

ISSUED: Thursday, 28 October 2004

INVERNESS PEOPLE INVITED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON OPEN SPACE

As part of a new initiative to take forward part of the Inverness City Vision and in line with the Inverness Local Plan, the Greeninverness Partnership has commissioned an audit and study of existing amenity open space in and around the City.

The findings of the audit and study will help develop a strategy to improve and develop safe and attractive green spaces that are of value to the communities.

A Greenspace Exhibition and information workshop is to be held at the new City Partnership Office, 20 Bank Street, Inverness, on Thursday 4th November, 2004 between 3:30 – 7:30pm. Hosted by the Greeninverness Partnership and run as an informal drop in session, the workshop is open to all members of the public.

The audit study, which is part funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, is being completed by consultants Ironside Farrar, who are providing the opportunity for all those who live or work in Inverness to have their say on the future of these green spaces.

Jane Anderson, who will be running the exhibition said: "This study and feedback is an important part of the Greeninverness audit and strategy process, providing opportunity for stakeholders and members of the communities to discuss and identify their key issues and priorities. We will be using this feedback in the audit report, which is due in December."

The Greeninverness Partnership Officer, David Andrews, is based in the City Partnership Office and is developing the future strategy and projects for existing and future green spaces in and around the city. He said: "This is a critical time for Inverness with current and projected development already impacting on the City and its environment. It is important that we understand the value that people put on their existing green spaces and what is required to be developed and protected in the future. It is a priority that the setting of the city is not adversely affected by development, and that the people of Inverness express their views on what their expectations are for the future. All members of the public are most welcome to come and participate in the discussion and to help influence the future."

Following the audit report, Communities will have further opportunity to discuss and prioritise development and engage in the future management of their open spaces.

-Ends-

For further information please contact: David Andrews, Greeninverness Project Officer, Inverness Partnership Office, tel: (01463) 723533 e-mail: david.andrews@highland.gov.uk.