

Greenwood

news release

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Councillor Cottee helps Friends of Greenwood Celebrate 10th Anniversary

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Councillor John Cottee, Greenwood Partnership Chair and Nottinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Culture & Community, joined the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum to help them celebrate their 10th anniversary recently.

Cllr Cottee welcomed over a hundred volunteers to the event at Brierley Forest Park, one of the first green spaces to be developed in the Community Forest. He said: "It is an honour to be invited to be with you tonight, especially as it gives me the chance to talk to some of you personally and hear first hand about some of the projects that you are involved in. I have nothing but admiration for your passion, spirit, and dedication."

The Forum is made up of members representing 35 Friends groups who act as the eyes and ears on green spaces and parks within the Greenwood Community Forest. The inaugural meeting took place at Brierley Forest on 21st August 2000 and representatives from 10 groups attended.

Colin Barson, Chair of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum since 2004, says the Forum has come a long way: "When it began there were a handful of us in the meeting room at Brierley Forest and as new groups have formed, we have swelled our ranks. We often get 35 representatives and struggle to find a meeting room big enough to take us all."

Continued

Following a presentation of highlights of the Forum over the last 10 years, Cllr Cottee helped Colin Barson and members of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum to cut a celebratory cake. Cllr Cottee also turned the tables on Colin when he presented him with an outstanding contribution award.

Malcolm Hackett, Project Manager for Greenwood spoke about “Senior Statesman” Colin’s achievements before Cllr Cottee handed over the award. He said: “Apart from his commitment and hard work, his most outstanding quality has to be his enthusiasm. We see this at Forum meetings and at every Awards Celebration. He always takes the opportunity to speak up for the efforts of volunteers and to encourage others to recognise the difference that they all make. He is always the very best of ambassadors for both the Forum and for Greenwood itself.”

Ends

Photo: Colin Barson, Chair of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum, Councillor John Cottee and Terry Birch, former Chair of Friends of Greenwood Community Forum cut the cake watched by Forum members.

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