



Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 11 - Christmas Special

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

The end of a busy year for Wildlife Ways

Back in February we started work on the Wildlife Ways project and it has been non-stop ever since! During what has been almost a year we have planted 2.7m bulbs and 480 trees, laid out 8,500sqm of wildflower areas, and improved the diversity of more than 63 hectares of land.



Additionally we have put down 7,900sqm of shared path and have worked with 25 local businesses, engaging some 3,000 employees. We have also engaged with many local community groups and planted bulbs with local schools.

There is much more to come in 2020 as the programme progresses - keep reading this bulletin and checking our website www.wildlifeways.co.uk for the latest news!

Subway closure on Route C in January

From Monday 6 January the subway between Shustoke Road and Elms Close will close for approximately four weeks. This will be for 24 hours and there is an approved diversion in place (which you can view [here](#)) that will ensure pedestrians have a safe route around. We will endeavour to keep full closure of the subway to as short a period as possible.

Once the footpath is up to a walkable base level, the footpath will reopen at the end of works – approximately 4pm each day until around 9am the next day - and will be opened over weekends to minimise disruption to path users. We will keep you updated at www.wildlifeways.co.uk on the progress of works, including when pedestrian access to the subway is restored.



Fun for everyone at Oaks and Shires

The annual 'Oaks and Shires' event took place at Bills Wood, Shirley, on Saturday 23 November. Despite a wet weather forecast the rain held off and plenty of families came down to take part in traditional woodland crafts, to hear songs and stories from the Green Man and meet Tantan the heavy horse, as well as taking part in bug hunting and making leaf pictures (like Abi-Leigh and Oakley, pictured). The Wildlife Ways team were also on hand to talk about the project.

More bulbs get help to bloom from local schools

More children from local schools have been doing their bit for Wildlife Ways by planting spring flowering bulbs in local parks and nature areas.



Pupils from Monkspath Junior & Infant School (pictured) braved a cold and wet November day to plant crocuses and native daffodils at Hillfield Local Nature Reserve. Meanwhile at Babbs Mill Park, children from St Anthonys RC Primary school had much sunnier conditions to plant crocus and some snowdrops.

They were joined by our landscape contractor *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.

Bees and Trees Update

We are making progress on the Solihull Bees and Trees project, a year-long scheme which includes woodlands and grassland management and enhancement works.

The woodland management work that was scheduled to take place in Elmdon Nature Park in January was brought forward to accommodate a change to the programme. The woodland has been temporarily closed and is scheduled to re-open this week. In the New Year works move on to Cold Lands Wood, which will close from 6 to 17 January.

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.

All dates remain subject to change, dependent on weather conditions. Latest news on Bees and Trees will appear on the Wildlife Ways website [here](#)

Ward Updates

Bickenhill (Route F)

Works are continuing along Route F, between Gloucester Way and Coleshill Road via Marston Green Park – see [here](#) for the route plan. The works currently include upgrades to existing pathways through the park having completed path improvements along Gloucester Way. See [here](#) for the traffic and pedestrian diversion plans in place during the works.

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.

Silhill (Route C)

Due to utility works on the local gas main, the School Lane works will only be part-completed and will start again when the utility updates 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 to resurface the alleyway between School Lane and Union Road have been completed and the path is now open again.

Christmas closure

Work by our contractors on Wildlife Ways schemes has been suspended between December 20 and 6 January. This is to allow minimum disruption during the holiday period to local people affected by the works.

Everyone at Wildlife Ways wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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](#).

