

Quinton Meadows Consultative Committee

Report to Quinton Ward Forum 29th March 2023

No conservation work has been carried out since the last Ward Forum (17th January) due to a combination of ill health and adverse weather. However, volunteer sessions are about to start again. We will be focusing in particular on creating more glades within the woodland area at the back of the first meadow, completely removing bramble to enable wildflowers and insect species to flourish due to the exposure to sunlight and warmth. We are hoping to obtain some appropriate woodland plants through the Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust's Growing Local Flora scheme.

There has been no further news about the National Highways M5 Clean Rivers Project and whether the Local Nature Reserve has been included. We are waiting to hear back from the Wildlife Trust about this. However, we have just heard that the Wildlife Trust is about to start on a new 'Natural Rivers and Green Corridors' project which will include Quinton Meadows. We look forward to receiving more information about this and to meeting the Wildlife Trust on site.

A small amount of money from the shortfall on the 2022 payment from Threadneedle (owners of the Quinton Business Park) has now been secured by Birmingham City Council and will go towards a (dog) waste bin on the Local Nature Reserve. A meeting has still to be arranged with Bennetts (landscaping contractors at Quinton Business Park) regarding improvements to the access path, using the 2023 funding from Threadneedle. Parts of the LNR near the path are particularly boggy and it may be that such areas need to be treated as marshland in the future.

Severn Trent recently carried out remedial work to their pipework within the southern meadow. This involved removing part of the fencing (which has since been replaced) and felling a few small field maples in order to provide access. We understand that Birmingham City Council are negotiating with Severn Trent about some funding for replacement trees elsewhere on the LNR.

A litter bin is still awaited for Howley Grange Recreation Ground. Enquiries are still being made about the possibility of football pitch markings. A meeting has still to be arranged with the Dudley Parks Development Officer to look at some of the collapsed metal fencing along the path between the Recreation Ground and the Business Park.

We understand that there may be proposals by Sustrans to designate this path as a cycle route.

We continue to enjoy a good relationship with the owners of the Business Park through their agents (Savills). They have recently provided us with a list of occupants on the site and we will be approaching them about the possibility of individual and corporate volunteering or funding specific projects within Quinton Meadows.

We may try and hold an Eco fun event in the spring under the auspices of the City Nature Challenge (28th April – 1st May).

Vina Campbell/Peter Beck