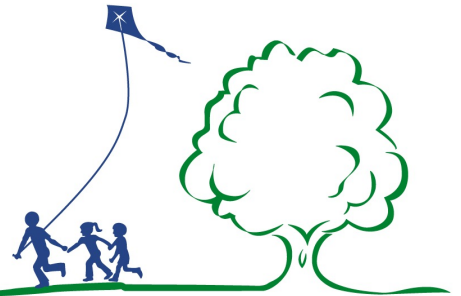


# Warley Woods Community Trust



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

Tel: 0121 420 1061 Email: [admin@warleywoods.org.uk](mailto:admin@warleywoods.org.uk) Web: [www.warleywoods.org.uk](http://www.warleywoods.org.uk)

17<sup>th</sup> January 2008

## Press Release Heritage Lottery and Beyond

Warley Woods Community Trust has now completed its Heritage Lottery Project spending just over £1 million, reversing years of neglect, improving the Woods for visitors and investing in the future. This makes the Community Trust the first community led organisation to complete a Heritage Lottery Project. It was completed on time and to budget.

A new driveway has been surfaced, making the woods accessible again, new perimeter railings, new paths, benches, litter bins and dog mess bins. All hazardous trees have been dealt with and aspects of the historic landscape have been restored. Over 800 new trees have been planted by members of the local community. They were also able to take part in a community archaeological dig, unearthing the remains of Warley Abbey; the gothic house which stood in the park until 1957.

The Community Trust is aware that this is just the first stage in a long term commitment to Warley Woods. It has to survive without the support of Heritage Lottery which paid for some staff salaries and has to find funding to pay for all aspects of the park's maintenance and management. The Trust is very grateful for a revenue grant from Sandwell MBC but there are still many thousands of pounds to find to create a balanced budget each year.

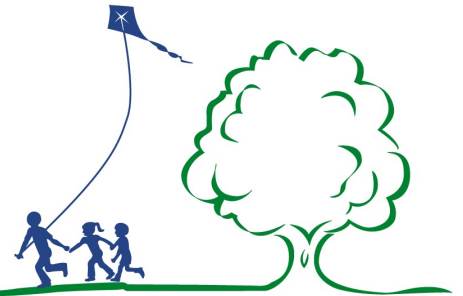
This money is likely to come from a number of sources, grants, donations, golfing green fees, sponsorship of benches and trees, sales of books and cards, raffles and other fundraising events. This will need constant work, all year around. The Trust's fundraising group is currently made up of four individuals and it is looking for local residents who will help join them in this challenge.

Viv Cole, Trust Manager, said "Warley Woods is looking fabulous at the moment, but we want to keep it this way. If a tree needs to be felled because it is dangerous or if we need to replace a litter bin because it has been vandalised, then each of these things will cost around £600. We have really appreciated the help and support that local people have given the Trust, but we will need even more help in future years. The Lottery Grant is only the beginning of what we want to achieve."

If anyone would like to join the Trust's fundraising group, or would just like to offer to help at an event, then please call Viv Cole on 0121 420 1061.

Ends

# Warley Woods Community Trust



## Notes

- For further information contact: Viv Cole, Trust Manager, 0121 420 1061, 07947 805746, [trustmanager@warleywoods.org.uk](mailto:trustmanager@warleywoods.org.uk)
- Warley Woods Community Trust (WWCT) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. WWCT is first charity in the United Kingdom to have taken responsibility for an urban park. The organisation was formed 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 700 individuals and there are over 70 active volunteers.
- The Park was named the People's Park after it was saved from becoming sold for housing by public subscription in 1906.
- Photographs of Warley Woods available on request.