

## CHAPTER 20

# NeighbourWood Scheme

### 20.1 Overview

The NeighbourWood Scheme provides funding for local authorities and community groups to develop local woodland amenities - or 'NeighbourWoods' - in and around villages, towns and cities, specifically for public access and enjoyment. Funding is available for:

- Establishing new NeighbourWoods (max grant €6,730 / ha.)
- Improving existing NeighbourWoods (max grant €4,444 / ha.)
- Installing appropriate recreational facilities such as paths, seats and signage (max €2,540 / ha).

The application procedure involves a preliminary screening of the project's suitability followed by the submission of a plan drawn up by the local authority in partnership with the local community and other project partners and an approved forester. The NeighbourWood Scheme has a range of potential opportunities. Projects funded to date include small-scale woodland establishment beside residential areas, large-scale urban greening projects within greenbelts, and improvement and development work within existing woodlands in rural areas, used by local communities for recreation.

### 20.2 Further Details

Further details of the scheme, including grant rates, advice on project development and practical guidelines on establishing new woodland amenities in urban areas, are set out in the NeighbourWood Scheme brochure. See also Forest Recreation Guidelines (Forest Service, 2003).

### 20.3 Application Process

Application forms are available from the Forest Service for approval and payment stages. The requirements relating to the provision of vouched invoices and tax clearance certificates for contractors employed to carry out the work, are the same as those which apply under the afforestation grant scheme.