

Date: 31 May 2012

Contact: Nadine Hilliard

Tel: 0115 87 63404

Email: nadine.hilliard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Council signs multi-million pound contract to refurbish Forest Recreation Ground

Financial Close has been reached on the £5.1 million project which will transform Nottingham's Forest Recreation Ground, home to the world famous Goose Fair.

The project will breathe new life into the Forest Recreation Ground by restoring the historic entrances and the Grade II listed lodge as well as upgrading the infrastructure and facilities so that it can be enjoyed by more people. As well as bringing the lodge into productive community use, a new café, toilets and community hall will be created in the pavilion and there will be improvements to the park's paths and planted areas.

Nottingham City Council, the Partnership Council, Castle Cavendish Foundation and Friends of the Forest, worked together to successfully secure funding worth £5.1 million to restore the Forest to its former glory. The funding includes £3.2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund and £1.9 million from Nottingham City Council, Castle Cavendish Foundation and local development contributions.

Councillor David Trimble, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Tourism, said: "This project involves conserving the historic elements of the park and upgrading the facilities which will revitalise the whole area. Reaching Financial Close is an important milestone and means that construction work can now begin on this exciting project which will ensure that one of Nottingham's major parks continues to attract visitors from the city and beyond."

The restoration work will be carried out by Nottingham's Local Education Partnership (LEP) which is a public private partnership between Nottingham City Council and inspiredspaces.

Mark Harding, General Manager of Nottingham's LEP, said: "It is great to be involved in a project like this where we are consolidating over 700 years of history and ensuring that the park can be enjoyed by future generations to come.

"We have already prepared the site by removing the bowls pavilion and toilets, which were in a poor state of repair and anticipate that construction works will commence in a few weeks time.

"We have committed to providing a number of apprenticeships and training placements over the course of the project to provide valuable skills and work experience to local people".

ENDS

Notes to editors:



Safer, cleaner, ambitious
Nottingham
A city we're all proud of

Clean Safe Proud Ambitious

Nottingham's award-winning Local Education Partnership (LEP)

Nottingham's LEP is a public private partnership between Nottingham City Council, Building Schools for the Future Investments and a private sector partner. In Nottingham, the private sector partner is *inspiredspaces* which brings Carillion as construction and facilities management services provider, together with Capita who provide ICT expertise.

To find out more, visit www.nottinghamlep.co.uk

For more information please contact Nadine Hilliard on 0115 87 63404.