

## **Fisher Row Pocket Park Improvements under Way**

Work has begun on a series of enhancements to Fisher Row pocket park as part of the West End Partnership's programme of improvements to Castle Mill Stream.

The completion of this work in October 2010 will encourage people to use this peaceful stretch of waterway, creating an attractive, convenient central route between north and south Oxford whilst preserving its function as a wildlife corridor.

The Fisher Row area is currently difficult to access via the existing steep steps down to the waterside. It is overgrown and secluded, making the park feel unsafe. Hythe Bridge Pocket Park to the north and Lower Fisher Row Gardens to the south suffered similar problems but have been improved as part of the same scheme and are now attracting large numbers of visitors and walkers.

The work will comprise replacing the footway surfacing with light coloured gravel; removing poor specimen trees and pruning dense shrubs to increase visibility; upgrading the lighting and introducing new street furniture; cleaning and replacing the stonework on the bridge; and improving access to the garden by extending the existing steep steps.

Councillor Bob Price, Leader of Oxford City Council, said: "These improvement works will make the Fisher Row pocket park a more inviting and pleasant place to walk or sit, opening up the central waterway and bringing life and activity to the area, in keeping with the aims of the West End regeneration."

Delivery of the scheme is one in a series of initiatives to invest in the Oxford's waterways being funded by the West End Partnership. A similar project is planned by British Waterways and Oxfordshire County Council to improve the canal towpath further upstream in Jericho.

### **ENDS**

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## NOTE TO EDITORS

The **West End Renaissance** is a long-term regeneration programme set to transform a currently under-used area of central Oxford into a modern and vibrant city quarter. Shops, restaurants and offices will be located alongside new homes, public squares and educational and leisure facilities.

The **West End Partnership**, comprising and jointly funded by Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), was established in 2005 as the driving force behind the West End Renaissance.

**Waterscape.com** is a comprehensive online guide to all Britain's inland waterways, giving visitors access to the complete waterside experience. Visit [www.waterscape.com](http://www.waterscape.com) for a full range of services including:

- Booking waterside accommodation and canal boat holidays
- Recommendations on walking, cycling and angling beside the water
- Waterway maps and guides with information on visitor attractions, local history and wildlife