

# Grand Opening of East Bridgford's New Playground

**Launch Date: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

**A new £180,000 playground will open to the public on Butt Close Playing Field, in East Bridgford, on 17<sup>th</sup> December.**

The award winning Cracknell Landscape Architecture Planners, specialising in developing children's parks in the UK, have created a play area with a difference. Using sustainable materials with natural finishes, the playground contains play equipment to suit all ages, as well as landscaping features and planting which encourage creative play.

The **playground** is designed to form an integral part of the village, and makes provision for parents or grandparents to accompany the very young with seating areas and a herb garden. A zip wire, a climbing wall and skate area provide fun for older children. Whilst Totem poles, a river-like sandpit stretching from a children's slide to the toddler area, along with a small fort, designed with the help of local children, allow for imaginative play for younger children. A multi-user swing, toddler slide, a stone bridge with tunnel, stepping-stones and a wobble bridge along with the spider-like climbing frame with scramble nets, will provide endless fun.

The **design** was the result of two years consultation with children at St Peters School & pre-school, East Bridgford; teenage volunteers; and parents. 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. Local children have helped with planting and created the detail finishes and teenagers have applied their own designs to the skateboard area. Three local teenagers spent a week working on site on a Construction Trainee Scheme. As a result, the East Bridgford Park Renewal Group has been nominated for the Rushcliffe Community Awards 2010 for their work supporting children and young people to achieve their full potential.

With so many new projects affected by the current economic climate, this project means all the more to the residents of East Bridgford whose old and partly dilapidated playground was in desperate need of a face lift. How fantastic then, that youngsters aged 0 to 16 years will be able to enjoy this new play area from 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Funding** for the scheme 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 opening of the playground, Councillor Nigel Lawrence, Chair of the Playground Renewal Group, said "Our village youngsters can now look forward to many years of fun on the new play area. Not only do we have lots of new opportunities for play, we now have provision for our teenagers, which we did not have before."

Page 1 of 3. Continues...



## **Grand Opening Photo-opportunity: 2pm, Friday 17 December** **Butt Close Playing Field, East Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, NG13 8PA**

**Playtime Starts Here...** The East Bridgford Playground is officially opened by the Major of Rushcliffe at 2pm, as children from St Peters School get to try out their new play area for the first time.

### **Notes 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. Community Spaces

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](http://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 07 January 2011.

**For media enquiries** please contact, Nisha Viridi at Groundwork UK on: 0121 237 5872 or 07748 320 074. Email [press@community-spaces.org.uk](mailto:press@community-spaces.org.uk)

#### Big Lottery Fund

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](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)**

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2. **The Veolia Environmental Trust** has been supporting community and environmental projects for over 12 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 £42 million to 1080 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. For more information visit [www.veoliatrust.org](http://www.veoliatrust.org).

The Veolia Environmental Trust press enquiries – Oliver Blackburn on 01902 794 669

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](http://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, images and interviews, please contact Cllr Nigel Lawrence on 01949 20619, [cldr.nlawrence@eastbridgford.net](mailto:cldr.nlawrence@eastbridgford.net)**

3/3 -ends-

