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News Release

Record breaking 1424 parks and green spaces to receive a Green Flag Award

Tarvin Community Woodland is one of a record number of 1424 UK sites receiving a Green Flag Award today – the national award for public and community parks and green spaces. The record number of sites receiving an award this year ensures that even more of us now have access to well-managed, high-quality green spaces so important for health and leisure activities.

Tarvin Community Woodland was created by the community for the community from the five and a half hectares of land that the then Highways Agency had created as a sound barrier for the Tarvin south westerly by-pass. The late Jim Grogan drove the project until his death in January 2011, having created a charitable trust and agreed a 125 year lease with the current landowner, Cheshire West and Chester Council. Stuart Exell, current chairman of the Trust, said: “We are very proud to have achieved this award for the third year running. The woodland is a much loved and well used major asset for the village and the award reflects well on the trustees and volunteers who have invested 1250 hours in maintenance and fund-raising in the last year alone. The timing of the award coincides with the presentation at Tarvin Primary School of the 2012 annual Wildlife and Countryside Award created by the Trust as part of its partnership with the school”.

Communities Minister, Andrew Stunell said: “Great parks and green spaces have a huge impact on local communities, providing places to play and relax as well as bringing generations together in a variety of ways. They are fundamental to our quality of life, whether in cities, towns or villages, and the Green Flag Award scheme seeks to help raise the standards of them all. The many excellent stories coming from the scheme prove what communities and volunteers can achieve by working together with professionals in our green spaces. Well done to all those involved in creating these inspirational places for everyone to enjoy.”

Paul Todd, Green Flag Award Scheme Manager, said:

“We are thrilled to announce yet another record-breaking year for Green Flag Award parks and green spaces. A Green Flag Award provides national recognition for the achievements of all those whose hard work and dedication has helped to create these fantastic places for all to enjoy. I must also thank all this year’s 800+ volunteer judges for their magnificent efforts in assessing an astounding number of applications.”

Ends

Notes to Editors

- The Green Flag Award Scheme is managed in the UK by a consortium, comprising Keep Britain Tidy, The Conservation Volunteers and GreenSpace. Known collectively as the Green Flag Plus Partnership, the consortium manages the scheme in England on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government and in Wales for the Welsh Steering Group.
- Green Flag Award recognises well-managed, high-quality green spaces. Any green space in the UK is eligible to win this award providing it is freely accessible to the public. Previous winners include parks managed by local authorities as well as those run by community groups and trusts. The scheme was set up in 1996.
- Tarvin Community Woodland Trust is a registered charity that manages the woodland

For more information visit:

www.greenflagaward.org.uk

www.tarvincommunitywoodland.org

www.keepbritaintidy.org

www.communities.gov.uk

www.green-space.org.uk

www.tcv.org.uk

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Keep Britain Tidy has ISDN radio facilities for interviews

ISDN: 01942 322178

Please contact the press office in advance to make arrangements

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