

Quinton Meadows Consultative Committee

Report to Quinton Ward Forum 17th January 2023

A limited amount of conservation work was carried out following the last Ward Forum report (17th November 2022). This included extra strimming on the meadow area in Howley Grange Recreation Ground, and planting some crab apple and hawthorn whips along the Business Park fence near the swales. Winter weather conditions have put a stop to conservation sessions, but these will resume as soon as possible.

The three benches funded by Threadneedle (owners of the Business Park) were installed in the Local Nature Reserve on 5th January 2023 by Bennetts (landscaping contractors at Quinton Business Park), with assistance from Woodgate Valley Country Park Rangers.

We are now liaising with Bennetts about improvements to the access path, using the 2023 funding from Threadneedle. An on-site meeting is being arranged to identify the work involved and the likely cost.

A meeting was held with Simon Atkinson (Head of Conservation, Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust) on 17th November 2022 to discuss the possibility of the LNR being included as part of the National Highways M5 Clean Rivers Project. Simon subsequently forwarded some proposals from a consultant to which QMCC submitted some initial comments. Further contact awaited.

We are very much aware of the need to update the information board (lecturn) within the LNR and the need for a QR code so that people can access additional information via their phone. We are hoping to be able to identify an individual or organisation to assist with graphics for the board and IT skills to enable the QR function. A website has also been suggested – again, we would hope to identify possible sources of help with this.

We are still awaiting a litter bin for Howley Grange Recreation Ground. We remain hopeful about being able to have a football pitch marked out to suit the size of the existing small goal posts. If the pitch was marked out, this would encourage people to use it.

A meeting is to be held with Dudley MBC to look at the remaining metal fencing (much of which has collapsed) alongside the path between Howley Grange Recreation Ground and the Business Park, The fencing may be removed.

Formal ratification by Birmingham City Council of our revised Constitution is still awaited. This has been outstanding since April 2022, which is very frustrating. The revised Constitution allows for the recruitment of younger people (aged 16 – 25) from the local community on to the Committee as well as interested local residents (not representing community groups/organisations). Most of us on the Committee are not getting any younger so we are trying to look to the future!

Quinton Methodist Church is considering the possibility of holding an event for the Coronation and has invited QMCC to participate. It is likely to be held on either Saturday 6th or Sunday 7th May 2023.

Vina Campbell/Peter Beck