



**your home, your world, your future**

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The aim of the Greenbelt's environmental policy is to raise the standards of environmental management while protecting your environment. We will:

### 1. Add value to the Open Space environment

- Maintenance specifications will be agreed before GGL take on any site
- All work will be carried out using a formal Service Level Agreement with each contractor
- Regular inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance with the SLA, legal requirements, and best practice guidance. A procedure for remedying non-compliance is in place
- We will work with local contractors and build partnerships through training
- We will work with a developer's landscape design team, and strive for greater use of native species
- Our staff will hold appropriate qualifications, be experienced, and undergo continuous training

### 2. Where possible, exceed legal compliance

- The GGL Health & Safety policy contains statements on personal protective equipment and when this is to be worn
- GGL carries full insurance and has public liability cover for £10M
- Only approved contractors and whose employees have valid Certificates of Competence for appropriate machinery and equipment will be used. GGL will demand sight of these prior to work commencing; and will check compliance
- GGL will use only contractors which are appropriately licensed for the work they undertake; and use licensed facilities for disposing of waste material
- Contractors' machinery and equipment is to be well-maintained. GGL will carry out spot checks
- GGL has a waste minimisation programme in place
- Play areas are independently inspected every two weeks with full reports prepared every quarter. We will immediately carry out minor repairs that are needed or make any equipment safe
- Work on site will be carried out within agreed hours of operation to minimise intrusion on people's lives
- Training will be provided to staff to keep up to date with changing legislation and practices

### 3. Support and promote sustainable land management

- Only approved chemicals will be sanctioned for use as herbicides (weedkillers), fungicides, and plant food; and excessive use of chemicals is discouraged
- Weather conditions etc. will be taken into consideration when spraying
- Best horticulture and arboriculture practices will be employed
- GGL actively supports the principle of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and aims to be a leading champion of these schemes
- Grass cuttings are left on-site (except in high amenity grassed areas) as the cuttings provide useful mulch and a source of Nitrogen, which in turn reduces the need to use fertiliser. The costs of maintenance are also considerably reduced by leaving the cuttings on-site
- Continuous cover with forestry is practiced. GGL does not clear fell; where felling is required this is kept to the death/damage of individual trees. Regeneration is encouraged to assist the ecology of the woodland
- Contractors are encouraged to mulch, chip, compost or recycle material; but it is recognised that this may not be practical in all circumstances
- GGL will take action against flytipping, litter, and hazardous waste; dog fouling; burning rubbish and bonfires; graffiti; anti-social behaviour; pollution. This will include liaising closely with the local authority, police, dog wardens, litter wardens, community groups, etc.

#### **4. Encourage biodiversity on our sites**

- Be aware of, and support, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Assess the impact products and practice have on the environment, e.g.
- Cut a 1 metre strip either side of footpaths and 1 metre back from kerbs (enhances habitat, improves visual appearance, reduces maintenance costs)
- Meadow grass cut once per year (allows wild flowers to grow and seed)
- Leave 10% of amenity grass uncut (enhances habitat)
- Encourage local biodiversity action groups
- Liaise with local wildlife groups
- Use an ISO 14000 company to carry out insect and rodent control

#### **5. Value clients, customers and the wider community**

- Provide a high standard of service
- Be open and transparent, including liaising with and meeting residents' groups, third parties, etc
- GGL promotes Customer Care, with training provided to (appropriate) staff
- A Freephone number and an email address are provided to promote accessibility
- A website is available and updated on a regular basis, to provide information
- A Home Owners' Pack is produced for each new household and is updated regularly. This gives considerable information on GGL and maintenance issues
- Information leaflets (free of charge) are produced on a variety of subjects
- Meet and discuss developers' needs