



## PRESS RELEASE

### Change ahead in approaches to managing amenity spaces and sports surfaces

Withdrawal from the European community, and the consequences of a pandemic, are already substantially impacting on all who manage amenity and sports spaces. The pandemic has highlighted just how important these areas are to all and especially in the urban and sporting environment. BREXIT has heralded new requirements in trading, changes in resource sourcing and more. For those charged with maintaining areas, those involved operationally and indeed anyone with an interest in amenity, these are times when it can be difficult to keep up with policy announcements and new innovations and approaches.

All this means that the timing of the 2021 Amenity Forum conference, to be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>, could not be better and its title 'Facing the Future' very apt indeed. The conference will focus on policy change and its impact. The event will commence with keynote senior speakers from Defra, the Chemicals Regulation Department of HSE (CRD) and the Environment Agency. Defra will address change resulting from the recent review of the UK National Action Plan relating to weed, pest and disease management. The CRD speaker will address changes in pesticide regulation and enforcement approaches. The Environment Agency will look at the ever tightening of regulation relating to water and its quality. Each area is crucially important and reason in itself for conference attendance.

These will be followed by some eminent speakers involved operationally who will look at what more integrated approaches might mean including a specific contractor and a distributor view. There will then be a focus on the vitally important area of education and training. Policy change will bring more requirements for both training and CPD and increased innovation in how this can be delivered. The conference programme will conclude with some individual perspectives on the future for amenity and sports space management. This will include a focus on parks, on the environmental impact of various management approaches and what is involved in creating and maintaining surfaces at an international sporting venue.

To complement all of this will be an exhibition area where supporters will be on hand to showcase and describe what they do and new developments. There will be the announcement of the category winners for the Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year and John Moverley will provide a presentation of his thoughts looking forward.

A day not to be missed and, given the support from organisations, very competitively priced at £95 per delegate. For further information, please contact Kate at [admin@amenityforum.net](mailto:admin@amenityforum.net)

Some comments from participants at last year's event were:

*"I would just like to say a huge thank you for putting on a great conference, along with some excellent speakers in their various fields of expertise from across the sector. The whole conference was well organised, fast moving and held my attention throughout"*

*"Congratulations on such a successful and well run event. As usual the standard of presenters and presentations was incredibly high, although we've come to expect that. . It was an incredibly worthwhile day, very enjoyable and I learnt new things"*

*"Just to let you know that I thought the conference yesterday was really excellent – the content and speakers were very good and their topics were very relevant. Very well managed making great use of the time, an event not to be missed"*



### **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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