

Community garden and allotment planned for Bestwood

Sprout, an environmental project run by the Hyson Green-based charity the Partnership Council, is looking for young volunteers to help turn the green space next to St Matthew's Church on Padstow Road in Bestwood into a community garden and allotment - this Saturday 8th November from 10.30am to 2pm.

Sprout, in partnership with the Bestwood Community Forum, is also looking for local people and community groups to get involved long-term.

Rachel from Sprout explains:

"We are very interested in hearing from local people or community groups who would like to help us develop a thriving community garden and allotment for Bestwood. We're hoping the project will give people who don't have access to a garden or an allotment the chance to have a share in one and even try their hand at growing vegetables or fruit for example."

Work on the community garden and allotment began last month when staff from Sprout and the Bestwood Community Forum were joined by 22 volunteers. This Saturday, a group of students from the University of Nottingham's Conservation Society will also be lending a hand.

Rachel continues:

"It's great that the project has sparked the interest of young people who care about the environment. Local people and Sprout volunteers who helped at the first event are also coming along this Saturday so I'm confident that the community garden and allotment is going to become a real feature of life in Bestwood."

Anyone interested in helping out on Saturday can join in with clearing and digging the site ready for planting plus Sprout would love to hear from local people and community groups who may have ideas for how the site can be developed and used in the future. Volunteers will be provided with gloves and light refreshments.

The Sprout project was set up in January 2008 with the aim of helping young people to set up their own environmental projects and to get involved in environmental volunteering. For example, Sprout has helped two young people to set up a community forest garden in the St Ann's area of the city.

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RELEASE DATE - 10/11/08

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For further information and directions to St Matthew's church please call:

Rachel or Jabran from the Partnership Council on 0115 970 8200 or 07528 481510.

**To find out more about Sprout please visit www.partnershipcouncil.co.uk
or www.sproutnottingham.org.uk**

Sprout is one of 152 similar projects across the country, which are being funded by vinolved, a programme backed by £75 million worth of funding, with the aim of inspiring half a million more young people to volunteer in England.

To find out more visit <http://www.wearev.com>

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