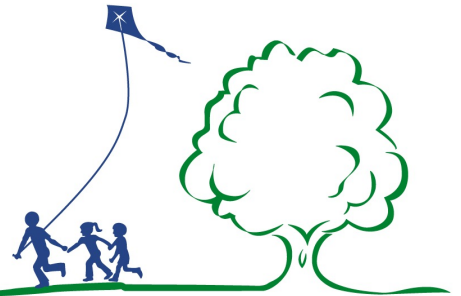


# Warley Woods Community Trust



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

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15<sup>th</sup> July 2007

## Press Release: PICNIC WASHED OUT!

Warley Woods Community Trust's picnic today became the latest victim of the weather. Last year the picnic attracted approximately 4,000 people for the centenary picnic, when Carl Chinn hosted the event.

The decision to cancel was taken this morning as weather forecasters gave out warnings of thunder storms and persistent rain.

Trust Manager, Viv Cole, said: "We're really disappointed but we couldn't expect people to sit in the meadow in the rain. This is the first time in 6 years that the weather has let us down and we were really keen to show off the woods this year."

A Heritage Lottery Fund restoration grant of £1m has resulted in new fencing and paths in the park and woods, together with new benches and facilities.

Picnic organisers are now investigating the possibility of holding another event later in the summer.

Viv Cole: "Inevitably there are costs associated with cancelling and we will be working hard to try to recoup our losses. Donations will be very welcome."

Ends

## Notes

- For further information contact: Viv Cole, Trust Manager, 0121 420 1061, 07947 805746, [trustmanager@warleywoods.org.uk](mailto:trustmanager@warleywoods.org.uk)
- Images available from last year's Picnic.
- 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 700 individuals and there are over 60 active volunteers.
- The Park was named the People's Park after it was saved from becoming sold for housing by public subscription in 1906.