

## **Quinton Meadows Consultative Committee**

### **Report to Quinton Ward Forum 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Following our successful bid to the Halesowen North/South Community Forum earlier in the year, three anti-vandal proof benches have recently been installed on Howley Grange Recreation Ground. This is significant progress from our point of view as previously there was nowhere for people to be able to rest whilst walking on the Recreation Ground, or for parents to sit and watch youngsters playing football. We are still trying to get Dudley MBC to agree to the installation of a bin for the area.

A few more shrub whips were planted along the western edge of the Recreation Ground. These had been nurtured on our allotment so had decent roots and so should take well. Also, a stand of rowan whips was planted in the north east corner which should add variety to the species of trees.

We reminded Dudley MBC about the need to trim the meadow area on the Recreation Ground, which was completed last month. The cuttings were raked off by volunteers. It will be interesting to see which flowers grow next year. There has been a significant number of fungi growing in this area this autumn.

Conservation work on Quinton Meadows Local Nature Reserve has been limited, but a lot has been happening behind the scenes. Thanks to the offer of funding from Threadneedle and our liaison with their agents (Savills), three benches have been ordered by BCC. These will be delivered to Bennetts (landscaping contractors at Quinton Business Park) who will be installing the benches free of charge. We have suggested that any remaining Threadneedle monies for the current calendar year be spent on a litter bin.

As to next year's funding from Threadneedle (£2,000) we are proposing that improvements be made to the access path, parts of which become very waterlogged in winter resulting in pedestrians walking on the grass at the side, which in turn becomes muddy. We are aiming to establish links with organisations based at the Business Park with a view to them either contributing financially or through work parties to projects within the LNR.

We are hoping that some attention can be given to the Bournbrook water course and also to the swales. National Highways are funding an M5 Clean Rivers Project which is being delivered by the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & The Black Country. The latter are considering including QM LNR in the scheme. The feasibility of this is being investigated and a meeting is being held on site this Thursday (17<sup>th</sup> November).

Most recently, through our links with Birmingham Opens Spaces Forum (BOSF) we met a representative from the RSPB and we are hoping they could assist with identifying suitable locations for bird (and possibly bat) boxes.

We now have a dedicated litter picker amongst our volunteers. A younger person who is very knowledgeable about environmental issues has also joined the Committee.

Formal ratification by Birmingham City Council of our revised Constitution is still awaited.

Vina Campbell