

Immediate Release

## UK TREE PLANTING SEASON

Trees for Cities launches the start of its planting season with a community planting event at Ruskin Park, Lambeth



Planting Season: November 2016 – March 2017

[www.treesforcities.org](http://www.treesforcities.org)

**Trees for Cities** launches the start of its planting season this year with a community planting event at **Ruskin Park, Lambeth on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 10pm-3pm.**

The event marks the start of the charity's annual planting season, when it will be planting over 50,000 new urban trees and creating high quality green spaces in parks, streets, schools and housing estates in London and cities across the UK.

Local people are invited to get involved in the charity's community planting events, which take place during the winter months, to plant trees that will provide shade, improve the quality of our air and create wildlife habitats and vital healthy recreational spaces.

Trees for Cities is working to create healthy parks for healthy people and its ambition for Ruskin Park is to become a **'Health Park'** – a hub for rejuvenating outdoor activity that supports people's physical and mental health. Working in partnership with the Friends of Ruskin Park and Lambeth Council, Trees for Cities plans to improve specific areas within the park to make it a more welcoming, safe, leafy and resilient place for everyone.

**On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November**, volunteers will come together at Ruskin Park to help plant 10 new trees to replace ones that have been lost through age, pests and disease, and to plant 6,000 native daffodil bulbs that will add colour and provide a source of early nectar



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important for wildlife in the area. Volunteers will also be busy clearing overgrown vegetation to open up the main entrance to Denmark Hill and tidying up areas that will bring light into the park to make it feel more welcoming and safe.

Trees for Cities works to involve local people as much as possible. In Camberwell, -it will be running activities that encourage people to visit the park and get active through walking, gardening and food growing.

**David Elliott, Chief Executive at Trees for Cities:** “To date we’ve planted over 650,000 urban trees and our ambition is to reach a total of 1 million trees by 2020. We are creating a ‘cluster approach’ towards planting trees and creating high quality green spaces in London, as a means for helping to tackle some of the most pressing social and environmental issues facing urban communities. The cluster approach is a strategic and multi-annual methodology for planning and delivering a set of complementary and connected projects that link people and place and optimise the impacts of green spaces. It is hoped that our cluster approach methodology will be a template that can be replicated across other high-need areas in London and beyond.”

This project is kindly supported by the Battersea Power Station Foundation and the Western Riverside Environmental Fund.

#### **Notes to Editors:**

**For more information please contact: Samantha Lagan – 020 7820 4426/07825541130**  
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**Images available upon request**

#### ***Get involved:***

For more information on volunteering or to get involved in London, people can email [Jess@treesforcities.org](mailto:Jess@treesforcities.org) or call 020 7587 1320

#### ***UK Planting Schedule:***

Information about our projects can be found on the Trees for Cities website:<http://www.treesforcities.org/our-work/>

**Trees for Cities** is the only charity working on an international scale to create greener cities. Since 1993, we have engaged over 70,000 people to plant over 600,000 urban trees in parks, streets, schools and housing estates across the UK, as well as internationally, revitalising these areas and improving the lives of the people who live in them. We strengthen communities through volunteering opportunities and inspire children to grow and eat good food and to connect with nature. [www.treesforcities.org](http://www.treesforcities.org)

**Lambeth Council [www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk)**

#### **Battersea Power Station Foundation:**

The Battersea Power Station Foundation (BPS Foundation) is the independent UK charitable body established by the Battersea Power Station shareholders – Sime Darby, S P Setia and The Employees’ Provident Fund – to ensure existing neighbourhoods flourish as Battersea Power Station is regenerated. Sime Darby, S P Setia and The Employees’ Provident Fund want to make sure the BPS philosophy of placemaking and sustainable



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community development is extended out to the boroughs – so more people benefit, even at this early stage, from their investment into Battersea. The Foundation will identify and invest in effective community-based organisations that are working to create lasting improvements in the lives of people and neighbourhoods in the boroughs of Wandsworth and Lambeth. The Foundation also works to strengthen the area's voluntary sector as a vital new partner in meeting community needs.

Western Riverside Environmental Fund – the Western Riverside Environmental Fund supports environmental improvement projects in Lambeth, Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea, with grants of between £5,000 and £20,000. The fund currently has two application windows a year, with the next deadline on 19 December 2016. For more information see [www.wref.org.uk](http://www.wref.org.uk).

