



Trees for Cities

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

A golden anniversary goes green

Planting a tree to mark a special occasion is a popular way to celebrate a milestone event, as it leaves a lasting legacy for future generations. So when the London Borough of Newham reached its 50th anniversary, the council decided to honour the occasion with a tree for every year of its existence.

One of the areas within the London Borough of Newham and in the shadow of London City Airport, is Silvertown which has benefited from this initiative. Having recently been awarded 'Enterprise Zone' status to improve its commercial prospects, Silvertown's green infrastructure was also in real need of a boost, especially the area around the Docklands Learning & Activity Centre.

Building on the partnership, Trees for Cities has built with the London Borough of Newham since 2010, they have been consulting with local residents and will be engaging the local community and school children to plant trees to give the area a greener landscape they can enjoy for the next fifty years – and beyond.

Councillor Ian Corbett, mayoral adviser for environment and leisure, said: " We are pleased to be working with Trees for Cities to mark the borough's 50th anniversary. The trees we plant will be enjoyed by generations to come and help enhance this area around Silvertown."

Trees for Cities is holding a community tree planting event at St John's Green on Saturday 30th January 2016. People of all ages are welcome to come down to help plant trees and join in the family fun!

David Elliott, Chief Executive of Trees for Cities said: "The threats posed by climate change and the spread of tree pests and diseases mean that London's urban forest faces an uncertain future. We are therefore delighted to be working with the London Borough of Newham to increase tree canopy in the area to increase local biodiversity and provide trees with a greater degree of adaptability and resilience to environmental change".

This project is kindly supported by the Mayor of London, as a funder through the London Tree and Woodland Community Grant Scheme. The London Tree & Woodland Grant Scheme is part of the Mayor's campaign to protect the capital's trees and encourage individual Londoners, businesses and organisations to plant more trees. It also aims to protect London's woodlands and associated wildlife and make London a greener, more attractive city.

Matthew Pencharz, Deputy Mayor for Environment & Energy said, "The Mayor has prioritised delivering over 100,000 new trees in the capital over the last eight years, and by investing £10,000 in planting trees around housing estates the local community will have a beautiful green space for decades to come."

Notes to Editors

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Trees for Cities (TfC) is the only independent charity working on a global scale focussed entirely on planting urban trees and providing volunteering opportunities to bring local people together. Originally established in 1993 as Trees for London, demand for our services has grown and we now plant trees in 25 cities across the UK and overseas.

Since our inception we have engaged over 70,000 people to plant 570,000 trees focussing on health, food security, environmental protection, and providing opportunities for education and learning through our Edible Playground and Urban Forest programmes.

Our vision to plant trees in cities is global. However, we know the importance of a local focus – we empower and work with local people to strengthen their community. We are a game-changing, ambitious organisation which sets the standard for urban tree planting worldwide. (www.treesforcities.org)

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