



## Pillar talk - amenity

*Susdrain*  
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illmanYOUNG™

# The four pillars of SuDS

- Quality
- Quantity
- **AMENITY**
- Biodiversity

what are other  
words for  
amenity?



agreeableness, comfort,  
pleasantness, convenience,  
affability, courtesy,  
amiability, politeness



 Thesaurus.plus

***BUT WHAT DOES 'AMENITY' MEAN?***

# The four pillars of SuDS

- Quality
- Quantity
- **AMENITY**
- Biodiversity



*‘Amenity describes the character or enjoyment of a landscape and how the relationship of its features contribute to that experience’*



# The need for amenity

## GOVERNMENT POLICY /CONSIDERATIONS

- The 25 year Environment Plan
- The Planning White Paper
- Updating of the NSTS
- *Living with Beauty* – BBBBC report
- Update of Manual for Streets
- Covid!

## COULD THESE DRIVE BETTER SUDS DESIGN?

- Current **lack** of good practice in providing amenity in SuDS design



# The other benefits of amenity

- More environments resilient to climate change
- Healthier environments with cleaner air and water
- More biodiverse habitats

## AND NOT FORGETTING SuDS DEFINITIONS

- Reuse of water
- Development's 'amenities'
- Amenity value of water

### *These are all part of amenity*

- If we can maximise the benefits, why wouldn't we?





# What does it take?



- **Water management** for a healthy environment that supports the water environment, people and biodiversity
- **Water cycle considerations** throughout the Planning, design and delivery process to maximise the benefits



# Places to live and enjoy

## DESIGNING FOR AMENITY OF VALUE TO PEOPLE

We have learned to value our open spaces

- Connect with nature
- Connect with friends or family
- Space to run, walk, play or just be
- Places to think
- Places of beauty
- Space to breathe
  
- If we can maximise the benefits, why wouldn't we?



# What delivering amenity can also provide

## PLANTING AS A SUDS DELIVERY TOOL

- Interception – everyday rainfall
- Uptake of water
- Managing particulates
- Reducing urban heat island effect
- Reducing pollutants in surface water
- Metabolising hydrocarbons
- Species networks & migration pathways
- Enhanced biodiversity

*Its how multifunctional benefits are delivered*





# What delivering amenity should embrace

## SCALE OF THE SUDS AND ITS SETTING

- Urban, streetscape or POS
- The desires and needs of the users
- Places with local character
- A range of facilities
  - Seating
  - Activities or quiet space
  - Play
  - Opportunities for social interaction
  - Public art/interactive space
- Variety of space



# What needs to change?

## THE APPROACH

- Clients may need a better understanding
- Beautiful space adds value and quality
- External space design with SuDS isn't about ease of modelling
- Space is precious – so don't waste it
- Water management as the driver
- ...but
- Quality of design and construction is key
- The devil's in the detail
- A genuine team approach









Hope there's some questions?

