



Press Release | 10 February 2015

## Community centre grounds receive a green makeover

Runcorn residents, community leaders and local children have joined up with The Mersey Forest Team to make green improvements to Beechwood Community Centre.

Children from Play Away Day Nursery helped to plant 70 trees and hundreds of wildflower bulbs around the community centre, which is being given a green makeover as part of a bid to increase its use.

They were joined by Eileen Meredith from Beechwood Community Centre and Janet Ward from local chemicals manufacturer INEOS ChlorVinyls, which has funded the improvements through the Landfill Communities Fund as part of The Mersey Forest.

Eileen said: "The new trees and wildflowers are a key part of our plan to create a pleasant community meeting place to encourage the surrounding neighbourhoods to enjoy. They will set the scene for the second phase of the project, which will involve creating a community garden and growing area."

Janet Ward, from INEOS ChlorVinyls, said: "It was great to attend this planting event – the children really enjoyed getting stuck in and there's clearly a lot of local enthusiasm for this project."

**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)