



GREEN STREETS[®]

NORTHWOOD

Street tree planting to enhance areas suffering from high levels of social and economic deprivation

VALUE	MORE THAN £32,600
LOCATION	KNOWSLEY, MERSEYSIDE
PROGRAMME	SETTING THE SCENE FOR GROWTH





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 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 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 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 (BIS), with additional funding provided by Knowsley Housing Trust, Knowsley Council, and the government's Big Tree Plant project.

Building on this investment, additional street greening is now taking place as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, funded by the Department for Transport.

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

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