

Public consultation on Forest development plan set for June

Local people are being given another chance to have their say on how the Forest Recreation Ground on Gregory Boulevard in Radford is being improved.

A public consultation event is being held on Tuesday 1st June from 1pm to 4pm on the Forest Recreation Ground, by the Central Pavilion and new children's playground, where local people will be able to view and give their feedback on the detailed improvement plans being put together by the team behind the Forest project.

The team includes Radford based charity, the Partnership Council, Nottingham City Council, Castle Cavendish Foundation (formerly NDC) and neighbourhood group, Friends of the Forest. Representatives from each organisation will be on hand to discuss the Forest plans including Nottingham City Council's park ranger for the Forest.

Following the consultation, the final improvement plan will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery in the autumn, freeing up £3.1m of funding to put the plans into action.

The plan to develop the Forest has been put together with the help of local people from the word go.

Ruth Greenberg from the Partnership Council explains:

"Locally, the Forest is at the heart of many people's lives. One of the reasons why we've been given a significant chunk of money from the Lottery is because they liked the way the development plan has been shaped by local people.

We want the Forest to be a place that local people can enjoy every day, as well as being a great destination for the whole city to visit.

Local people have helped us to win the money to develop the Forest and now we want to ensure they have the final say."

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

“The Council has pledged to invest almost £2 million in improving the Forest, to boost the money awarded by the Lottery and we’ve already helped to build a new children’s playground plus outdoor multisport area on the site. We’re also providing a dedicated park ranger and gardeners for the Forest and whole range of new play equipment for local families to use and enjoy.

Plus we’ve also helped to secure funding from other sources. For example, Castle Cavendish has recently invested £120,000 in the project, which will go towards a major improvement plan to transform the Forest’s paths and walkways – due to start in June.

These improvements have been made in response to local people’s concerns and wishes and we’d urge local people to get behind the Forest once again and come along to the consultation event.”

At the consultation event, local people will get the chance to give their feedback on all aspects of the development plan including:

- How the Forest’s Central Pavilion will be renovated
- The new changing facilities, community room and café being planned
- The restoration of the Forest Lodge, on the Mansfield Road side of the Forest, which is being renovated for community use
- The Victorian-style railings and gateways
- Environmental aspects such as new planting and a community garden
- How the Forest will be used as a ‘community hub’

To have your say simply go along to the Forest anytime from 1pm to 4pm on Tuesday, 1st June. Alternatively, members of the public are welcome to go along to a consultation event being held on Tuesday 25th May from 4pm to 7pm at the New Art Exchange on Gregory Boulevard. The event is being held to give all those involved in the project the chance to shape the final plans, including local youth organisations, sports clubs and community groups.

To find out more about the Master Plan for the Forest contact Eddie Curry, Head of Parks and Open Spaces at Nottingham City Council on 0115 915 2733 or Ruth Greenberg at the Partnership Council on 0115 970 8200.

**For press enquiries contact Stephanie Robertson on 0115 924 4304
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