



PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR SIGNS OFF IN GREEN STYLE

As part of the fight against climate change, the Mayor of Warrington Cllr Mrs Linda Dirir is signing off from her time in office by making a lasting contribution to the environment and her local Community Forest by planting a trio of oak trees with The Mersey Forest Team at nature reserve Risley Moss.

The tree planting is one of the final chapters of the Mayor's year-long term in office, which comes to a close on 21st May, and continues the Mayor's Theme 2006-7 of Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change. The oaks planted by the Mayor will aid biodiversity by providing habitat for wildlife, help filter air pollution and also play a role in combating climate change through 'locking up' carbon in the trees' wood as they grow.

Cllr Mrs Dirir said: "Tree planting has a key role to play in helping to protect and enhance our environment. The planting of these trees will help offset the carbon emissions from the use of the mayoral car during our year. It is one of a range of simple actions we can all take to help fight climate change, including using energy efficient lightbulbs, buying locally produced food and signing up with a green energy supplier."

As well as helping the environment, the tree will also benefit local communities by contributing to the creation of The Mersey Forest, the network of woodlands and other habitats being created across Merseyside and North Cheshire to regenerate land, transform local economies and boost health levels through getting people engaged with their green spaces.

Paul Nolan, Director of The Mersey Forest, said: “We are delighted that the Mayor is highlighting the linked issues of climate change and the benefits that woodlands can bring to the environment and their local communities.

As well as locking up carbon, trees can also help to reduce the impact of extreme temperatures and flooding in our towns and cities – an increasingly important factor given the already unavoidable level of climate change we are set to face in the decades to come.”

To celebrate the Mayor’s environmental commitment, The Mersey Forest Team are offering readers the chance to get involved by planting their own native birch tree. Phone The Mersey Forest Offices on 01925 816 217 to receive a free pack of birch seeds in the post to grow at home and then plant in your garden or at selected woodlands across The Mersey Forest.

ENDS

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Editors Notes:

The Mersey Forest:

The Mersey Forest is the leading environmental regeneration initiative in the North West and the largest of England’s 12 Community Forests. The Mersey Forest is not restricted to a single site, rather it is being created across a 465 square mile area of Merseyside and North Cheshire as networks of woodlands and other habitat between and within our cities, towns and villages for - and with the involvement of - local communities. The regeneration of The Forest is driven by The Mersey Forest Partnership, which includes the Forestry Commission, Natural England and nine local authorities – Cheshire, Liverpool, Ellesmere Port and Neston, Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton, Vale Royal and Warrington. The Mersey Forest is the key driver for investment into and for the development of a green infrastructure for the North West, reclaiming over 8000 hectares of land, home to 1.6million people, over a 30-year period to bring revolutionary economic, social and environmental benefit to the region.