

News Release

18 March 2008

Winning in Westminster With Wildlife Haven

Westminster TranServ, which provides highways maintenance, street lighting and information technology services, has donated around £7,500-worth of labour, plant and materials to client Westminster City Council for - a new wildlife haven in Queens Park Gardens, north-west London.

A team from the Balfour Beatty/Mouchel joint venture constructed a circular footpath with two ramped bridges, a composting area, an entrance area and an outdoor classroom area. Staff took care to source British-grown and mainly blown down trees for a natural boardwalk blending in with the local environment.

Opened on 16 March by Lord Mayor of Westminster Carolynn Keen, the project also features a wildflower meadow and a native hedgerow, among other attractions. It is hoped that some of Westminster's estimated 30,000 bats, including declining species such as the Pipistrelle bat, will be drawn to the haven, which is also aiming to help reverse the decline of sparrows in the city.

Westminster TranServ Operations Manager Peter Payne said: "We are delighted to have been involved. All partners have worked hard to create this wonderful facility so that people can enjoy open space, and learn about birds and insect life in the heart of the capital. Our participation demonstrates Balfour Beatty's commitment to working towards a sustainable future."

Environmental charity Groundwork used a £7,000 grant from the Westminster City Partnership, part funded by Westminster City Council, to pay for materials and organise local volunteers and young people to work on the area. It also received a £1,000 donation from Westminster Conservative Party.

Wendy Baverstock, Development Director at Groundwork, said: "Groundwork's Community Gardener has had some great experiences over the last few months working with volunteers in Queens Park. The local community has contributed so much to the development of this project, and we are very pleased that we have been involved in creating this great new space for the community and wildlife alike."

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Enquiries to:

Marjorie Hooper
Tel: 01256 400 388
www.bbisl.com

Notes for Editors

1. Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Services Ltd is a leading provider of highways maintenance and asset management of Balfour Beatty plc. It offers a unique service that combines well-established highway network maintenance skills with a range of professional services including planning and strategic advice, project and programme management and highway design. The breadth of resources and expertise within its organisation is complemented by the extensive capabilities and backing of the Balfour Beatty group.