# Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 13

Welcome to the Wildlife Ways Stay Connected bulletin, giving you all the latest news about this exciting £16.8 million programme.

**Borough's Bulbs are Blooming**

The first of our 2.7 million bulbs, planted at the end of last year, are starting to bloom. Snowdrops, Crocuses and Daffodils can be seen across the borough with more to come.

If you spot any flowering bulbs close to you, please send a photo of them to us at wildlifeways@solihull.gov.uk or share them on social media @SolihullCouncil - tagged #wildlifeways

**Parish and Town Councils' Conference**

We were at this month's Parish and Town Councils' Conference at The Core, Solihull to update the councillors on the progress of Wildlife Ways in their area and advise them on how to get funding for local nature projects, such as the Small Habitats Grant Scheme. Watch out for the Wildlife Ways team visiting events and conferences over the coming year.

**Time for Turf!**

Preparation for new wildflower turfing is taking place across the borough. Later in spring and during the summer you will see wildflower displays along Warwick Road/New Road, Chelmsley Road North, Bluebell Recreation Ground (off Chester Road), East Bickenhill Parkway/Airport Island, Shirley Park/Stratford Road and Monkspath Hall Road.

You can see all the routes for Wildlife Ways on our map here. Keep a look out for a big splash of colour!

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**Ward Updates**

Castle Bromwich and Smiths Wood - Route O

Work starts soon on this route, which will include signposting from the junction of Water Orton Road and Marlborough Road to where it meets with West Avenue, then along West Avenue to Hurst Lane North. From Hurst Lane North the footway will be upgraded along Green Lane up to the parallel crossing opposite St. Clements Church. An additional parallel crossing point will be installed on Hurst Lane North. Please see here for details of the route.

Silhill - Route C – School Lane Road Closure

Due to utility works last autumn to the local gas main, the new pedestrian crossing from the junction of Broomfields Farm Road and School Lane and along part of School Lane – Wildlife Ways Route C – was only part-completed.

Now the utility works are finished, we are in a position to complete our works to the pathway and install the new zebra crossing. This will require an initial road closure. Whilst this closure has been initially delayed due to recent bad weather, we expect to announce a date shortly.

Silhill – Route K

Route K, which runs along Streetsbrook Road between Station Approach and Bryanston Road, is now underway. Completion is expected in summer 2020. These works mostly involve an upgrade of the existing footway to aid with natural drainage of surface water.

During the works there are pedestrian diversions and traffic management in place to ensure residents and businesses are able to access their properties. Traffic management is in place from 09:30 to 15:30 for the duration of the works.  If anyone requires any assistance, please speak to a member of the team on site who will help as required.

Silhill & Elmdon – Route C

Progress continues on Route C, from Solihull Town Centre to Damson Parkway. The section being worked on at present starts at Redlands Road and goes down the alleyway to Cornyx Lane. There are approved diversions in place (which can be downloaded here) to ensure pedestrians have an alternative safe route.

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**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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For more information about Council services, please see our website.