



Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 17

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



Bees & Trees at Dorridge Park

Alongside the main Wildlife Ways programme, lots of smaller programmes have been developed as part of the Wildlife Ways / Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership's Habitats Grants Programme (part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund).

One of these is Bees and Trees – an ambitious project which supports a wide range of habitat and nature improvements across the borough and which will ensure better conservation for over 23 hectares of habitat – that's the equivalent of around 33 football pitches.

To date six parks and woods have benefited from woodlands management work through the Bees and Trees project and we have now started some grasslands enhancement works at Dorridge Park.

Our ecologist leading the work, Dan Hunt, talks about the plans in [this article](#) on the Wildlife Ways website.

Pictured above, L-R: Dan Hunt (Ecologist), Cllr Andy Mackiewicz (Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Climate Change, Planning & Housing), Cllr Ian Courts (Leader of the Council), Cllr Ken Meeson (Dorridge & Hockley Heath Ward Member), Nic Wright (Landscape Architect)

Autumn improvements to our local landscape

This coming autumn a number of areas across the borough will see more landscape works.

We will be laying out wildflower turf and seeding areas (including more seeding on existing seed beds) and planting bulbs, trees and primroses.



The new wildflower areas will be treated during September in preparation for laying later in that month or during October. Please bear with us as the ground will turn brown for a little while.

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



Here comes Route H

During September work starts on Route H, which will focus on improving the pathways through Babbs Mill Park between Cooks Lane and Yorks Wood.

The works will include an upgrade to the existing pathways and a new pathway. We will be carrying out these works until mid-December.

A plan of the paths to be upgraded can be seen at the [Kingshurst & Fordbridge page](#) on the Wildlife Ways website.

We will also be working on widening a small stretch of pathway in Malvern Park – Route N.

Love to ride? Then cycle this September

Summer might be ending but people are being encouraged to stay out and about on their bikes into the autumn.

A new West Midlands community is being developed through the 'Love to Ride' app and website where both experienced and novice cyclists can record their rides, share experiences and seek advice in partnership with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM).



Individuals, groups and businesses are also being urged to [sign up](#) for Love to Ride's Cycle September campaign for the chance to win a range of cycling prizes.

Wildlife Ways is improving 69km of existing footpath and cycle networks and there will be 23km of new footways.

Our Business Support Team encourages employees to make more active and sustainable commuting choices, by promoting enhancements to cycling and walking corridors. Read more about what they offer and contact them [here](#).

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

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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](#).

