

Beautyspot is 'haven' sent

Councillors, locals and well wishers welcome the decision to recognise the forest as a haven



A POPULAR beauty spot in Blackley has been declared a protected nature haven.

Residents are celebrating after Manchester City Council agreed to designate a Blackley Forest as a Local Nature Reserve.

The forest has become only the second area in Manchester to be declared a Local Nature Reserve, and it is hoped that this will help raise the profile of the forest and will enable it to qualify for funding for further improvements to its environment.

Blackley Councillor Anna Trotman said: "This is great news.

by Chris Humphreys

Blackley Forest is in many ways a hidden gem and we hope that by awarding nature reserve status we will encourage more and more people to visit and enjoy the forest.

"I would like to thank the many individuals and organisations who have worked hard over the last few years improving the quality and accessibility of the forest.

"Special thanks must go to the Friends of Blackley Forest who have worked tirelessly raising funds to enable the work to be done

and for getting their hands dirty with their regular litter picks and planting days."

John Ashworth, Secretary of the Friends of Blackley Forest, added: "I am delighted that we have achieved Nature Reserve Status for the Forest.

"This is the result of a lot of hard work by a lot of people.

"We have worked closely with the local councillors and council staff along with colleagues from the Irk Valley Project, Red Rose Forest and English Nature.

"We all hope that this is just the start and that the forest will go from strength to strength."