



Press Release | 29 January 2014

## **Green shoots of growth at Wirral women's centre**

A Wirral women's centre has taken the next step to greening their grounds by planting a hedge with the help of The Mersey Forest team.

The hedge was planted at Tomorrow's Women Wirral as part of the first stages of creating a tranquillity garden.

The women's centre has recently received funding from Wirral Council through their Neighbourhood Fund and support from Faiths4Change to develop the garden, which will provide a haven for service users at the centre.

Sarah Morton, Urban Forestry Assistant at the Mersey Forest, said: "Witnessing the transformation of the outdoor space at Tomorrow's Women Wirral has been really exciting. It is great to support the project through planting the hedge as the centre provides vital support for women from all over Wirral.

"The trees will also contribute to our other tree planting plans in the area, creating green routes and joining up green spaces."

Annie Merry, Chief Associate Project Manager at Faiths4Change, said: "It's brilliant to see so many organisations coming together to support such a vital project. Contributions to the garden project are helping the women to fully realise their ambition to create an amazing outdoor space which they will put to great use."

Karen Horner, Project Coordinator at Tomorrow's Women Wirral, said: "The garden is really starting to take shape now. We are really grateful for the help we've received from all the partners involved. The ladies at the centre are already planning how they will use the garden in the summer months."

Once complete, the garden will provide space for activities such as a gardening group and book club, as well as being a quiet area where centre users can go to relax. The centre provides a vital service to women from across Wirral, helping them to gain confidence, skills, raise their self-esteem and reduce social isolation.

The trees were funded as part of part of a long-term project to plant street and green space trees to create green sustainable transport routes linking residential areas to areas of employment and job creation in Merseyside and Wirral. The £1.4m project is being organised by The Mersey Forest and funded by the Forestry Commission's Setting The Scene For Growth Programme as part of the Wirral Green Streets and Green Infrastructure Programme through The Department of Business Innovation and Skills.

**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. 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](http://www.merseyforest.org.uk)

### **The Big Tree Plant**

The Big Tree Plant is a national campaign that helps people and communities across England to plant more trees where they live and work. Our target is to plant 1 million additional trees by April 2015.

Details of the campaign can be found at: [www.defra.gov.uk/bigtreeplant](http://www.defra.gov.uk/bigtreeplant)

The campaign has the support of major bodies, environmental charities and agencies including National Forest Company, The Tree Council, Trees for Cities, the Woodland Trust, England's Community Forests, Keep Britain Tidy, TCV, Civic Voice, Groundwork, Natural England, Mayor of London, the Department for Communities