



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Bushey Arches: Work Starts On New 'Green Gateway' To Watford**

14 April 2008

Work to transform **Bushey Arches** into a stunning, colourful and improved gateway to Watford begins **in May 2008**.

Funding has been secured from Watford Borough Council, Hertfordshire Highways and the Elected Mayor of Watford's Community Fund to start work on this neglected transport black spot.

Stephenson's Bridge is nearly 170 years old and an important heritage feature. The area known as Bushey Arches, situated below the bridge, is a major transport interchange, close to the southern border of Watford, incorporating rail, road and pedestrian routes. The road underneath is heavily congested with around 7,500 vehicles per hour at peak times, making the area unattractive and unpleasant for local residents.

Improvements to highway safety will start in May with new signage, de-cluttering, new kerb lines and pedestrian improvements. Hertfordshire Highways – who will be carrying out most of the work during the night to keep traffic disruption to a minimum – is also investing significant additional funding on resurfacing the area.

A main feature of the Arches transformation will be a colourful and constantly changing light installation designed by artist Tony Stallard. Light will be projected onto the underside of the historic archway, using low maintenance, energy efficient LED lights to illuminate the dark and dingy space beneath the archway, which will also be improved through hard and soft landscaping. The work will be completed by December 2008.

Dorothy Thornhill, Elected Mayor of Watford said: "My Environmental Fund can be used by projects and groups throughout the Borough that clean and smarten the local environment. The work that is planned for Bushey Arches will transform this busy area into an impressive and environmentally sustainable gateway to Watford."

The project is facilitated by the Green Heart Partnership working with a project team consisting of Watford Borough Council, Hertfordshire Highways,

Hertfordshire Constabulary and Project Managers Clipston Construction Control.

The Green Heart Partnership facilitates creative collaborations exploring the physical and social aspects of open space in our society – driving forward an innovative approach to arts led regeneration.

‘Underneath the Arches’, a film produced in summer 2006 by artist Rayna Nadeem has had a direct impact on the decisions made for the redevelopment. The film captured the community’s perception of Bushes Arches, their knowledge of its heritage and their transport and safety concerns.

This innovative project is transforming this busy area into a gateway feature to the town that the residents and the Council can be truly proud of. It can help Watford in its ambitions to be a ‘greener’ more sustainable town by raising awareness of heritage and important environmental issues amongst residents.

For more information [www.greenheartpartnership.org](http://www.greenheartpartnership.org)

**For more information and images please contact Emma Marcello on 01992 762128 or email [emma@gunpowderpark.com](mailto:emma@gunpowderpark.com)**

### **Notes to editors**

Green Heart is a Partnership initiative between Arts Council England, East and the eleven local authorities of Hertfordshire that aims to achieve growth and capacity between the arts and environment sectors. GHP recognizes the role local government plays within growth and regeneration from the strategic future planning perspective through to delivery. Working with local government partners to understand their complex process, and at times politically sensitive position, GHP helps to develop a collaborative, creative-led, cross-disciplinary team process to achieve sustainable solutions. GHP facilitates creative collaborations exploring the physical and social aspects of open space in our society – driving forward an innovative approach to arts led regeneration. [www.greenheartpartnership.org](http://www.greenheartpartnership.org)

GHP is managed by Landscape+Arts Network Services (LANS)

**Hertfordshire Highways**

