

wildlife ways

- the story

After years of planning, planting and building, **Wildlife Ways** is nearly finished - and Solihull is much greener. Since January 2019 trees and wildflowers have been planted, paths laid, funding for further environmental projects awarded, and a **website** was created to keep residents informed.

The £16.8 million programme, part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), has been a massive project involving people from right across the Council, from a host of different teams.

The project is made up of four parts.

Cycling and walking

To help residents enjoy being out and about without their cars, we've created new shared routes and we've improved existing footpaths and cycle networks. Wherever possible, routes have been landscaped with links to existing parks, green spaces and public transport options.

Wildlife

Planting hundreds of trees, thousands of square metres of wildflower areas and millions of bulbs has improved our wildlife habitats and the connections between them.

It has been a massive boost to wildlife and will see a more diverse range of plants and animals making their homes in Solihull, increasing the borough's biodiversity. Planting on this scale will also help improve our air quality and create a wildlife network more capable of adapting to climate change.

1,000
trees have
been planted

13
Parks & open spaces
have had new planting

3 million
bulbs planted

73 hectares

of habitat enhancement has taken place across the borough

Business support

Alongside these other activities, colleagues have been working with local businesses to encourage employees to make more sustainable travel choices - including walking and cycling. This is supported by Wildlife Ways as the project will make it easier to leave the car behind.

Working with
28 Local Businesses

and have engaged with approximately
70,752 employees

23km of high quality cycle provision

Small habitats grants

Another feature of Wildlife Ways is the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Habitats Grants Programme. This is a way of supporting smaller organisations to improve their land and areas of waterway both for people and wildlife.

£3 million.

of ERDF funding has been allocated which will...

...improve nearly

192

hectares of land...

...that's about

300 football pitches!

And it's not over yet!

The footpaths are being converted to shared use cycle paths to promote active travel in the borough.

The business support team will be working with additional businesses to promote sustainable and active travel.

And another £1.6 million of funding for small habitats is set to be allocated.