

## **Day in the Life – A project supported by Community First funding**

### **William McDougall, Close Neighbours Residents Association, Crumpsall**

#### **1. Tell us about a typical day for you**

A typical day would involve a walk around the area (woodland/river bank/pathways), to check the area is safe. We chat to walkers using the paths and discuss any problems they may report and any ideas they put forward. The notice boards are updated. We deal with any weeding/planting that is necessary.

#### **2. Tell us about a typical day in the life of your project**

Prior to planting day, information is given to volunteers via the internet/notice boards. The area to be planted will have been previously cultivated by the use of machinery. Volunteers would meet at approximately 10am and equipment, tools and gloves are distributed. We pre plan the work and share the information with the team of helpers. On completion of our planned tasks (three to four hours) we come together for refreshments and feedback on the day.

#### **3. Tell us about how the Community First funding has helped your project**

The project has enabled us to purchase and plant 54,000 bulbs, consisting of bluebells, snowdrops, and crocus. This has all been working towards our plan to transform the woodland into a wildflower woods which would give pleasure to many different people. We also wanted to bring the community together. Thanks to the funding we have been able to really work together and achieve high standards.

We are Manchester in Bloom overall winners (2013), North West in Bloom winners' level 5 outstanding award (2014) and Best Neighbourhood trophy (2014).

#### **4. Tell us about your experience of applying to Community First for funding**

Applying for funding has been quite difficult for us. We are not that experienced with computers and found the process challenging, although it was actually a learning curve as well. The email return address was not recognised and we had to forward the forms to the coordinator.



**5. Tell us about the future of plans for your project?**

We hope to complete our plans for a wildflower woods, as Community First has finished we are seeking other funding in order to help us complete this. Hopefully all the positive outcomes of the project will be maintained.