



Press Release | **Insert date**

## **Family fun day to be held in Ilchester Park**

Birkenhead residents are being invited to a family fun day at Ilchester Park, Birkenhead, on Saturday 23 August between 12-4.

Ilchester Festival will include activities for all of the family such as learning how to face paint, football and sports coaching, a climbing wall, jewellery-making and craft stalls.

The event will also feature singing and dancing performances and a street parade organised by North Birkenhead Development Trust, to which many local organisations and members of the community have contributed.

The festival will be opened by Birkenhead MP Frank Field.

Ilchester Festival is being held to celebrate the improvements taking place at Ilchester Park, which is being transformed as part of a project funded by Veolia Environmental Trust. Investment from the Trust totalling £67,000 is being used to provide new pathways, trees, wildflower meadows and natural play equipment at the park.

The event has been preceded by weeks of activities with local children, run by local charity Play Out and organised by The Mersey Forest, to help kids reconnect with nature and take ownership of local parks.

Sarah Morton, Urban Forestry Project Officer at The Mersey Forest, said: "We're holding Ilchester Festival to celebrate the transformation of one of Birkenhead's least loved green spaces into a place where children can benefit from natural play in an urban area.

"We hope that the event, coupled with the consultation events we have held in Birkenhead during the development of this project, will leave a lasting legacy in this neighbourhood."

**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](http://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](http://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 has supported us by contributions of over £58 million to 1790 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](http://www.veoliatrust.org)