

Work to Start on New Playground in East Bridgford

Youngsters will soon benefit from a new £180,000 play area with a difference on Butt Close Playing Field. Work to install the play area will start on 23 August 2010 when Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Garth Powell, will cut the first sod at 10.00am.

In keeping with the ethos of the age, East Bridgford has chosen to renew its children's play area in a sustainable manner. Instead of brightly coloured plastic and steel play equipment, this one will use sustainable materials with natural finishes. Whilst containing substantial amounts of play equipment, the area will include landscaping features and planting which will encourage creative play. It is designed to form an integral part of the village, and makes provision for parents or grandparents to accompany the very young. The play area includes zip wire, swings, tunnels and sand pit and caters for children aged from 0 to 16 years.

The **design** was the result of two years consultation with children at St Peters School & pre-school, East Bridgford; teenage volunteers; and parents. A series of public meetings allowed the entire village to contribute. Initially the children were asked how they wanted to play. Several outline designs were produced and presented to open meetings. The feedback from these meetings was heavily in favour of the "Green" design. The public engagement continued through the design phase with meetings at each stage. The children have created the detail finishes for the play park, and teenagers will apply their own designs to the skateboard area.

East Bridgford Parish Council wanted full public involvement, and the project has been driven by dedicated volunteers (the Playground Renewal Group) with support from the council. They appointed Cracknell Landscape Architecture Planners, an award-winning company, specialising in developing urban parks in the UK, to lead the consultation and design phases.

Funding for the scheme, which is expected to be complete by November 2010, has come from several sources. The Park Renewal Group secured just over £49k of funding for the project from Groundwork UK and Big Lottery Fund's Community Spaces programme. Other funding came from East Bridgford Parish Council (£20,000); from Wren (£48,734); and The Veolia Environmental Trust, (£45,339). The grants from WREN and The Veolia Environmental Trust were awarded through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Speaking about the start of the work, Councillor Nigel Lawrence, Chair of the Playground Renewal Group, says 'I am delighted that work is to start on what will be a major asset for the village. Our village youngsters can now look forward to many years of fun on the new play area.'

Photo Call: Monday 23 August 2010, 10am, Butt Close Playing Field, East Bridgford

As work starts on the play area, the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Garth Powell, will cut the first sod. A chance to see the new designs and an opportunity to interview Councillor Nigel Lawrence Chair of the Playground Renewal Group, as well as local young people.

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Note to Editors

East Bridgford is small community (population approx.1800) lying on a hill above the River Trent about halfway between Nottingham and Newark in south east Nottinghamshire. It has a highly rated primary school – St Peters C of E School, and a Pre-school which operates out of the Women’s Institute Hall alongside the play area. Public facilities include two Churches, a Village Hall and the WI Hall. The playing field is in the very heart of the village, surrounded by houses and with no road frontage. The children’s play area occupies a strip on the westside of this field, hemmed in by the senior football pitch. The current play area has mostly old or decaying equipment, some dating back to the 1950s.

Funding of the Project

1. The Community Spaces grant programme, which is being managed by Groundwork UK as an Award Partner to the **Big Lottery Fund. Community Spaces**, which is part of the Big Lottery Fund’s Changing Spaces initiative. Community Spaces is a £50 million open grants programme that is managed by Groundwork UK as an award partner to the Big Lottery Fund’s Changing Spaces initiative. The programme helps community groups create or improve green and open spaces so that the quality of life in neighbourhoods across England is enhanced. Only community groups in England are eligible to apply to Community Spaces – a full eligibility criteria is available online at **www.community-spaces.org.uk**. The programme has been open for small and medium grants (£10,000 - £49,999) since March 2008 and will remain open for these sizes of grants until January 2011.

For media enquiries please contact, Nisha Virdi at Groundwork UK on: 0121 237 5872 or 07748 320 074. Email press@community-spaces.org.uk

The Big Lottery Fund’s Changing Spaces programme was launched in November 2005 to help communities enjoy and improve their local environments. The programme is funding a range of activities from local food schemes and farmers markets, to education projects teaching people about the environment. Groundwork UK was appointed as a Changing Spaces award partner, responsible for distributing £50 million through its Community Spaces scheme. The Big Lottery Fund, the largest of the National Lottery good cause distributors, has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since its inception in June 2004. It was established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.

Big Lottery Fund Press Office: 020 7211 1888

Out of hours: 07867 500 572

Public enquiries line: 08454 102030

Textphone: 08456 021 659

Full details of the work of the Big Lottery Fund, its programmes and awards are available on the website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

2. **The Veolia Environmental Trust** has been supporting community and environmental projects for over ten years. Under the Landfill Communities Fund, landfill site operators can donate a percentage, currently 5.5%, of their landfill tax payment to these projects. Since the Trust was established in 1997, Veolia Environmental Services (UK) plc has supported it by contributions of £41 million to 1050 projects. The Trust has helped fund a diverse range of projects, including the repair of woodland footpaths, the renovation of community halls and the installation of playgrounds and play areas.
3. **WREN** is a not for profit business that awards grants to community, environmental and heritage projects across the UK from funds donated by Waste Recycling Group (WRG) as part of a voluntary environmental tax credit scheme called the Landfill Communities Fund. Since 1988, WREN has granted over £118m to more than 4,800 projects, which benefit people living within 10 miles of a WRG landfill site. **The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)** is a voluntary scheme which enables



landfill operators to contribute some of the tax raised on the disposal of waste in landfill to Environmental Bodies (EBs) who can then fund community, heritage and environmental projects which comply with the Landfill Tax Regulations. During the past 12 years over £755m has been spent on more than 24,000 projects helping to improve the environment in which we live. **Waste Recycling Group Limited (WRG)**, a leading UK waste management and energy recovery company, is part of Fomento de Construcciones y Contratas (FCC) the international construction and services group (www.fcc.es). FCC in the UK comprises WRG and Focsa Services (UK) Ltd. Focused on delivering integrated waste management and energy recovery solutions to meet national, regional and local need. WRG donates the LCF tax credits that are generated by its operations to Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN), in order to add value to the environmental and social infrastructure of the communities around landfill sites.

4. **East Bridgford Parish Council** has provided approximately 20% of the total cost from its own balances – carefully hoarded for the purpose. The project was provided with its “seed corn” funding with a small community grant from Nottinghamshire County Council provided through our County Councillor – Cllr Mrs Kay Cutts.

For further information, photo opportunities and interviews, please contact Cllr Nigel Lawrence on 01949 20619, cllr.nlawrence@eastbridgford.net or Clare van Loenen on 07913 108593.

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