

# Amington Creative Communities Project

## The installation of the MAPLE



The Community Development Team, along with a number of other internal and external partners, has worked very closely with the community to develop new facilities to replace 'The Cage' sport facility removed from Amington over twelve years previously, to make way for property development. After much diverse consultation with the whole community it was evident that there was a need for two facilities: an improvement to the existing football area; and a creation of a meeting space. This project responded to the needs of the young people by using empowerment tools, engaged the young people to work with artists and architects to design new facilities that addressed issues such as location, style, environment, function, aesthetics and impact to the community.

This resulted in the considerable improvements made to the football area which includes an all weather surface, two goal ends and a bench. This was supported with environmental work around the area by community members and young people to address the concerns of the neighbouring residents. This part of the project was completed at end of 2008 with the support of Tamworth Football Club and Tamworth Police. Currently there are regular football sessions delivered on the site and Tamworth Borough Council is looking into delivering further positive activities on site.

The second part of the project, the Maple, will be installed Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009. The design for the Maple was born from the work that the young people

developed while working with the artists and the architects. The Maple was derived the young people's energy and designs, inspired by some of their ideas around leaf shapes, to provide an imaginative space within an open area, which has also been a focus of environmental improvement also involving local young people. The Maple, once installed, will be a beacon of great urban design that expresses the awareness of the environment and human interaction within it. This artwork will act as a creative meeting place where people can meet, sit, lean and chat located in an area that allows the users to appreciate the wildlife and the environment. A range of activities are planned at the site over the next year in order that the installation will not be seen as an end to the work, rather as a stage in the engagement of people participating in positive activity in their neighbourhood.

The young people's involvement will reinforce the respect and ownership agenda and continue to engage the young people in further projects e.g. the young people will set up their own project over the summer holidays to arrange games clubs and carry out litter picks in the area. These projects were due to the building of trust over the year when delivering the project with the young people, empowering them by including them in the planning. The intergenerational relationships were forged by the different age groups of the community working closely together on one project for a common goal.

For further information please contact:

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