

## **Open Spaces Annual Report**

The Open Spaces committee oversees the management of the public open spaces in Wroughton. The committee has also progressed several projects in the last year which aim to improve the local environment and bio-diversity.

### **Allotment Update**

The allotment site has become more popular than ever as the desire to become an allotment holder has risen, there are only a few vacant plots which are currently in the process of being offered to people on the waiting list. Work was undertaken last summer on both the top and the bottom track with new surfacing and new stones was laid. The turning areas off the middle track was not done but will be considered in future years and options are being considered to manage the growth of the weeds growing in the middle of the tracks. Due to the recent success of the 20yd skip which was well used, a future skip will be budgeted for at least once per year to try and keep the site as tidy as possible. There have been no recent reports of pests including rats, having said that plot holders are always encouraged to report any sightings to the office.

The allotment WP has decided the plots will be numbered to improve the efficiency of the allotment inspections and identification for prospective plot holders.

### **Flora & Fauna**

WPC is trialling a number of bio-diversity sites around Wroughton and we continue to monitor these. Our wildflower planting area on Church Hill has been extended and we are hoping for an improved display this year.

### **Moat Pond Update**

Wroughton Parish Council contracted Wilshire Wildlife Trust to inspect the Moat Pond and produce a management plan in order to improve the pond in terms of bio-diversity and visual appearance. The Groundsteam is implementing the plan and Wilshire Wildlife Trust have offered a future service to regularly monitor the pond. Section 106 funding specifically for the enhancement of the Moat Pond site must be spent by October 2028 and the Opens Spaces committee will be responsible for progressing the improvements.

## **Tree Planting Scheme**

On the 26 February local residents attended a tree planting event at three different locations in the village which was led by WPC and supported by SBC. The event was well attended and 1,000 native tree saplings were planted at Maunsell Way, Falkirk Field and Belmont Green. We have secured costs for ongoing maintenance and replacement costs for the next 5 years.

## **Christmas Event**

The Christmas event was a great success, with many residents commenting on the vast improvement of the 30ft Christmas Tree sited on the Willow-Brook Garden. A community engagement and lighting scheme was also trialled at the Moat Pond, again with a positive reception. The Christmas WP will start planning for the 2022 event and make recommendations to the Open Spaces committee.

## **Tree Maintenance and Surveys, Chicken Tree**

WPC has undertaken a significant amount of necessary tree work on the land owned or leased by WPC in the past year and a new tree survey was currently being undertaken and results will be presented to the next relevant Open Spaces meeting.

It was unfortunate that Wroughtons iconic Chicken tree was lost earlier this year, whilst the tree was not owned or maintained by WPC there was enough public sentiment for something to be done to recognise its local importance. The Open Spaces committee will be reviewing the costs and designs of a new entrance sign to the village on Brimble Hill, which recognises the former Chicken tree.

## **Secret Garden**

There are some revised plans for the area which allow for improved access for push chairs and wheel chairs and we are currently gathering revised costs and feedback from appropriate stakeholders. WPC aims to deliver this project within the next municipal year.

## **Sports Provision**

The Open Spaces committee is also responsible for managing bookings from football clubs, cricket clubs and other organised groups. WPC aims to support and work alongside the local groups to bring benefits