

## New young people's project helps green ideas to 'sprout' in Nottingham

The Partnership Council, a charity based in Hyson Green, Nottingham has recently launched a brand new project to help 16 - 25 year olds who want to do their bit for the world to set up their own environmental projects. The project, called 'Sprout', is being funded by Nottingham's Neighbourhood Development Company (NDC) and v involved, the national youth volunteering programme, and although it only launched in January 2008, the team behind the project (Rachel Wicks, Aran Eales and Matthew Whitney) have already planned several events aimed at getting young people involved in green activities:

### **9 March 2008 - Allotment Sundays**

'Sprout' is planning fortnightly 'allotment days' for young people on alternate Sundays - starting on the 9th March at the Moorfield Allotments on St Pauls Street, Radford (from 1pm till dusk). 'Sprout' hopes that the allotment days will give young people the opportunity to find out more about the natural environment and the chance to grow their own fruit and vegetables for example. Young volunteers are welcome to drop by as and when they want to and will have the chance to help out with clearing, digging and planting the 'Sprout' allotment. Anyone interested should call Matt on 07977 116275 or Aran on 07985 727925 to find out more.

### **3 March 2008 - Free Screening of 'An Inconvenient Truth'**

'Sprout' is holding a very special screening of Al Gore's acclaimed documentary film, 'An Inconvenient Truth', at the Savoy Cinema on Derby Road, Nottingham on the 3 March. The film explores environmental issues such as climate change and 'Sprout' hopes it will help inspire young people to get involved in caring for the environment. Following the screening, 'Sprout' are holding an open discussion on the issues raised in the film at the Crocus Café in Lenton. To find out more please call Rachel, Aran or Matt at the Partnership Council on 0115 970 8200.

### **'Sprout' launches its first project**

'Sprout' launched its first major project recently - 'City Roots' which aims to set up and run a community forest garden for local people at the St Ann's allotments in Nottingham. The project, one of the first community forest gardens in the UK, is the brainchild of two 25 year old volunteers, Peter Nelson and William McCrory, who approached 'Sprout' for help to get their project off the ground.

The duo already had an allotment but needed garden tools and equipment to begin planting, as well as manure, compost, trees, plants and seeds. 'Sprout' was more than happy to help and provided funding for trees, fruit bushes, compost, manure, mulch, a water butt, two composters and a wide variety of plants.

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As well as providing initial funding for the project, 'Sprout' will also help to promote 'City Roots' - encouraging local people to use and enjoy the forest garden. In addition, 'Sprout' will work alongside Peter and William to plan events at the allotment. For instance, the pair is hoping to arrange for groups of local schoolchildren to visit the allotment. In the longer term, Peter and William are also keen to establish a nursery as part of the project, growing organic trees and plants for local people to buy and plant in their own gardens; and to use the garden as an educational centre where people can learn about creating environmentally-friendly, sustainable natural habitats and forest gardening. Will explains:

"We want the site to demonstrate what a forest garden can be. We want people to learn to interact creatively with their local environment, which could be their tiny back garden or even the balcony of their flat. We hope that 'City Roots' can be an inspiring space where forest gardening and permacultural values can be promoted, and introduce people to the importance of taking care of the local natural environment. Sprout have enabled us to plant trees this year. Without their support we wouldn't have been able to go ahead with the forest garden."

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

**For more information please contact Rachel, Matt or Aran  
at the Partnership Council on 0115 970 8200 or email [rachel@partnershipcouncil.co.uk](mailto:rachel@partnershipcouncil.co.uk)**

## Notes to Editors

The Partnership Council is a charity based in Hyson Green Nottingham that works to improve the lives of people living in some of Nottingham's most disadvantaged communities. The Partnership Council runs many innovative environmental projects including an ongoing programme of environmental education aimed at getting children and young people involved in caring for the environment. The charity won two prestigious 'Green Guardians' awards in November, presented by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in recognition of the Partnership Council's contribution to the environment in Nottingham.

**To find out more about NDC please visit <http://www.ndcnottingham.org.uk/>**

**To find out more about vinvolved please visit <http://www.wearev.com>**