



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

T18

3 March 2020

Dear Residents

Bridgnorth Town Council working in partnership with Shropshire Wildlife Trust has recently secured funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to enhance an area of woodland and open space to the west of Bridgnorth; known as ‘The Gorse’, which is situated just off Lodge Lane. The Gorse open space is roughly 3.5 acres in total comprising of; an area of unmanaged woodland approximately one acre in size and crisscrossed with a number of small tracks, an established play park and managed grassland. One proviso of the grant funding is that elements of biodiversity improvements must be worked into any new enhancement in order to meet the EDRF bid criteria.

The map below shows just how the enhanced area might look when completed in 2021/22 with improved access to the woodland, managed meadows, new hedges and the creation of a new Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS). A SUDS is a means of diverting road surface water away from the normal drainage system and into a more natural and eco-friendly soak away and thereby reducing the speed at which rain water ends up in our river systems.



The Table below shows the suggested habitat, access and recreation enhancements planned for this site:

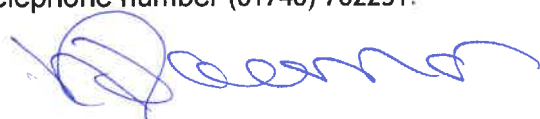
ID	Title	Works	Area m ²
0	Meadow	Managed as meadow with a cut between mid-July and mid-September. An early cut in March may be possible if growth strong	1547
1	Meadow	Managed as meadow with a cut between mid-July and mid-September. An early cut in March may be possible if growth strong	3891
2	Scrub enhanced	Heavy thinning of scrub and young trees to expose banks in places allowing gorse and other coarse vegetation to periodically return before clearing again in phases. Path could be created	2466
3	SUDS	SUDS Feature - managed by strimming or mowing in mid-July to mid-September	163
4	Access enhanced	Existing informal access formalised	586
5	Natural play area	Thinning of woodland and creation of glades and natural play areas in the wood. Wood piles and formal paths created. Replacement of non-native tree species with natives over time.	3228
6	New hedge	Plant new hedge and once established remove old metal and concrete barriers along Queens Road.	70
Total:			11,951

I must again emphasise that the Town Council is working very closely with Shropshire Wildlife Trust who is responsible for the overall coordination of this project to fit the ERDF bid criteria. Our project at Lodge Lane would include a significant proportion of woodland management for the benefit of both wildlife and people, by creating a main pathway leading to a number of sheltered glades with natural wood play equipment and seating areas which whole family groups can enjoy with the help of educational signage, and where a wider understanding and knowledge of tree species can be discovered. Areas of grassland will be restored through management back to traditional hay meadows and other interesting habitats, flora and fauna will also be identified at the site.

The partnership project has secured £40,500 of ERDF grant funding and this has been match funded by Bridgnorth Town Council with £27,000 of S106 money making a total project budget of £67,500. S106 money is money granted by developers to be spent on play or recreational equipment within a given area and this particular grant has to be spent within the Lodge Lane open space by 2021. This is the precise reason why we have entered into this partnership to secure European money to maximise the improvement potential to this area.

We would anticipate that a good many of you as residents of the Grove and Lodge Farm will have your own questions and would like to express your ideas for this particular area and that is why we would like to invite as many of you as possible to attend an open forum and public consultation. To be held at St. Mary's Bluecoat C of E (VA) Primary School on Lodge Lane, Bridgnorth WV15 5EG on the evening of 2nd April 2020 at 6pm.

Please indicate your attendance by using the email address info@bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone number (01746) 762231.



Lee Jakeman, Town Clerk