

GOLDEN HILL WOODS report October 2024

April-September informal monthly surveys went well. We checked paths for encroaching vegetation and litter picked. Noted non native species for autumn removal. Deer hoof prints seen regularly in 1 area. A range of birds identified along with insects. Very few butterflies and day flying moths seen this summer compared to previous years.

Our September survey had us discussing our plans for the next 6 months, most of which, we hope, can be achieved starting with areas most likely to flood as weather deteriorates.

A meeting was held there with myself, Sarah (HPC clerk) and Hannah (deputy clerk) to go through our plans.

The footpath entry/exit onto Hare Lane track that was erased by overhead electricity work will be re-enstated by us ASAP re routing it between the 2 new electricity poles.

Cutting back the laurel on lakeside (Ashley Lane) can only be done if area not under water, as it was last autumn. If this happens again, we will consider doing it during summer next year.

Free snowdrop bulbs have been potted up ready to plant in spring along path edges.

HORDLE ENVIRONMENT GROUP (HEG) report October 2024

This has had a difficult year with 1 key member taking time out through injury and latterly family needs. However, autumn/winter work is getting underway, between the rain. Hedging and plant growth is, at last, slowing down.

The change from green bags to bins is working better than expected. Neighbours and a local friend allow topping up of their bins with any excess greenery. At busy times this equates to filling an extra 2 bins per fortnight. Thank you to them.

Autumn leaves will again be requested as these are spread immediately onto beds in a thick mulch. This supresses annual weeds avoiding the need for digging, not good for soil health, helps nurture plants/shrubs that are wanted.

Thousands of daffodil bulbs have been potted up ready to plant out in spring. Free bulbs, free spent compost and free time to do it, what's not to like.