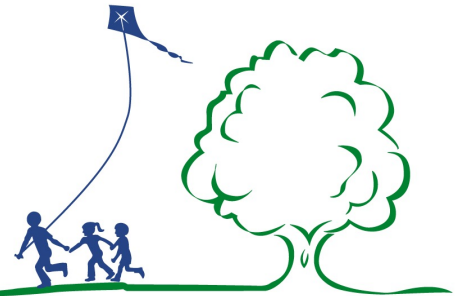


Warley Woods Community Trust



The Pavilion, Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 5ED

Tel: 0121 420 1061 Email: admin@warleywoods.org.uk Web: www.warleywoods.org.uk

23rd July 2009

Press Release

Warley Woods receives prestigious Green Flag Award and Judges recognise the park “as a model”

Warley Woods in Smethwick is on a par with the country’s finest parks, after receiving a sought after Green Flag at an awards ceremony in Bournemouth yesterday. Warley Woods is managed by a Community Trust and the Community Trust is the first non-local authority to ever achieve this award.

Green Flag Awards recognise and reward the best parks in the country, and Warley Woods stood out after impressing the judges with excellent facilities including well managed green space, signage and amenities. The judges commented that it was “a model example for which they should be proud” and which could be used by other community groups looking to manage green spaces. The park scored 80+ making it one of the highest scores ever for a park entering the awards for the first time.

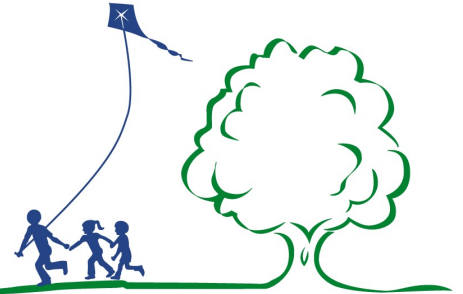
Viv Cole and Kate Slade, representing Warley Woods Community Trust who manage Warley Woods were presented with their award by the TV presenter Michaela Strachan in the presence of 1,500 people at the official Green Flag awards ceremony held at the Pavilion Theatre in Bournemouth yesterday.

Viv Cole, Trust Manager said “All the trustees, staff, volunteers and members of Warley Woods Community Trust are thrilled that the park has been recognised in this way and with such a high score. Since taking over the park from Birmingham City Council the Trust has been focused on making it not just a good park, but a fantastic park for everyone to enjoy. The Trust has used the criteria of the Green Flag Award to help guide its plans and management and the Award proves that the Trust has achieved its aim in making Warley Woods one of the best parks in the country.

The Trust would like to thank everyone who made this possible, from those members of the community involved in running the park day to day, to those members of the public who just pick up litter to help keep the park looking good. The Trust would also like to thank Sandwell MBC for their support and Ian Baggott and his team at Community First Partnership who helped create the park’s management plan and guided us through the judging process”.

This year is a milestone year for the awards as the number of Green Flag and Green Pennant Award winners has passed 1,000 for the first time.

Warley Woods Community Trust



The win comes at an exciting time in the development of the Green Flag Awards that are now run by environmental charity, Keep Britain Tidy, GreenSpace and BTCV, who have been inundated by applications as parks value the coveted award.

Phil Barton chief executive, Keep Britain Tidy said: “I would like to congratulate this year’s winners, who have worked hard throughout the year to keep their parks to a high standard and ensure they are pleasant and enjoyable spaces for the whole community.”

Warley Woods Community Trust will be proudly flying its Green Flag over the Pavilion on Lightwoods Hill as soon as the flagpole is erected.

For further information about the Green Flag Award and the unique way Warley Woods is managed contact Viv Cole, Trust Manager 0121 420 1061

-Notes

- For further information contact: Viv Cole, Trust Manager, 0121 420 1061, 07947 805746, trustmanager@warleywoods.org.uk
- Warley Woods Community Trust (WWCT) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. WWCT is the only charity in the United Kingdom to have taken responsibility for an urban park. The organisation was formed to take action, following the long term neglect of the park by Birmingham City Council and to ensure local people had a say in what happened to their park.
- The park is leased to Sandwell MBC for 99 years and has been subleased to WWCT for the same period of time.
- It is managed by a Board of Trustees which is made up of local people. The Trust’s membership now numbers around 850 individuals and there are over 160 active volunteers.
- The Park was named the People’s Park after it was saved from becoming sold for housing by public subscription in 1906.