



Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 16

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



Lots of love for our wildflowers

Over the summer months people have been making the most of their walks around the borough – particularly with the beautiful weather we’ve been enjoying. Many of our wildflower areas in the borough have attracted some very positive feedback from residents.

Here are some of the comments that we’ve had:

“I’m enjoying the wonderful wild flowers, which are planted next to my property. There is such a wide variety. I’m sure the wildflowers planted around the borough will give pleasure to all.”

“I just wanted to say how much pleasure the Wildlife Ways project has given me and how it lifted mine and other people's spirits during lockdown.”

“Keep up the fantastic work, Solihull is looking blooming. Walked along Hampton Lane yesterday - stunning wild flower displays.”

You can read more about how our wildflower areas are managed in an interview with project manager Danny Hodson on the [Wildlife Ways website](#)

Many of our wildflower seeded areas are being cut to help maintain the health of the areas and allow them to green up before winter. We shall be removing the cuttings afterwards.

ParkThatBike - and ride it too

The ParkThatBike initiative is supported by various local authorities across the UK. Free cycle parking is available to voluntary sector groups, businesses, shops, offices, cafés, pubs, churches, dental practices and surgeries, in a range of designs.



Cycle parking reduces the likelihood of bikes being stolen or damaged and tells the world that your organisation is doing its bit to encourage cycling.

The bike stands are free of charge, however you will be responsible for installing them on your property in a location that ParkThatBike has approved. Instructions for installation will be provided.

For more information visit Transport for West Midlands' ['Cycle Parking for Organisations'](#) page.

Next month also sees residents invited to take part in **Love to Ride West Midlands - Cycle September** - a fun, global competition to help more people realise the benefits of riding a bike.

During September, you will earn points by riding and encouraging your colleagues to ride too. Ride anywhere, anytime - to the shops, to work or even a quick 10 minute spin around your local park - to earn points and enter a prize draw. To be in with a chance of winning a new bike from Cannondale – worth £3,400 - enter the early bird draw by 1 September at <https://www.lovetoride.net/westmidlands>

Our Business Support Team can assist local companies with help in encouraging staff adopt more sustainable travel practices. You can find out more on their Wildlife Ways [website page](#) and email the team for more info at sustainabletravelteam@solihull.gov.uk

Ward updates

Chelmsley Wood & Bickenhill – Route D

Our works along Coleshill Heath Road to widen the footpath and bring in a new crossing point are continuing. Take a look [here](#) at the plans for this stretch of Route D, between Bickenhill Road and Chester Road.

Elmdon – Route C

Work on the footpath along Damson Parkway is now at an advanced stage, including widening the path at the canal bridge.

We are now returning to a section of the wooded area which was paused for nesting season. This meant whilst we worked elsewhere that no breeding birds were disturbed or unsettled. Our ecologist has surveyed the area and now given us the go-ahead to finish this section and the route as a whole.

Plans for this route can be viewed [here](#)

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 - 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](#).
