

APSE Northern Ireland one day seminar 2011

8 December 2011

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre

Managing parks, open spaces and cemeteries: improvements, initiatives and developments

www.apse.org.uk

Parks and open spaces – where now and where next?

Jim Kennedy, Interim parks and Cemeteries Manager, Larne BC

Parks and Open Spaces

Where now and Where next?

Jim Kennedy

Providing the Service in an Era of Budget Cuts

- 2 Minute Historical Analysis
- CCT (1988); Best Value (2002)
- Current Delivery Models
- Remember – The Public Value their Parks
(And so do Elected Members!)

Priorities for Planning & Investment

- Staff, vehicles & premises account for 85% of Total expenditure
- Controlling expenditure
 - Staffing (Inc. Annualised Hours)
 - Vehicle/Mobile plant utilisation
 - Volunteering
 - Sickness Absence
- Increasing Income
 - Charging
 - Events
 - Franchises
 - Allotments
 - Guided Tours (Countryside/Biodiversity)
- Invest in Staff
- Community Involvement in Managing Parks

Looking To The Future

- Review Of Public Administration (2002!)
- Programme For Government – Consultation (22 February 2012)
- 11 Council Model
- Staff Reductions
- Economies of Scale – Shared services (Finance/Purchasing/Vehicles)
- Tenders – Better deal for new Councils

Keep Positive –

Parks have been through worse than this

Community partnership working – a case study from Craigavon

**Kieran Cahoon, Head of Parks, Craigavon
BC**

Parks and Community Partnerships

A presentation by Kieran Cahoon,
Parks Development Manager, CBC



It may be a balancing act
but its not impossible.





Community Partnerships

Council Partnership policy.

- Types of Partnerships
 - Financials
- 

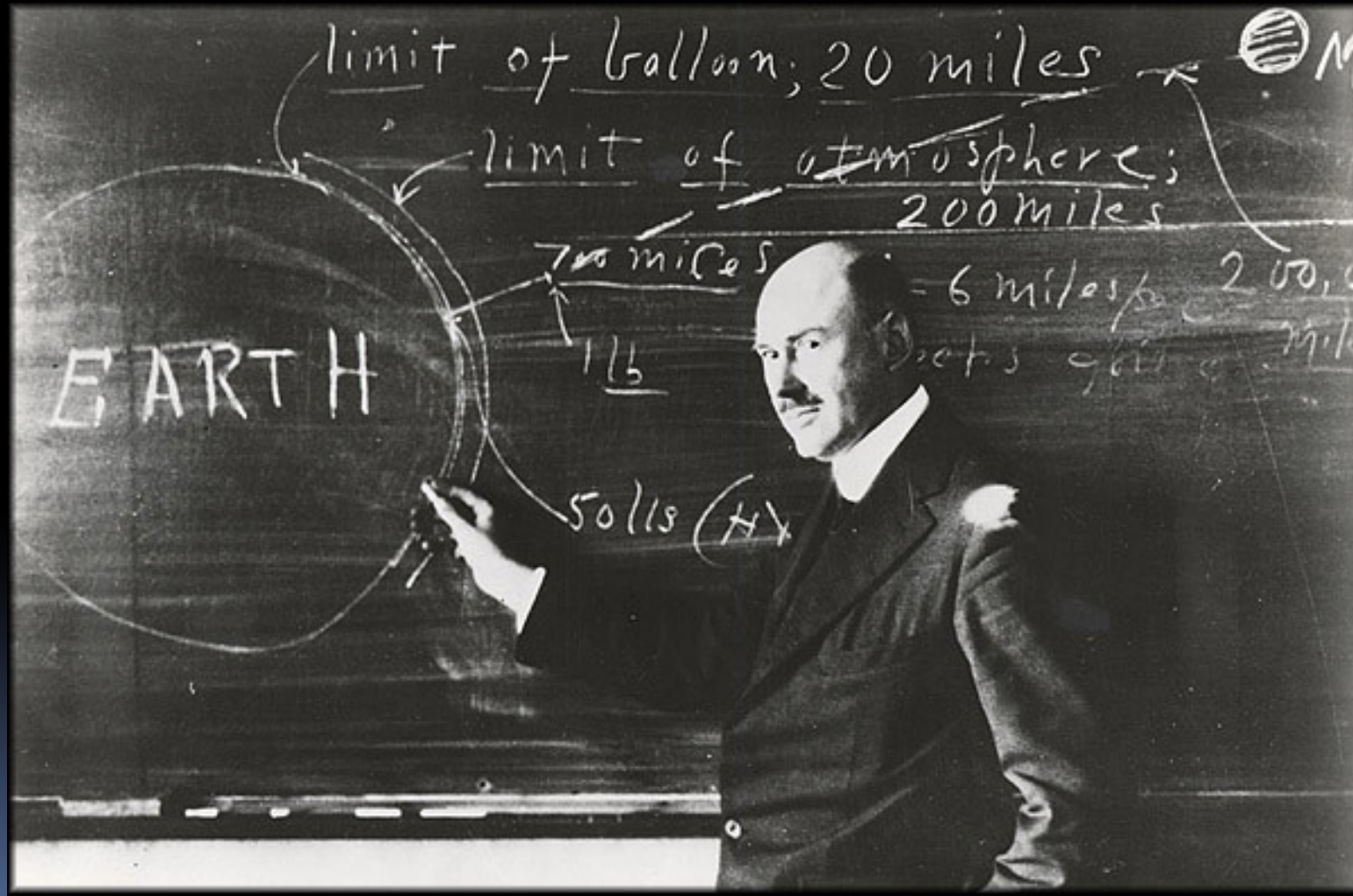
Community Partnerships

Community &
Sports
Development
Officers

- Roles
- Neighbourhood
Renewal
Partnerships
- Interagency
meetings
- Community
Groups



Its not Rocket Science



Accessing Capital Funding

- Neighbourhood Renewal Funding
- Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas
- Sport Council
- Ulster Wildlife Trust (LTC)
- Craigavon & Armagh Rural Development fund.
- Intereg

- Green Flag and Community Participation.



Benefits and Outcomes

Current Partnerships

- Taghnaven Ltd
- Edenvilla Ltd
- Lurgan Town Arena
- SELB Lurgan Junior High School
- River Bann Action Group
- SLA's for MUGA's





Summary

- CBC have been successful in securing over £10 million of external investment into the Borough through partnership working.
- Future developments
- Impacts on service provision.

Questions



Tea / Coffee Break

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Memorial safety in burial grounds

Douglas Swan, National Association of memorial Masons

www.apse.org.uk

Memorial Safety in Burial Grounds

By

Douglas Swan

Technical Director



The National Association Of Memorial Masons

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Memorial Safety

- Over the past few years the issue of memorial safety has from time to time been the subject of adverse publicity and public distress – often because of over-zealous risk assessments or poor communication. In light of this burial ground operators have expressed concern about how to respond appropriately to the risks presented by unstable gravestones.
- Significant risks should of course be properly managed – but the risk of injury from a gravestone or other memorial which has become loose and unstable is very low.
- In March 2007 the Ministry of Justice issued instructions and made it clear that any action to manage risks in burial grounds needed to be sensible, proportionate, and undertaken in a sensitive way. The advice provided was in response to requests by burial ground managers for practical guidance to assist them in developing sensible, proportionate and sensitive arrangements for managing gravestones.
- It has been developed by relevant professional representative organisations from the Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group. (BCAG)
- This guidance sets out a sensible approach to assist burial ground operators to meet their legal responsibilities and by following this good practice burial ground operators, can provide safe places to visit and work, and importantly make sure that remedial work to reduce any risk of serious injury does not cause unnecessary distress to bereaved families and others who value the great historical and environmental heritage of our cemeteries

Overview

- Legal Responsibilities
- Some Advice
- How to ensure Burial Grounds are Safe Places to Visit
- Working in a way to avoid distress to the bereaved
- Memorial Safety
- Training
- How to deal with the Risks
- Good Communication with the public
- Safe Memorials & Risk Assessment
- NAMM Code Of Working Practice
- British Standard (BS 8415)
- Questions

3 An Effective Risk Based Approach Should Include The Following:

- Comprehensive Knowledge of the construction of and types of memorial in burial grounds is essential:
- Tall Memorials, Monuments, Crosses with multiple sections, Canopies, Kerb sets, Vaults etc. Knowledge of how these memorials are put together is the key to knowing where the risks of them failing are:
- Knowledge of the types and characteristics of the materials used i.e. Marble, Portland Stone, Slate, Sandstone and Granite, different types of stone can react in many different ways.

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Memorial Inspection

- This presentation is about safety in burial grounds and must start with the areas that the public will use, so attention should be paid to those areas first. To do that you need to know which memorials are **safe, stable, or dangerous**.
- Assessment and Inspection of memorials requires to be carried out by personnel who have knowledge of the subject and been properly trained to set up, record and carry out assessment and inspection to the required standard.

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Stable Memorials

Some memorials can appear to be dangerous but can be quite stable



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Safe Memorials



Q: Which one of these memorials would you consider to be dangerous?

A: After testing they were found to be all stable and safe.

6

Dangerous Memorials

Some memorials seem safe but in actual fact are quite dangerous



Action Plan to Deal with Risk

- All operators should have the correct equipment available to make the risks safe (Stakes, Fencing, Tools to cordon off etc).
- Equipment for laying down or moving.
- Assistance must be available in the form of back up or possibly a contractor.
- Once a serious hazard or risk is identified it cannot be left as it is, action must be taken to reduce the risk!

8

RISK ASSESSMENT 5 Steps

- **Identify the hazard**-these are potentially unstable memorials.
- **Identify who might be harmed and how**- these can be employees, contractors or members of the public.
- **Evaluate the risk** of a memorial falling or harming someone and decide the precautions to be taken to control the risk.
- **Record the significant findings** of the risk assessment.
- **Review** the risk assessment periodically to see if anything has changed and update accordingly.

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Visual and Physical Test



Assessing Tall or Large Monuments

- Visual Inspection
- Joints
- Check Level
- For high objects, Urns, Crosses, Figures, a safe platform should be erected on which to stand
- Large memorials are more unstable when leaning at small angles because of their height, movement can be logged by recording accurate measurements.
- Photographs



Pressure Sensitive Devices

- The Ministry of Justice document does not recommend the use of pressure sensitive devices.
- In extreme circumstances when a pressure testing device is used the maximum pressure should not exceed 25kg
- Memorials under 625mm should not be pressure tested, neither should areas with raised letters or uneven surfaces, Crosses, Figures, and those with loose joints above the test height should not be tested because of the danger of falling masonry.

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Dealing with Failure

- Memorial owners responsibility
- Minimise Risk
- Cordoning off
- Full size memorials
- Crosses and figures
- Make safe devices

Exit Strategy

- Memorials which have been lain down, staked etc, cannot be left forever.
- After a period of time the memorial must be repaired, or removed and stored.
- Where staking has already taken place, NAMM recommends that in accordance with the new guidelines, the stakes are removed and the memorial reassessed to the criteria set out in the Ministry of Justice document.

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Make safe devices can be a risk themselves



Climbing Frame



Cure? More of a Risk than the Memorial







NAMMM Code of Working Practice

- Industry Standard developed by NAMMM
- British Standard 8415



NAMM TRAINING Courses



- Inspection and Assessment of Memorials
- (Leading to a City & Guilds Qualification)
- Fixing memorials to the NAMM Code of Working Practice
- (Leading to City and Guilds Qualification).
- Dismantling and re-fixing memorials
- Construction of foundations
- Courses can be hybrid and tailored to suit your requirements.
- Contact NAMM Head Office Rugby for further details

Finally.....

Any Questions?

THANK YOU!

Local management responsibilities

**Liam McQuillan, Department of the
Environment**

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Performance Networks data for parks, open spaces and horticultural services

Phil Brennan, APSE

www.apse.org.uk

APSE Performance networks

**Parks, open spaces
and horticultural
services**

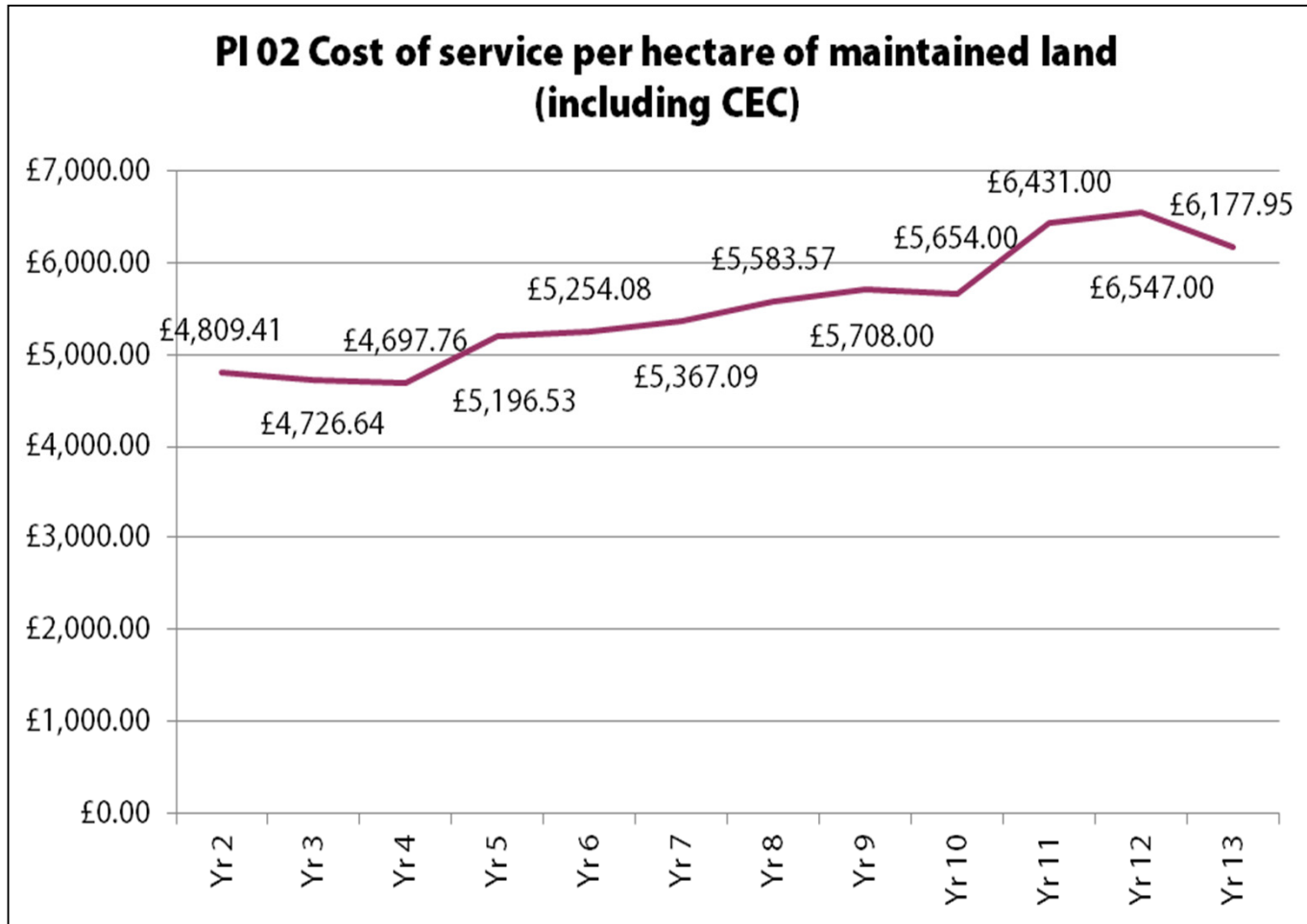
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Unit costs and trend analysis 2010-11

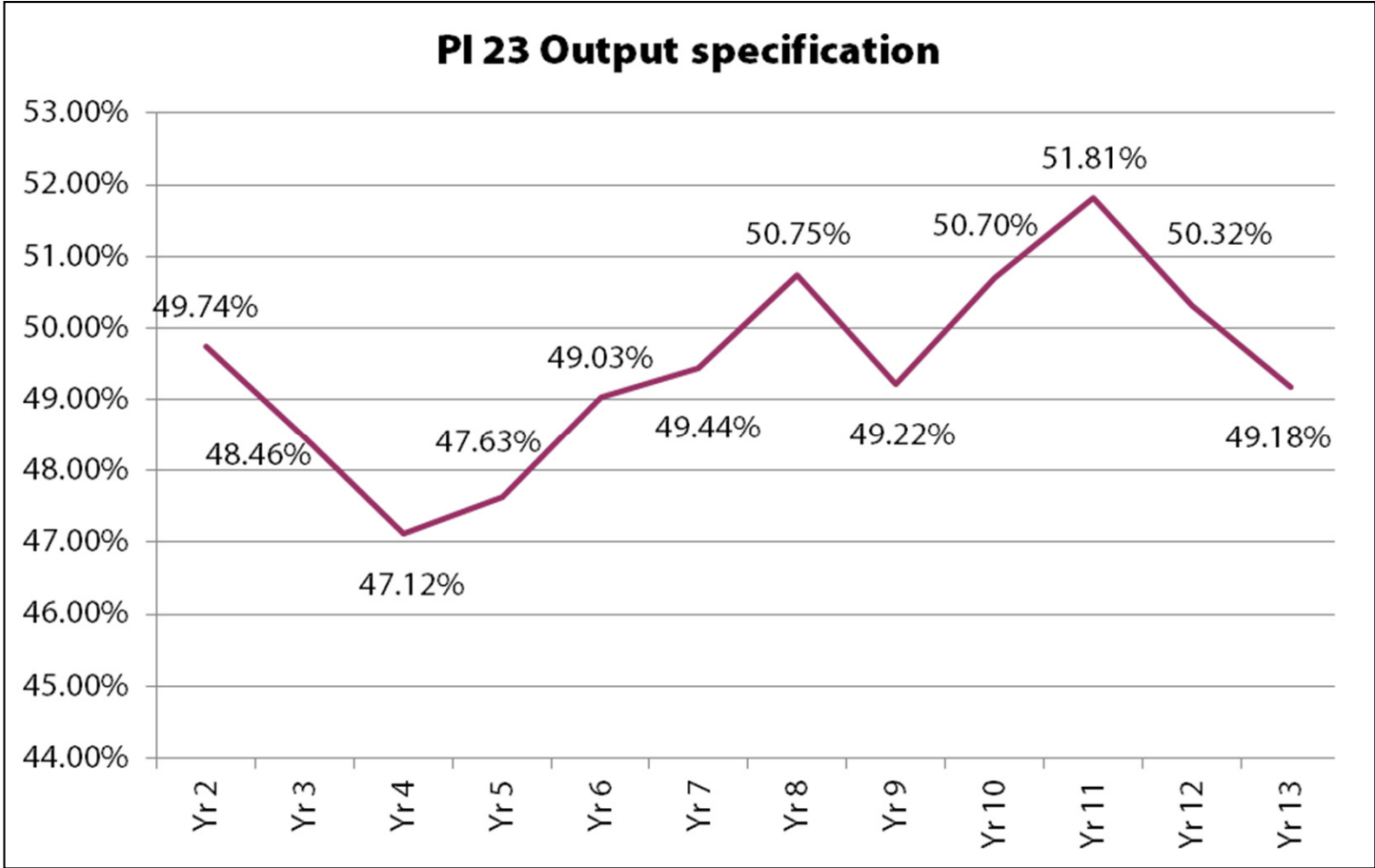
- **Cost**
- **Central establishment charges**
- **Productivity**
- **Output specification**
- **Customer satisfaction**

Unit Costs	2010/11
Front line staff	43.8%
All Staff	56.1%
Other non employee costs e.g. premises	16.5%
Vehicles	12.4%
Equipment / materials	2.1%
Sub contractors	4.2%
Departmental administration	2.3%
Central establishment charges	5.8%

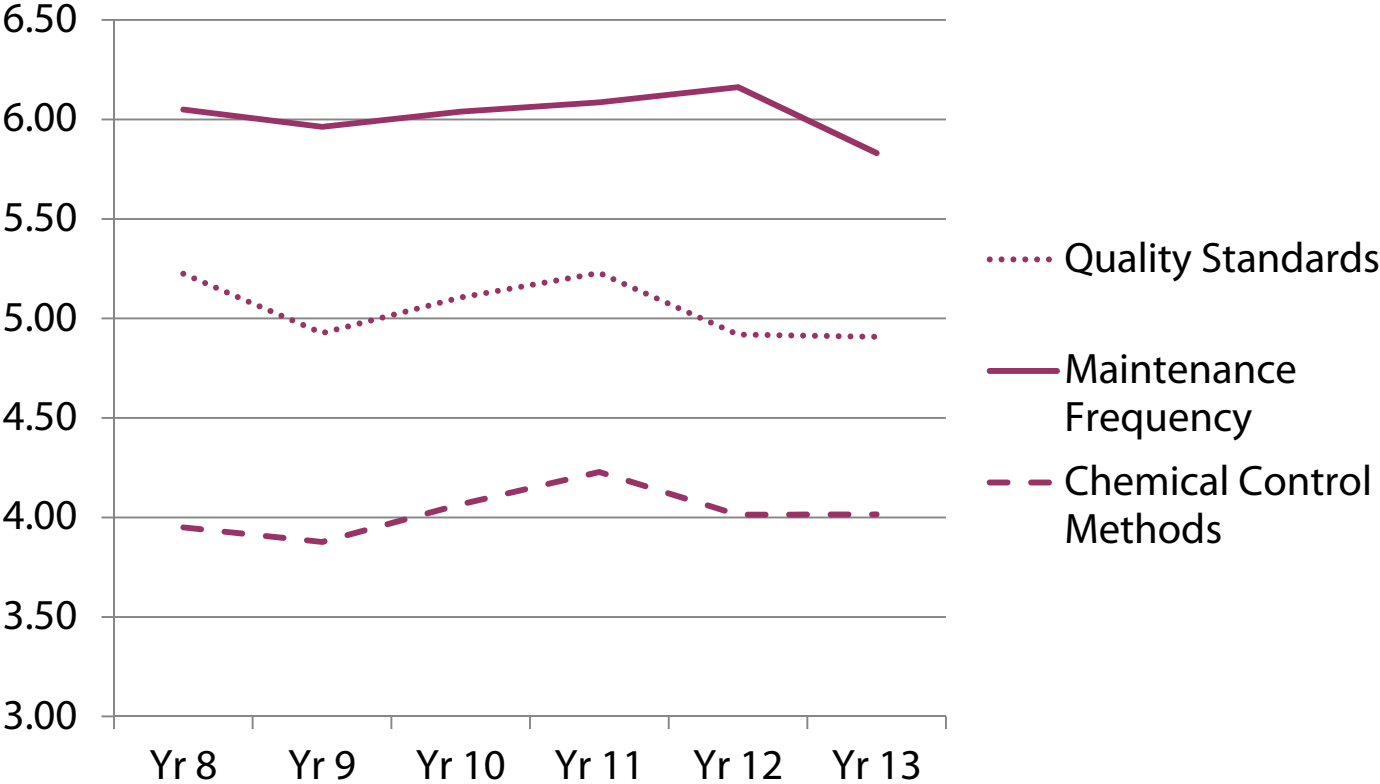
PI 02 Cost of service per hectare of maintained land (including CEC)



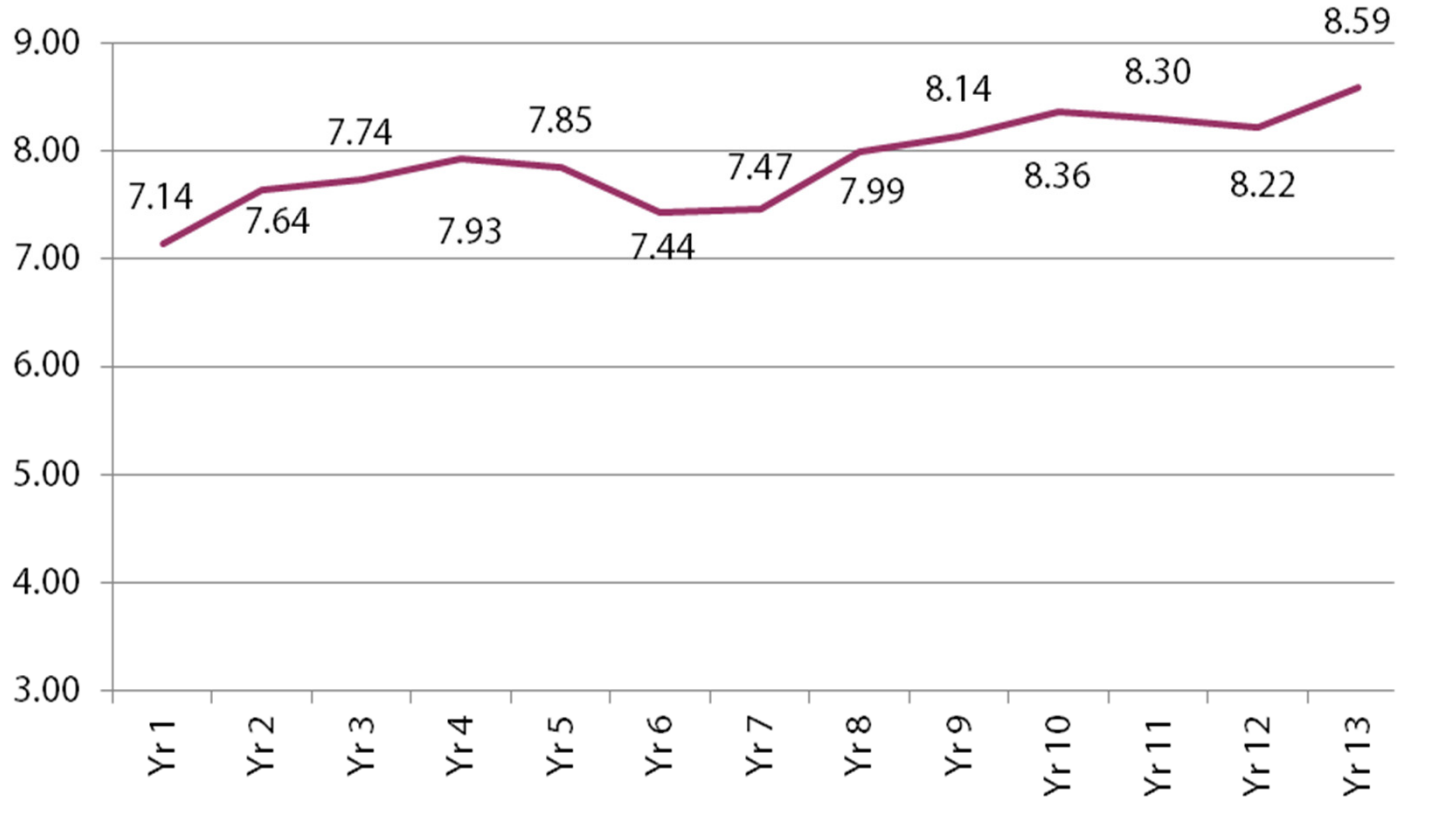
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Number of front line staff	93.17	91.25	90.58
Total expenditure	£7,031,845.03	£5,266,397.29	£5,034,132.72
CECs	£275,215.53	£256,266.56	£288,737.49

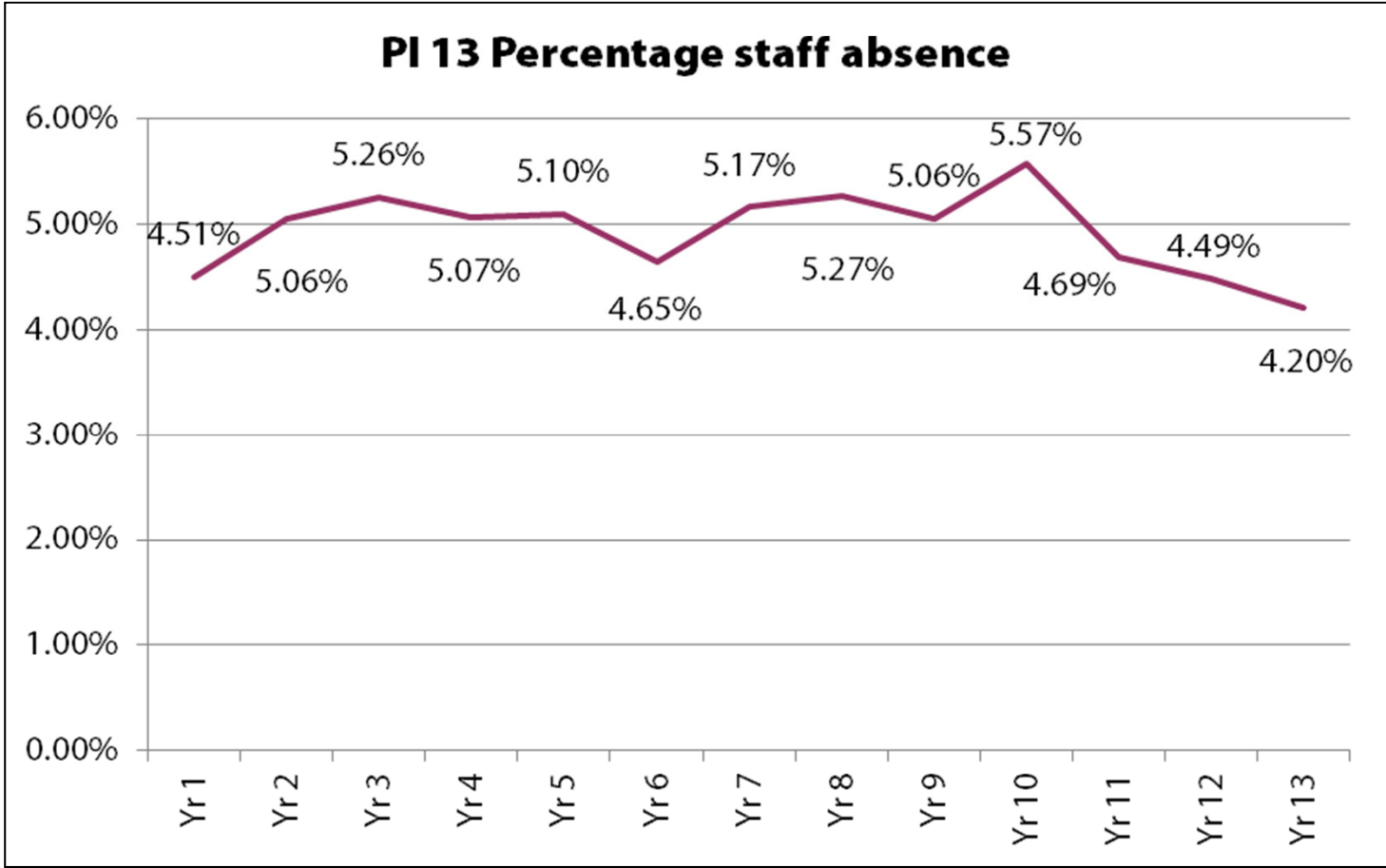


Analysis of output specification score



PI 12 Number of hectares maintained per FTE front line employee





APSE Performance networks

Cemeteries and Crematoria

www.apse.org.uk

APSE Performance networks

10 authorities involved in pilot template

In discussions about 14 West of Scotland joining the pilot

To be launched in April 2012 with 10-15 indicators

Training provided

Data compilation, validation, analysis and reports produced

Quarterly advisory groups held

£1,000 per year

www.apse.org.uk

Lunch

www.apse.org.uk

Developing access and biodiversity – the Derry City Council approach

**Willie Burke, Countryside and Access
Officer, Derry CC**

Cleaner neighbourhood legislation

**Kieran Doherty, Director of
Environmental Services, Coleraine BC**

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT ACT (NI) 2011

Parks and Open Spaces

Kieran Doherty

"a place for all"

Challenges in Open Spaces

- Animals
- Criminal Damage
- Anti-social Behaviour

Legislation Available



- The Dogs (NI) Order 1983 as amended
- The Health & Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978
- The Pollution Control (NI) Order 1978
- The Litter (NI) Order 1994
- The Public Health Acts
- The Anti-Social Behaviour (NI) Order 2004
- Street Trading Act (NI) 2001
- Bye-laws
 - Drinking in Designated Areas
 - Good Rule & Government
 - Cycling, Ball Games, etc

Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act (NI) 2011

"a place for all"

Overview of 2011 Act

- Commencement due April 2012
- Provides additional powers to Council
- Act divided into 8 distinct parts
 - Gating orders
 - Vehicles – abandoned; nuisance parking offences (selling or repairs)
 - Litter
 - Graffiti & other defacement
 - Dogs
 - Noise – intruder alarms; night time noise offences
 - Statutory nuisances – smoke ; artificial light
 - Miscellaneous & supplementary section

Gating Orders/Alley gating

- Used to reduce crime and disorder
- Gating order will restrict the public right away over the road
- Streamlined procedure



Vehicles

- Offence if two or more vehicles exposed for sale on a road or if repair works are carried out along the road – Fixed penalty notice
- Abandoned vehicles - Fixed penalty notice
- Removal and disposal procedure for vehicles simplified



Litter



- Litter offence – Fixed penalty notice
- Litter clearing notice - can be served if any land is defaced by litter and is detrimental to the amenity of the locality
- Street litter clearing notice – to prevent accumulations of litter in and around any street or open land adjacent to any street
- Abandoned shopping trolleys
- Controls on the distribution of printed matter

Graffiti and fly posting

- Graffiti & fly posting – fixed penalty notice
- Defacement removal notices – e.g. on owner of street furniture
- Sale of aerosol paints to children under 16 is an offence



Dogs

- Powers to make dog control orders
- Five offences
 - Failing to remove faeces
 - Not keeping a dog on a lead
 - Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
 - Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded
 - Taking more than a permitted number of dogs onto land

Dogs....(continued)

- Dog control orders may apply to all land to which the public is allowed access and which is open to the air
- More effective to designate areas across NI e.g. on all A & B roads dogs should be kept on leads
- Require consultation on each order
- Order must be reasonable and in public interest

Noise

- Alarms – Council may designate all or part of its council as an alarm notification area
- Noise in streets – vehicles, machinery or equipment
- Noise Act – Night-time – can issue a fixed penalty



Implementation



Council – Lead Agency
But
Multi-Agency Collaboration
Essential

"a place for all"

Key Agencies



- Council
- PSNI
- Statutory Bodies
 - NIHE
 - Housing Association
 - DRD
 - Education Establishment
- Voluntary/Community Groups

Penalties



- Fixed Penalty Notices

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Early</u>
Litter	80	50
Graffiti & fly posting	80	50
Dog Control Orders	80	50
Unauthorised distribution of literature on designated lands	80	50
Failure to nominate key holder within an alarm notification area	80	50
Street litter control notices and litter clearing notices	110	75
Noise from domestic premises	110	75

- Notices
- Legal Proceedings

Bangor castle walled garden

**Ian Beaney, Grounds Maintenance
Manager, North Down BC**

The impacts of the Occupiers' Liability legislation in NI on outdoor recreation – impacts for councils

**Mike McClure, Development Officer
Countryside Recreation, Sport NI**

www.apse.org.uk

Sport Northern Ireland



**The impacts of the
Occupiers' Liability
legislation in NI on
outdoor recreation.**

Sport Northern Ireland

“Sport Matters” – The Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 - 19

Target PL24

By 2015 to have amended public policy frameworks to protect and promote access to and sustainable use of publicly owned land in Northern Ireland for sport and physical recreation.

Sport Northern Ireland

- 2007 DoE publication – “Occupiers’ Liability Law in the Context of Access to the Countryside in Northern Ireland”
- 2008 CRN research into Landowners' Liability - Is perception of the risk of liability for visitor accidents a barrier to countryside access?
- 2010 SNI research into the actual cases and implications of Occupiers Liability in Northern Ireland

Sport Northern Ireland

Key aims of the 2010 research

1. Compile a definitive list as possible of any successful and unsuccessful cases against a landowner, occupier or manager with respect to recreational users of land over the last 20 years.
2. Examine the reasons for perceptions about Occupiers' Liability
3. Set out recommendations for dealing with misconceptions and better informing land owners, occupiers and managers

Sport Northern Ireland

Findings

1. Successful liability cases relating outdoor recreation?
2. What really is Outdoor Recreation?
3. Occupiers' Liability v Health and Safety regulations
4. Understanding the legal situation
5. Users – a claim culture?

Sport Northern Ireland

Councils

1. 25% - no claims
2. The majority – 1 or 2 claims per annum
3. Three councils are self insured – noting reduced claims
4. The majority are insured and routinely pay out of court below £2,000
5. Widely held belief that the courts are biased in favour of a claimant.

Sport Northern Ireland

National Trust

Approx 2 million visitors per annum

8 liability cases per annum.

No open country claims

Sport Northern Ireland

How do we change perceptions?

LOCAL SERVICES

LOCAL SOLUTIONS

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