

## Press release

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**Subject** Three West Midlands' projects celebrate National Lottery sports awards

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**Subheading** Sport England has awarded £365,803 from the Community Investment Fund over the last few weeks

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**Date** 18 December 2007

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Sport England's West Midlands Regional Sports Board (RSB) has great pleasure in announcing the following awards which have been made recently from the National Lottery funded Community Investment Fund to:

**Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Sports College in Burton – awarded £160,003 towards the cost of a floodlit synthetic turf pitch (STP) and changing facilities.** The full sized pitch, primarily to be used for football and hockey, will be located on the school site in the Stapenhill area of Burton upon Trent. It will meet the needs of young people and the wider community, increasing the take up of sport and widening access to high quality facilities. It is expected that the artificial pitch will increase participation in sport in the area by 1,350 per annum by year five of its use.

**Andy Mawdsley, Partnership Development Manager, East Staffordshire Schools Sport Partnership, said:** "This will be a fabulous new facility; it will enable greater access for all young people from the local community, increasing the numbers taking part in hockey, football and other sports. The school will also be a major beneficiary, helping us to develop skilled players and to foster a lifelong interest in sport."

**Bournville Village Trust – awarded £75,000 towards the cost of a multi-use games area (MUGA) on vacant recreation land in the Shenley area of Birmingham.** The floodlit MUGA will provide a much needed outdoor sports facility that will be used by the adjacent youth centre, Green Meadow Primary School and the local community.

The scheme will act as a diversionary project, especially aimed at young people in an area where there is very little for them to do. The project is estimated to increase the number of people taking part in sport and active recreation by 2,000 people per annum.

**Louise McDonald, a local mum said:**

"We are looking forward to being able to make use of this equipment and are glad that Bournville Village Trust is investing in projects for our young people."

**The Forestry Commission – awarded £130,800 for the Chase Trails Project.** This project involves the development of a range of single-track mountain bike trails and facilities on Cannock Chase (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) in Staffordshire. Its primary purpose is to increase physical activity levels and general well-being of target groups by making exercise fun, sociable, free at the point of delivery and sustainable. There are no facilities of this type, scale or quality within an hour's drive of the locality and this trail will establish Cannock Chase as a regional centre for cycling. The anticipated increase in participation per annum, by year five of the project, is predicted to be over 20,000, this includes people from under represented groups.

**James McLean, of the Forestry Commission, said:**

"This generous support from Sport England will allow the development of a wide range of purpose built trails set in beautiful surroundings that will encourage everyone from families and beginners, to enthusiasts and experts, to get more physically active".

**Rauf Mirza, Chair, West Midlands Regional Sports Board, on announcing the awards said,**

"These 3 very different projects demonstrate how National Lottery awards, distributed through Sport England's Community Investment Fund, can offer wide ranging sporting opportunities for people in this region. Developing high quality outdoor sports facilities, a 'state of arts' artificial pitch and an area for multi-games activities, these projects are hitting the real needs of the local communities they serve. I congratulate everyone involved and look forward to seeing them in use in the near future. "

- ENDS -

For more information please contact Jenny Warner, Communication & Knowledge Manager, Sport England on 020 7273 1786 or email [jenny.warner@sportengland.org](mailto:jenny.warner@sportengland.org)

Project contacts:

Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Sports College in Burton – contact Andy Mawdsley on 07951 393861

Bournville Village Trust - Shenley site - contact Alan Shrimpton on tel. 0121 472 3831 or Sue Cooke on tel. 0121 240 3434 or mobile no. 07768 178065

The Forestry Commission - Cannock Chase Trails Project – contact

Notes to Editors:

1. Sport England is a non-departmental public body and National Lottery distributor. We are committed to creating a world class community sports development system and increasing participation in sport.
2. Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields since August 1996. We object to any application that is detrimental to sport, unless alternative provision of at least equivalent value is found elsewhere.
3. Sport England has nine Regional Sports Boards (RSBs), each made up of experts from areas such as business, local government, sport, health and education. The RSBs provide the strategic lead for sport in their regions and distribute investment for grassroots sport.
4. The Community Investment Fund (CIF) is the community element of the Sport England Lottery Fund and is delivered through the Regional Sport Boards and Sport England in the regions.