



Green Heart Partnership



PRESS RELEASE

2 June 2008

New Signage For Stevenage Town Centre Gardens

Unique new signage based on the unique style of the 1950s lettering used for the Festival of Britain is to be introduced in Stevenage Town Centre Gardens. The new polished concrete signs will be a smart and attractive addition to the park, helping to make the park a more user friendly space to enjoy. The first set of signs will be installed in June 2008, with additional signs following with the next phase of works in the gardens.

In September 2006, Green Heart Partnership (GHP) and HTA Landscape Design were appointed by Stevenage Borough Council to work with them to redesign the 3.85 hectare Town Centre Gardens in Stevenage. GHP artist Beverley Carpenter and Oliver Rock of HTA worked with the community in an ongoing dialogue about their perceptions and the current and potential future use of the park which fed into the masterplan for the gardens transformation.

Work started onsite in November 2007, to implement the first phase of the masterplan developed for Stevenage Borough Council by GHP in partnership with HTA Landscape Design, funded by Communities & Local Government's Growth Areas Fund. The Northern area of the park has been completely transformed: some of the existing vandalised or diseased trees have been replaced by 21 new semi-mature Oak trees. In addition, a new central footpath has been built, along with a new 400 metre circular jogging track.

As the first stage of redevelopment of Stevenage Town Centre Gardens reached the end earlier this year, local people were invited to continue their involvement by participating in three Volunteer Days, supported by Stevenage Homes. Jude Allen of BTCV, an environmental volunteering organisation, worked with a group of students from North Herts College with moderate learning disabilities. They helped with key tasks of clearing overgrowth and planting bulbs and wild flowers that will flower in spring and summer.

For more information please contact Emma Marcello on 01992 762128 or email emma@gunpowderpark.com

Notes to Editors:

- The *Stevenage Town Centre Gardens Masterplanning* project was a Perception AREA *Placemaking* project with Green Heart Partnership, Stevenage Borough Council, HTA Landscape Design and the community of Stevenage. The *Stevenage Town Centre Gardens Masterplanning* document is available at www.greenheartpartnership.org/towncentregardens
- GHP was launched in 2004 and is project managed by Landscape+Arts Network Services
- Green Heart Partnership is the Arts Council England, East Arts Generate programme in Hertfordshire.

