

APRIL 16TH 2008

SUDBURY SCORES A NATIONAL FIRST WITH WOODLAND RETREAT.

A groundbreaking project to create a woodland oasis in the centre of a Babergh town - used as a retreat for people affected by cancer - is being officially launched next week.

Eden-Rose Coppice, situated between the Quay Theatre and Waitrose in Sudbury, is the first project of its kind in the UK where woodlands will be used as a sanctuary for people living with cancer or terminal illnesses.

As well as offering privacy in stressful times, the Eden-Rose Coppice Trust is aiming to develop a safe, natural, creative retreat within managed woodlands for patients – and their families - who have experienced cancer and other life-changing illness.

It also aims to promote and encourage wildlife, develop educational opportunities and further woodland conservation within residential areas.

Babergh District Council has been involved with the project from its initial concept and safeguarded the future use of the two-and-a-half acre site from developer Taylor Wimpey through planning obligations.

And Eden-Rose is so unique in its vision that national cancer charity Macmillan Cancer Support is working in partnership to promote its use.

The 'Eden-Rose' concept is being suggested as a blueprint for other local authorities across the country in a bid to roll out this idea nationwide.

Rob Brooks, found of Eden-Rose Coppice Trust, said: "The idea is simple. We can all see the destruction of natural habitat by the necessary creation of housing - the preservation of wildlife and wild species within these areas is important.

"Now add the fact that one in three of us are affected by cancer and we have a unique opportunity for us all to make a difference on many levels.

"We are delighted that our project in Sudbury will be seen as a marker by which a national concept will be launched.

"People who have been affected by cancer, and other illnessess, have already been using the wood even at this early stage and to see the difference it has made to their well-being – even in the short-term - is remarkable."

Cllr Jennie Jenkins, Chairman of Babergh District Council, said: "I am delighted Babergh is part of such a unique and special project like Eden-Rose.

"The way in which it will be used – as well as the way in which the future of the woodland was secured – is testament to a lot of hard work on all sides.



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April 21st at 11am.

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in partnership with:



Macmillan Cancer Support: Macmillan Cancer Support improves the lives of people affected by cancer, providing practical, medical, emotional and financial support and pushing for better cancer care. Cancer affects us all.

One in three of us will get cancer. We can all help. We are Macmillan. Macmillan CancerLine 0808 808 2020. Visit www.macmillan.org.uk