



## PRESS RELEASE

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20 December

### One kilometre of Southall's canal to get revamp, thanks to plastic bag cash

A one kilometre stretch of the Grand Union Canal in Southall is set for improvements, after a public vote triggered a £10,000 donation.

The money comes from Tesco's Bags of Help initiative, in partnership with environmental charity Groundwork, which awards the proceeds generated from the sale of carrier bags in stores to create or improve green spaces in communities. Customers of local stores were able to vote for one of three projects, which were then awarded £12,000, £10,000 or £8,000 depending on which got the most support.

The project is led by the Canal & River Trust – that charity that cares for the canal – in partnership with Ealing Council's park ranger team and Havelock Estate, currently being regenerated by Catalyst.

It will enable the organisations to improve hedgerows, towpath surfaces and access to the waterway along a one kilometre stretch from the Havelock Estate towards the famous Hanwell Flight.

Managing a hedge by regularly cutting it back encourages the trees to produce new growth and will greatly prolong their life. The revived bushy hedge can provide fantastic habitat for nesting birds as well as giving homes to hedgehogs and other wildlife. This helps maintain the canal's vital importance as a wildlife corridor running through the heart of Southall.

Work will begin on January and is expected to be completed by April. The Canal & River Trust is on the lookout for volunteers to help with the work, anyone interested should contact [nadia.payne@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:nadia.payne@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Nadia Payne, Canal & River Trust volunteer co-ordinator, said: "We're so pleased to have been selected to benefit from the plastic bag funding, and can't wait to get started on the project. We're also on the lookout for people to help us carry out the work, so if you are interested, please get in touch. The canal is probably more well used than any time in living memory, and its improvements like this that are making all the difference."

Nicola Wheeler, Havelock Neighbourhood Coordinator for Catalyst Gateway, said: “Catalyst is committed to helping the Grand Union Canal become a genuine asset to the Havelock and wider Southall neighbourhood, where anyone can go and enjoy green space and see some wildlife. We were delighted with the donation from Tesco’s Bags of Help scheme and look forward to joining with our team of local volunteers and partners to get started on this phase of the project.”

For more information on the work of the Canal & River Trust, including volunteering opportunities, visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

## ENDS

### Notes to editors:

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The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation’s third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites. We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature. [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms

Havelock Estate in Southall is currently being regenerated by Catalyst to create an exciting, mixed tenure community in the heart of Southall, delivering 1062 homes for social rent, shared ownership, and private sale. The project will be delivered in four phases over 10 years. Work started in 2014, with all the homes due to complete by 2025.

Plans for the estate include:

- Providing a mix of new houses and flats for rent, shared ownership and sale
- Replacing all of the homes in the concrete ‘Wimpey no-fines’ blocks
- Training opportunities including apprenticeships in construction
- A new community centre and shops
- A redesigned canal-side area and open spaces
- Activities and opportunities for young people

For more information see [www.chg.org.uk](http://www.chg.org.uk)

### Tesco Bags of Help

Tesco has teamed up with Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative in hundreds of regions across England and Wales. The scheme will see three community groups and projects in each of these regions awarded grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag charge. Bags of Help offers community groups and projects in each of Tesco’s 416 regions across the UK a share of revenue generated from the 5p charge levied on single-use carrier bags. The public will now vote in store from 31<sup>st</sup> October – 13<sup>th</sup> November on who should receive the £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 awards. In total, there is over £12.5 million up for grabs.

For more information please visit: [www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp](http://www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp)

