

# Meadows Newsletter

October 2024



## Project Update

Works continue apace on The Meadows. The edging to the paths is in and the path surfaces are being prepped, ready for the stone to go down shortly. The weather has been autumnal at best, but the workforce has carried on, with physical work by hand alongside the plant machinery. In the coming weeks we will re-open the main east-west path\* (Yokecliffe Crescent- Foggs Entry) but not by 31 October as we had hoped. Once open, there will continue to be diversions at times, away from areas of work.

Looking ahead, once the paths are laid, seating will be installed. The seeding of The Meadow and lawn will take place in early March and the first phase of works is hoped to be complete by the Spring. In the new year we will be beginning our volunteer programme and fundraising for volunteer equipment and further additions to the site, such as a Hide and a storage container. Exciting times lie ahead and by next Summer a new recreational lawn should be established for community use and the meadow beginning to grow...

\*Check our Facebook page for updates

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Supporters

## Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering from next year, please email with your name and contact details to:

[enquiries@wirksworth.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@wirksworth.gov.uk)

## Why Meadow ?

As well as being a brilliant habitat, carbon store and pollinator heaven, Meadows are important as part of British history and culture, featuring in folklore, literature and music for hundreds of years. Sadly, 97% of wildflower rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s. This began with the arrival of the tractor, when Shires Horse numbers fell into decline and hay meadows were no longer required to produce their food. It was exacerbated by meadow being turned over to food production during WW2, resulting in the destruction of 40% of UK Meadows. In the 1950s, the country turned to intensive farming and did not look back, the fate of the meadows was sealed. Nearly 7.5 million acres of wildflower meadow have been destroyed in the past 75 years and there is no official protection for those which remain today.



## Pictorial Diary | Changes to the landscape...



The new path into the woodland



Aggregate on site



Designer / contractor discussions



Autumn colour



The original path width is revealed

**We would like to thank our supporters:**



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UK Government**

**Vernon Robert Bowmer Trust**



**Longcliffe**  
CALCIUM CARBONATES

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Wirksworth Town Council  
Town Hall, Coldwell Street, Wirksworth DE4 4EU

Mon-Thurs: 08:30-12:30  
01629 823408 | [www.wirksworthtowncouncil.gov.uk/meadows](http://www.wirksworthtowncouncil.gov.uk/meadows)  
[enquiries@wirksworth.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@wirksworth.gov.uk)