

*Nottinghamshire's Community Forest bringing Sherwood Forest to your doorstep*

# Greenwood Good Practice Guide

Examples of innovative projects that are helping to create the Greenwood Community Forest



**Greenwood**

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# Introduction



The Greenwood Community Forest has a major role to play in revitalising Nottinghamshire, by enhancing and regenerating urban areas and the urban fringe through planting trees and developing new woodland with local communities. Using a diverse range of innovative projects, underused and derelict land is being transformed into wildlife rich woodlands and green open spaces, improving the quality of life of those living and working in the Greenwood area. Greenwood plays a key role in delivering biodiversity targets, as outlined in the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan, by maintaining and creating areas of woodland, establishing new hedgerows, ponds and wildflower meadows.

Creating the Greenwood Community Forest means that we are also improving the area as a whole, including greening transport corridors into Nottinghamshire, giving a boost for inward investment, creating jobs and new housing.

The Greenwood Community Forest was formed in 1991, and covers 161 square miles of west Nottinghamshire and stretches from Mansfield in the north to Nottingham in the south and from Eastwood in the west to Farnsfield in the east. It joins historic Sherwood Forest in the Northeast and curves round to Attenborough in the southwest.

The communities within Greenwood are very diverse. Legacies from the past have created a contrasting array of socio-economic groupings in the area and pockets of urban and rural deprivation sit alongside more desirable neighbourhoods. The area is characterised by densely populated conurbations of Nottingham, Mansfield and Hucknall as well as suburban areas, villages and farms.



# The Greenwood Partnership

The core partners are:

- Forestry Commission
- The Countryside Agency
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Ashfield District Council
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Gedling Borough Council
- Mansfield District Council
- Newark and Sherwood District Council
- Nottingham City Council

Together, the key partners work closely with programme delivery agents including: BTCV, Groundwork Trusts, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Trust and The Sherwood Forest Trust, to enhance and regenerate derelict and degraded land, on the urban fringe and within our towns and Nottingham City.

Individuals and community groups are also key to the Greenwood's success. Farmers, landowners, Friends groups, volunteer health walk leaders, practical task volunteers, and the people who use these new resources are all vital to the project's success.

Since the Greenwood Partnership was formed in 1991 there has been a major increase in project delivery, and much has been achieved:

- 1209 hectares of new woodland have been planted, over 3 million trees;
- 495 hectares of existing woodland have been brought into management;
- 296 hectares of woodland have been opened for recreation and access;
- 707 hectares of heaths, limestone grasslands and wetland areas have been opened up for recreation and access and 237 hectares have been created and/or managed;
- 229 km of hedgerows have been created and/or managed, that's equal to the distance by road from Nottingham to Bristol
- 597 hectares of derelict land have been reclaimed for forest related uses;
- 4023 community events have taken place and 654 school visits to help create or use the Community Forest as an outdoor classroom
- 914 km of routes have been opened up or improved for recreation and access;

However, the initiative is not just about planting trees. The creation of new forest parks on the doorsteps of over a million people has had a significant effect on peoples lives and engendered a real sense of place.

# The National and Regional Perspective

There are 12 Community Forests in England and together they form one of the biggest environmental projects in the country. Community Forestry is a revolutionary environmental regeneration idea which is radically changing landscapes and modern-day town and city life, providing new opportunities for leisure, recreation, cultural activity, education, healthy living and social and economic development.



The National *community forest* Partnership

Greenwood is the only Community Forest in the East Midlands region and has a good working relationship with other regional woodland-based initiatives such as the East Derbyshire Woodland Project and the Sherwood Forest Trust.

Regionally, the value of the work of the Greenwood Partnership has been recognised in Regional Planning Guidance, within the Sustainable Communities Plan, the Regional Economic and Tourism Strategies and within the Regional Assembly's Environmental Strategy.

## The Roots of the Project

An overall framework or Forest Plan was produced in 1994 and revised in 2000. This new strategic plan was the result of research, consultation and discussion with a wide range of representatives from public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as individual experts and the local community. Their shared experience, knowledge and aspirations, were invaluable in shaping the plan. The strategic plan guides the long-term delivery of the Greenwood Community Forest. It provides a vision for the Community Forest and an environmental framework based on partnership working.

Co-ordinating the work of the Partnership is a small but dedicated team who work closely and successfully with communities and other health, education and public sector partners.

# The Key

At the top of each good practice example is a key which shows how each project is delivering social, economic and environmental benefits. Below is a matrix of all the featured examples and the benefits being delivered across the whole range of projects.



# The Matrix

	Attenborough NR	Brierley Forest Park	Bramoote Hills	Break Free	BTCV Practical Tasks	Forest for our Future	Skegby Lane Tree Nursery	Friends of Greenwood	Greenwood Events Programme	Mansfield LNRs	Rumbles Catering	Sustainable Landscapes	CAST Project	The Dumbles	Moor Pond Wood	Walking the Way to Health	The Planning Gain
<b>Environment</b>																	
Forestry																	
Biodiversity																	
Landscape Change																	
<b>Economy</b>																	
Tourism																	
Business/Employment																	
Integrated Planning																	
Liveable Communities																	
Regeneration																	
<b>Social</b>																	
Healthy Living																	
Recreation																	
Heritage																	
Active Citizenship																	
Lifelong Learning																	
Access For All																	

# The Greenwood Good Practice Guide

The Greenwood Good Practice Guide highlights innovative projects that have led to the development of the Community Forest. These multi-faceted examples illustrate the range of social, economic and environmental projects that contribute to the success of Greenwood. This reflects the multi-purpose role of Greenwood in local and regional development and provides a showcase to celebrate the success of the Greenwood Partnership.

We will produce further examples of innovative projects to be incorporated in the guide. With these regular updates, this document will provide an ever changing picture of the many innovative projects helping to create the Community Forest.

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Printed on recycled paper.

The Greenwood Good Practice Guide is available in large print format contact the Greenwood Team on 01623 758231



## Attenborough Nature Reserve – Access Improvements



### Project Description

To provide and promote Attenborough Nature Reserve for both people and wildlife by providing a good quality network of footpaths

### Background

Attenborough Nature Reserve, a Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), is situated in the Trent Valley on the south-western edge of Nottingham and southernmost tip of the Greenwood Community Forest. It consists of 240 acres of flooded gravel pits with associated marginal vegetation on a site of approximately 360 acres.

Extraction of these deposits of sand and gravel began in 1929, leaving a bare landscape which has since been recolonised by a wide variety of plants and animals. The recolonisation process still occurs to the present day and with careful management is creating more varied habitats for a new range of wildlife.

Attenborough Nature Reserve is the most extensive and diverse wildlife area in Broxtowe Borough and attracts large numbers of visitors. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust have been involved in managing the site for many years, which is now acknowledged as a site for wintering wild fowl and general wildlife interest.

Key Facts	
Dates	2000-2004
Costs	3 phases, £230,000
Funding	Nottinghamshire County Council, RMC Aggregates, Broxtowe Borough Council, Countryside Agency, Community Forest Programme, Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, Groundwork supported by Transco, CRT and ESF.
Partners	Greenwood Partnership, Broxtowe Borough Council, RMC Aggregates and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.



## The Project

Broxtowe Borough Council was instrumental in securing more than £230,000 to fund improvements to the path and bridleway network and for the provision of visitor information. Much of the work has been undertaken by teams of young unemployed people through the Government's New Deal scheme.

Specialist advice has been sought from the Fieldfare Trust to ensure that the improvements reflect the needs of people with disabilities. Routes have been adapted to ease access as far as possible and interpretation includes tactile features. There has also been provision of interpretation panels at main access points and waymarking. Attenborough Nature Reserve is included in the first Break Free Greenwood Walks pack of access for all walks.

The site owners, RMC Aggregates (Eastern) Ltd, recognise that they have a clear responsibility to apply sound environmental practices both during and after the extraction period as an integral part of their operations. Broxtowe Borough Council has worked closely with RMC Aggregates Ltd to improve access. In an effort to avoid closure of the Barton Lane Car Park, a management agreement was produced, with both organisations sharing the cost of repairs and maintenance, leading to much of the access improvements needed.

### Visitor, Education & Conference Centre

This new state of the art eco-friendly facility opened in March 2005 and includes:

- A café, shop and information point
- A classroom and educational peninsula – for curriculum-focused school visits and more informal community based learning
- A display area – with an ever-changing array of information about the reserve's habitats and their wildlife
- A conference room – for local businesses to meet in a unique, tranquil environment

## What Has Been Achieved

- A good example of an effective Public Private Partnership
- Consulting the Fieldfare Trust to ensure a network of footpaths and interpretation accessible to all
- The development of an eco-friendly visitor centre for recreation and education
- 5.5km of stone surfaced paths a new footbridge and 200m of bank erosion protection.



For more information contact: Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 9177777

ENVIRONMENT			ECONOMY				SOCIAL						
Forestry	Biodiversity	Landscape change	Tourism	Business & employment	Integrated planning	Liveable communities	Regeneration	Healthy living	Access for all	Recreation	Heritage	Active citizenship	Lifelong learning

## Dogs On Leads – And Muddy Boots Welcome Brierley Forest Park



### Project Description

A flagship site within Greenwood, this former coal heap is being regenerated following full consultation with the community that surrounds it.

### Background

Sutton Colliery was sunk in 1874, leading to the growth of the close-knit surrounding communities. In the early days of the pit, many miners were recruited from Brierley in Staffordshire. This gave the colliery its widely known and remembered name of Brierley Pit, even after closure in 1989.

### The Project

As part of Ashfield District Council's commitment to the Greenwood Community Forest, a master plan for creating Brierley Forest Park to serve the three adjoining communities, was initially formulated and proposed by Groundwork in 1992.

The spoil heap that was clearly visible from around the park has now been transformed by the planting of trees.

Key Facts	
Dates	1993 - 2001
Costs	approximately £1.2 million
Funding	Millennium Commission Changing Places (GWT), East Midlands Development Agency DLG, COAG, European ERDF, Section 106 funds, ADC capital programme
Partners	ADC, Groundwork Ashfield and Mansfield, Friends of BFP, Greenwood Team



Footpaths connect wetland with meadow and those who climb to the top of the old spoil heap are rewarded with a magnificent view overlooking distant landscapes. The park and visitor centre have become a natural focal point for the community for relaxation and recreation.

Brierley Forest Park has been enhanced by a series of artworks that have been commissioned over the years. These range from indoor furniture and textiles to outdoor seating and gateways.

The large-scale carved wooden figures by Robert Koenig are most widely recognised as the Brierley Miners. They emerged from the ground near the pit summit at the meeting point of three traditional routes from home to work until vandalism meant they had to move home to a spot close to the visitor centre.

## The Future

Brierley Forest Park will hopefully be designated a Local Nature Reserve in 2005 in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the Friends of Brierley Forest Park.

## What Has Been Achieved

- An enthusiastic and dedicated Friends of Brierley Forest Park has been formed
- 100,000 trees have been planted, 5 km new multi user trail, 2 ha wetland, 1 ha wildflower meadow, a new visitor centre and café for recreation and educational visits.
- A high level of community involvement and commitment in the planning, development and management of the park
- A wide variety of wildlife now flourishes. A large population of skylarks nest on the spoil tip, and foxes, owls, meadow pipits and lapwings are all resident on the site.
- An outdoor gallery of artwork which makes the park unique
- Development of the Family Tree Scheme for memorial tree planting within Greenwood

*“The Forest Park is well established and is taking on a mature look in such a short time.*

*My vision is of a mini Clumber Park, a former ducal seat in Sherwood Forest, in a couple of hundred years time. Who, in Huthwaite, Stanton Hill and Sutton could have possibly dreamt that one time playgrounds of the local aristocracy would be available to common folk.”*

*Terry Birch, Chair of the Friends of Brierley Forest Park*



For more information contact the Head of Planning, Policy & Projects,  
Ashfield District Council on 01623 450000



## Bramcote Hills Public Open Spaces – Access improvement work



### Project Description

Enhancing the existing woodland features and improving and interpreting the heritage of the site to make the park more accessible and interesting to visitors.

### Background

Bramcote Hills Park was once part of the Bramcote Hills House estate, which dates back to the 19th century. The site also offers spectacular views over Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The manor house was demolished in 1966 and the first phase of the project involved exposing the footprint.

Bramcote Park and associated open space, is part of a green wedge which runs from the city to Nottingham Canal LNR and the countryside beyond. This important wildlife corridor supports a range of habitats at risk from fragmentation. The park has long been acknowledged as a valuable public area on the urban fringe and much work has been done over the years to enhance the site.

The need to balance the requirements of various users and make the most of the wildlife resource prompted the council to commission a study by Groundwork Greater Nottingham, funded through the Countryside Agency’s Community Forest programme, which provided

Key Facts	
Dates	2001-2004
Costs	3 recent phases totaling £100,000
<b>Funding</b>	Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Countryside Agency Community Forest Programme. Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN)
<b>Partners</b>	Friends of Bramcote Ridge, Greenwood Community Forest Team, Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Countryside Agency. Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN)



an action plan for developments. This study showed that access was one of the issues of high priority to users of the park. Subsequent funding was secured and improvements undertaken.

## The Project

The work included surfacing of woodland paths many of which were all but impassible in winter, and enhancement of the paths to ensure wheelchair access routes around the park. A section of the Robin Hood Way has also been improved.

Access points for those living on the urban fringe were undertaken, including the provision of steps on very steep sections. Interpretation has been provided including signage, a leaflet and information panels to raise awareness of local heritage, biodiversity and landscape. Landscaping work has exposed the footprint of Hills House, then work included the development of the walled garden and Holocaust memorial garden.

BTCV became involved in the site through step construction work and now run regular habitat management task days on the site. Groundwork Greater Nottingham have recently developed links with schools which are on the edge of the site and several environmental projects associated with the woodland have been developed.

## The Future

Broxtowe Borough Council is working towards achieving Green Flag status for the main park area and this will also involve developing a detailed management plan. Work is also taking place to highlight the areas worthy of Local Nature Reserve Status.

The park is also one of seven within Greenwood highlighted as locations for "Parklife", a physical activity project aimed at improving health in areas of deprivation by introducing multi-activity opportunities.

## What Has Been Achieved

- Formation of the Bramcote and Stapleford Hills Public Open Space Forum.
- Community involvement in the maintenance and development of the site
- 3 km network of improved footpaths
- Improved interpretation of the heritage of the site including information panels and a site leaflet.
- The development of an educational resource within easy reach of Bramcote schools.
- Multi-purpose activity opportunities on site including a trim trail, tree trail and a clock maze with human sundial
- Development of a locally supported and well attended Arts Festival.



For more information contact: Steve Fisher, Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 9177777



## Break Free Greenwood Walks



### Project Description

The production of award-winning packs of walks, that aim to make the countryside accessible to all by breaking down barriers and enabling people to make informed decisions about accessing the countryside.

### Background

Many people find it difficult to experience the health-giving benefits of green space. The Greenwood Partnership has recognised that everyone who finds it difficult to access the countryside has different needs, interest and abilities. A critical part of countryside recreation provision is seeking to break barriers down.

### The Project

The Greenwood Team consulted with people with special needs to identify access barriers. The length of time needed for a walk, the walk distance and obstacles that might be encountered such as stiles and gates were amongst the problems identified.

Key Facts	
Dates	2000 – 2004
Costs	£16,000
<b>Funding</b>	Countryside Agency Local authority partners Nottingham Health Authority
<b>Partners</b>	Nottingham Disability Living Centre Sensory Trust, Local authority partners



Based on the consultation, and guidelines provided by the Sensory Trust, the Greenwood Team researched and produced two Break Free Greenwood Walks packs, each of which contained six walks leaflets giving good quality, consistent and accurate information which had been field-tested by volunteers.

## What Has Been Achieved

- 5000 copies of each of the Break Free Greenwood Walks packs have been produced and all of the first pack has been distributed free to users through promotion, outdoor events and through the Nottingham Disabilities Living Centre.
- The packs have been adopted as a model of good practice by organisations such as the Sensory Trust and Countryside Agency.
- In 2002 the Heart of England Tourist Board awarded the Greenwood Partnership the coveted Excellence in England Tourism for All Gold Award for the production of the packs and also adopted them as a model of best practice.
- Survey work, feedback from users and testimony from special needs groups has shown the extent to which the packs have made a real difference to many people. Users have developed increased confidence and awareness of the countryside, giving them the courage to explore more widely.

## The Future

By 2003, all 5000 of the first pack of Break Free Greenwood Walks had been distributed mainly to the target audience including those who do not access their local green open spaces or who may have mobility problems. The walk routes have all been resurveyed and the pack reprinted. Using the same format of the Break Free packs, "A Step Forward" has been produced, a series of walks aimed at improving the health of those who would benefit from moderate exercise such as walking.

*"The packs are great because you can actually take each map out of the pack when you want to do a walk. There is a lot of information and they are really good quality and easy to read. They tell you where all the seats are which is important. I have done all the walks and met some interesting people. I had a lovely conversation with a man sketching at Attenborough"*

*Member of the Nottinghamshire Positive Health Group*



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For more information contact the Greenwood Team on 01623 758231



## BTCV Practical Task Programme



### Project Description

A Practical Task Programme to encourage volunteers to gain skills, experience and training whilst enhancing green space in Greenwood Community Forest

### Background

BTCV's programme of around 150 free practical conservation projects includes day-long midweek and weekend projects, along with weekend and week-long residential BTCV Holidays.

### The Project

BTCV's Practical Conservation Programme provides regular, high quality conservation activities, free of charge to volunteers throughout Greenwood. The programme of one-day midweek and weekend projects, weekend Conservation Holidays, and nationally certificated training courses involves people of all abilities in activities that deliver environmental improvements and community benefit.

Key Facts	
Dates	Rolling Programme
Costs	£55,000
Funding	
BTCV, Local authorities, site and land managers, LSC	
Partners	
Ashfield DC, Broxtowe BC, Broxtowe College, English Nature, Environment Agency, Friends of Portland Park, Gedling BC, Greenwood Partnership Team, Newark & Sherwood DC, NoRSACA, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Sherwood Forest Trust, WREN, and numerous schools and other community groups.	



A wide range of sites and habitats benefit from the programme including:

Attenborough Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Broxtowe, Linby Trail LNR, Gedling, Newstead Abbey, Nottingham City, Nottingham Canal LNR, Broxtowe.

Individuals from a broad range of backgrounds are involved in the programme through trained project leaders who deliver risk-assessed activities of genuine conservation benefit. Materials, tools, equipment and transport are all provided.

The project links to the Government's Millennium Volunteers programme who provide extra support and recognition to volunteers aged 16-24 who work towards Awards of Excellence for undertaking 200 hours of voluntary activity.

## What Has Been Achieved

- Genuine volunteer involvement and community participation in the creation and management of Greenwood
- Skills training and experience gained equips participants with the tools for future employment search.
- Quality conservation management providing biodiversity gains throughout Greenwood.
- Awareness raising provides a greater understanding and appreciation of Greenwood and nature conservation.
- 80 practical events per year throughout Greenwood
- 640 Volunteer workdays

*“Volunteering is a critical part of this nation's social capital. At a time of dramatic change BTCV has a crucial role to play in delivering sustainability, “ said Jonathon Porritt, chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission at the launch of BTCV's Strategic Plan. The benefits of volunteering through BTCV and other grass roots organisations are by now well understood - for the individuals concerned, for the communities in which they are working, and for all those in the future who depend in very large measure on people like us taking action today”*



For more information contact BTCV on 0115 9313316



## Forests For Our Future



### Project Description

To provide a sustainable local source of native trees, shrubs and wild flowers through many activities involving community groups, schools and individuals.

### Background

Biodiversity means “variety of life” and refers to wild plants, animals and their habitats. The Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan was produced in 1998 and sets out priorities for nature conservation in Nottinghamshire, listing those plants, animals and habitats most in need of our help and protection.

Trees of Time and Place (TOTAP) was a partnership project designed to engage people at local level in the protection and enhancement of their local biodiversity. The project encouraged people to collect seeds from a special tree, to sow them, grow them and plant them back into the same landscape as a symbol, linking the last millennium to the next. Following the high level of success achieved and the enthusiasm generated by TOTAP, BTCV's Forests for our Future project was born.

Key Facts	
Dates	April 2001 rolling programme
Costs	40,000
Funding	Countryside Agency, BTCV, Landfill tax, Sponsorship, WREN
Partners	Greenwood Partnership



## The Project

Forests For our Future provides a sustainable local source of native trees, shrubs and wild flowers through many activities using the tree nurseries at Burton Joyce and Bulwell Hall Park. These tree nurseries are also an education resource, linking activities to the national curriculum in subjects ranging from science to numeracy and literacy.

A broad mix of community groups, schools and volunteers, especially those socially excluded from their environment are involved. Schools are encouraged to experience all aspects of conservation by actively engaging directly with their local countryside, enhancing local biodiversity and learning new skills.

'Woodland Wildflowers' is a National Community Forest project being delivered through the Forests For our Future programme. The aim is to involve communities in the introduction of appropriate wildflowers to their local woodlands to create areas of beauty for long-term enjoyment. The project is involving local people in a range of events like seed gathering, 'sow & grow' schemes, woodland sowing and planting to help recreate the 'magical' quality of the woodland floor.

## Case Study

Friary House (Social Services Day Centre for Adults with Learning Difficulties)

A group of people from Friary House has regularly taken part in conservation projects with the aim of promoting a healthier lifestyle and raising awareness of environmental issues. Some of the practical work they have been involved in is tree seed collecting, processing and sowing, maintenance of a nature area, creation of a nature area specifically for the benefit of invertebrates, tool maintenance and hedge planting.

## What Has Been Achieved

- 500 members of the community have been actively involved
- 25 schools and community groups have taken part
- 20 seed collecting events have taken place
- 10000 seeds have been collected and grown on
- Volunteer and community participation in the creation of Greenwood
- Skills training and experience gained
- Targets of the Biodiversity Action Plan reached.
- Provided a greater understanding and appreciation of Greenwood and nature conservation.
- Relationships built with the tree nursery network and commercial growers



For more information contact Forests For our Future on 0115 9313316



## Meeting A Growing Demand Skegby Horticultural Unit



### Project Description

Development of a tree nursery as a commercial enterprise as well as providing a sheltered employment unit for Nottinghamshire County Council's Social Services.

### Background

In 2001, Nottinghamshire County Council's Social Services, with help from the Greenwood Team, created a tree nursery at Skegby Lane, in Sutton-in-Ashfield co-ordinated by County Horticultural Work Training.

### The Project

The project is a registered City and Guilds Centre which aims to succeed as a commercial enterprise as well as delivering courses in amenity horticulture. Also provided is work training and experience for people with disabilities, which includes horticulture skills, basic education skills and life skills.

Key Facts	
Dates	2001 ongoing
Funding	Nottinghamshire County Council, Social Services, Supported Employment.



The 15 acre site at Skegby Lane, Skegby, near Mansfield, compliments three other sites, including Brooke Farm, Linby, within the Community Forest area. Brooke Farm is the administrative hub where all the preparation and packaging of locally grown produce is undertaken.

Skegby Lane focuses on producing tree stock of local provenance in conjunction with the BTCV co-ordinated Tree Nursery Network. Since Skegby Lane was created, over 4000 saplings have been produced and distributed to many organisations including the Greenwood Team. These saplings have been used in the creation of new community woodlands such as Boundary Wood in Blidworth and Brierley Forest Park, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

Brooke Farm provides a steady supply of fresh vegetables, fruit and other produce that are sold to the general public. The popular summer activity 'Pick Your Own' soft fruits has recently been joined by a home produced range of preserves, pickles and frozen fruit. Brooke Farm also hosts educational visits and recently welcomed Morvern Park Primary School, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, who visited the orchard and enjoyed fruit tasting sessions as part of apple day celebrations. Income from sales of produce helps to offset the running costs of the project

## What Has been Achieved

- Over 4000 saplings have been produced and distributed
- Income generated to continue the project
- Quality training and work opportunities provided
- Local provenance trees provided for planting within Greenwood.
- Support through the Tree Nursery Network

*“Martin Vandelis, Day Centre Officer, commented: “Taking trainees out into the countryside to collect seeds gives them the opportunity to learn about the environment. Being involved in the whole process from collecting to planting, means trainees can watch the results of their efforts as the seeds grow and also learning practical and social skills”*



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

To find out more contact the team on 0115 9632638 or visit the website at [www.brooke-farm.co.uk](http://www.brooke-farm.co.uk)



## Friends of Greenwood Community Forum



### Project Description

A Forum for volunteer Friends Groups, community groups and interested individuals to meet to share experiences and knowledge and be consulted on plans for the development of the Greenwood Community Forest.

### Background

Following the creation of new community woodlands within Greenwood, where local communities have been involved throughout, "Friends Groups" have been formed by those most interested in the development of these new sites.

The focus of these Friends groups was primarily on the area immediately surrounding the new woodland or park. These Friends groups often operated in isolation and only had their own experiences to draw from of how a friends group should operate. For example the Friends of Brierley Forest Park in Ashfield had no knowledge of how the Friends of Colliers Wood in Broxtowe were operating and therefore a huge learning resource went untapped.

Involvement of Friends groups in the development of plans for Greenwood had in the past been fragmented and informal. Here was a chance for a more formal approach for involving communities in the decision making process of the development of the Community Forest.

Key Facts	
Dates	August 2000 to date
Costs	£400 per year
Funding	Greenwood Community Forest Partnership
Partners	Friends groups, community groups, and individuals throughout Greenwood



## The Project

In 2000, all these Friends groups within Greenwood were invited to join together as a forum. The aims of the forum would be:

- To gather and disseminate information, by sharing experiences and best practice
- To provide a forum for discussion, acting as a “sounding board”
- To establish a wide “intelligence-gathering” network
- To provide a valuable pool of ideas, skills and local knowledge
- To help support the development of new and existing groups, through mentoring and advice

The Forum meets quarterly and is guided by an annual action plan. The meetings are held in different locations throughout Greenwood close to sites on which the Friends groups operate. A structured meeting, with guest speakers, takes place. A walk around the site led by the host representative follows, often peppered with dynamic conversation.

## What Has Been Achieved

- Representatives from 14 groups meet on a regular basis
- Through the development of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum local communities are becoming more involved in developing the Community Forest, undertaking practical projects and activities.
- The Chair of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum has been invited to sit on the Greenwood Partnership Executive Board and Partnership Board giving a grass roots perspective in strategic planning.
- The Forum has been consulted on various documents including the Greenwood Community Woodland Handbook and The Greenwood Strategic Plan
- A representative of the Forum sits on the Greenwood Events & Campaigns Group and also the Growing Success Newsletter editorial panel
- An annual Greenwood Community Awards Ceremony, hosted by the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum, is held attracting over 160 volunteers and officers to attend
- A communications plan has produced a Friends of Greenwood Directory of volunteering opportunities, a section on the Greenwood website and display panels which are featured at volunteering events.



## Greenwood Community Events Programme



### Project Description

Health, Arts and Environmental themed workshops, based around green spaces in Greenwood, specifically targeted at schools and socially excluded groups.

### Background

The National Community Forest project “Forest Fever”, delivered at local level, provided public open events at parks and green spaces around the Community Forest during the summer school holiday break. These events, whilst providing outdoor activities in green space for children and adults, were not a suitable outlet for delivering relevant, quality environmental messages nor did they engage key target audiences.

### The Project

Twelve small workshop style events carefully targeted at schools and socially excluded groups. This formula proved more successful in delivering quality messages and gaining involvement. By securing the involvement of attendees in advance events are tailored to the needs and interests of the groups and deliver relevant, quality environmental messages to key target audiences.

Key Facts	
Dates	March 2001 onwards
Costs	£3,600 - £300 maximum budget per event
Funding	Greenwood Partnership – project budget
Partners	Ashfield District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark & Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council.



Environmental experience workshops, without the constraints of the national curriculum, mean that activities with embedded environmental education messages are more readily absorbed in the context of play and informal setting.

*“The workshops built self-esteem and confidence. The children felt valued and their ideas appreciated. The energy of the poet was stimulating and exciting and she was positive towards the students”*

*Stephanie Carnell, Teacher.*

*“The project fitted really well into our current work. The pupils gained new skills in recording things differently, gaining a good eye for a good picture, looking at their environment differently and working in a mixed age group. A great way to engage pupils with their local environment it was great to see the sheer enjoyment of the children”*

*Janine Cooper-Cassidy, Teacher.*

## What Has Been Achieved:

- Twelve highly targeted events per year have taken place, working with schools and groups in wards in the top 25% index of multiple deprivation.
- Workshops have been organised to add value to partner projects or help build a relationship between hard to reach groups and partners.
- Group leaders and teachers feedback suggests that team building and confidence building are key outcomes
- Employing professional artists and specialists adds to the experience of the participants and offers employment for the local cultural sector
- Relationship building between partners and hard to reach groups
- New pieces of artwork such as sculpture, poetry and photographic exhibitions



## Making Natural Connections in Mansfield



### Project Description

The Natural Connections Project supports Mansfield District Council in the designation, management and promotion of local nature reserves across the district

### Background

There are many derelict pieces of land around the urban areas of Greenwood. Unused by the local community they become desolate wasteland ripe for misuse. English Nature saw the potential for turning these areas into valuable wildlife areas and provided grant aid for the designation of these areas into Local Nature Reserves. Wherever possible the local communities are encouraged to help with the renovation and raise the profile of these sites.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Mansfield District Council successfully applied for funding for a Natural Connections Officer to implement the project to designate Local Nature Reserves in Mansfield District.

### The Project

Six sites have been designated as LNR's, with a further three sites proposed. In isolation these sites are now vastly improved wildlife areas for people to enjoy, together they form a

Key Facts	
Dates	September 2002-2005
Costs	£53,000 over 3 years
<b>Funding</b>	New Opportunities Fund (Wildspace), Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Mansfield District Council
<b>Partners</b>	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, English Nature, Mansfield District Council, Local Community Friends Groups



green corridor through Mansfield town centre and beyond the district boundaries.

The project is managed by a steering group of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT), Mansfield District Council, Sherwood Forest Trust and the Biodiversity Action Partnership. Where possible representatives from the local community are invited to attend the monthly LNR management group meetings. The process has remained the same on all sites:

- Improving habitats by introducing native trees, eradicating sycamores and other non native species. Improvements have been made to wetland with marginal planting and wetland scrapes. Meadows have been created and wildflowers planted.
- Increasing public use of the sites by stopping misuse, for example by erecting barriers to stop fly tipping. Providing a safe environment for people to use by creating defined recreational areas such as picnic areas and improving lighting.
- Improving community involvement in improving and management of sites by raising awareness through events, forming new and supporting existing Friends groups.
- Educating users and providing direct points of contact for reporting anti-social behaviour.

## Case Study:

At Quarry Lane Walkway, in the heart of Mansfield town centre, a newly formed Friends group of interested local people has grown from an initial nine members to 23 very active members. The group has now become constituted and has been involved in lobbying local businesses for both financial and practical help. The group has formed a relationship with other regular users of the site such as the angling club, and has raised awareness of the problems that angling causes to wildlife. Anglers have changed practices and a water bailiff now patrols the area regularly. The Friends also lobbied Mansfield District Council to improve access by installing a bridge and replacing broken steps. As well as these positive achievements, the group generally acts as the eyes and ears of the nature reserve. The more they report unwanted behaviour, the less there is unsociable behaviour on the site, the more the local community confidence grows, the more the site is used.

## What Has Been Achieved

- Existing Friends Groups have been supported
- New Friends Groups have been set up
- There is a greater ownership and care of sites by local communities
- Biodiversity awareness has been raised
- Six Local Nature Reserves have been declared
- A programme of activities and events on LNRs has been developed
- Biodiversity enhancements of derelict sites.



For more information contact: Natural Connections Officer  
Mansfield District Council, on 01623 463463



## Rumbles Catering at Vicar Water Country Park



### Project Description

A partnership approach to maximise the opportunities offered by the new visitor centre and promote the park as a place to visit, whilst providing on the job training and paid employment for special needs adults in a secure environment to promote good practice in social enterprise

### Background

Vicar Water Country Park was developed on reclaimed spoil heaps from Clipstone Colliery and opened in 1982. At the centre of the park lies Vicar Pond, a Victorian fishing lake, which was used for recreation by colliery workers and their families and the nearby army camp.

A visitor centre was built and opened in 2000 with a café, snack bar, and other facilities within the building. The Friends of Vicar Water initially managed the centre and manned the snack bar on an ad hoc basis depending on volunteer availability.

### The Project

Rumbles Catering, a voluntary Project for adults with learning disabilities and disadvantaged persons, was approached to manage the centre and provide a catering service.

Key Facts	
Dates	Pilot from 2001 full-time from 2003
Costs	£175,000, £143,000
Funding	Newark & Sherwood DC, WREN, Countryside Agency, Rural Development Programme, Rumbles Catering Project, Friends of Vicar Water, Clipstone Parish Council
Partners	Newark & Sherwood District Council, Rumbles Catering, Friends of Vicar Water. The Partnership has been pivotal to the expansion of the project



This proved to be successful with an expanding menu and consistent opening times for the centre, which were well communicated to the general public and so attracting visitors to the park.

The administration base was in Mansfield at that time. In order to provide better facilities and open the centre up to potential visitors and as a conference centre, funding was sought by Newark & Sherwood District Council to extend the visitor centre.

Rumbles are now based at Vicar Water Country Park, providing even more smoother running of the centre. Rumbles leases the visitor centre from the District Council and provides a full catering service for the centre. Rumbles also lets the conference facilities, and retains the income from this. They also organise events and training sessions in the centre.

## What Has Been Achieved

- Confidence, skills and experience gained by special needs adults
- Providing a more rounded visitor attraction
- Providing an enhanced visitor experience
- Building being used on a regular basis.
- 30,000 additional visitors per annum to the park
- 20 events per annum
- 12 health walks per annum
- 7 trainees per annum reaching NVQ level 1 in catering

## The Future

The visitor centre is expanding to provide conference facilities, as a venue for events and workshops and as an education centre. Rumbles will continue to train adults with special needs. The park will continue to be developed as a facility for local people and tourists



To find out more contact Newark & Sherwood District Council on 01636 650000  
or Rumbles Catering on 01623 424836



## Sustainable Landscapes



### Project Description

The project aims to reduce habitat fragmentation across the Sherwood Character Area and Greenwood Community Forest. By working with local landowners, the project aims to create new areas and restore existing habitats and green corridors, linking areas for the benefit of wildlife and enhancing the beauty of our natural landscape.

### Background

Agricultural intensification has meant that the landscape has been dramatically altered. Over the past 30 - 40 years, hedgerows have been removed to make way for large operational machinery, mono-culture prairie cropping has replaced smaller fields of mixed arable, vegetables and livestock and the traditional patchwork landscape is largely no longer in existence within Nottinghamshire.

Ancient woodland, heathland, wood pasture, hay meadows and acid grassland have become fragmented and isolated through agricultural change. This means that once common species such as lapwing and barn owl are now in decline due to ever decreasing areas of appropriate habitat for hunting and nesting. Butterflies and small mammal populations can become locally extinct if areas of habitat become isolated due to the low mobility of such organisms.

Key Facts	
Dates	2000 – 2007
Funding	Countryside Agency's Community Forest Programme, Heritage Lottery Fund (Sherwood Initiative) Nottinghamshire County Council, English Nature
Partners	Greenwood Partnership, English Nature, Landowners, FWAG, ADAS, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Defra, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Local Authorities, NFU, RSPB & CLA.



## The Project

The Sustainable Landscape project works with landowners such as farmers, woodland owners, golf courses, mining companies and district councils, offering free and impartial advice on habitat creation and management of existing habitats. The aim of the project is to work to reverse this trend in habitat fragmentation through financial assistance, advice and landowner training, which benefits the landscape, wildlife, landowner and local community.

### The Sustainable Landscape Project supports:

Advice service: working with other partners, land managers are provided with training, information, education and advice in sustainable land management practices, including moving towards alternatives to agricultural incomes e.g. biomass production.

Landscape conservation grants: through the administration of small-scale grants for landowners to carry out landscape conservation tasks such as mixed hedge planting, particularly within the urban fringe.

Land manager's forum: a forum for networking, training and practical assistance for land managers, including specialist machinery for conservation management of heathland and meadows.

## What Has Been Achieved

- The project has brought about a more consistent and coherent service provision for land managers, leading to a land-owning community better informed in sustainable land management and more confident in the implementation of sustainable practices, and in turn a well managed and increasing woodland and heathland resource.
- During 2003, 26 projects were offered funding towards farmland restoration within the Greenwood & Sherwood Areas. 23 new projects were offered funding and initiated during 2004 with the following achieved in this year;
  - 4km of hedge have been planted
  - 364m hedge traditionally laid
  - 1 orchard has been created using local varieties
  - 1 neglected orchard has been brought back under management
  - 1 pond has been created and 1 brought into management
  - 54 native and locally characteristic hedgerow and landscape trees were planted
  - 1 wildflower meadow was created
  - 1 woodland has been brought into management.



For more information contact the Sustainable Landscape Project Officer  
on 01623 758231



## Cornerstone Angling Skills Project



### Project Description

Cornerstone Angling Skills Training (CAST) project was developed by Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council. The project was devised to eradicate bad behaviour by building a positive mixed ability peer group based around respect, team work, and an interest in fishing and therefore a keenness to protect rather than damage the environment.

### Background

Typically teenagers have little interest in becoming involved in community activities, often feeling that their interests are ignored. In the village of Newstead, an area of high deprivation, young people have sometimes felt isolated and not able to pursue sports and other activities because of travel or other expense. This leads to boredom and misbehaviour. Unemployment is high, anti-social behaviour is a part of everyday life and most youth crime in the area consists of car crime and criminal damage.

Newstead Abbey, originally an Augustinian priory, best known as the former home of the poet Lord Byron, lies within the area. The Abbey's landscape owes much of its beauty to the River Leen, which feeds the lakes where there had been reports of illegal fishing.

Key Facts	
Dates	October 2002
Funding	Connexions, Environment Agency, Kirkby Neighbourhood Management, South Notts Community Fund and Gedling Borough Council Community Fund.
Partners	Rural Community Council, Environment Agency, Nottingham City Council.



## The Project

The aim of the project is to work with disaffected young people, offering opportunities to learn about angling using a multi-discipline approach. Practical sessions follow research and worksheet completion. Other areas such as educational attainment, standards of behaviour and environmental awareness also contribute to the personal development of participants. Once practical tasks around Newstead have been completed, the young participants are given the opportunity to choose the best fishing spots, and receive angling coaching,

The idea is to break the cycle of misuse and vandalism within the park, and build a better relationship with the local community.

The project has recently received exclusive rights to fish the upper lake at Newstead Abbey. In return the group take part in conservation activities with Nottingham City Council's Outdoor Supervisor.

## What Has Been Achieved

- 21 young people from Newstead attend regular weekly meetings, some moving on to further education
- 80 young people are involved in the whole project long-term and are supported to gain further skills
- Improved social and education skills of participants
- Improved employment prospects of participants
- Practical conservation of green space within Greenwood
- Relationships formed with schools and Pupil Referral Units
- Improved behaviour and respect for the countryside and local community



For further information contact the Rural Community Council on 01623 727600 or Nottingham City Council on 01623 455900



## Nottinghamshire Dumbles and Farmlands project



### Project Description

Working with residents of Lambley, a small rural parish in the borough of Gedling, to research the unique character of the Lambley Dumbles. This pilot project investigated issues affecting the countryside in the area, and developed partnerships between farmers, local community groups, and conservationists.

### Background

There are a number of strategic documents published to guide the development of Nottinghamshire's green spaces such as the Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines, Biodiversity Action Plan and Countryside Access Strategy. These strategies need to be employed to test how relevant they are to local communities and to see if they can, if put into practice, provide real solutions.

As a pilot research area, Lambley was chosen for its special Dumbles landscape characteristics, of distinct rolling landscape, mixed agricultural land, wooded dumble valleys with a well-defined pattern of hedged fields. A landscape such as the Dumbles may be eroded by farming practices and community activities, putting the local biodiversity under pressure.

Key Facts	
Dates	2001 - 2004
Costs	£66,000
Funding	Nottinghamshire County Council Countryside Agency's Community Forest Funding Programme, Local Heritage Initiative.
Partners	Farmer-landowners, local communities, schools and groups, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.



## The Project

Nottinghamshire County Council's Countryside Management Team devised and carried out consultation with local people, about what features and species made the area special to them. Information gained from talking to the community was used, in conjunction with the Biodiversity Action Plan and other documents, to develop community-led programmes to restore and augment the traditional character of the area.

Utilising existing initiatives such as BTCV's Woodland Wildflowers project, community groups and schools were involved in these programmes.

For example, one of the species identified in the consultation, as a valued wildflower was the bluebell, which had been lost from the area over the years. Fifteen pilot plots were cleared and volunteers gathered bluebell seed from Ploughman's Wood, a local nature reserve in the area. The pilot plots were prepared and seed was sown by Lambley Primary School. These plots show signs of established plants and will start to flower in the near future.

Farmers and landowners were also consulted and encouraged to enter Defra's Countryside Stewardship Scheme, for example by changing management practices to encourage and conserve wildlife, by placing nestboxes, or reintroducing cowslips.

A project group was formed which evolved into the Friends of the Dumbles, a group of interested and enthusiastic individuals who work with an executive group. The Friends have applied for Local Heritage Initiative funding to fund a "Heritage and History" project which will involve the local Historical Society in collecting local information to catalogue and archive, before interpretation panels are produced.

## What Has Been Achieved

- A pilot project based on community aspirations and needs
- An area of 15km<sup>2</sup> restored and enhanced
- Support for local groups
- Production of a plan for future work
- Interpretation and education materials
- Local biodiversity action plans and action for wildlife
- Farmland management practices changed to conserve wildlife and improve the landscape
- Improved access to the countryside through a programme of Rights of Way improvements



## The Moor Pond Wood Project



### Project Description

The conservation of Moor Pond Woods and the regeneration of an old tip to create a valuable resource for the local community and to commemorate the millennium. This will be achieved by protecting and improving the wildlife value of the woodland and wetland, restoring and interpreting the archaeological features on the site, and improving access for all.

### Background

The industrial heritage of many sites within Greenwood has, in the past, been eroded by urban expansion. There are many pockets of culturally important sites that are being unveiled with the help of the local communities who celebrate these important discoveries.

The three areas of woodland that are known as Moor Pond Woods are rich in unique industrial heritage, consisting of former millponds and leats abandoned since the early 19th century.



Key Facts	
Dates	May 1999 to date
Costs	Expenditure to date £17,869

Funding	Greenwood Community Forest, Countryside Agency Local Heritage Initiative, Royal Society for Nature Conservation, Powergen, Notts Rural Community Council, Prudential, Gedling Borough Council, Ashfield District Council, Action for Wildlife, Papplewick Parish Council, Nottingham Co-operative Society, 5th Hucknall Scouts, The Gray Trust, CPRE, 'Friends' Group, Notts. Rural Priorities Area, BTCV, Sherwood Forest Trust, Nationwide Building Society, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.
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Partners	Nottinghamshire County Council, Greenwood Community Forest, Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers, 5th Hucknall Scout Group, 1803 (Hucknall) Air Training Corp Squadron, Papplewick Parish Council, Nottingham Co-operative Society, Sherwood Forest Trust, BTCV, Farmer-landowners, local communities, schools and groups.
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## The Project

Expertise was sourced from Nottinghamshire County Council's Countryside Management team and the Greenwood Community Forest Team. Working as a partnership with these bodies, the Parish Council's Millennium Committee worked up more detailed ideas on what was best for the site's future.

Support for the proposals was gained from the Corridors to the Countryside Group, a local collective of organisations with an interest in the management of access and wildlife corridors situated near Nottingham's rivers. Organisations represented include the County, City and District Councils, the Environment Agency, the Countryside Agency, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and the Greenwood Team.

The proposals included the following elements:

- partial restoration of the system of leats associated with the mills;
- a comprehensive survey and development of a management plan for the ecology of the site;
- high quality on-site and off-site interpretation of Moor Pond Wood's archaeology and ecology
- restoration of the derelict pond within the woods;
- upgrade existing footpaths to allow access by disabled people;
- create a new footpath to allow circular walks around the site.
- produce an education pack for local schools to be able to use the site;

## What Has Been Achieved

- This first stage of the project involved the local community in discovering the importance of the site and its role in their heritage through research and investigation, as well as improving access to the woodlands.
- Establishment of Friends of Moor Pond Wood group
- Production of management plans for ecology, invertebrates and archaeology.
- Most of path network has been upgraded and wheelchair friendly gates built.



To find out more visit [www.papplewick.org](http://www.papplewick.org) or contact [mpw@papplewick.org](mailto:mpw@papplewick.org) or telephone: 0115 963 2057 or 0115 963 0808



## Walking the Way to Health in Greenwood



### Project Description

The Walking the Way to Health Project is an initiative of the Countryside Agency supported by the British Heart Foundation. The aim of the project is to improve the health and fitness of over one million people through walking by targeting those who may not have taken part in any form of exercise for some time or who are recovering from illness.

### Background

Walking is playing a bigger role in creating a healthier nation. Described by health experts as 'almost perfect exercise', walking requires no equipment or expense and is the ideal way for most people to become more active. Seven out of every ten people in this country are not physically active enough to benefit their health.

Research shows that the benefits of walking for health are many but research also shows that walking in a green area with wildflowers, trees and water has an extra effect on well being.

New community woodlands and green spaces are being created on the doorsteps of over a million people in and around the Greenwood Community Forest. Brierley Forest Park, in Ashfield, Colliers Wood in Eastwood and Linby Trail in Hucknall, are all perfect sites for local Walking the Way to Health groups to use.

Key Facts	
Dates	2000 - ongoing
Costs	Individual projects have received funding or support from the Walking the Way to Health Initiative.
Funding	Countryside Agency, New Opportunities Fund, Kia Cars
National Partners	British Heart Foundation, Countryside Agency
Partners	Groundwork, Primary Care Trusts, Friends Groups, Local Authorities, Nottinghamshire County Council



## The Project

Walking the Way to Health is a great way to begin moderate exercise. Local groups walk from all areas in Greenwood – there's a walk somewhere almost every day. Walks are short, chosen because of their surface and gradient, and free. No special equipment is needed, and participants walk at their own pace. All walk leaders are trained and the walks are insured. However, it is the friendly and social nature of the group that is the heart of its success.

*Liz Pierce, Health Promotion Specialist with Broxtowe & Hucknall PCT, and Walk & Talk steering group member, said:*

*“One lady who was new to the area joined Walk & Talk. She was suffering from depression and had high blood pressure at the time. On the first few walks her husband came with her. Within six months her blood pressure had reduced, she was no longer taking medication for depression and was attending walks by herself. She now has new friends made from the Walk & Talk Group and goes out socially with them.”*

## What Has Been Achieved

- Six WWH groups established by organisations and community groups within Greenwood
- Reported improvements in health through weight loss, alleviation of symptoms, walking further
- Informal social groups formed
- 2 new community groups established
- Since September 2002, 5306 walkers have participated in 282 walks in Mansfield's In Step group alone



For further information contact the Greenwood Team on 01623 758231



## The Planning Gain - Ashfield District



### Project Description

Ashfield District Council, using the planning process, has negotiated with housing developers contributions towards the provision and improvement of 'offsite' green space. This approach has led to the planting of community woodland and opening up access routes in Greenwood.

### Background

Policy of the Ashfield Local Plan, to be replaced by a local development framework, offers a mechanism, which seeks to provide open space in conjunction with new housing development. The policy allows for 'off-site' community woodland planting to be funded by developers contributions as an option where it is not practical or appropriate to provide open space within the development site. At present contributions to off-site open space or woodland planting are £1500 per dwelling and are adjusted for inflation each year. Since the introduction of the policy, some £3.85 million has been received for off-site contributions.

The Council is transparent and accountable in the way the policy operates and the way they distribute funds to projects. Housing developers are advised by the council's planning officers of the open space policy. If open space is required then a decision is made on whether on-site provision is appropriate. If not appropriate, a choice is made between off-site open space and / or a community forest type scheme.

Key Facts	
Dates	1993 – 2004
Funding	£3.85 million has been received from developers
Partners	Ashfield District Council planning department and councillors serving on area groups, Greenwood Community Forest, housing developers and the local community.



The scheme operates by dividing the district into four community areas for receipt of planning obligation contributions. In each area an Area Consultation Group considers proposed schemes and allocates funding to projects within the general area in which the new housing is located. Seventy-five percent of the amount received is allocated to the physical works, with the remaining twenty-five percent allocated to future maintenance.

## What Has Been Achieved

Many improvements carried out have contributed towards Greenwood Community Forest objectives. These include –

- Kirkby-in-Ashfield – new community woodland and trail improvements at Maun Valley. Creation of a Doorstep Green: West Park, tree planting at Morven Park.
- Sutton-in-Ashfield - Woodland areas at Sutton Lawn creating a 'Tree Route', with an education pack for use by local schools. Footpath improvements at Kings Mill Reservoir and Stoneyford Road, a new footbridge at Calladine Lane, a new entrance and car park at Brierley Forest Park.
- Hucknall – landscape trail at Garden Road, Community Woodland at Nabbs Lane.
- The Rural Areas – a community woodland and trail at Pye Hill, footpath improvements around nature reserve and recreation ground, Jacksdale.
- Planning Policy allowing for the provision of Community Woodland as a complimentary approach to the provision of traditional open space. This approach could be utilised in other areas.
- Local involvement in allocation of resources through Area Consultation Groups.
- Transparent and accountable process through publication of newsletter on "Improving Open Spaces" giving details of schemes that have been implemented.



For more information, contact Senior Planning Officer,  
Ashfield District Council on 01623 450000