

Meadows Newsletter

Feb 2025 ✦



Project Update

Happily the public rights of way across The Meadows will reopen on 1 March. This does not include the new footpaths which have been created at the centre of the site. These paths will remain closed for now, to give them further time to settle and to provide a safe perimeter between pedestrians and the contractors, as they continue to work in the area which will become the community lawn.

Wildscapes will be on site intermittently in March, in order to complete the second phase of works. This includes completing the gabion benches and amphitheatre, and signage installation.

The meadow and lawn areas have now been fenced off until they are established. While the community lawn will be opened as soon as possible, it can take several years of careful management to transform an area of scrub and dominant grass into a wildflower meadow, so we ask residents to keep the faith and not to be too disappointed in the first 12 months! Careful maintenance helps a meadow to develop year on year. The council hopes that the meadow and lawn will ultimately be wonderful assets to the community and ask that residents (and their dogs) please keep to the Rights of Way and avoid accessing these areas for now, to avoid disrupting germination by trampling the seed.

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Supporters

Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering, please email your name & contact details to:

enquiries@wirksworth.gov.uk

or drop a note into the Town Hall.

Local Heroes

The Town Council have been keen to work with local businesses as much as possible on The Meadows project. Longcliffe provided the stone (and made a donation too), Thompsons Tree Services have carried out our arboricultural works and also supplied the project. Seating is being purchased through TDP, signage design is being carried out by the super talented James Waring at Little Canyon Printworks and the ironwork and new gate have been produced by the brilliant Andy McCallum at Hammerhead Forge (see overleaf for more). Ben Bennett's have also been kind enough to donate the boulders which form a decorative scheme throughout the site.



Fencing in place



Andy at work (Right)



Maker Spotlight: Hammerhead Forge

Having worked with Andy at Hammerhead Forge previously, to produce the new Town Hall handrail and to refurbish our market stalls, the Council was happy to entrust the creation of a new gate and signage frames for The Meadows to the experienced craftsman.

Andy works with his assistant Sonia at Willowbath Mill on Water Lane, where they produce bespoke creations for clients across Derbyshire and the UK.



Funding

A reminder of where our funding has come from: The rejuvenation works have been funded from the UK government Levelling Up Funds via the District Council. Generous donations of materials and funds towards additional resources have been received from the firms and Trusts listed below:



**Funded by
UK Government**

Vernon Robert Bowmer Trust



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