



Press Release | 07 May 2014

Green transformation begins at local park

A project to transform a tired, bland local park into a green, well-used community space is set to kick off in Birkenhead.

Work will begin at Ilchester Park within the next month, with the planting of over 50 trees.

This planting will be followed by the construction of new pathways, the planting of wildflower meadows, and the creation of natural play areas.

Over the summer, a programme of events will be held to help local kids use the park in a positive way. This programme will include woodcraft and natural play sessions, and will culminate in a community celebration which will take place in the park at the end of August.

The event will bring together the community to celebrate the ongoing work at the park and encourage the recreational use of the space.

These activities are being funded by The Veolia Environmental Trust, which has contributed £67,000 for the project through the Landfill Communities Fund. This will see around £100,000 invested in the park by 2015. The work is being coordinated by The Mersey Forest.

Ben Greenaway, Green Streets Coordinator at The Mersey Forest, said: "We are very excited about this project and are looking forward to the work getting underway over the next few weeks and months.

"A key part of this project is ensuring that the community use the park, which is why we're investing time in running an exciting programme of events this summer."

The Executive Director of The Veolia Environmental Trust, Paul Taylor, added: "Over the last five years we have awarded £796,192 to community and environmental projects in

Merseyside and it is always great to hear when one is starting. These improvements will make Ilchester Park a pleasant and vibrant space where the whole community can socialise, exercise and enjoy the outdoors. I look forward to hearing about the project's development over the coming months."

PRESS CONTACT: Laura Johnson (01925 859066 / 07770735755)

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

Landfill Tax and the Landfill Communities Fund Any waste that is discarded which cannot be reused, reprocessed or recycled may ultimately be disposed of in a landfill site. To encourage Landfill site Operators (LOs) to re-use, recycle, recover more value from waste and use more environmentally friendly methods of waste disposal, Landfill Tax is charged on each tonne of waste sent to landfill.

LOs are able to redirect a small proportion of landfill tax liability (currently 5.1%) to support a wide range of community and environmental projects in the vicinity of their landfill sites through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). The LCF is regulated by ENTRUST on behalf of HM Revenue & Customs, and the projects are delivered by enrolled Environmental bodies (EBs).

Since its inception in 1996, over £1 billion has been spent on more than 32,000 projects across the UK. For further information, please visit www.entrust.org.uk or [see HMRC's general guide to Landfill Tax](#)

The Veolia Environmental Trust has been supporting community and environmental projects for over 16 years. Since we were established in 1997, Veolia Environmental Services (UK) plc has supported us by contributions of over £55 million to 1698 projects.

We have helped fund a diverse range of projects, including the repair of woodland footpaths, the renovation of community halls and the installation of playgrounds and play areas. For more information, or to find out how to apply for funding, visit our website www.veoliatrust.org.

