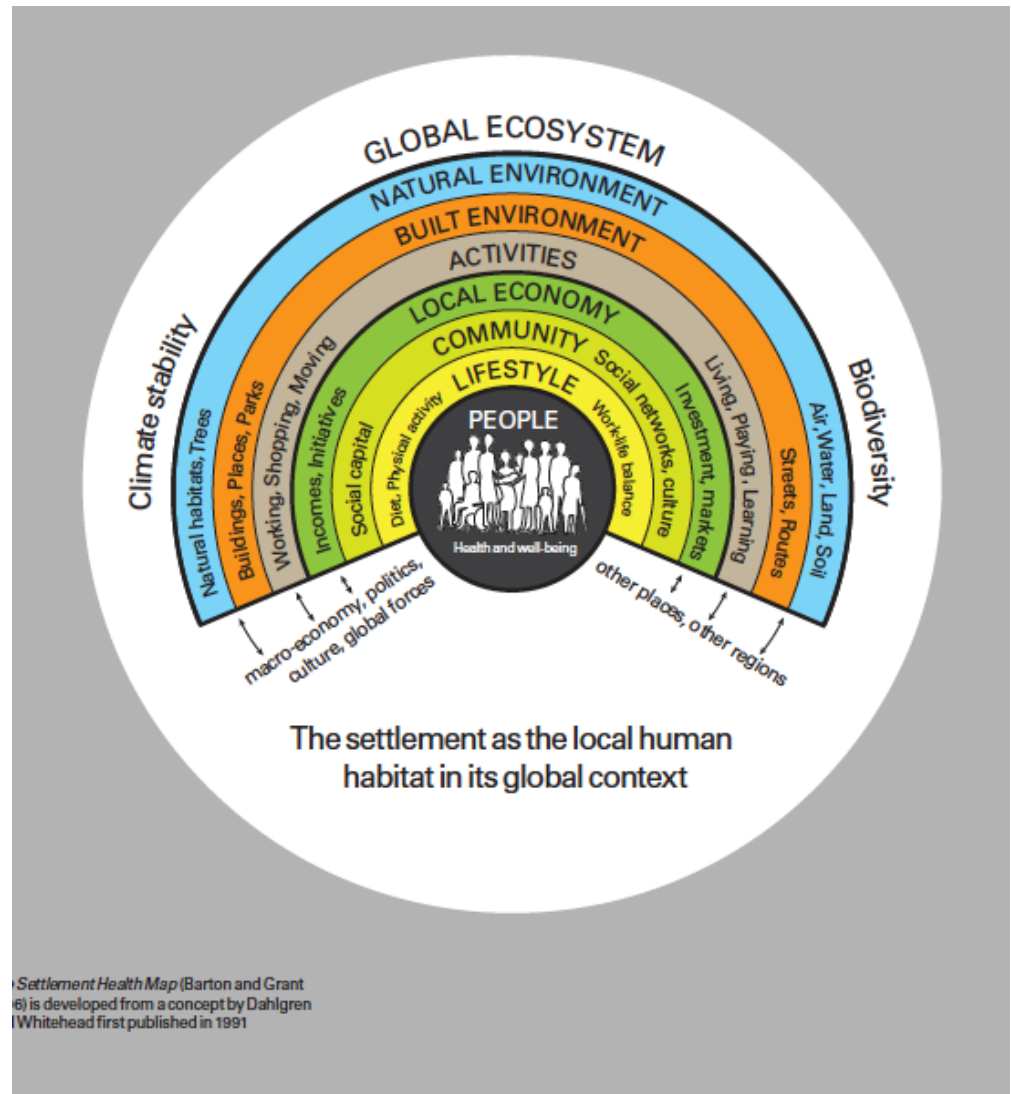
- ❖ How we plan, design & manage landscapes should be guided as much by importance for health as all other functions
- ❖ Landscape architects have expertise that can help deliver public health agenda
- ❖ Growing evidence base supports the role of landscape in health
- ❖ National Policy already recognises links eg NPPF & NPP Guidance

- Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013-16 DoH
- Range of indicators can be influenced by the way we treat landscapes
- % population affected by noise
- Green space used for exercise
- Social connectedness
- Older people's perceptions of safety
- Self-reported wellbeing
- Air pollution

# Killer evidence

Over the past 50 years public spending on NHS has risen from 3.4% to 8.2% of GDP. If spending continues on same trajectory for next 50 years, by 2062 the UK could spend one fifth of GDP on NHS

The relationships between behaviour, socio-economic background, health & green space are complex. Still, most studies support the view that contact with green spaces has beneficial health effects





# Five principles of a healthy place

All those concerned in creating healthy places – public health professionals, planners and landscape architects – need to recognise landscape as an asset that has enormous potential to improve our health and wellbeing.

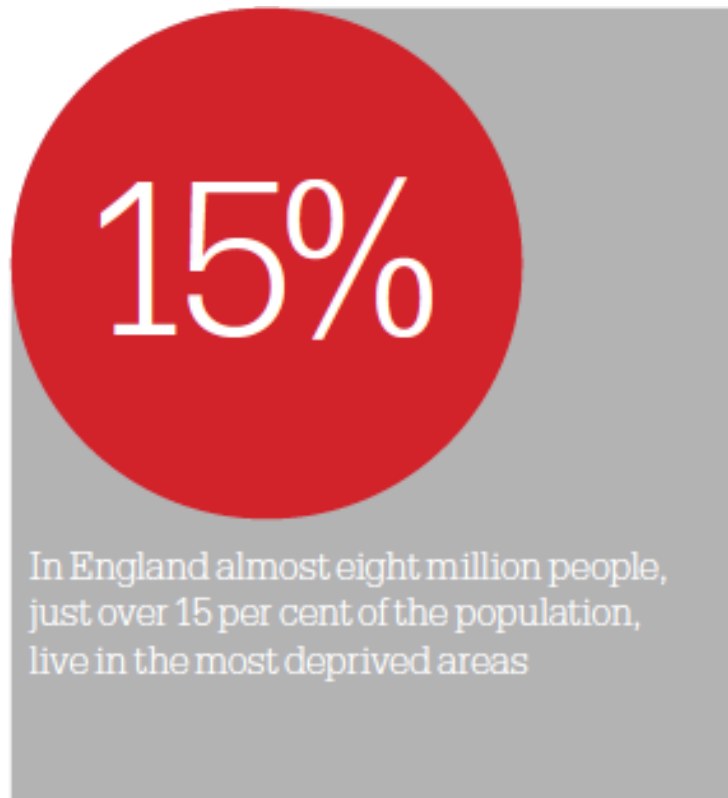
**Sue Illman**  
President, Landscape Institute



1 Healthy places improve air, water and soil quality, incorporating measures that help us adapt to, and where possible, mitigate, climate change



## 2 Healthy places help overcome health inequalities and can promote healthy lifestyles



### 3 Healthy places make people feel comfortable and at ease, increasing social interaction and reducing antisocial behaviour, isolation and stress



Inwood Park Water Play Area, Hounslow, London



## 4 Healthy places optimise opportunities for working, learning and development



## 5 Healthy places are restorative, uplifting and healing for both physical and mental health conditions



## Project Profiles

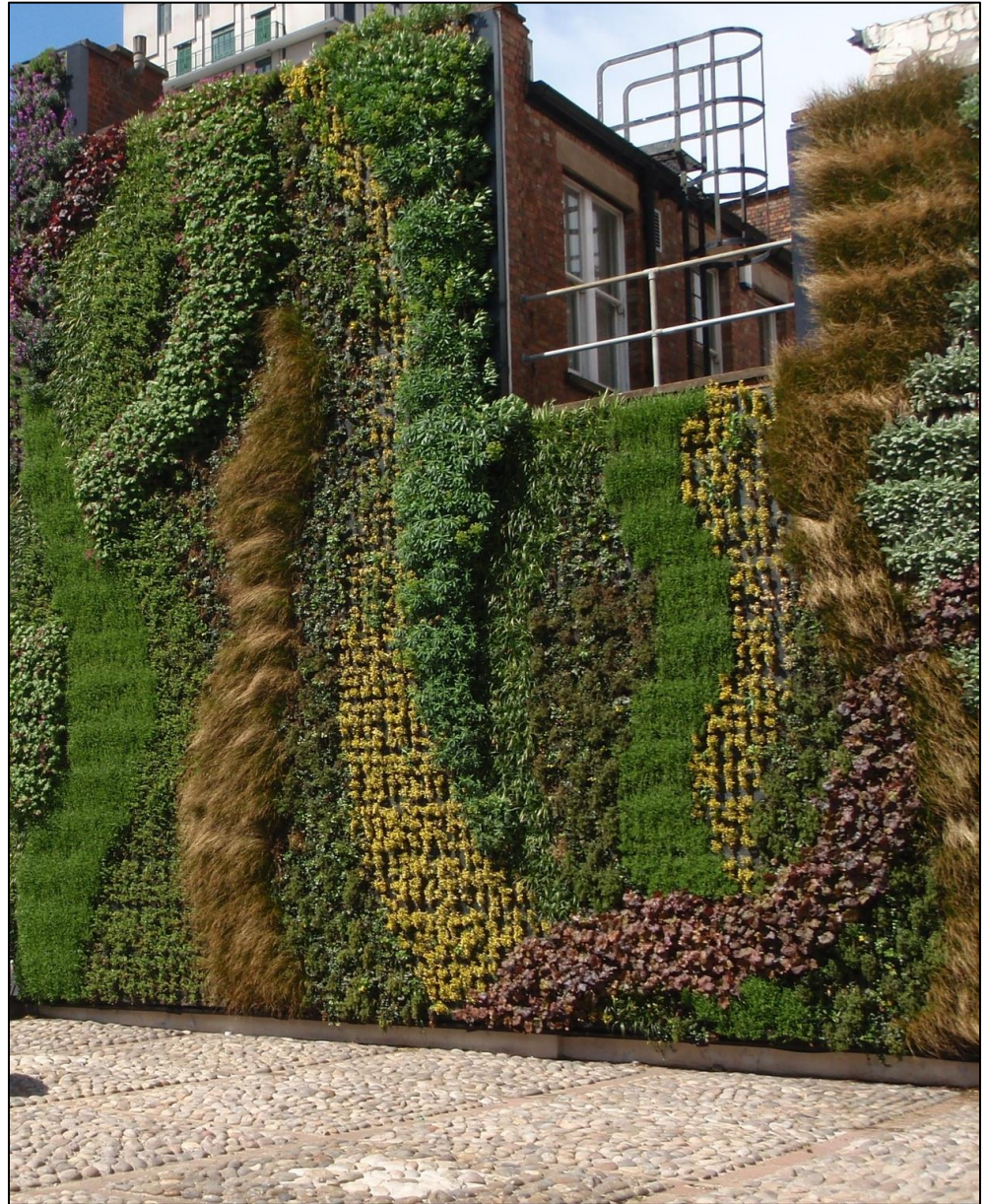




## Principle 1

Edgware Road Green Wall, London  
Transport for London

Avenue Coking Works, TEP  
Landscape Architects





## Principle 2

Green Link, Motherwell, Edinburgh



Dudley Healthy Towns Programme,  
Dudley Metropolitan Council

## Principle 3

Eastern Curve, Dalston



Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens,  
Edinburgh Cyrenians Trust



## Principle 4



Barbluie Woodland Enterprise

Green Space Service, Helena Partnerships

## Principle 5

South West Acute Hospital,  
Timothy Soar



Exmoor National Park perceptions study



# Recommendations

1. A bigger role for public health in place making
2. A resource commitment
3. Realise national requirements at local level
4. Recognise landscape as an asset
5. Use landscape in performance indicators for public health
6. Collaboration is key
7. Recognise the multifunctional benefits that landscape offers
8. Use Health Impact Assessments
9. Ensure community buy-in
10. More evidence

## Winding up

- LI committed to at least 2 year programme of work to build on the position statement
- Local project in preparation in Gloucestershire
- Liveability – umbrella principle that links with other LI themes
- We must create places that encourage active lives, active travel, active play



# Landscape Institute

Inspiring great places