



## GREEN STREETS®

# Case study: Local Sustainable Transport Fund

*Street tree planting to enhance neighbourhoods with low tree cover and high levels of deprivation.*

<b>TOTAL VALUE OF PROGRAMME</b>	<b>£0.5M</b>
<b>ADDED VALUE THROUGH LSTF</b>	<b>£276,000</b>
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SEFTON, MERSEYSIDE</b>
<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>SETTING THE SCENE FOR GROWTH</b>



**TRAVELWISE**  
MERSEYSIDE®





Photo by Monty Rakusen

---

*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”.*

*The street trees will provide a host of benefits to the areas where they are planted - encouraging residents to spend more time outside, improving air quality, and encouraging active travel. They will have an important role in boosting the local economy by improving the attractiveness of the area, ensuring investor and buyer confidence and leading to jobs.*

*This booklet showcases some of the transformation that has already taken place in Merseyside and further improvements we will carry out through LSTF.*

---

**Bootle, Litherland and Seaforth, Sefton 4**

**Sutton Manor, St.Helens 5**

**Northwood and Kirkby, Knowsley 6**

**Birkenhead, Wirral 7**





Photos by Monty Rakusen

# Bootle, Litherland and Seaforth

## BACKGROUND

The towns of Bootle, Litherland and Seaforth, in South Sefton, are in areas with low tree cover and high levels of multiple deprivation. Bootle and Litherland are currently subject to the process of housing renewal, with some houses being demolished and new multi-occupancy and mixed tenancy properties being created. Seaforth, meanwhile, is a relatively isolated community with poor sustainable travel routes and low levels of green infrastructure.

## PLANTING

Over 200 street trees have been planted in Seaforth, Litherland and Bootle through previous Mersey

Forest Green Streets projects. The dramatic transformation in the look and feel of the neighbourhood as a result of this work provided some of the inspiration for further tree planting there.

Over the next year, additional routes will be greened in South Sefton as part of LSTF.

Linear tree planting helps link areas of green space and walking and cycling routes between residential areas, and places of employment, training, and education. Street trees also make areas look more affluent, encouraging further investment in housing, business and jobs.

The trees promote improved health and wellbeing by encouraging

people to get outdoors and enjoy exercise, and also improve air quality.

## FUNDING

Section 106 contributions from nearby developments were secured for this project by Sefton Council.

Match funding of £68,000 was provided by the Merseyside Local Sustainable Transport Fund, part-funded by the Department of Transport through Merseytravel.





Photos by Mccoy Wynne

# St Helens

## BACKGROUND

Four Acre and Sutton Manor are located in south St.Helens. The area was once the location of several large collieries, which closed over the last 20 years. The semi rural area remains largely the subject of social and economic deprivation.

## PLANTING

The Mersey Forest team has worked extensively in the area already to create a cluster of community woodlands and green spaces known as Bold Forest Park, and has also previously planted street trees in residential areas and along key transport routes.

To continue this positive trend, we will continue to green areas of St.Helens as part of LSTF. In particular, we will focus on

Lea Green Industrial Estate, encouraging links between employment opportunities here, housing in Sutton Manor, and green space in Bold Forest Park.

## BENEFITS

Our work at Four Acre and Sutton Manor will bring attractive greenery to an area previously lacking trees and high quality green space.

As a result the area will become a more pleasant place for walking and cycling.

Improving the local environment will also encourage more visitors to the area and inward investment in new mixed tenure housing stock by developers and social housing providers. Other economic benefits have been secured, including a raised profile and an improved

investment outlook for the local Lea Green Industrial Park.

## FUNDING

As part of the initial planting in the lead into this programme, contributory funding came from Forestry Commission's Setting the Scene for Growth programme, funded by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, with additional funding provided by St. Helens Council, Bold Ward Committee, Re:New St.Helens, and Cory Environmental Trust. Funding for the current project is provided by Merseyside Local Sustainable Transport Fund, part-funded by the Department of Transport through Merseytravel.





Photos by Mccoy Wynne

# Northwood and Kirkby

## 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.

## PLANTING

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. 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'.

We are continuing to green key transport routes throughout Kirkby, through the LSTF programme, in order to encourage sustainable travel to work, training and education. This will help to improve

the health of local people and enhance the area, making it a more desirable place to live and work.

## FUNDING

As part of the initial planting in the lead into this programme, contributory funding came from 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, part-funded by the Department for Transport through Merseytravel.





Photos by Mccoy Wynne

# Birkenhead

## BACKGROUND

The areas of Birkenhead and Bidston have a strong association with ship-building and heavy industry, concentrated around the docklands area now known as Wirral Waters. Industrial decline, rising unemployment and high levels of deprivation have blighted the area. This, coupled with housing market failure and increasing demolitions, residents have had little access to high quality green space close to their homes, and there is little street greenery.

## PLANTING

The Mersey Forest have previously worked in Wirral to plant a number of street trees along residential streets. The positive response from the community and the impact of these trees on the landscape has led to the team and other partners securing more funding to set the scene for the Wirral Waters investment in Birkenhead between 2012-2015. During the first year, 370 street trees were planted, with a target of 1000 trees over the

duration of the project. These trees are helping to encourage active travel over 8km of routes.

Residents have been closely consulted throughout the project, with 73% of residents saying that street trees would encourage them to walk and cycle more in the Wirral. Many have been involved in community tree planting days, and a number have signed "pledges" to walk, cycle and get outdoors more in the Wirral.

A community celebration event was held in summer 2013. The popularity of this event led to a bid for further funding to improve an important underutilised green space in the centre of North Birkenhead, Ilchester Park.

## BENEFITS

The Mersey Forest's work in Birkenhead has significantly increased the tree cover in this area, transforming it from grey to green. Linear planting helps to link areas of green space and walking and cycling routes with

areas of employment, training and education. The tree planting in this area has set the scene for future investment through the Wirral Waters vision, which is part of Atlantic Gateway, a scheme which will regenerate inner Wirral and the Liverpool City Region to create over 20,000 new jobs and 14,000 new homes over 30 years.

Through improvements to Ilchester Park, the green space in the area will be better used by local people and will help to combat various health problems, including depression, obesity and social isolation. By linking this space to transport hubs such as railway stations, local people will be encouraged to cycle or walk to their destination, creating a host of health benefits.

## FUNDING

Funding for the current project comes from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, part-funded by the Department of Transport through Merseytravel.

## ALL THESE PROJECTS ARE PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY...



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

**Ben Greenaway**

ben.greenaway@merseyforest.org.uk  
01925 816217 | merseyforest.org.uk