



## Management Companies

Having public open spaces run by private companies is not only inequitable but it also lacks democratic accountability. Having management companies maintain and own public lands would require the residents of the relevant developments to pay for the maintenance of a public space over which they have no ownership or control, and which should normally be covered by council tax, or if taken in charge by a parish council, by precept.

Public open space is defined as all open space of public value, which can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors, and country parks (definition taken from the Government guidance on [‘Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space’](#)).

Equity is one of the principles of a fair taxation system – that the people who can benefit from a facility/service should be the people who pay for the same. Management companies place the financial burden of maintaining public open spaces on the residents of a particular development, while at the same time these residents have no rights or control over that land. Management companies are therefore inequitable and in the longer term, probably unsustainable. Public open spaces should be funded by, and accountable to, the public.

For this reason, Greenham Parish Council (GPC) strongly objects to management companies taking over public lands. Whenever this is proposed, GPC will seek to ensure that it is the Local Planning Authority (LPA) that is the body who owns and maintains those lands. This will ensure that the financial burden of ownership and maintenance of these lands is equitably distributed, and that the public has a say in how those lands are operated. Once the LPA owns the land, devolution plans can be discussed with the relevant local parish(es).