



## Boost for families in Bulwell as toy library announces new free play sessions at Bulwell Riverside

From Tuesday 1st November, Bulwell Community Toy Library will be running play sessions for families at the new Bulwell Riverside - in partnership with Nottingham City Council's Family Community Team, who support families in the area.

The sessions, which are being funded by Nottingham City Council, will include free after-school play sessions for 5 to 13-year-olds; daytime play sessions for families with children under 5 and a special baby-play session which will use play to help develop children's language and communication skills from an early age (these will cost £1 per family).

Bulwell Riverside will provide local people with access to a 'one stop-shop of services' that includes primary and community health care, GP surgeries, Nottingham City Homes housing services, a library, community centre, play and youth facilities, pharmacy and café.

The new purpose-built centre cost £22 million to construct and is the third Joint Service Centre to be developed by Greater Nottingham LIFTCo on behalf of Nottingham City Council and NHS Nottingham City.

The centre is due to be fully operational in January 2012.

### **Steve Parkinson, Project Manager at Bulwell Community Toy Library says:**

*"We're delighted that Nottingham City Council has invited us to run play sessions at the new Bulwell Riverside centre. By teaming up with the Council's Family Community Team we'll be able to provide local families with the best possible range of play activities and services.*

*Plus of course, because Bulwell Riverside includes purpose-built play and youth facilities, with both indoor and outdoor sports amenities, children and young people will be able to play in a great environment - specifically designed for play."*

Steve is confident that the new sessions at Bulwell Riverside will enable the toy library to support even more



# Bulwell Community toy library

families, whilst being a unique opportunity for organisations to work together.

**Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services says:**

*"Bulwell Riverside was created to give families an easy, convenient and local way to access services provided by the Council such as the library, as well as services provided by GPs, NHS Nottingham City and Nottingham City Homes.*

*It's great that families will also be able to access services provided by local charities like Bulwell Community Toy Library.*

*In addition, the new centre will make it easier for organisations to work together, and share expertise in order to support families, children and young people in Bulwell."*

The toy library will continue to run its existing services for families with children from 0-13 years, including its nature-based outdoor play sessions at Bulwell Hall Park.

**To find out more about the new toy library sessions please call Steve Parkinson on 0115 975 3898 or email [steve@toy-library.co.uk](mailto:steve@toy-library.co.uk)**

**For media enquiries relating to the toy library please call Stephanie on 0115 924 4304 or email [stephanie@13souls.com](mailto:stephanie@13souls.com)**

**For media enquiries relating to the Bulwell Riverside please call Nadine Hilliard at Nottingham City Council on 0115 87 63404 or email [nadine.hilliard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:nadine.hilliard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)**

## **Notes to editors:**

### **About Bulwell Community Toy Library**

The toy library has been providing play activities and services to Bulwell families for over 30 years, including a toy library with over 3,000 toys, games and activities which families can borrow for just a few pence a week.



**To find out more visit - [www.toy-library.co.uk](http://www.toy-library.co.uk)**

### **About Bulwell Riverside**

Bulwell Riverside is a Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) project. LIFT is a delivery mechanism to provide modern facilities for the delivery of health and social care services where the buildings are leased under a Lease Plus Agreement with the building being fully maintained for 25 years.

Building work started in 2009 and will be completed in November 2011. The centre will be fully operational in January 2012.

The funding for the project was secured through a £23 million PFI (Private Finance Initiative) agreement along with a £4.5million grant from the Department for Education and an £800,000 grant from the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA).

**To find out more visit - [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/bulwellriverside](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/bulwellriverside)**