


Stay Connected



Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 10

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



Local schoolchildren get their hands dirty for Wildlife Ways!

Children from local schools have been doing their bit for Wildlife Ways by planting crocus and snowdrop bulbs in local parks and nature areas.

Pupils from St Augustine's (*pictured L-R - Oliver, Ella Rose and Alanna*) helped out at Tudor Grange Park whilst children from Yorkswood got

busy planting up at Babbs Mill Park.

They were joined by our landscape contractors *idverde* who explained how the bulbs will benefit the local environment through encouraging pollination when they bloom next spring, adding a splash of colour to the area.

Solihull Bees and Trees Project

We have started the Solihull Bees and Trees project, a year-long scheme which includes woodlands and grassland management and enhancement works.

Bees and Trees is part of the Wildlife Ways / Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership's (GBSLEP) [Habitats Grants Programme](#) – part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

This programme supports a wide range of habitat and nature improvements across the borough and beyond. Bees and Trees will ensure better conservation for over 23 hectares of habitat – equivalent to around 33 football pitches.

The first pieces of woodland management works are at Browns Coppice, Woodlea Drive which has been temporarily closed but re-opens week commencing 18 November and at Cut Throat Coppice, Woodside Way – temporarily closed between 18 – 22 November. Elmdon Coppice by Damson Parkway will also be temporarily closed from 25 November–6 December.

Initial work at these locations will focus on holly and bramble thinning. This will open up the woodlands to allow access to the canopy trees to enable selective thinning at the later stage. Latest news on Bees and Trees will appear on the Wildlife Ways website [here](#).

How verges are supporting our ecosystems

Recently council ecologist Adam Noon (*pictured right*) presented the Wildlife Ways project to a national conference, which was meeting to discuss verges and how they can be used to support biodiversity.

You can read more about what Adam had to say [here](#).



Join us for Oaks and Shires 2019

The annual 'Oaks and Shires' event takes place at Bills Wood, Shirley, on Saturday 23 November between 11am and 3pm.

It will feature woodland crafts, a heavy horse and other themed activities. You can also come and meet members of the Wildlife Ways team and talk to them

about the project.

Wildlife Ways – the Story So Far

We have recently updated our 'Story So Far' infographic to show the latest progress in the Wildlife Ways project. You can see and download a copy on the '[Resources](#)' section of our website.

Ward Updates

[Bickenhill \(Routes F, 5 &10\)](#)

Works are continuing along Route F, between Gloucester Way and Coleshill Road via Marston Green Park – see [here](#) for the route plan.

The works include upgrades to existing pathways through the park and along Gloucester Way. See [here](#) for the traffic and pedestrian diversion plans in place during the works.

There will be bulb planting this month along Hampton Lane. These will be crocuses to be added to by primroses later in spring. From January some tree planting will be carried out, followed in February and March with wildflower turfing on selected verges along the south side of Hampton Lane. We will also be planting bulbs along Bickenhill Parkway.

Blythe (Route 13)

Our contractors, *idverde* are continuing with bulb planting along Monkspath Hall Road. The bulbs will be a mixture of crocus, snowdrop, daffodils, bluebells and wood anemones.

Castle Bromwich (Route 1)

We are carrying out selected bulb planting of verges along Water Orton Road, which includes crocuses and snowdrops.

Castle Bromwich, Smiths Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge, Chelmsley Wood (Route 2)

Along Chester Road we have been carrying out wildflower seeding on several of the verges and central reservations, which should develop into floral displays later in spring. In addition more trees will be added from January, after which wildflower turf will be laid in select locations.

Elmdon (Route B)

Improvements to the path from Elmdon Church car park down towards where it meets with the recently completed Route A (Lode Lane-Valley Road, via the park) are continuing.

Elmdon/Silhill (Route 7)

There will be bulb planting this month along Hobs Moat Road and Lode Lane. These will be a mixture of crocuses, snowdrops, some native daffodils and later in spring, primroses specially grown for Wildlife Ways.

Silhill (Routes C & 9)

Due to utility works on the local gas main, the works will only be part-completed during this phase and the road closure originally scheduled for Sunday 13 October will be rescheduled.

We will return to complete the remaining works once the utility works are complete. The reason for the temporary pause is to mitigate any potential damage to our finished works through the utility contractors' activities. We will provide advance notice of the closure when we have the new date.

In the meantime, works are taking place in the alleyway between School Lane and Union Road. You can see the recommended pedestrian diversions [here](#).

There will also be crocus bulb planting this month in the Glebe Road area. In spring next year specially-grown primroses will be added.

Smiths Wood (Route 3)

This will be a bulb planting mix of crocuses and snowdrops. We have already carried out wildflower seeding along the verges, particularly between Auckland Drive and the A452, and may carry out some further seeding in spring.

There are also some trees which will be planted early next year and from February 2020, along selected verges, we will be laying wildflower turf.

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](#).

