



Press Release

Date of issue: 21/11/2011

£30,000 Big Lottery win for Troopers Hill

Wild and beautiful Troopers Hill, a 20 acre Local Nature Reserve in St George, Bristol, owned by Bristol City Council, will benefit from £30,504.89 of Big Lottery money via the Community Spaces programme.

Troopers Hill's steps and paths have become eroded over the 20 years since the Bristol Development Corporation installed them, making it difficult for the very young and the elderly to fully enjoy the site. For a long time the local community conservation group, Friends of Troopers Hill, have wanted to improve these steps and increase awareness of the paths in the adjacent woodland. The grant will allow this to be done without spoiling the wild feel of the site.

Rob Acton-Campbell, a dedicated member of the Friends' committee, put the Lottery bid together. He said, "It's been a year of fantastic effort for Friends of Troopers Hill volunteers supporting the application process. Thank you to everyone who helped, including volunteers who delivered 2,000 questionnaires locally and nearly 500 people who replied to our survey. This proved the high level of support from local people for this project."

Community Spaces funded the consultation that used the 2,000 questionnaires and an ecological survey. The survey showed that what was being proposed for the site was the best way to preserve the plants and wildlife that make this site so special. Summerhill School year 3 pupils were very helpful in giving the junior perspective on the proposals.

"Bristol Parks would like to thank the Friends of Troopers Hill for their efforts in putting together this grant application" said Jamie Roberts, Bristol East Area Parks Manager, who originally suggested the Community Spaces scheme to the Friends as a possible source of funding. "We have been working in partnership with the group on the management of the site since the group was formed in 2003 and we are delighted that they have been awarded this grant. We look forward to working with them over the next year to complete this project which will improve access on the hill for all visitors."

Work on the Troopers Hill Stepping Forward project will start in 2012 improving existing paths and steps and draining a boggy area of Troopers Hill Field. Local children and adults will work with wood sculptor to create carvings to mark and reflect the natural feel of an existing woodland trail. This



waymarking will encourage people to explore further when visiting this award-winning site. For all the details of how the grant will be used to improve access to Troopers Hill please visit www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward.

It has been a great year. Troopers Hill received its 5th Green Flag Award, the Friends gained an "It's Your Neighbourhood" award from the Royal Horticultural Society and the locally rare Essex Skipper butterfly was spotted on the Local Nature Reserve. Beeses Riverside Bar and Tea Gardens made yet another generous donation to the Friends from their annual Beer Festival and local greengrocers, Dig In, are kindly hosting our collecting tin, which has been generously filled and refilled by their customers. This grant will bring the total of money raised by the Friends since 2003 to over £80,000.

The grant allows for a celebration event at the end of the project. In October 2012 a craft and storytelling event will be held to do just that.



Friends of Troopers Hill - Notes to Editor

Friends of Troopers Hill are a community conservation group made up of primarily local residents who came together in November 2003 aiming to:

- Provide a friendly community focus for people who care about Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve.
- Carry out practical conservation work to help look after Troopers Hill.
- Organise public events such as walks and talks.
- Work with Bristol Parks (part of Bristol City Council) to make sure Troopers Hill is well looked after.

When our group was founded in December 2003 paths were disappearing under vegetation, large quantities of litter had accumulated on the site and, most importantly, the area of acid grass and heathland which had led to the site's classification as a Local Nature Reserve was steadily disappearing year by year as scrub steadily encroached on the site. The site had no park keeper and a maintenance team appeared for brief periods every 6-8 weeks.



Working in partnership with Bristol Parks we have organised and funded 86 public events, run over 90 volunteer work parties to pick litter and cut back encroaching scrub and raised over £80,000 in grants and donations. We have funded projects ranging from the installation of a wheelchair access path at the top of the Hill to dog bins at most entrances.

Bristol Parks appointed a Community Park Keeper in 2007. He works on site an average of two days a week.

The success of this partnership has led to the Green Flag award being won for the last five years, thanks to the quality of care given to this special site. The Downs is the only site in Bristol to equal this number of Green Flag awards.

Full details of our work and activities are on www.troopers-hill.org.uk.

Details of the project being funded by this Big Lottery grant are on www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward.

Contact Details:

Chair - Susan Acton-Campbell
email:friends@troopers-hill.org.uk
telephone: 0117 947 5037

Photos: We have the rights to many of the photos on our website www.troopers-hill.org.uk and can provide higher resolution versions. Please contact us with the details of the photo you wish to use. Photos directly related to the project are on www.troopers-hill.org.uk/steppingforward.



Community Spaces - Notes to Editor

Community Spaces

Community Spaces is a £57.5 million open grants programme that is managed by Groundwork UK as an award partner to the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces initiative. The programme helps community groups create or improve green and open spaces so that the quality of life in neighbourhoods across England is enhanced.

The programme was opened for small and medium grants (£10,000 - £49,999) in March 2008 and closed to new applications on January 7 2011. www.community-spaces.org.uk

For media enquiries please contact Chris Burton: 0121 237 5874

Email press@community-spaces.org.uk

Groundwork UK

Groundwork supports communities in need, working with partners to help improve the quality of people's lives, their prospects and potential and the places where they live, work and play.

Our vision is of a society of sustainable communities which are vibrant, healthy and safe, which respect the local and global environment and where individuals and enterprise prosper. **For further information visit:** www.groundwork.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme was launched in November 2005 to help communities enjoy and improve their local environments. The programme is funding a range of activities from local food schemes and farmers markets, to education projects teaching people about the environment. Groundwork UK was appointed as a Changing Spaces award partner, responsible for distributing £50 million through its Community Spaces scheme.

The Big Lottery Fund, the largest of the National Lottery good cause distributors, has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since its inception in June 2004. It was established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.

Big Lottery Fund Press Office: 020 7211 1888

Out of hours: 07867 500 572

Public enquiries line: 08454 102030 Textphone 08456 021 659

Full details of the work of the Big Lottery Fund, its programmes and awards are available on the website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk