

Report of the Executive Director

CLEAN AND GREEN

1. Purpose of report

To update Members on the progress of the 'Clean and Green' initiative.

2. Background

The Clean and Green Initiative supports the Councils corporate vision of 'a greener, safer, healthier Broxtowe where everyone prospers' and to 'protect the environment for the future'

Despite 2021/22 being a difficult year a number of initiatives have been delivered through the Clean and Green initiative. An update on what has been achieved since the last committee is shown in the appendix.

3. Financial implications

Any financial implications of the Clean and Green initiative can be contained within existing budgets.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the Clean & Green activities which have taken place.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX**1. Community Engagement**

This autumn and early winter officers have been engaging with schools and community groups to deliver small “urban rewilding” schemes around the Councils parks and open spaces. The intention is to introduce native plant species and change management regimes to provide habitat for natural colonisation by wildlife.

On the Nottingham Canal Local Nature Reserve between Cossall and Trowell several sections of overhanging willow have been coppiced and pollarded to increase light to the water and banks. The willows were growing on the opposite bank to the towpath and largely inaccessible to the public, with private landowners kindly allowing access for the work.

Habitat piles of pruned material have been strategically placed to help keep people and pets away. Increased light levels should allow recolonisation by marginal plants to benefit water vole which are present along the canal. A number of the willow pollards have been ring-barked to create standing dead wood which can be used for nesting by Willow Tit, which have been recorded on the canal.

On 23 November 2021 a group of sixteen children from the Lanes School in Chilwell visited Cator Lane Recreation Ground to plant 4 large fruit trees and 2,000 spring bulbs in an area of woodland. The visit included a discussion with the children about trees absorbing carbon and the spring flowers providing nectar for bees and butterflies after the winter hibernation.

On 28 November 2021 around 80 trees were planted at Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground in conjunction with ten people from Canopy 2050. Canopy 2050 are a group of people who are grow trees from seed. The Council is working in partnership with this group to find suitable locations on its parks and open spaces for these trees to be planted.

On 1 December 2021 around twenty-five pupils from Beeston Rylands Junior School, along with Incredible Edible community growing group and Beeston Wildlife Group, assisted our parks team with planting around 3000 native spring bulbs in a 350-meter-long species rich grassland strip at Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground. The bulbs will provide an early spring nectar supply. In addition, native woodland bulbs and plants were introduced under the hedgerow, including bluebell and wood anemone. This area will also be marked with the Bee Friendly signage in the near future.

On 16 December 2021 three groups of approximately 20 pupils from Eskdale Junior School accompanied the Deputy Mayor and our parks team to plant trees and bulbs at Inham Nook Recreation Ground in Chilwell. Around 60 trees, including standard oaks, lime and Sorbus torminalis, and 7000 woodland bulbs were planted. Much of the planting will benefit pollinators and the area will now be left with minimal

intervention to develop into something like wood pasture, allowing natural regeneration of the woodland.

In addition to the above works adjacent the woodland, and running alongside the Nottingham tram line, a 300 metre by 8 metre amenity grassland verge has been scarified and seeded with a long season native meadow seed mixture. Plug plants of common grassland wildflowers have also been planted. This verge will now be managed with an annual cut and collection as lowland neutral grassland. The work on the verge has been identified with our new “Bee Friendly in Broxtowe” signage, which helps explain the changes in management to the public.

On 23 December 2021 the Friends Group at Brinsley Headstocks Local Nature Reserve introduced native woodland plants into a recently thinned young woodland and planted an additional 3,000 snakeshead fritillaries into the species rich grasslands, adding to the previous years’ work. Whilst not strictly native to the area these spectacular spring flowers do provide a good nectar source for early pollinators and are becoming a point of interest to visitors to the site.

On 2 January 2022 the Friends of Bramcote Ridge, together with the Mayor, a local ward member and an officer from the Council undertook work at Bramcote Ridge to improve habitat for pollinators. The planting of early spring woodland plants and plug planting into areas of acid grassland took place on the Alexandrena plantation Local Nature Reserve.

2. Green Rewards

Launched at the end of October 2021, Green Rewards is an online platform designed to incentivise and encourage residents to undertake positive environmental behaviour change.

Membership for the platform continues to grow and there are currently 1,634 members across Nottinghamshire. Broxtowe borough has the largest share of platform users at 27% (449). Of the six key themes, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Energy and Carbon are the most popular.

The first winners have been drawn for the platform (both most points earned and a raffle prize draw winner-both received £20 gift voucher). By participating in Green Rewards, Broxtowe residents have to date:

- Avoided emitting over 17 tonnes of carbon
- Undertaken over 5,000 actions
- Saved enough energy to power 1 home for the day
- Had 881 meat free days
- Saved 77,040 litres of water
- Avoided putting over 5 tonnes of waste in their black bins
- Avoided using 1,603 single use items.

A target of 600 platform users by the end of January 2022 has been set. Membership sign ups have slowed down over the Christmas and New Year period. To reignite interest in Green Rewards further communication activities are planned, as well as some publicity regarding our borough's winners.

In February, a project planning meeting will be taking place with all platform leads and the two Nottingham Universities. Together we will look at activities and promotions that can be undertaken together over the coming year. Work with other potential stakeholder partners will also be explored.