



Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 20



Wildlife Ways brings way more trees

Another 120 trees will be planted across the borough this winter as part of Wildlife Ways.

The project has already seen 1,056 trees planted over the last two years. With the new trees to go in over the next few months, Wildlife Ways is helping Solihull to reach its target of 250,000 trees over the next ten

years.

Read more about this story [here](#).

Photo (L-R): Cllr Ken Hawkins, George Biba from contractors idverde and Cllr Ian Courts plant a rowan tree in Green Lane.

Woodland Works Update

As part of the Wildlife Ways programme we are carrying out important maintenance works to woodlands across the borough. By Christmas, weather and contractor schedules permitting, we aim to have finished on woodland sites at:

- Babbs Mill Local Nature Reserve
- Cole Bank Park Local Nature Reserve
- Malvern and Brueton parks
- Damson Parkway/Lugtrout Lane
- These will be in addition to recently completed works at Elmdon Park.

The aim is to allow more natural light through to the woodland floors by thinning the tree canopies and removing overgrown bramble and holly areas. This will encourage healthier and more diverse species development and improved habitats.

We will also be carrying out similar works in the New Year at the following woodlands:

- Chelmsley Wood Local Nature Reserve
- Coleshill Heath Road
- Kingshurst Brook
- Knightsbridge Road
- Marston Green Park
- Olton Jubilee Park

All these works are part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Habitats Round-up

The Damsels and Dragons project at Elmdon Park (pictured) is now mostly complete with the brook re-shaped to create a more natural watercourse that reduces silting and encourages wildlife. Next year we will be adding trees and plants, with Friends of Elmdon Park joining some of the planting activity. Please note that some areas of soft mud remain taped off – keep away from these areas for the time being.



Early in 2021 we will be moving forward with the project to open up the pond in Langley Hall Park and improve the stream that runs into it. Part of the Wildlife Ways small habitats programme, initial work to the trees around the pond have been carried out as well as some work to the pond's central island. This will allow more sunlight to get through to the pond which will encourage more plant species. The stream works will slow down future sediment deposits to the pond.

In Dorridge Park the Bees and Trees grassland improvement works will continue next year with tree planting as the project moves towards completion in spring 2021.

Ward updates

Bickenhill & Chelmsley Wood – Route D

Our contractors, Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP), have been working on the footway along Bickenhill Road from Lyndon Croft up to the junction with Coleshill Heath Road. These and the works along Coleshill Heath Road to widen the footpath and bring in a new crossing point will conclude in the New Year. See all the latest plans for Route D at the Wildlife Ways website [here](#).

Kingshurst & Fordbridge - Route H

These works are an upgrade to the existing pathways and creation of a new pathway through Babbs Mill Park between Cooks Lane and Yorks Wood. A plan of the paths being upgraded can be seen at the [Kingshurst & Fordbridge page](#) on the Wildlife Ways website.

Landscape Works

As well as trees our contractor *idverde* have been busy laying out wildflower turf and planting bulbs.



A Year in Wildlife Ways

Wildlife Ways has reached many milestones in 2020 with the end of the programme in 2021 coming into view.

Our landscape and highways contractors are now taking a break for Christmas and New Year and will be back in

action the first week of January.

Our teams have to date:

- Planted 1,056 trees
- Laid 984 square metres (sqm) of hedgerows
- Planted 3.7 million bulbs
- Put down 52,000 sqm of wildflower turf (as pictured on Monkspath Hall Road)
- Spread 34 hectares (ha) of wildflower seeds
- Resurfaced more than 22,374 sqm of footways and paths
- Engaged with 24 businesses
- Allocated small habitats grants to help improve 171 ha across 26 sites, worth £1.2m

All the above has been delivered by following government and council guidelines for safe Covid-19 working.

All at Wildlife Ways would like to thank you for your support and interest over the last 12 months and we wish you a safe and happy holiday.

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 includes 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.

All contractors brief their operatives on Health and Safety for Covid-19. Solihull Council is monitoring the works to ensure that government and council standards and guidelines are followed.

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](https://www.solihull.gov.uk).
