

## **Environment update – 2023-2024**

I joined the Parish Council in May 2023 after a period of attending meetings as an observer on behalf of the Friends of Radford's Green Environment (FoRGE). It's been a very busy and enjoyable year, with lots of opportunities to combine the environmental work that FoRGE carries out in the village, such as Footpath Group, with the maintenance and bio-diversity enhancement obligations of the PC.

Following are some examples of environment work carried out by the PC during the past year:

### **Playing field: Wildflower meadow & hedge creation project/Tree planting**

In November 2023 Warwickshire Wildlife Trust approached the PC with the offer of assistance in creating a wildflower meadow and hedge on the edge of the village playing field. A group of volunteers from the PC, FoRGE and WkWT prepared the field, sowed the seeds and planted the hedge saplings. During the past year I have monitored the meadow, recording all the species of wildflower (13 by the end of the summer), and maintained the hedge saplings. We're all looking forward to welcoming the arrival of the flowers again this spring and summer.

The PC also liaised with members of FoRGE to plant six new trees on the playing field.

### **The village pond**

In September the PC worked with FoRGE to engage Warwickshire Conservation Volunteers to clear the excess vegetation from the village pond. In the autumn Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will be helping us to clear more vegetation in the deeper areas of the pond. The pond provides an excellent home for many creatures and is a great bio-diversity asset to the village.

### **Keeping footpaths safe & accessible**

The PC liaises with FoRGE Footpath Group and the County Council to ensure that any fences that are leaning into footpaths are made safe as soon as possible.

The PC also carried out a Rights of Way Improvement Plan survey carried out by WCC.

### **Canal Access Project**

The PC is providing support and essential funding (using Section 106 funds) to the proposed Radford Semele canal access project being championed by FoRGE. We are awaiting a decision on key modifications to the design of the ramp.

### **Telephone Box restoration project**

This project is now underway and the restoration will be overseen by members of the PC, FoRGE and volunteers from the village. We welcome any suggestions and ideas for how to repurpose the box after its restoration.

Cllr Josie Sanderson