



Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 6

Welcome to the Wildlife Ways Stay Connected bulletin, giving you all the latest news about this exciting three-year programme.

Calling all young artists, poets, photographers and bug hunters!

The team at Wildlife Ways would like you to visit their newly planted wildflowers over the summer holidays – and be inspired!



Youngsters aged 16 and under are invited to send in drawings, poems, photos and records of bugs they've seen in our wildflower verges and meadows. We'll post a selection on our website – www.wildlifeways.co.uk – and there will be some prizes for those judged the best.

Parents and carers should email their children's entries to wildlifeways@solihull.gov.uk - there are more details on how to enter [here](#).

Work on more routes gets underway

More Wildlife Ways routes are in progress. Route G between Cooks Lane and Moorend Avenue features a new parallel pedestrian crossing at Cooks Lane (Kingshurst ward) and improved pathways by the River Cole through to Chester Road (Chelmsley Wood). A map of the route can be viewed [here](#).

Over at Elmdon Park (Elmdon ward) work on Route B has started. This will run through the park up to Damson Parkway near the Jaguar Land Rover entrance and will involve new shared pathways for cyclists and pedestrians, alongside the new trees and wildflowers that have already been added to the park. The work will be completed in the autumn. See the route map [here](#).

Route A, which improves the path between Lode Lane and Elmdon Park, is now completed.

Keep visiting the [Wildlife Ways website](#) and following this bulletin for updates.

Solihull habitat and nature projects round-up

Meriden Lake Wetlands Improvement Scheme

As part of the three-year ERDF match-funded Solihull Habitat and Nature Improvements Project, Meriden Park will see some major improvements to the lake area over this summer.



Due to issues with silt build up and stagnation we are replacing the lake with wetlands to make a healthier habitat for wildlife and a better amenity for local people. When complete, the area of the existing lake will form a new wetland with reeds, a wet meadow, tree planting, two ponds and a restored watercourse.

During the works, the weir beneath the footbridge will be partially removed so most of the lake will drain. The river banks will be reinforced and the river course will be covered with excavated soil and planted.

Some of the works affect the bridge, which will be fenced off (except at weekends) with a pedestrian diversion put in place.

Visit [the project website](#) to see FAQs and plans of the works.

Arden Free Tree Scheme 2019

The Arden Free Tree Scheme is a joint initiative between Solihull Council and Birmingham Airport whereby an individual or group can apply for funding to create hedgerows or small woodlands on their own land, within Solihull.

The initiative is aimed at safeguarding and enhancing the Arden landscape, and will also help restore features typical of the wider Arden landscape to the urban landscape. Applications need to be submitted by the end of August. Plants will be delivered to successful applicants in time for the start of the next planting season.

Please note, single specimen trees cannot be supplied for gardens but groups of standards may be supplied for wood-pasture creation.

Further information about the scheme is available [here](#)

Wildflower seeding in parks and open spaces

From mid-July to late August, wildflower seeding and 'green hay' spreading works will be taking place at the following local nature reserves, parks and open spaces - Babbs Mill, Hillfield Park, Kingshurst Brook, Elmdon Park, Low Brook, Brueton Park, Streetsbrook public open space, Marston Green Park and Cole Bank Park.

These works will involve mowing of the grass, followed by ground preparation of spraying out existing grass. The seeding and 'green hay spreading' operations will follow to allow for germination over September and October in order to establish prior to the winter. This allows for a show of spring flowers, and additional spring sowing may happen to cover areas that do not establish.



Wildlife Ways blooms on social media

We've been tweeting about Wildlife Ways and two of our posts on the wildflowers opposite Solihull rail station have been very popular with our followers.

The first on June 28 showed us installing a sign explaining the project and reached over 23,000 people with eight retweets and 19 likes. On July 4 a tweet (above) featuring our supplier from Pictorial Meadows describing the flowers to a visiting group of ladies from Stourbridge reached 45,000 people with five retweets and 11 likes.

From all UK government accounts these were the 19th and 45th most engaging messages on their day respectively.

If you are on social media and Twitter in particular follow [@SolihullCouncil](#) and watch out for more on Wildlife Ways.

Ward updates

Castle Bromwich

Highways work at Bradford Road / Hall Road has ended, complementing the now blossoming

wildflowers along the verges.

There is a new zebra crossing on Hall Road, new cycleway sections at the junction with Bradford Road and cycle lanes along Hall Road between Chester Road and Bradford Road. Street lamps and a bus shelter have been relocated.

A new signal head for cyclists exiting the park by Hall Road/Bradford Road provides guidance and safety for cyclists where they may have different needs from other road users.

Thanks to residents and road users for their patience during these works.

Kingshurst & Fordbridge

Following completion of Route G our team will make the short journey over to Babbs Mill Park where they will continue laying new shared cycle/pedestrian pathways. This work is scheduled to start next month. Check [here](#) for the route proposals.

St Alphege

Preparations for wildflower seeding on Route L will see some strimming works being carried out followed by spraying to kill off the existing grassland. This will be followed by bare soil which could last longer than expected because of the slower rate of the newly sown wildflower seed germination here.

Please bear with us – we need to do this during July and August to allow the wildflowers to establish over the winter, in preparation for them reaching their potential the following spring. As well as making Solihull look more beautiful, the wildflowers will support a range of wildlife.

Following completion of the new shared path for cyclists and pedestrians on Monkspath Hall Road other remedial works to the verges have now been completed.

About Wildlife Ways

Wildlife Ways is a £16.8 million programme – part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – to improve the borough for the benefit of people and wildlife alike. The programme will include tree, bulb and wildflower planting. It will also make it easier for people wanting to walk and cycle across the borough by widening and connecting paths and cycle routes with green spaces.

There's more on our website www.wildlifeways.co.uk - and if you've any comments or questions,

please email us at wildlifeways@solihull.gov.uk



For more information about Council services, please see our [website](#).

