



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REF 16 03 22 GCP Birthday

Gedling Country Park is celebrating its 1st birthday this week.

The £1.6 million pound Gedling Country Park has been officially open for a year and to celebrate the anniversary, Leader of Gedling Borough Council, Councillor John Clarke will be planting a commemorative tree in the centre of the park next to the memorial stone.

In its first 365 days the park has had over 30,000 visitors who have walked, cycled, ran and walked their dogs around the former colliery site.

The parkrun team has organised 40 events since the park opened with an estimated 1,079 runners running over 215,000 kilometres (133,000 miles).

The park boasts one of the top renewable energy solar farms in the country which over the last year has generated enough electricity to power 1,800 homes.

As a colliery it was a cornerstone of the area until it closed in 1991 and stood derelict for over 20 years. More recently a programme of landscape reclamation using 4,500 tonnes of soil brought in from nearby to encourage new vegetation to grow and tree planting on the 240 acre site has taken place. Followed by the construction of 9.5 miles (15km) of all-weather pathways and cycle tracks, 1.4km of them wheelchair accessible.

The future of the park is also very bright with the announcement of plans for a £900,000 visitor's centre and the installation of a children's play area. Consultation has begun on the visitors centre and residents can now have their say on how the centre should be used by visiting the Gedling Borough Council website. Plans are also in place for toilets to be installed in the near future.

The Friends of the Gedling Country Park group, set up when the park opened, has attracted nearly 900 members and the group is organising a birthday celebration on Sunday 27 March at the park. The group will be hosting a special mini explorer event for young people as well as other events throughout the day. The group have been involved in a number of projects to support the council to

improve the park. Over the last year they've helped plant over 450 trees, organised clean ups, volunteering days and raised funds to help build a children's play area in the park.

Leader of the Council, Councillor John Clarke, said;

"I'm overwhelmed by the success of the first year of the park being open. We never expected it to be so popular with residents. This means that we will accelerate our plans for the park and we will have more facilities in place including toilets and a visitor's centre which will improve the park even more. We would like to say thank you to everyone who visits the park and especially to the Friends of Group and our officers for all their hard work to help improve it and make it such a success."

NOTE TO EDITORS

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY – Wednesday 23 March – 10am – Spring Lane entrance, Gedling Country Park, NG4 4PE

Leader of the Council, Cllr John Clarke, will be planting a tree at the memorial stone to celebrate the 1st birthday.

Residents can also have their say on the £900,000 visitor's centre at Gedling Country Park by taking part in a short survey at www.gedling.gov.uk/gedlingcountrypark

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NOTE TO EDITORS

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