



**Date: September 6, 2006**

### **BARCLAYS BOOSTS COMMUNITY SPORTS IN LUTON**

Work has started on creating a fantastic new basketball facility that will benefit communities in Luton.

Manor Park in the Park Town area of Luton received £45,000 funding from Barclays Spaces for Sports, a new three-year, £30m community sponsorship programme to create and improve sports facilities in communities across the UK. The programme is a partnership between Barclays, Groundwork and the Football Foundation.

Park Town Tenants and Residents Association and the Manor Park Steering Group are working with environmental charity Groundwork and Luton Borough Council on the project. The new site will include a 9 metre by 9 metre basketball court (with a single basket hoop), and a youth shelter. The facility is being created in response to requests from young people in the Park Town area for a basketball hoop and somewhere to relax and socialise. Construction is due to be completed in October, when there will be an official launch event.

Not only will the project encourage people to take up sport and improve their health, it should also bring people together and strengthen community spirit. The project will work to ensure long-term activity at the site: Barclays has recently awarded a further grant of £20k to provide coaching, kit and

equipment over the next three years, to encourage residents to take part in activities and get the most out of the new facilities.

Project Manager, Peter Christmas of Groundwork said, "Our experience shows that people really value the opportunity to have a say in improving their neighbourhoods and make them better places to live, work and play. Getting involved in these projects gives people confidence and makes us all feel proud of where we live."

Marie-Claire Berreen, Barclays Community Relations Manager for Central Region, said, "At Barclays we are striving to strengthen the local communities in which we live and work. Barclays Spaces for Sports will create hundreds of new sports sites up and down the country. Our aim is to have a significant and long-lasting impact on local communities and grassroots sport throughout the UK for many years to come."

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## **Notes to editors**

Barclays Spaces for Sports is a three year, £30million community programme, which will create sustainable sports sites across the UK in areas without such facilities. Combined with the Premiership sponsorship, the investment makes Barclays one of the biggest supporters of sport in the UK.

Together with partners Football Foundation and Groundwork, the scheme will provide seven flagship sports sites every 12 months. 50 smaller sites, from basketball courts to grass pitches, will also be developed. In addition 1,200 sets of sports coaching kit and equipment will be distributed per year.

For further information see [www.barclays.co.uk/spacesforsports](http://www.barclays.co.uk/spacesforsports)

For a coaching kit and equipment pack application form ring 0800 027 4221 or email [enquiries@spacesforsports.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@spacesforsports.org.uk)

**For more information visit [www.barclays.co.uk/spacesforsports](http://www.barclays.co.uk/spacesforsports)**

## **Groundwork**

Groundwork is a federation of over 50 local environmental regeneration trusts across the UK. Groundwork works with all sectors of the community to improve the environment and create sustainable communities that are vibrant, healthy and safe. Groundwork Hertfordshire is a local trust that is setting up a new division in Luton and South Bedfordshire and they are managing this project.

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