

“Making green spaces work within dense urban areas”

London: 17-18 February 2011

Introduction

The London Euroscapes Seminar was held over two days on 17 and 18 February 2011, and hosted by the Thames Gateway London Partnership (TGLP). It is the third thematic seminar to be organised since the launch of the Euroscapes programme, and is part of a series of events with core outputs, as agreed by the respective partners.

The aim of the seminar in London was to explore how green spaces in urban areas can be designed, developed and managed more efficiently. The agenda built upon discussions at previous Euroscapes events in Torun, Poland in July 2010 and most recently from the Euroscapes element of the XIV Iberoamerican Town Planning Congress held at Santa Cruz, Tenerife in the Canary Islands, in October 2010.

On the first day of the London seminar, the programme included presentations which illustrated examples from London and the wider Thames Gateway region; focusing particularly on the landscape management plans for the 2012 Olympic Park and the work of the East London Green Grid. This was supported by study tours for delegates on both seminar days to the Olympic Park itself.

Day two of the seminar focused on Euroscapes partnership business; with project reports from several partners and workshops from DEKA Trikala and Granollers/Gießen-Wetzlar. It also included the launch of the Green Infrastructure Valuation Toolkit, which has been designed to enable more accurate valuation of green space, and was introduced to the seminar by Anne Jaluzot from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE); an organisation created to provide independent design advice to local leaders and professionals to help them create inspiring public spaces and buildings.

Day One: Thursday 17th February 2011

The Euroscapes Seminar opened at 9.00am on Thursday 17th February 2011 in the Mint Hotel at Tower Hill, London. Following the accreditation of delegates, the Chair, Paul Morrissey, Deputy Chief Executive of TGLP, welcomed the Euroscapes Projects Manager, Charlotte Dessandier and all of the attending project partners to the London seminar. He invited all

delegates to TGLP's Welcome Drinks Reception that evening, hosted by TGLP chairman, Lord Charles Falconer at the House of Lords, in the Palace of Westminster, and to the seminar dinner at the conference hotel afterwards.

The Chair spoke briefly about the London Thames Gateway region, saying that the first day of the seminar would highlight how London had approached landscape management; with smaller local projects working coherently within the big picture regional plans; all sitting within the wider policy context of coherent, effective and efficient green spaces.

The Chair outlined the agenda for the following two days and then introduced the first speaker: **John Letherland, from Farrells** the internationally renowned architects, who spoke about the development of the Parklands Vision for the Thames Gateway.

Historically he said, the region had a strong industrial identity although this had diminished due to post industrial decline leaving brown field contamination and some quite negative deep seated perceptions of the area. Investing in its green infrastructure was therefore an essential ingredient for the Gateway's future success. The speaker showed images of outstanding natural beauty in the Gateway region, demonstrating its inherent quality and spoke about the importance of transforming perceptions of it to help attract opportunities, as quality of environment tends to be linked to economic success. (Crucially, the Thames Estuary is all about rural generation rather than urban regeneration.)

The speaker explained that the Parklands Vision is about building coherency and developing a spatial framework for the Thames Gateway region. Key elements of the Vision include plans for Water Parklands, with the Thames as the main backdrop, which will aim to improve wetlands, revive under-used docks and canals, etc. There are currently 22 park projects underway or planned and the speaker said the Improving Community Parklands element of the vision will help to improve access to green and open spaces and connect communities together. He said the Urban Parklands element will improve the public realm and create more public spaces in urban areas. Connecting open and green spaces together creates a green link, such as the Green Grids through East London, South Essex and Kent, it also helps connect communities, such as for example the Medway towns into a Medway `city`, with a continuous landscape framework; connecting and 'healing' high streets and enabling a more coherent movement system (people and transport).

The speaker said the Vision was built on a “Bottom up regeneration but with a picture on the box” approach, which advocates the idea of thousands of small local projects implemented by local people, combining over time to complete the overarching Parklands vision (i.e. an inverted funnel effect). It is significant that despite London’s dense population and its industrial decline, Victoria Park, in the heart of the East End, was the first city park in the world (1845) and remains a much cherished part of the local landscape today.

The speaker concluded by saying that the Parklands vision was one of incremental evolution. He said Farrells believed the way to develop communities is to grow existing ones, with landscape as the primary infrastructure, rather than starting with a blank canvas. This will help ensure new buildings fit in with the context of the place and proactively engage the local community.

The Chair, Paul Morrissey thanked John Letherland and asked for any questions. One delegate asked about the scale of the project and how long it took to develop the Vision and the speaker said Farrells (Terry Farrell) had been appointed in 2007 to develop the Vision but it is expected to be about six years in the making, working closely with central Government.

The chair thanked John Letherland and introduced the next speaker: **Jamie Dean, Programme Lead for the East London Green Grid and Principal Urban Designer for Design for London (DFL).**

The speaker began by explaining that London did not have a history of top down, state-led planning, but was traditionally `anarchic` and fragmented, with cluttered and often incoherent street systems, and it is in that context Design for London operates; working with councils and other bodies to help provide greater coherency. He outlined the work DfL have done to improve urban areas by trying to deliver good green space in public places, working closely with the local council, the community and the Mayor of London. The speaker said design does not deliver on its own but plays an important role in the ‘nuts and bolts’ of making such improvements happen. He listed a few examples such as Woolwich; Bankside Urban Forest and Gillett Square in Dalston in east London, where simple interventions in landscaping and infrastructure had helped to energise and improve urban spaces.

The strategic aims of the East London Grid are: to support strong, healthy and prosperous communities; reduce environmental risks, and shape and support growth, image and identity. The speaker said east London was one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change in the

South East. This means it is not necessarily an enticing place to many developers, despite some amazing natural spaces (although, as in many dense urban areas, many of these green spaces are inaccessible).

One of the objectives of the ELGG is to promote a network of interlinked green spaces to enhance connectivity, landscapes and access, including using them as a mode of transport, i.e. cycling. The speaker said green infrastructure could also play a significant role in reducing flood damage, which is set to be a major issue for the future of London and has already caused an estimated £22 billion worth of damage in the last five years.

The speaker emphasised that green river crossings are vital to regeneration. The delegates were shown slides of key projects including the newly created Dagenham Washlands which have provided a crucial link in local green infrastructure and an enhanced open space and flood storage area. £1 billion worth of riverside property is now protected by this area, and this has help unlock £14 million worth of further flood management funding.

The speaker said the ELGG vision has now been embedded into the London Plan developed by the Mayor of London. There are six ELGG area frameworks and the speaker said over 300 green infrastructure projects are being prepared for delivery by various agencies, and organised into 50 thematic clusters within the six areas. The speaker concluded by showing delegates some of the exemplar projects such as Rainham and Barking Riverside.

Following the presentation, the Chair thanked the speaker and invited some questions from delegates. One asked how long the strategic plan for the ELGG would last. The speaker said it would be perpetual, but reviewed every four years through the wider London Plan. Another delegate asked how projects were prioritised. The speaker said only projects with funding were selected, and that projects usually selected themselves by interested parties like local councils, pushing them aggressively. Another delegate asked 'who pays' or funds the projects. The speaker said the work of the ELGG had led to local councils using Planning Gain Supplements (S106) to pay for projects as part of their local development agenda.

The Chair, Paul Morrissey thanked Jamie Dean and introduced the presenters for the next session: **Amey Dovlo, Project Manager at the London Borough of Bexley and John Rampley, Principal Consultant, ENTEC.**

The speakers discussed their joint work on the Belvedere Green Links Project in the London Borough of Bexley which is focused on 'developing a sustainable landscape management plan'.

The speakers explained that local historic issues of the site were low accessibility and connectivity, falling employment, limited understanding, degraded environment, flooding and a lack of co-ordinated management.

The speakers said the aims of the project were to enhance access to open space, the River Thames and transport termini, to enhance employment growth, retention and diversification, and promote environmental quality and drainage and improve flood defences. Extensive strategic planning of the area was undertaken to help the project partners understand the key issues. They looked at drainage and flooding, the movement of people, and ecology, availability of footpaths and infrastructure and presence of protected species. This enabled targeted interventions and environmentally sensitive engineering and habitat enhancement.

A sustainable Landscape Management Plan was developed, but the speakers said it faced significant barriers due to a disengaged stakeholder group (harder to engage with the local community) and multiple small landowners preventing easy purchase / access to land, and budget constraints. However in overcoming these, the project delivered better improved and healthier network and improved the potential for sustainable development.

After this joint session, the Chair thanked the speakers and invited delegates to ask questions of all the speakers as part of a wider discussion session. The speakers were asked if they had projected flooding models for climate change. John Rampley confirmed that they had done this using predicted temperatures and rainfall density models. A second delegate asked how they had overcome the complexity of land ownership when trying to get polluters to pay. Ame Dovlo said with a long history of industrial activity it could be hard to determine who the polluter was. He added that it was important to encourage stewardship of landscapes – an extension of the concept of ownership - as part of the aim to deliver more sustainable development.

The Chair concluded the first part of the morning session and thanked all the speakers and the delegates for their interesting contributions. After a 15 minute refreshment break, delegates returned to the conference room for the second part of the morning session.

The first speaker in this session was **John Hopkins, Project Director for the Olympic Parklands and Public Realm at the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)**, who introduced his presentation by explaining the intellectual principles underpinning the design and development of the Olympic Park. He spoke about `The Cultured Landscape` which focussed on building a new

ecological infrastructure based on the ten principles of the `One Planet Living` approach, including: zero waste, zero carbon, sustainable water through integrated water management and local and sustainable food production.

The speaker said it was important to create a working landscape that was sustainable as well as beautiful and functional. This would help secure the legacy of the London Olympics and encourage people to connect with the Parklands and vitally take responsibility for them in the years to come. He then demonstrated how the plans for the Olympic Park fitted within the wider vision for parklands and green space for London (e.g. the East London Green Grid) and for the Thames Gateway region.

The major issues facing those developing the Parkland area: outlining the socio-economic deprivation issues and showing the extent of the local dereliction, decline and industrial contamination on the Olympic site. He set out the ODA's Vision for the Games and said the ODA's Sustainability Strategy for the Parklands was based on the `One Planet` principles and set out its key commitments for the Park including: a 50% reduction in carbon emissions from its permanent buildings by 2013; supplying 20% of its energy after the Games from on-site renewable sources; transporting 50% of freight (by weight) for the Park's construction materials by rail or river and using a low-emission vehicle fleet at Games time.

The speaker outlined the ODA's ten objectives for achieving its Strategy, including restoring the waterways; enhancing biodiversity and providing better connections/integrating infrastructure: such as more and better river crossings. He said the ODA were confident they would achieve their aims, and was delighted to report that the Parklands were expected to be completed early, by the coming summer and within budget.

Delegates were shown some projected final images of the Park and the speaker compared them to the current landscapes under construction; highlighting the new planted areas, wetlands and wildlife habitats. He then explained the 10 year landscape management and maintenance plan for the Park which outlines how the Park will be managed, used, maintained and funded in the years after the Games.

The speaker concluded his presentation with the very latest aerial shots of the site which had not yet been publicly released. These very impressive photographs illustrated the scale and extent of the transformation and rehabilitation work to the local landscape so far.

After his presentation, the Chair, Paul Morrissey thanked the speaker and invited some questions from delegates. The speaker was asked about the implementation of the Olympic Legacy. He said that of the ODA's overall £9.4 billion budget, £7.1 billion is going on the delivery of the Legacy, which indicates the importance placed on it by the organisation. There have also been extensive consultations with local communities on how to maximise the legacy of the Games. The Chair commented on the impact of the 'Olympic spotlight' and how it helps to time-bound decision making and provide focus, funding and political will to achieve things that were previously considered undeliverable.

Following the question and answer session, the Chair introduced: **Tom Smith, Director of Landscape, AECOM** and invited him to speak on the design and delivery of the 2012 Olympic Masterplan.

The speaker talked delegates through the various stages of the masterplan, dating back to the original proposals developed in 2003. He said they had worked to map the existing strategic green space; social infrastructure, (including communities, places of exchange, community focus, etc) and the current connectivity along the zone of influence for the Olympic Park, (including public transport, roads, waterways and green space). This was to help ensure the Olympic investment was maximised and had the greatest possible positive impact for local communities, for example by improving local transport links, increasing and enabling greater social integration and cohesion and helping promote healthier lifestyles.

The speaker also showed how privately owned and industrial land not only blocked access to much of the waterways and any wildlife, but also separated the communities living either side. As a result new bridges have now been positioned to help maximise this connectivity. This has helped to generate greater interest from private investors and it is hoped will lead to regeneration within existing communities in the Lea Valley and stimulate growth in new areas too.

The speaker also showed the unsightly impact on the local landscape of the previous over ground waste pipes and electric pylons on the landscape and highlighted why so much more of the Legacy finance has been invested below ground than above it, in order to lay the huge pipes containing new and diverted cabling and pipe work.

The speaker highlighted how London was traditionally imbalanced in terms of the location of its industry and explained that legacy planners hoped to achieve a better balance of industry

and business around the capital as a result of the regeneration and redevelopment which it is hoped will be stimulated by the 2012 Olympics.

After the presentation, the Chair, Paul Morrissey thanked Tom Smith for his presentation and commented on the proposed Mayoral Development Corporation, to be led by London Mayor Boris Johnson, (expected to take over the Olympic Park Legacy Company, and be responsible for maximizing the regeneration opportunities for east London resulting from the Games). He said it was crucial the 500 acre Park was managed effectively after the Olympics and that animating it and ensuring it remained a local, national and international attraction in the years following the Games was critical.

The Chair and invited delegates to ask questions. One delegate asked what consultation there had been with the local community. The speaker replied that a huge amount of consultation had taken place from the inception of the plans, to ensure the strategy and objectives were built upon local priorities. The Chair thanked the delegates and concluded the morning session. He outlined the plans for the afternoon session: with the first Study Tour to the Olympic Park departing after lunch from the MINT hotel at 1.00pm.

Delegates not on ST1 were invited to undertake any Partnership Business, as required, until approximately 3.30pm, when the business for Day 1 officially concluded. Delegates were then advised to return to the conference hotel by 5.50pm ready to depart for the House of Lords Reception at 6.00pm, and the Chair, Paul Morrissey invited delegates to return to the MINT hotel after the reception for the conference dinner at 8.00 pm.

Following lunch, delegates for Study Tour One to the Olympic Park, gathered in the hotel lobby and travelled to the Olympic Park at 1.00pm. The tour was organised by the Olympic Delivery Authority and LOCOG and included a bus tour with a qualified official tour guide to explain the site.

Delegates were also fortunate to be accompanied by John Hopkins, Project Director for the Olympic Parklands and Public Realm at the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) who kindly offered to act as an additional guide on the bus. The tour took just over an hour as the Olympic Park is an area the size of Hyde Park and half of Kensington Gardens. Delegates were given a map and leaflet to help understand the scale and layout of the site.

[For more detail on the horticultural aspects of the park click here](#)

Once the tour had concluded, delegates returned to their hotels.

At 5.50pm, delegates gathered in the MINT hotel lobby for transportation to the House of Lords in a vintage Routemaster bus. A commemorative photo was taken of the group by the bus. On arrival at the House of Lords, Paul Morrissey offered apologies for TGLP Chair, Lord Falconer, who was disappointed not be able to attend due to over-running business in the House of Lords.

Paul Morrissey then introduced TGLP Chief Executive, Ros Dunn and Thames Gateway (Lewisham East) MP Heidi Alexander, who had kindly agreed to host the reception in place of Lord Falconer. Heidi Alexander is also a member of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, which examines issues in detail, from government policy to proposed new laws.

Ms. Alexander welcomed the delegates and commented on the impact of well managed and designed green space to the well being of urban communities and stressed the importance of projects such as Euroscapes in enabling partners to share good practice, new developments and information on key issues.

At 7.30pm, the reception concluded and delegates travelled back to the conference hotel (MINT) for the seminar dinner.

Day Two: Friday, 19th February 2011

The second day of the Euroscapes Seminar opened at 8.30am. Once delegates had been registered, Paul Morrissey, Deputy Chief Executive of TGLP introduced the agenda for the day and introduced **Charlotte Dessandier, European Projects Manager** as Chair for the second day and as presenter for the first session, reporting back on the management and progress of the Euroscapes Project.

Ms Dessandier gave a series of reports regarding the Euroscapes project. In regard to the management and coordination of the project, she outlined the outputs of the projects and the planned and delivered activities up until June 2011 and also reported back on the workshops that had been organized and gave details about future planned events. She encouraged delegates to use the project website and to inform the management team about their best practice examples and any relevant publicity they had received and/or any relevant events

they had organized, were attending. The Chair also outlined the delivered/planned outputs and activities for the Partners Landscape Management Plans (LMP) from Jan 2010 – June 2011 and asked partners for their continued support in developing the common LMP.

Moving on to Best Practice, the Chair stressed how importance it was that partners shared their analysis and best practice examples and asked for more to be submitted. She then discussed the responses from partners regarding the European Landscape Convention and although it had not been ratified across the union, each nation state did have legislation protecting landscapes, these tended to focus more on environmental issues. The Chair concluded her session with a final presentation clarifying partner queries about the project and advising on spending and proper reporting. Following the Chair's report, she introduced the five project updates from the following partners: Hungary, Romania, Greece, Spain and Poland:

- **The Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency (LBDCA), Hungary**

Partners spoke about environmental problems due to developments which cause degradation of water quality, loss of biodiversity and local communities' loss of connection to the lake. Based on this situation the Hungarian partner supervised shoreline rehabilitation plans and assessed the quality of the reed-belt. Shoreline rehabilitation plans regulate land developments on the shore to restore/ keep good environmental quality and to ensure public access areas to the lake. These were implemented in each shoreline settlement (42 in total). The finalization of the supervision is currently in progress. Reed means cleaning mechanism of the water and habitat for many species. To save the reed-belt requires reed-belt classification. This will be finished during the next period.

- **South East Regional Development Agency (SERDA), Romania**

Partners spoke on the landscape management for the historical Braila site. They said the key elements to consider were the historical and typological diversity of the buildings, the conscious rehabilitation of the cultural heritage, avoiding the degradation of the green areas, and ensuring support for the creation of interest hubs and areas. They noted that although citizens' had a moderate interest in the municipality and other public institutions, there was a higher interest in local businesses.

- **Trikala Municipal Enterprise for Social Development (DEKA), Greece**

Partners said that there had been major administrative reform in the region, reducing the number of municipalities in Trikala from 23 to 4. The project is using the GIS tool to develop St Georgios Park which is used as a multi-functional area for sports, recreation, and cultural and social activities.

- **Granollers City Council, Spain**

Partners said that two projects are in progress: the diagnosis of landscapes and an important event of dissemination of the Euroscapes project.

The diagnoses of the four natural landscapes of Granollers are producing different preliminary documents of the future management plan: a scientific diagnosis of the flora, vegetation and fauna in river areas; an action plan of river areas; reports of workshops and polls of river areas, scientific diagnosis of the flora, vegetation and fauna water bodies; general diagnosis of the rural landscape; diagnosis of woodland with a botanical inventory and an evaluation of uses.

Granollers is also organizing a Euroscapes Local Info Day with the title “Water in projects of environmental restoration”. The conference will take place on 18 March 2011 with the participation of local, national and international presenters. Two partners of Euroscapes, Wetzlar-Gießen and University of Sapienza, are going to present his projects carried out in river areas. More than 150 attendants are expected at this major event.

Municipality of Torun, Poland

Partners discussed a new initiative regarding the requirements for effective green space management, within both the internal and external fortifications of the urban and peri-urban area at Torun.

This initiative is the continuation of outputs from the 1st Euroscapes thematic seminar's open-air design workshops, held in Torun, Poland, in July 2010. It focuses on an innovative approach to public consultation based on the EUROSCAPES project partners' proposals which were developed after sharing the experience of managing a green space situated next to Chopin Street in Torun.

The public consultation will be carried out with help of the GIS tools, such as the GEOPORTAL <http://mapa.um.torun.pl> where the two partners' proposals will be displayed. The diagnosis of the landscapes, as well as the post-conference publication and educational tools for dissemination, are currently being prepared.

The Chair then thanked each of the partners and introduced **Dr. Deni Ruggeri, Assistant Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture from the University of Oregon, USA**, who presented his research on Sustainable Landscapes of the Heart. The speaker started with a critique of sustainability, arguing that it placed too much emphasis on energy efficiency and economic input/output, and did not sufficiently address the dimensions of sacredness, health and identity.

For developments to be truly sustainable they must be places people value so they will be stewarded in the future, the speaker said. He argued that too much emphasis is placed on the views and opinions of `professionals`, and too little on the views and expertise of local people. As such, we could design the most sustainable cities but if we “don't touch people's hearts” these places will not be cared for.

The speaker critiqued the traditional assessment tool for landscape sustainability, saying that none of its `mandatory priorities` gave much weight to these issues with only a few of the `optional credits` addressing the dimensions he had raised. This is despite the fact that evidence shows developments which flourish in the long term are those valued by local people; those that they identify with and are attached to. He said attachment is the key to stewardship. Sustainable place-making and design therefore need to begin from what people value; be more user led; include tools to help identify and rate the local `sacred structures`, which could easily be everyday places like the post office, the school, the village hall, as much as places of natural beauty. The speaker noted that the EU Landscape Convention took account of some of these issues by encouraging a view of landscape as a cultural artefact and a complex entity, and therefore understood there was a value above its physical use.

Dr Ruggeri concluded by encouraging delegates to listen and be educated by local people and to conduct more bottom-up assessment to help them understand their own local `Sacred Structures`. The Chair thanked the speaker and asked for any questions. One delegate asked how this approach could be translated for big cities? The speaker said it was crucial to educate people and build the skills required to enable people to participate effectively and intelligently but advised that this would take time and not happen `overnight`. Referring to the UK

government's current localism agenda, Paul Morrissey said a community was defined as '3 people or more' and questioned how capacity could be built without relying on the same 'faces'. He also commented that brown field sites were being used to build new communities and asked how these should be designed as they were not obviously connected to another community? Dr Ruggeri said it was likely there would be local community of some sort nearby or a small neighbourhood group that could form the basis of initial participation which would help inform the design work.

The Chair, Ms Dessandier thanked Dr Ruggeri and introduced **Dr Uwe Ferber and Lutz Adami from the Region-City of de Gießen-Wetzlar**, who spoke about Impact and Compensation Regulation in Germany. Dr Ferber explained that although there was always finance for commercial development it was always harder to secure funding for improving landscapes, and set out the various funding streams for nature conservation projects at a number of levels from private to EU.

Dr Ferber explained that in their region they had originally used compulsory nature compensation measures to offset the impact of any local development (commercial and residential) and made it part of their local building regulations i.e. who builds, compensates. The speaker said that this had become increasingly counterproductive however. A domestic example he used was a local householder being told to build a roof garden to offset the impact of their new car-port. The householder however didn't want the garden and therefore didn't maintain it and it became overgrown and unsightly for neighbours. Similarly commercial compensations, such as green space required from contractors to offset their new road, would often be isolated and poorly integrated with other green space and incoherent with local land management strategies.

The speaker said planners therefore decided to develop a new Environmental Impact Regulation system, enabling up to 20 or 30 developers to contribute to (invest in) a new project – either a new development or a renovation, using Ecopoints (at 0.35 Euros per point) with the number of points reflecting the level of impact of the developers' plans. This helped to raise investment for landscape planning from commercial development and helped ensure projects were coherent with existing local and regional landscape planning strategies and objectives. The renovation of a former recycling plant was cited as an example. The plant had been demolished and the land very successfully restored and replanted back to meadow, using the investment raised through compensation measures.

The Chair thanked Dr Ferber and Mr Adami, and then introduced **Anne Jaluzot, Senior Public Space Advisor at CABE** (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment). Ms Jaluzot said she was delighted to join the seminar to launch the Green Infrastructure Toolkit which CABE together with a number of other project partners had worked to develop.

The speaker said it was essential to rethink about landscape as an infrastructure: it could bring a number of benefits to local communities and places and could help to underpin economic growth. However planners struggle to illustrate a tangible benefit to green assets, as it is not just about market value but about adopting a more holistic approach to account for the full range of benefits.

In the current economic climate, jobs and development will be vital and the speaker said it could be difficult for eco-developers and investors and developers to speak the same 'language'? She said, understanding and assessing the full range of benefits derived from green infrastructure is very challenging: for example, how do you financially assess well-being for a community? The speaker said one option could be to use health targets which would help demonstrate the link between a pleasant space to exercise in and a space for addressing specific health issues, (such as obesity/heart disease, etc), which would have a tangible financial benefit for health providers. The speaker suggested another option could be to demonstrate the impact on property values resulting from nearby attractive and accessible green space.

The speaker said the partners had worked closely with a firm which conducts eco-appraisals, to help develop a tool for demonstrating how green infrastructure could add value to a development project or enable planners to choose between different green infrastructure approaches. The speaker said the Toolkit provided a framework for assessment which had a diverse range of criteria including health; tourism; property values; and job creation, and she illustrated the spreadsheet based calculator.

The speaker emphasised that the Toolkit was just a prototype at this stage and needed lots of further testing. She asked if a [copy of the e-tool](#) could be circulated to all the partners for them to use and test, and encouraged partners to give them feedback on their experiences to help the project partners further develop and refine it. This has been circulated to partners but we include the link below:

The Chair, Charlotte Dessandier thanked the speaker and encouraged the partners as possible to take part in the research as it would help support the wider aims of the Euroscapes programme and hopefully inform the work of all of the partners. The Chair then invited the delegates to take a refreshment break and reminded them about the workshops being run after the break and the locations.

Following the refreshment break at 11am, delegates split into two groups (the 2 workshops run by Granollers/Gießén-Wetzlar were combined):

Workshops

W1: Using GIS and e-tools to deliver efficient landscape management - DEKA Trikala

Mr. G. Gorgogetas presented the Geographic Information System (GIS) that has been designed, developed and implemented by e-Trikala S.A. There was an in-depth analysis of the data layers comprised in the GIS, and this was followed by a broad discussion amongst participants followed by a final Q&A session. The workshop lasted an hour and the key topics discussed were as follows:

- Jamie Dean (East London Grid and Design for London raised the issue of the interface of such a GIS tool and whether is external (public domain) or internal (intranet use).
- Madalena Neves, Municipality of Loures, underlined the importance of data base building and data collection. She stressed the fundamental importance of collecting the data and the relevant info as well as updating them continuously in order to have a cutting edge e-tool for internal and external users alike.
- Delegates from Loures also suggested a closer collaboration with the Departments of Technical Services and Horticultural Services within the Municipality of Trikala in order to further test the GIS.
- Zuzana Hudekova, Faculty of Architecture, Institute of Garden and Landscape Architecture, Slovakia, asked about the links between the GIS tool and the aims and objectives of the Euroscapes Project. They also asked about the correlation between the existing Landscape Management Plan in the Municipality of Trikala and the GIS e-tool.

- Jamie Dean, ELGG, also asked for more information on the links between the GIS tool and Euroscapes Project.
- István Hegedüs, Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency, Hungary was interested in the GIS's capacity as a decision supporting system (DSS) for modeling. For example, helping determine the probability of flooding in riverside areas or mapping the expansion of urban areas, for housing,.
- Uwe Ferber, City-Region of Gießen-Wetzlar was interested in the number of staff and the expertise required for developing and maintaining the GIS tool at e-Trikala S.A.

W2: Blue spaces and water issues – Social and Ecological aspects Granollers City Council/ Region-City of de Gießen-Wetzlar

Mr. Xavier Romero Hidalgo presented the evaluation of the Blue Spaces and Water Issues questionnaire. The presentation shows results about issues such as water bodies problems, ecological values of river areas and social use and perception of blue spaces. A total of eight partners complete the questionnaire and all of them consider that blue spaces play a major role within the Euroscapes project.

The evaluation was followed by project presentations worked out by the partners Lutz Adami, Xavier Romero Hidalgo, Christian Haissat and Vasiliki Voka.

The presentations were followed by an engaged discussion. The participants agreed that the given topic is an important and unifying issue in almost all of the projects and that there should be a continuation of the discussion throughout the entire Euroscapes project - leading to a joint statement for the landscape management plan.

Mr. Paul Morrissey suggested that the question to answer within the project should be: "How can blue spaces help to build our social capital". In this context Mr. Paul Morrissey informed about the local projects "Riverwood" (www.riverwood.org.uk) and "Thames 21" (www.thames21.org.uk).

The workshop lasted one and a half hours.

Please also note that Paul Morrissey, TGLP has agreed to run a design competition through Thames Gateway partner universities on behalf of the Municipality of Trikala. (More information at the end of this report).

After the workshops the delegates returned to the main conference room for concluding remarks. The Chair, Charlotte Dessandier, thanked the workshop leaders and reminded delegates on Study Tour 2 of the Olympic Park to ensure they were ready to depart for the tour by 1.00pm and for all other delegates, that partnership business would take place from 2.00pm – 3.30pm as required.

The Chair then asked all delegates who did not have to depart early, to return to the main conference for the final conference presentation at 3.40pm by Betty Anyika, from the VALUE project in Sheffield. The Chair thanked all delegates, and for those departing early, promised that the conference presentations and the conference report would be available on the Euroscapes website in due course. The session then closed and delegates went to lunch.

Following lunch, delegates for Study Tour Two to the Olympic Park, gathered in the hotel lobby and were transported to the Olympic Park at 1.00pm. The content of the tour was the same as ST1, therefore details are as above. Some delegates departed early, following the conclusion of the tour, in order to catch return flights. Others returned to the conference hotel at about 3.30pm.

As several delegates had to depart earlier than planned, the Chair and Mr Morrissey asked Betty Anyika, Project Manager for the VALUE project if she would do her presentation on her arrival, (c.2.30pm) and repeat it later, if there were sufficient delegates. Ms Anyika was very happy to do this and gave her presentation directly.

At 2.30pm organisers gathered all available delegates and Charlotte Dessandier introduced **Betty Anyika, Project Manager for the INTERREG IVB VALUE Project**, who spoke on the work of the project in the Sheffield area Valuing Attractive Landscapes in the Urban Economy.

Ms Anyika introduced the VALUE project and the Partners, and explained that the key aim of the project was to demonstrate the economic value of green infrastructure at the city/region scale and to show how to target green investments to maximise the competitive benefits. She said they had defined green infrastructure as, the network of green spaces that help provide a high quality of life around towns and cities.

The speaker outlined the key objectives of the project as: engaging key stakeholders and evaluating transnational practice in green infrastructure planning and valuation; producing and demonstrating strategic planning models to target green investments; implementing innovations in green infrastructure investment and delivery; assessing the economic value of

individual green spaces and green infrastructure networks; and delivering an 'EU Agenda for green infrastructure investment in the NWE regions', supported by hard economic evidence and practical training.

The project had made significant progress and project leaders had been able to develop key partnerships with local business and communities, and had conducted significant numbers of interviews amongst a variety of key stakeholders in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands. It had produced landscape simulations and was currently gathering feedback and comments with employers and members of local communities in all the VALUE partner regions, and organised a transnational congress on spatial planning policy with key decision makers.

Researchers for the project conducted a Cost Benefit Analysis at the local scale, but researchers found that although this was helpful in describing and measuring the economic impact of investment, it was difficult to capture the non-tangible values the speaker said. At the city/region level, the CBA helped capture the wider effects in terms of the economy as a whole and provided an accurate examination of the potential of alternative approaches, such as measuring the impact of quality of life.

Researchers explored the impact of Quality of Life measures in comparison to Quality of Business Environment (QBE), examining the attractiveness for tourism; provision of public amenities and abundance of regional open spaces, for example. In regard to Quality of Life, researchers found that in more desirable areas people were prepared to have a lower wage to have a better quality of life and were willing to pay higher house prices. In regard to a quality business environment, although researchers understood businesses would use different criteria than households, they found firms were willing to pay higher prices for locations in more attractive areas, although it could not be assumed that places with a high QoL also had a high QoBE.

Ms Anyika then showed examples of redevelopment projects VALUE had supported: including a new wetlands development on a previous industrial site outside Rotherham which had transformed the local area and provided an important leisure amenity for the community. She also highlighted the renovation of a bridge and bank side near Sheffield (check) which provided an important connection for the town and helped to tackle anti-social behaviour. When Ms Anyika had concluded her presentation, Paul Morrissey led questions from delegates, and then thanked Ms Anyika. At 3.30pm delegates started to return to the hotel from ST2 and Ms Anyika kindly agreed to repeat her presentation.

Following this the Chair Ms Dessandier and Mr Morrissey thanked Ms Anyika and all the remaining delegates and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Conclusions

The seminar proved useful, particularly in terms of sharing information on the Green Infrastructure Toolkit, a free resource which partners were encouraged to make use of.

Please also note that Paul Morrissey, TGLP has agreed to run a design competition through Thames Gateway Universities on behalf of the Municipality of Trikala: the results of this will be presented at the next Euroscapes conference in Trikala in June 2011.

Attendees

Belgium: ENTP (European New Towns & Pilot Cities network)

Edoardo Guglielmetti: ENTP Project Coordinator

Canary Islands: Viceconsejería de Ordenación Territorial del Gobierno de Canarias

Aitor Pulido Acosta

Javier Betancor Jorge

Miguel Ángel Pulido Rodríguez

France : SAN of Marne-la-Vallée Val Maubuée

Charlotte DESSANDIER : European Projects Manager

Christian HAISSAT

Sébastien GARCES

Monika SZULTA

Magali GORCE

Germany: Wetzler-Gießen

Uwe Ferber (Projektgruppe Stadt+Entwicklung)

Adami Lutz

Holger Hölscher

Schamann Klaus

Greece: Municipality of Trikala

Georgios Gorgogetas

Georgios Papadopoulos

Vasiliki Voka

Hungary: Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency

István Hegedűs

Judit Fekete-Páris

Italy: DATA (ex DPTU) Sapienza University of Rome

Giulia Annicelli

Emanuela Biscotto

Rosanna Palermo

Elio Trusiani

Claudio Bordi

Poland: Municipality of Torun - Environment and Greenery Department

Anna Karmienko

Szczepan Burak

Romania:

Ion Marian: Architect, City Hall Braila
South-East Regional Development Agency of Romania (SE RDA)
Luiza Tiganus

Luminita Mihailov

Simona Monica Pascariu

Slovakia: Faculty of architecture

Ingrid Belcakova

Zuzana Hudekova

Spain: City council of Granollers

Sergi Morera

Xavi Romero Hidalgo

Latvia: Sigulda District Council

Inga Barisa

Dace Actina

Ilze Urtane

Jolanta Borite

Dita Laure

Guntars Zvejnieks

Portugal: Municipality of Loures

Paula Pereira

Ilda Pires

Madalena Neves