

Culture and Communities Committee

Deputation for Item 7.1 - Fields in Trust

Protected Public Parks and Green Spaces



1. About Fields in Trust

Fields in Trust have been legally protecting parks and green spaces for almost 100 years. The charity works with local authorities across the UK to protect green spaces in perpetuity ensuring those spaces are there for future generations and continue to bring benefit for people and the planet.

2. Proposal

Fields in Trust has worked with Edinburgh City Council over many years to protect the City's parks and green spaces and in recent months has partnered to protect 25 more spaces. The portfolio of spaces to be discussed at the Culture and Communities Committee have been carefully mapped by Fields in Trust to increase the % of Edinburgh's population living within a 10minute walk of a green space that has been protected forever.

3. Why protect?

Protecting green spaces has never been more important. Their importance during the Covid-19 pandemic has been increasingly evident for health, fitness and mental wellbeing, and they continue to be a highly valued resource in our recovery especially for those who do not have access to private gardens.

Protecting, enhancing and improving green spaces is prevalent across local authority climate plans. They are considered vital to green infrastructure planning, securing positive effects for biodiversity and offsetting carbon outputs which cause increased heating and poor air quality in urban spaces. Those green spaces will support Edinburgh's climate strategy and meet the target of net zero by 2030, and by legally protecting them they will continue to work hard for the city and the planet's benefit in the future.

Edinburgh City is leading the way in Scotland and the UK in committing to protect multiple parks and green spaces. Choosing to protect at scale sends a strong message to other local authorities about the value of these spaces and their importance in our immediate recovery and the lives of generations to come.

Fields in Trust will be proud to partner with Edinburgh on this portfolio of work and promote this example of best practice to other local authorities.

4. Request

I would ask that the Committee agree to the protection of the further 25 spaces presented by David Jamieson, Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries, City of Edinburgh Council.

Helen Griffiths
Chief Executive, Fields in Trust