

## **Parnwell Community Centre**

Thursday 23 October

### **Media Release**

#### **Plaque Unveils Completion of Parnwell Community Centre Garden**

Councillor Mark Collins will unveil a plaque to signify the completion of Parnwell Community Centre Garden on Friday 24 October.

The initial idea of developing the garden was formulated by the Parnwell Family Project, who use the Parnwell Community Centre daily to provide pre-school education for local children. The project received funding from the Big Lottery Fair Share Programme early this year and work at the garden quickly commenced. Construction of the educational garden was managed by conservation charity BTCV, along with the help of volunteers from the local community and the Mansfield Skills Centre.

The garden will provide an outdoor classroom for local pre-school children and Brownies and Guides who use the facilities every week. Outdoor education and play sessions to be held in the new garden will enhance children's learning and development and provide both educational and social benefits as the children develop ownership and responsibility for the garden.

The garden contains three raised beds made from railway sleepers. Two of these contain sensory plants to help the children develop their senses. Another of the raised beds is to be used for growing edible plants. The children will gain firsthand experience of the natural world through study and practical care of the garden as well as providing the opportunity to learn about growing food and healthy eating. The garden also contains a wildlife area to attract birds, butterflies and insects, and includes a log pile and nest boxes

BTCV Project Officer Jo Stradling said, 'The idea to develop an educational garden in Parnwell was first formulated in 2006, I am so pleased that this idea has now come to life. I would like to personally thank all of the volunteers involved in what I am sure will become a garden which is both enjoyable and educational for many generations of Parnwell residents.'

-ends-

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

BTCV Parnwell Pride Project Officer Joanna Stradling, tel: 01733 563642 mb: 07764 655 701

email: [j.bedford-stradling@btcv.org.uk](mailto:j.bedford-stradling@btcv.org.uk)

**PHOTOCALL DETAILS** – 11am, Parnwell Community Centre, Saltersgate, Parnwell

**NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

BTCV [www.btcv.org](http://www.btcv.org) The UK's leading practical conservation charity. BTCV connects people with place, builds healthy sustainable communities and increases people's life skills. Parnwell Pride is one of BTCV's projects which aims to create a better environment where people from all cultures feel valued, included and involved.