



Press Release | 27 January 2014

Local MP launches plan for greener future in Warrington

Warrington North MP Helen Jones launched a new plan for green spaces in Merseyside and North Cheshire in Warrington last week.

The recently revamped Mersey Forest Plan is the long term strategic vision of The Mersey Forest, a leading environmental regeneration initiative.

It sets out a vision for a greener Warrington – a well-wooded, attractive borough which is a great place to live, work and invest.

The plan, written over many months with the help of a range of local organisations and individuals, includes aspirations for trees and woodlands in Warrington, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and St.Helens. It sets out tree planting targets across the region, and pinpoints areas where habitat and woodland management is needed.

Helen Jones said: “The Mersey Forest Plan sets out a vision in which Warrington and the surrounding areas are one of the best places in the country to live.

“Well-wooded, green areas encourage investment, boost health and wellbeing, and improve wildlife and biodiversity. This Plan provides a blueprint for safeguarding our vital green spaces for future generations.

“My personal involvement with The Mersey Forest team’s work goes back years, and I’m delighted to be able to launch their compelling vision for the future today.”

The launch took place at Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve, Birchwood, where The Mersey Forest team are based.

To read about the aspirations for your area and tell The Mersey Forest where you would like to see more trees, visit www.merseyforest.org.uk/plan.

GIFT-T! (Green Infrastructure for Tomorrow – Together!) has contributed to the funding of The Mersey Forest Plan. The Mersey Forest is working with partners in the UK, Belgium and the Netherlands to share approaches and develop best practice between 2011 and 2015 as part of this EU Interreg funded project.

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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. The Forest 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

GIFT-T!

GIFT-T! (Green Infrastructure for Tomorrow – Together!) has contributed to the funding of The Mersey Forest Plan consultation. The Mersey Forest is working with partners in the UK, Belgium and the Netherlands to share approaches and develop best practice between 2011 and 2014 as part of this EU Interreg funded project. GIFT-T! started in Sept 2011 and involves seven partners that invest in creating jobs, protecting valuable habitats and boosting the rural economy.

GIFT-T! brings public and private partnerships together to address issues such as climate change, energy and food security, and facilitate new initiatives for green enterprises such as recreation and bio-energy.

www.gift-t.eu

