



## PRESS RELEASE

### POPULAR UPDATING EVENTS TO BE RUN ONLINE

At the start of each year the Amenity Forum run a series of free updating events for all involved or with an interest in amenity management. These normally take place at venues across the UK and have been very well received. Given the current restrictions, opportunity to run these in the traditional way has been lost but the Forum are going ahead with them but online. The same technology will be used as for the Forum's very successful conference held in October.

The format will be very similar to normal, with the programme starting at 10.15 and concluding by 12.30pm. There will be opportunity for questions and all the current issues will be covered. 2021 sees the UK fully depart from the EEU bringing with its new regulations on plant protection products. The UK is also issuing a new national action plan relating to amenity management in 2021. Just these two items present challenges and opportunities. The events also give opportunity to catch up on new developments and innovations and what is required to meet the Amenity Standard, set to become a requirement in future.

Whilst the content of each event will be broadly the same, each will have a particular nation focus. The dates are given below, and each event is free to attend but pre-registration is required. If you would like to register or receive further information, please contact [admin@amenityforum.net](mailto:admin@amenityforum.net) Full programmes for each event will be available early in 2021.

February 9 <sup>th</sup>	England
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Wales
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	England
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Ireland
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Scotland

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. The importance of this has never been more apparent in the last year. Our Updating events are always popular and relevant, 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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