



**11 April 2008**

### **New sensory garden for Clarence Park**

An under used corner of the popular Clarence Park, St Albans will soon be transformed into a new sensory garden - a colourful and attractive area for all visitors to enjoy.

Groundwork Hertfordshire, the county's leading environmental regeneration charity worked with local schools, the community and the St Albans Access Group to create a design that would appeal and give access to a wide range of users. The draft plans and designs were then tested for public feedback by displaying them on the park's notice boards and on the council's website, as well as sending them to members of the Park's Forum.

The sensory garden project, funded partly by Lafarge Aggregates through the Landfill Communities Fund, is part of the park's management plan administered by St Albans City and District Council. The sensory garden project, managed by Groundwork Hertfordshire, was developed following a public consultation exercise during the summer of 2006, carried out by St Albans City and District Councils in conjunction with the Green Heart Partnership.

Southern Landscape Construction started work in the **second** week of April. Once the basic design is in place, the public will be invited to take part in a planting day in the presence of the Mayor. Schools and people who were closely involved with creating the design will also be invited to help plant up their design.

Plants incorporated in the design for the sensory garden have been chosen for their texture, scent and sound they make in the wind, as well as their visual appearance. A variety of natural materials have also been chosen for how

interesting they are to feel. Many of the selected plants should also attract wildlife to the garden such as bees and butterflies and a seed/nut feeder is to be installed to encourage a wide variety of birds.

It is hoped that a second phase of the development will cover additional elements that were requested during the consultation. These include a moving water feature and pergola and allowances have been made to accommodate these in the existing design.

Brian Lee, Community Project Officer at Groundwork Hertfordshire said:

“We are very proud to be involved in this project and are looking forward to seeing the area transformed for visitors and wildlife to the park to enjoy.”

Mike Pendock, Senior Planning & Estates Manager for Lafarge says,

“With so many local parks and playing fields being taken out of use, we are delighted to be supporting this new sensory garden project – which can be used by so many different groups of people. We look forward to seeing – and hearing and feeling – the finished project”.

**-ENDS-**

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### **Notes to Editor**

#### **Groundwork Hertfordshire**

Groundwork Hertfordshire is a leading member of a federation of over 40 Groundwork trusts across the UK. Groundwork Hertfordshire works with all sectors of the community to improve the environment and create sustainable communities that are vibrant, healthy and safe.

For more information, please visit our web site at [www.groundwork.org.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/hertfordshire)

**Lafarge Aggregates Ltd**

Lafarge Aggregates is the major UK operating division of Lafarge, the world leader in construction materials. With a turnover of nearly £400 million and employing around 2000 people at over 200 operational units, it has demonstrated its long term commitment to the environment through its guardianship of two National Nature Reserves and 30 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, as well as transport and recycling initiatives. The company has been heavily involved with the voluntary Landfill Communities Fund since its inception. Through this scheme Lafarge has been able to make financial awards to community and environmental projects. For further information please contact Ruth Roll on 01327 844074.