## EDINBURGH TO BENEFIT FROM GREEN FUNDING BOOST

Grass roots environmental projects in Edinburgh have received over £5,000 funding support from the Central Scotland Green Network's (CSGN) Community Projects Fund, to improve their local greenspace and enhance the quality of their environment.

Supported by Forestry Commission Scotland, the CSGN Community Projects Fund is designed to help local communities get involved in delivering green network improvements on the ground to foster community pride in their local greenspaces.

In total, £5,826 was awarded to three projects in the Edinburgh area. The Granton Community Gardeners group has been awarded £2,000 to support North Edinburgh Harvest by purchasing a range of tools, so that the group can accomodate more people working in the garden. The funding will also be used to make access improvements to the garden for older or disabled people.

The Friends of Cammo group has been awarded £1,826 to carry out improvements to the Pinetum at the Cammo Estate in Edinburgh. This project is part of an ongoing series of works to improve the habitat and amenity of the Estate. The funding will be used to plant hedgerows, create areas of wildflowers and to commence management of the Pinetum by replacing trees, clearing scrub, and providing additional space for young "endangered" species of conifers.

Finally the GreenFerry Trust has been awarded £2,000 to improve the nature conservation value of Hopetoun Road Community Woodland and to provide a high quality landscape that the local community can experience and enjoy.

Keith Geddes, Chair of the Central Scotland Green Network Partnership Board, said: - "After the positive response our

Community Projects Fund received in its inaugural year, it is great to see the programme continue to go from strength to strength and cement our commitment to providing support to grass-roots environmental projects."

"The CSGN Community Projects Fund aims to break down barriers and provide much needed support for projects that are delivering environmental improvements on the ground. It is these initiatives which are instrumental in achieving our goal of creating a high-quality green network across Central Scotland that will meet environmental, social and economic objectives and ultimately improve the quality of life for local communities."

Thirty three environmental community projects throughout the CSGN area received a share of this year's Community Projects Fund.

As one of the Scottish Government's 14 'National Developments' for Scotland in the second National Planning Framework, the CSGN will change the face of Central Scotland, by restoring, transforming and greening the landscape of an area stretching from Ayrshire and Inverclyde in the west, to Fife and the Lothians in the east.

The CSGN encompasses 19 local authorities across 10,000 sq km and has the potential to benefit 3.5million people, equating to 70 per cent of Scotland's population. The network's overarching vision is that by 2050, Central Scotland will be transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality.

For further information about the CSGN Community Projects Fund, please visit <a href="http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org">http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org</a>

Submitted by <u>Central Scotland Green Network</u>

