



Wednesday 4 March – for immediate release

Keep Britain Tidy, GreenSpace and BTCV have been awarded the contract to run the Green Flag Award scheme from March 1st 2009.

Green Flag Awards recognise and reward the best parks and green spaces in the country and Keep Britain Tidy will now run the scheme for the next three years with GreenSpace and the environmental volunteering charity BTCV. The scheme was previously managed by The Civic Trust.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) awarded the contract to Keep Britain Tidy as the lead for the consortium following an extensive EU-approved procurement process. The Civic Trust will work with the partners for a short while to ensure a smooth handover to the consortium.

Phil Barton, Keep Britain Tidy chief executive, said: "I am delighted that our experience and expertise has been recognised with the award of this prestigious contract, and the prospect of working with BTCV and GreenSpace is very exciting.

"We are well on the way to fulfilling our ambition to truly be an organisation which addresses cleaner and greener local places by working in partnership with others."

Tom Flood, BTCV chief executive said: "Local communities care greatly about the quality of the places where they live and work. BTCV supports 5,000 groups annually in taking care of green space. The benefits are better environments and stronger communities, and we are keen to help more of those groups get recognition for their efforts through the Green Flag Award Scheme".

Paul Bramhill, chief executive of GreenSpace said: "We are delighted to be part of the consortium that will deliver the Green Flag Award Scheme. The award is always an area of great interest and enthusiasm within our Regional Forums, so we are very aware of just how important its continued success is to our membership and all green space managers.

"One of our roles will be to lead on the strategic development of the award. We are looking forward to working closely with judges and applicants, our partners and other stakeholders, to maximise the award's impact on green space quality and its contribution to upskilling the professional work force and community volunteers.

"We will also be talking to organisations that don't currently engage with the award and looking for ways to encourage their participation. Together with our partners, we will be working hard to ensure a bright and sustainable long term future for the award."

To find out more about the Green Flag Awards, please visit the website at www.greenflagaward.org.uk

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-Notes to Editors-

- For all press enquiries please contact:

Dickie Felton
Keep Britain Tidy
Media and Communications Manager
T: 01942 612 617
M: 07768 880016