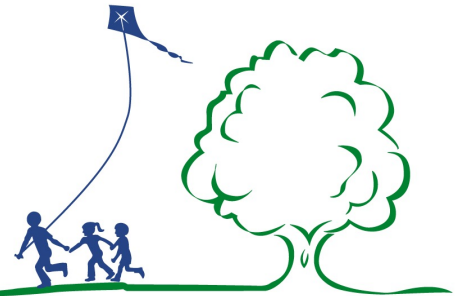


Warley Woods Community Trust



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

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

17th April 2007

Press Release

Watch out in Warley Woods – men at work overhead!

After years of neglect, Warley Woods Community Trust has begun substantial work on maintaining the 2,000 trees in the “People’s Park”.

Heritage Lottery money has paid for a full survey of all of the trees in the Woods which has identified those which are potentially dangerous and needing priority attention. This has led to work being done on 155 trees. Only 9 will be felled, the others will have major dead wood removed or their crowns lifted.

All of the work has been overseen by arboriculturalist Chris Shortis, Dip Arb (RFS), M Arbor A who has also written the Woodland Management Plan for the Trust. The work has been undertaken by Midland Forestry.

This maintenance work is just the beginning of the Trust’s commitment to regenerating the Woods. The Woodland Management Plan includes tree planting including replacing some of the trees which were key parts of Sir Humphry Repton’s design for the park for the Galton Family which have since been lost. The plan also deals with invasive species, access issues and ensuring that some dead wood remains in the canopy and forest floor to provide a variety of habitats for wildlife.

The Trust sees itself as custodians of the woodland and ensuring that its condition does not continue to decline, but its features are preserved and regenerated for the enjoyment of local people. Viv Cole, Trust Manager said “people love coming to the woods and see it as a natural environment, however it is actually a created environment and it needs proper understanding and management to ensure that it thrives. With the reports and plans we have, and the money provided through Heritage Lottery, we can make a strong start to this work”.

Chris Shortis added, “The role of those involved in the management of Warley Woods is to ensure that the conditions are correct for the success of the next stage of woodland, whilst maintaining the existing woodland. Warley Woods was saved by the actions of the past community; the current community has the opportunity to make the right decisions for future generations to enjoy the Woods.”

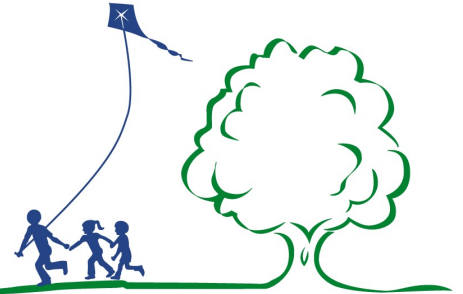
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Notes

- 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

Patrons: Julie Walters OBE, Professor Carl Chinn MBE, Phd. Colin Buchanan. Registered Charity: 1092754 Company Registration: 04214547

Warley Woods Community Trust



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.
- The treeworks and woodland management mentioned in this release are being funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and match funded by Sandwell MBC.
- This funding has also paid for infrastructure work including external railings, driveway, pathways, benches and bins. It is also due to fund Sandwell's first community dig in Summer 2007.
- The Park was named the People's Park after it was saved from becoming sold for housing by public subscription in 1906.
- Photo opportunities: it is possible to arrange for photographs to be taken of tree surgeons at work.
- For further information contact: Viv Cole, Trust Manager, 0121 420 1061, 07947 805746, trustmanager@warleywoods.org.uk