



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Immediate Release**

#### **Spirit of Merseyside Awards celebrate community champions in Rainhill**

The regions largest community award celebration is now in sight and Ansdell Villas Road Residents Association (AVRRA) in Rainhill has been shortlisted as a finalist to win an award! The Spirit of Merseyside Awards 2011, taking place at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011 will recognise the hard work and dedication of the community and voluntary sector in Merseyside.

AVRRA was awarded a Grassroots grant of £3,596 to turn a piece of wasteland at the end of the road into a Community Garden as a haven for wildlife and they combined this with a Time Capsule Project to strengthen ties in this small community.

“We’re delighted to have been shortlisted for the Environmental Impact Award,” said Andrew Williams, AVRRA’s Chairman and local surveyor. “It’s wonderful to have our hard work recognised like this. The grant has helped us bring off a much-needed facelift to the site and taught us all, especially the children, about wildlife and how to get practical regeneration projects done. The Garden’s been transformed with many native plants and we’ve really enjoyed it!”

AVRRA has nearly trebled the value of the grant with volunteer time and in-kind support. Over half of the 52 residents have taken part and had a great time in making it happen. AVRRA was formed in 2005 and has since successfully managed a local energy efficiency project and campaigned to improve the local area as well as holding lots of great social events which have added to a strong community spirit. The group is hoping to go on and establish links with The Mersey Forest on the strength of this work.

The Spirit of Merseyside Awards celebration, now in its sixth year, is run by the largest funder of community activity in the local area, the Community Foundation for Merseyside.

The Community Foundation distributes an average of £3.5 million every year to the local community, supporting positive, strategic and sustainable development of Merseyside whilst addressing a variety of social issues.

#### **Ends**

For further information on

- Ansdell Villas Road Residents Association: please contact Ged Edwards [ged.edwards@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ged.edwards@blueyonder.co.uk) or 0151 426 0190/07961 077299
- Community Foundation for Merseyside and the Awards, please contact Sarah Lee, Development Officer on 0151 232 2417 or at [sarah.lee@cfmerseyside.org.uk](mailto:sarah.lee@cfmerseyside.org.uk)

### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Community Foundation for Merseyside was formed in 2004 when Sefton Community Foundation expanded operations to cover all five Merseyside boroughs.
2. Our mission is to bring funders and communities together on Merseyside through effective grant making, to provide a valuable and sustainable resource now and for future generations.
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4. Last year the Community Foundation for Merseyside delivered grants totalling over £3.5 million to groups within Merseyside.
5. Decisions on grant awards are made by independent panels, who consider funding applications in relation to donor specifications and the quality of each project proposal.
6. This years Spirit of Merseyside Awards will be held on Tuesday 7th June.

### **BEFORE – Overgrown Wasteland**



**AFTER - A new Community Garden, haven for wildlife**

