Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 12

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

Trees and wildflowers add to Solihull's landscape

As part of the Wildlife Ways programme, our contractors, *i*dverde, have been planting more trees.

Around ten trees have gone in along Bickenhill Parkway including hornbeam, lime and ornamental thorn. Fifty trees have also been planted along Chester Road in addition to the 15 planted last April. Species here include silver birch, wild cherry and rowan.

We're planting around 30 trees along Lode Lane, which include cherry and rowan. Also, 55 trees are going in along Moorend Avenue, including birch and field maple. Shortly we will be carrying out some further wildflower seeding works at selected sites which were seeded last autumn. This additional seeding is required as some areas were affected by the wet weather. They should begin to flower from late spring.

Wildflower turfing is due to commence from the end of February, with over 30,000 square metres scheduled to be laid across the borough along road verges and on roundabouts. From the start of next month we will be preparing these areas in readiness for the new turf. The verges and roundabouts may look muddy to start with but this is necessary in order for the new turf to establish in readiness for a display of colour (as pictured) in spring and summer.

Both the trees and wildflowers will help wildlife biodiversity including birds and pollinating insects such as bees, moths and butterflies which have been in serious decline over many years.

Work set to start on Route K

The next Wildlife Ways route we will be starting work on is K, along Streetsbrook Road from

Bryanston Road to Station Approach. This will commence week starting 10 February and run into the summer.

The works will mostly be an upgrade of the existing footway to a shared pedestrian and cycle route. During the works there will be pedestrian diversions and traffic management in place to ensure residents are able to access their properties. Traffic management will be in place from 9:30am to 3:30pm for the duration of the works.

Plans for traffic management and pedestrian diversions for the first phases of works between Bryanston Road and Sharmans Cross Road can be viewed here.

News from the Bees and Trees project

The Bees and Trees project, a year-long scheme which includes woodland and grassland management and enhancement works, moved on during January to the woodland in Lavender Hall Park, which re-opens in early February. Pictured left to right viewing plans for the scheme are Meriden ward councillors Diane Howell, Ken Allsopp, Tony Dicicco, tree warden and Berkswell parish councillor Richard Lloyd, project manager Nic Wright and tree warden/parish councillor Don Hitchcock. In addition, work was completed this month at Coldlands Wood.

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. Latest news on Bees and Trees will appear on the Wildlife Ways website here

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Ward Updates

Bickenhill (Route F)

Works are coming to an end to improve the paths in Marston Green Park, which is part of Route F between Gloucester Way and Coleshill Road. These should be done early February. See here for the route plan.

Elmdon (Route B)

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

Silhill (Route C)

The footpath in the subway between Shustoke Road and Elms Close – which has been closed for resurfacing - is now up to a walkable base level. In early February we will move on to resurface the short section of path between Elms Close and Redlands Road.

The resurfacing of the alleyway between School Lane and Union Road has been completed and the path is open again.

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

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