



Nottingham

City Council

partnershipcouncil

Event to celebrate Forest Recreation Ground improvements

The two lead partners in the campaign to improve the Forest Recreation Ground on Gregory Boulevard – the Partnership Council and Nottingham City Council – are holding a celebration event on Wednesday 9th September to thank all those involved in the project so far. The event is being held at the New Art Exchange, 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

The project has also been led by NDC (Nottingham Development Company) and a local community group called Friends of the Forest.

Recently, the project applied for £3.1 million from the Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery funds to help pay for the planned improvement work on the Forest. The first stage of that application was successful and now the partners are working on stage 2 of the bid, in order to fully secure the funding.

Nottingham City Council is also investing money in the improvement scheme, bringing the total investment to £5.1 million.

Ruth Greenberg, Chief Officer of the Partnership Council, says:

“The Forest is already home to all kinds of events including the Nottingham Caribbean Carnival and Nottingham Polish Festival. Now, we want to ensure that the planned developments will encourage even more people to use and enjoy the Forest.”

For example, one of the key improvements voted for by local people was for the Forest to provide more activities for young people and the City Council has already installed an outdoor gym and basketball facilities.”

A new pirate-themed play area for children has also been opened on the Forest, launched officially on 29th July 2009. The play area was created with the help of local children, via the Partnership Council’s Children’s Forum.

The partners are keen for this level of community involvement to be kept up as the improvements planned for the Forest take shape.

Other planned improvements include:

- A face-lift for the Forest’s Central Pavilion including new changing facilities, a community room and café.

- The Forest Lodge renovated and reopened for community use.
- New paths and better lighting with wider access for pushchairs and wheelchairs.
- Plenty of new bulbs and plants.
- The creation of a new football pitch and cricket square.

Councillor Dave Trimble, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Customers at Nottingham City Council says:

“The event will celebrate the success of the project so far and recognise the immense amount of hard work that has been done by all those involved. In addition, the event will be an opportunity for community organisations to come along and find out how they can get involved in the future.

The Forest is a real focal point for Nottingham, especially for those who live nearby. Spanning 77 acres it already provides many facilities and now we want to ensure that the continued improvements fully reflect the community’s needs and expectations.

Encouraging more community groups to get involved in the improvement project will make sure this happens – now and in the future.”

To find out more about the Forest celebration event or the planned improvements please contact Ruth Greenberg on 0115 970 8200 or email ruth@partnershipcouncil.co.uk

Alternatively, please contact Eddie Curry, Head of Parks and Open Spaces at Nottingham City Council on 0115 915 2733.