



PRESS RELEASE

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Speke community digs in to plant 1,500 trees

Over 100 local people mucked in to plant trees in Speke last weekend, as part of a project that is set to brighten up key transport routes in the area over the coming years.

Over the course of the weekend, over 1500 trees including 350m of hedgerow were planted in Speke's Mill Wood and along Aldefield Drive.

Around 90 school children from Middlefield Primary School and St Ambrose Catholic Primary School took part in the planting on Friday afternoon, and volunteers from the Friends of Mill Wood and other members of the community helped out on Sunday.

The planting was part of a long-term project to green the transport routes leading to Speke's industrial centre. The planting near Mill Wood and Alderwood was also aimed at enhancing the local wildlife habitats.

Organised by The Mersey Forest and funded by the Department for Transport via the Merseyside Local Sustainable Transport Fund, the programme is aimed at promoting and supporting sustainable access to employment opportunities in Merseyside and is delivered as part of Merseyside's TravelWise campaign.

Additional funding for the tree planting came from the national Big Tree Plant campaign through Defra and the Community Environment Fund sourced locally.

Over the coming weeks, volunteers from the Merseyside Youth Association are set to continue planting trees in Speke.

Ben Greenaway, Green Streets Coordinator at The Mersey Forest, said: "It was great to see so many people turn out over the course of the weekend to help us plant the trees.

“As the trees mature, they will brighten this part of Speke, helping to make the area an attractive place to invest and create jobs.”

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

- Merseyside’s third Local Transport Plan (LTP) has a long term strategy to 2024 and a short term implementation plan to 2014/15 containing a delivery programme of transport investment and service improvements. Visit www.TransportMerseyside.org for more information.
- Its vision for Merseyside’s transport network is for a city region committed to a low carbon future, which has a transport network and mobility culture that positively contributes to a thriving economy and the health and wellbeing of its citizens and where sustainable travel is the option of choice.
- The Merseyside Transport Partnership consists of Merseytravel and five local authorities of Merseyside: Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, and Wirral.
- TravelWise Merseyside is Merseyside Transport Partnership’s campaign to help people in Merseyside to make smarter travel choices – to walk, cycle and use public transport.

www.LetsTravelWise.org.

The Big Tree Plant

The Big Tree Plant campaign brings together civil society partners and conservation organisations, such as The Tree Council, Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, England’s Community Forests and Keep Britain Tidy among others, working with Defra and the Forestry Commission.

Please see the campaign website for more information including on how to apply to the Big Tree Plant funding scheme:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/bigtreeplant/>

The Mersey Forest

The Mersey Forest is a growing network of woodlands and green spaces spread across Cheshire and Merseyside, which has been creating 'woodlands on your doorstep' for 20 years.

The Forest is one of the leading environmental regeneration initiatives in the North West.

Through community and partnership working, we have planted more than 8 million trees - equivalent to five new trees for every person living within the Forest area.

The Forest helps our towns and cities adapt to climate change and has won the Brian Redhead Award for Environmental Sustainability, creates woodlands that 20% of local people visit at least once a week, and by improving the image of our towns and cities sets the scene for growth within the region's £98 billion economy.

We achieve all of this and more through our partnership of local authorities, landowners, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and businesses including United Utilities.

www.merseyforest.org.uk