

# Nutsford Vale project update June 2011



## Setting the Scene for Growth Grant: Improving Nutsford Vale

Have you seen the changes to Nutsford Vale? Red Rose Forest applied for a £285k grant from the Forestry Commission and The Northwest Development Agency for major improvements to the site in summer 2009. The grant was awarded to New East Manchester in November 2009.

Using the Housing Investment Framework, Groundwork Trust Manchester has managed the work contract which has included improving and securing the whole of the site boundary and entrances, plus surfacing of a two kilometre path network around the Vale. Improvements include:

- Creation of **six entrance points** around the site, built to Forestry Commission quality standards with kissing gates designed to meet the Disability Discrimination Act
- A new **gateway entrance point** at the Bickerdike Avenue end of the site (see before and after images above)
- New **hard surfaced paths** following previously well used walking routes
- **Tarmac paths** leading from the six entrances to the seating areas
- Six new **seating areas** with low stone walls matching the entrance points
- Woodland management including the **planting of new, small woodland areas**
- **Extended boundary fencing** to secure the site



*Welcome to Nutsford Vale - try out the gateways, paths and seats*

## Community Involvement

The Nutsford Vale project has been incredibly well supported by local people over the years, and the recent big capital investment from SSfG has provided lots more opportunities for the local community to get involved. The Friends of Nutsford Vale Group has been active in fund raising as well as helping to make design decisions such as the best route for the path network, and good locations for seating areas. The Friends have championed the Vale throughout the process, particularly during the inevitable delays in the funding process, and new members have recently come on board.

In February 2011 Red Rose Forest held a workshop where community group members helped create an 'Interpretive Plan' for the Vale which details themes such as local history and wildlife, which people were most interested in. This information will be used by the newly appointed Natural Links Officer - Lisa Mew - whose role is to encourage people to use and enjoy the Vale.

If you would like to be involved please contact Lisa Mew at Red Rose Forest on 0161 872 1660.

## Upcoming event: Nutsford Vale launch, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Please put this date in your diary as it's one not to be missed! The event will be a celebration for all those involved in the improvements at Nutsford Vale with a chance to try some new activities, and to meet people living and working in the area. Look out for more details nearer the time, and get in touch with Lisa if you would like to get involved in the event itself.

## Working in partnership

The SSfG grant forms part of a wider partnership working together to improve the site and local area for the whole community. Manchester City Council Green Spaces have invested over **£30,000** on clearance work such as large scale litter removal, tree pruning, grass cutting and the treatment of Japanese Knotweed since winter 2009 and they have committed to further maintenance investment in 2011.

With the major improvements at the Vale complete, Red Rose Forest will continue working together with the friends group, the local community, Manchester City Council and New East Manchester to help turn the former Matthews Lane Tip into a well used green haven that local people can be proud of.



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