



KINGFISHER GARDENS, THORNEY MILL ROAD , RICHINGS PARK

Kingfisher Gardens on Thorney Mill Road is owned by Bucks Council under the stewardship of the Richings Park Residents Association (RPRSA)

The gardens are maintained on a regular basis by Heathrow Rangers. They have planted wildflower seeds, installed the bollards for RPRSA on the verge to control parking, weeded and generally looked after the garden. There are plans to plant native trees such as Rowan on the verge which is also planted with wildflowers. The Rangers will undertake this task.

In early 2022 we applied for, and were successful in achieving a grant from the Community Board to make the area safe. Some trees needed pruning and could be considered dangerous for visitors. Heritage trees – a local company based in Iver, pruned the trees in May. Dead wood was removed from the Willow tree and the crown lifted to 3 meters, stems from the Beech tree that were damaging the wall and railing were removed. From other trees dead wood was removed and crowns lifted. All wood was taken away and the garden left tidy. This opened up the garden to more light, and also made the area safe.

Trees alongside the small tributary of the Colne Brook were trimmed by Heathrow Rangers in Autumn 2023. This is to enable access to the brook.

The garden has a seating area with a bench and table, and this is used by residents. Plans were made last year to host a bug event with local families but due to the unseasonably hot weather this was deferred to 2023. Spring flowers should be coming up in the centre of the garden. All brambles and weeds have now been removed by the Rangers.

A meeting with Colne Valley River representative was held recently to identify the cost of clearing the Brook as this has become clogged with weeds and pond plants and now is inaccessible to pond dipping. We have plans to perhaps build a walkway out to enable children to pond dip as the brook is very shallow and is ideal for this activity. We are also involved with fly testing in the main Colne Brook and a couple of our committee will be undertaking training in this. This will monitor the health of the river and perhaps any early identification of harmful leaks further upstream.

RPRSA plan to publicise events during this centenary year of Richings Park with a family event in the summer and also hold the bug event postponed from last year.

RPRSA would like to thank the Community Board for their support in making the area safe for residents to use and although we still have challenges to overcome in making the brook accessible, we hope that by the end of this year the garden will be used by more residents. We plan to try and promote the use of the garden with social media posts, as many residents are not aware that it is there and that it is a community resource.



The gardens ready for spring planting in 2022 after the trees were made safe and pruned. You can see the amount of light in the gardens that has been improved by this action. Also, a picture of the Heathrow Rangers team.

Joyce Young. Secretary RPRSA. March 2023