



## PRESS RELEASE

### Much to discuss at the Forum's Updating Events in 2020

2020 is set to be a year of much challenge and change for all operating across the important and diverse amenity sector. This is especially true for all aspects of amenity management and especially in terms of weeds, pests and disease. The Government are conducting a full review of the National Action Plan which sets requirements and targets for the sector in terms of achieving best practice. There is also set to be a full review of pesticide policy and increased pressures for a planned integrated approach. Government plans set challenging targets for the environment and climate change.

The Amenity Forum is once again hosting a series of free half day Updating events across the UK aimed at all those involved in or with an interest in amenity management. Full details and locations can be obtained by emailing [admin@amenityforum.net](mailto:admin@amenityforum.net) Pre-registration is requested for catering and administrative purposes.

Once again, a representative from the Chemicals Regulations Division of HSE will update delegates on policy issues and this will be followed by a presentation from the Forum Chairman on current initiatives in the sector and how we should best respond to policy and related changes. There will also be a networking opportunity focussing on how the sector might best communicate to the public and key stakeholders on the nature and importance of its work.

At each event a guest speaker will then provide his or her views to the title of 'Integrated Management in practice'. The event will conclude with a presentation from the host organisation.

These events are possible thanks to generous support from Weedfree, a valued member of the Forum. Also, each event is hosted by an individual member for which the Forum is very grateful

Professor John Moverley OBE, Independent Chairman of the Forum, said 'As I often say, what happens in amenity management impacts upon every UK citizen every day seeking to provide safe and healthy spaces fit for purpose. Our Updating event is always popular but this year is set to be more than ever. There is much change around and how we address this will be vital'



### **Notes to Editors**

The Amenity Forum is the non-profit making voluntary initiative and the independent body bringing together professional organisations with an involvement in the amenity horticulture sector. This is a very diverse industry responsible for the landscape management of urban areas, highways and rail network, sports grounds, parks, industrial and utility sites. To establish and maintain these areas to a high standard, the sector requires access to pesticides, efficient equipment and trained and qualified staff. The organisation was formed in October 2003 as a key action to support the Voluntary Initiative, an industry led project agreed with Government to reduce the environmental impact of pesticides.

The membership comprises of organisations from across this diverse industry, covering manufacturers, suppliers, trade associations, local authorities, major users, landscape, sport and leisure. Equally important are those members who represent training and qualification standards. The key Government agencies have an important observer role. The objectives of the Amenity Forum are:

*To promote and encourage proper and responsible use of pesticides and integrated methods for the control of pests, weeds and diseases*

*To lead, coordinate and encourage achievement of "Best Practice" objectives in weed, pest & disease management*

*To ensure that all practices are sustainable and protect the environment with minimised risks to public health.*

*To run a communication programme to support these aims and to promote the image of the sector among stakeholders and the public.*

*To coordinate and encourage the establishment of sustainable qualifications, training and CPD activity, specifically for the Amenity sector*

*To organise activities within the Amenity Forum membership and linked organisations, such that Amenity Forum objectives are developed in a coordinated way*

***For further information on this press release or the work of the Forum, please contact the Secretary, Kate Hopkins, or the Chairman, Professor John Moverley OBE. Similarly, if you wish to register for future press releases, please let us know.***

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