

Report from the Working Party for Gallowfields Wood 2020-2022

During the past 2 years we have gone from a working party to a committee and back to a working party. Although we have had covid for 2 years it has increased the foot fall in the woods, people were out walking and discovered the woods and it is now used on a regular basis for dog walkers and general well being.

There has been 6 new trees planted on behalf of Life Giving which are all fruit, one or two other trees were planted for individuals and the Jubilee Tree. Bluebells have also been planted and increased this last year as well as Snowdrops.

General maintenace has been done when restrictions allowed and the bridge on the of the rides has been enlarged so wheelchair users and prams are able to cross it. Extra steps have been made so the slope from the wild meadow into the wood is easier and safer for access. The car park has work started to clear the brambles in the centre area and the moss and dirt cleared off the tarmac to make the parking bays useful again and also to preserve the surface.

2 new benches have been placed thanks to the Council funding which makes good seating all around the wood. We still have one or two seats and tables to repair. All walks have been kept clear of any brambles or shoots so access has plenty of room.

Wildplay have been making great use of the wood and they now have a second fire area near the centre of the open space for use when the other one is too wet. They are now awaiting for the arrival of their container where they can store their equipment. Foxglove group also use it on a regular basis. The scouts and search and rescuer dog group have also used the wood and there also have been a wedding there.

Gary Birtall from Suffolk County Council came and done a survey of the wood for us and gave useful report and sectioned off each group of trees indicating what type of tree was in each section and what work would need doing in the future. He recommended we had a management plan and do a rotation of tree felling. To do this we would need a felling licence to last 10 years, so this is now being looked into.

The working party members have come and gone over the past 2 years and we have 7 regular members and members of the public to help us with working mornings when we do the work, these are about 5 or 6 times a years

Looking forward to the coming years when we hope as many people enjoy the wood as we do.