



GREEN STREETS®

CASE STUDY: **KIRKBY**

Part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund

Promoting walking and cycling by making local routes greener and more attractive.

ROUTES GREENED 4.2KM SO FAR

LOCATION KNOWSLEY, MERSEYSIDE

PROGRAMME LSTF / SETTING THE SCENE FOR GROWTH



Partially funded by the Department of Transport

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THE STORY SO FAR



BACKGROUND

The Northwood and Kirkby area of Knowsley has lacked significant numbers of street trees, and has limited green space. It was therefore identified as a priority area for green infrastructure developments. Although the area suffers from significant economic and social disadvantage, our consultation showed that there is a strong community spirit and sense of local pride.

WHAT WE DID

Over the course of two phases, The Mersey Forest team planted 210 routeway residential and green space trees in Northwood. Planting took place in early 2011 and the late winter of 2012.

The work complemented other landscaping improvements carried out by The Mersey Forest locally, including the transformation of one of Northwood's larger under-used green spaces, now known as Northwood Forest Hills, which was completed in September 2012.

The Mersey Forest team worked closely with the local community

to ensure they fully supported the street tree project, and provided residents with a number of opportunities to shape the plans. Firstly, the team carried out an evaluation of residents' existing perceptions of the local area. They also engaged in door-to-door consultation to inform local residents about the plans and gauge their views.

The consultation showed strong support for the proposals, including comments that street trees would 'bring the community together' and give the streets a 'healthier look and feel'.

OUR IMPACT

An area that previously lacked street trees has been transformed thanks to this project. By planting a significant number of new large landmark trees, the visual aesthetics of this neighbourhood – which once lacked the greenery and "tree-lined" feel that many more affluent areas enjoy – have been dramatically improved.

Residents have been brought closer together as they've become involved with the scheme, and have

helped water the trees in their early growing stages.

An additional benefit has been to improve the cycling and walking routes between local residential properties, schools and workplaces. The improved green spaces and street environments have also created new opportunities for leisure and recreation, not least through the creation of a natural gym. The project has encouraged investment in new mixed tenure housing stock. Planting trees on residential streets has also been shown to reduce air and noise pollution and help make communities more resilient to climate change.

FUNDING

The project was part-funded by the Forestry Commission's Setting the Scene for Growth programme funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, with additional funding provided by Knowsley Housing Trust, Knowsley Council, and the government's Big Tree Plant project.



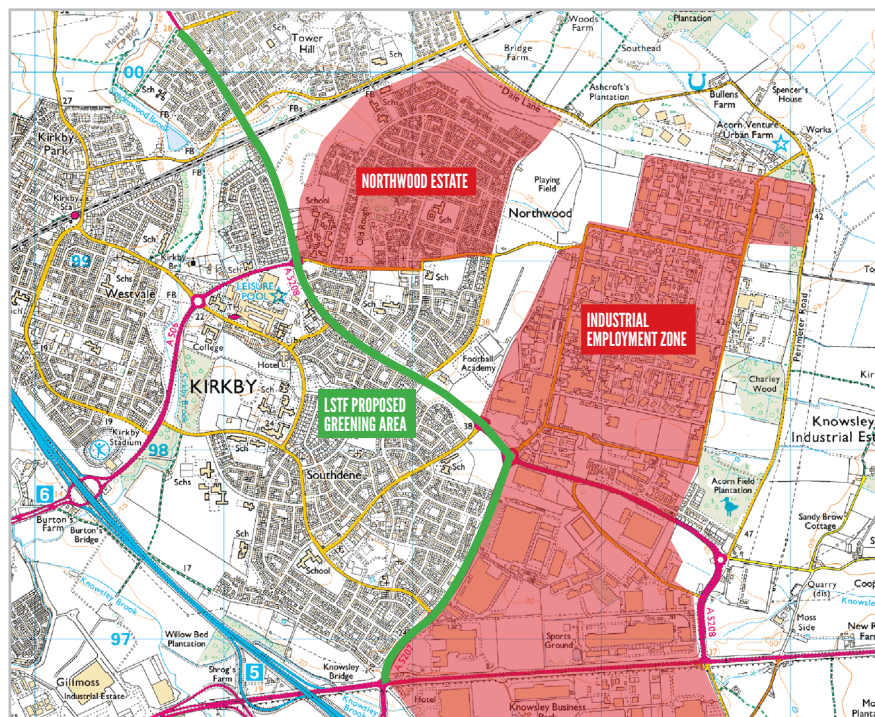


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Having street trees has made such a difference to my street. I now have something to look forward to all year round as the trees produce flowers, berries and beautiful autumn shades as well as attracting birdlife.

Northwood Mums community group

COMING UP AS PART OF LSTF



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**SPARK SOME IDEAS?
GET IN TOUCH...**

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MORE STREET GREENING

Kirkby is set to benefit from further street tree planting thanks to its share of the £0.5 million street tree planting programme being delivered by The Mersey Forest which will create more attractive travel routes between areas of high unemployment and places of education, training and work.

Funded by the Department for Transport, the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) 2012-2015 has awarded almost £25 million to Merseyside to deliver sustainable travel solutions that support economic growth while reducing carbon emissions. As part of this, The Mersey Forest has secured funding to plant street trees and other greenery along a total of 22km of "linking routes" in Kirkby and four other areas.

Working closely with the project partners, the street tree planting in Kirkby will begin in winter 2013/2014 and will contribute to The Mersey Forest's already

successful Green Streets project, which since 2007 has planted more than 1000 street trees in Merseyside and North Cheshire.

CONSULTATION

Local residents and businesses will be put at the heart of the plans thanks to community consultations carried out by The Mersey Forest which will ask local communities which species of trees they would like to see near them and whether they wish to be involved in watering their new trees.

The greening of the routes will complement a raft of other local projects within the wider LSTF programme, such as cycle hire schemes and improved bus services. Together with the street greening work, the projects aims to boost the number of people using sustainable modes of travel including walking, cycling and taking the bus, providing a greener route to work.

BENEFITS

Benefits will include reduced carbon emissions and air pollution, improved physical and mental health, and more people entering training, education and ultimately employment.

LSTF projects are delivered by The Merseyside Transport Partnership consisting of Merseytravel and the five local authorities of Merseyside – Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral, with Sustrans, The Mersey Forest and the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.