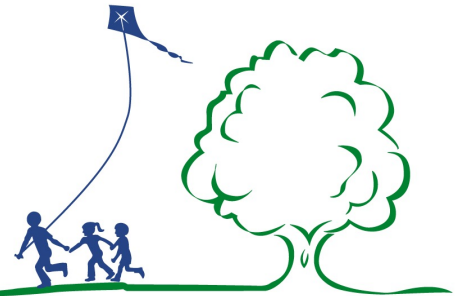


Warley Woods Community Trust



The Pavilion, Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 5ED

Tel: 0121 420 1061 Email: admin@warleywoods.org.uk Web: www.warleywoods.org.uk

24th November 2008

Press Release

Community to help design the future for the fountain

Warley Woods Community Trust is planning to restore the Edwardian drinking fountain in the park. Presented to the park in 1907, a year after the opening of Warley Woods as a public park, it is now in a sad dilapidated state, made even more obvious by the restoration of the rest of the park in 2007 with funds from the Heritage Lottery.

The drinking fountain sits next to the children's play area and currently looks no more than a lump of masonry. Its gothic styled roof was lost many years ago and the fountain has gradually fallen in to a state of disrepair.

Viv Cole, Trust Manager said "We are really pleased that we will be able to restore the drinking fountain and recreate an iconic image of the park. It looks such a 'Cinderella' at the moment, with the rest of the park looking so good. It is the last historic structure in the park. The house was demolished in 1956, and the bandstand, the lodges, the rustic shelters and the Doric temple are all long gone. When we restore the fountain we will be bringing back some of the glory of the park when it was first opened to the public as The People's Park all those years ago."

The restoration of the drinking fountain has been made possible through grant aid and donations from members of the public. Grants have been awarded by Cory Environmental Trust in Britain, WREN and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. Several thousand pounds was also donated by local individuals.

In addition to the restoration of the fountain, landscaping will also be created around it and members of the public are to be consulted on how the surround for the fountain should look. There will be a consultation meeting on 3rd December 2008 at 6.30 at The Pavilion, Lightwoods Hill Smethwick.

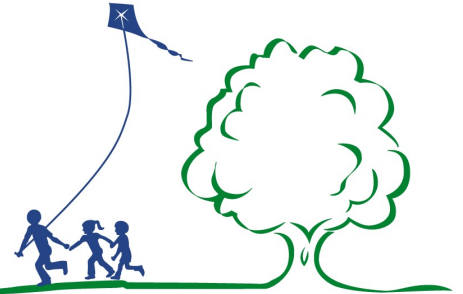
Viv Cole added "the restoration of the fountain will be historically accurate and there will be few choices to be made, but we would like members of the community to have a say in how the area around the fountain will look. We would be really pleased to have as many local people as possible contribute to this discussion and the decision making process. Warley Woods Community Trust was set up to enable people to have a say in what happens in the park and this is your chance to have your say."

Ends

Notes

Patrons: Julie Walters CBE, Professor Carl Chinn MBE, Phd. Colin Buchanan. Registered Charity: 1092754 Company Registration: 04214547

Warley Woods Community Trust



- For further information contact: Viv Cole, Trust Manager, 0121 420 1061, 07947 805746, trustmanager@warleywoods.org.uk
- Warley Woods Community Trust (WWCT) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. WWCT is the only charity in the United Kingdom to have taken responsibility for an urban park. The organisation was formed to take action, following the long term neglect of the park by Birmingham City Council and to ensure local people had a say in what happened to their park.
- The park is leased to Sandwell MBC for 99 years and has been subleased to WWCT for the same period of time.
- It is managed by a Board of Trustees which is made up of local people. The Trust's membership now numbers around 700 individuals and there are over 120 active volunteers.
- The Park was named the People's Park after it was saved from becoming sold for housing by public subscription in 1906.
- Cory Environmental Trust in Britain CETB is an Environmental Trust set up under the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) (formerly known as the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme) under the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996. Its funds are derived as a result of a tax placed on waste that is sent to landfill. CETB funds projects that bring benefit to the local community and which are within ten miles of an active landfill site. Project's objectives must match one of the approved LCF criteria and may include refurbishment of churches or buildings of architectural or historical significance, or general amenity projects, such as the provision of play equipment, disabled access or improvements to parks and nature reserves. For more information please contact: Angela Haymonds, Trust Secretary, Cory Environmental Trust in Britain. Tel: 01753 582513. Email: ajhaymonds@cetbritain.freeserve.co.uk