



PRESS RELEASE

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Glazebury volunteers kick start natural play area

Glazebury residents braved the snow and icy conditions last weekend to kick start the development of a new play area made from natural materials.

With help from The Mersey Forest Team, local volunteers helped to plant the very first trees on the site, forming a hedgerow and the beginnings of a community orchard.

The natural play area will feature climbing and seating areas made from boulders and logs, winding paths, willow domes and den-building areas, and wildlife-friendly hedges, trees and wildflowers.

The site is set to be used to host events and task days for families, including vegetable growing.

The natural play area off Warrington Road is being created on land leased to Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council by Bents Garden Centre. The first phase of the work is being funded through the Parish Council, Cory Environmental Trust in Britain through the Landfill Communities Fund and national Big Tree Plant funding through The Mersey Forest. It is also being supported by Stronger Together Neighbourhoods in Warrington.

Angela Haymonds from Cory Environmental Trust in Britain said: "We're very pleased to be involved with a project that will give children in Glazebury the opportunity to access the benefits of natural play."

Cllr Angela Duncombe said: "It was great to be involved in the first stages of creating a new natural community play area for our village."

“Residents have been involved with the design of the site and will continue to be involved with the creation and ongoing management of the play area.

“On the planting day, even the children were demonstrating the ethos of our natural play area by building snow men on the site!”

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

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

Cory Environmental Trust in Britain (CETB)

CETB is an Environmental Trust set up under the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) (formerly known as the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme) under the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996. Its funds are derived as a result of a tax placed on waste that is sent to landfill. CETB funds projects that bring benefit to local communities close to an active landfill site. Since the Trust's inception in 2002 it has funded over 240 community projects with a total value of £9.4 million. For more information visit www.coryenvironmental.co.uk or contact Angela Haymonds on 01753 582513 or ahaymonds@cetb.org.uk.

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/>