



# WINTER NEWSLETTER

## FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

Welcome to this edition of the newsletter and, on behalf of the committee, thank you to all who have shown their support by renewing their subscriptions for another year. The items on the management plan proposals and on the possible re-positioning of the entrance path from Markham Road have both been written by our chairman Norman.

### **THE NEW BRAMCOTE RIDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

Last year Charles Langtree joined "The Friends" and kindly agreed to update the management plan for the two LNRs. Charles has worked on many projects for the Wildlife Trust and is now employed by the Land Trust as the Regional Estates Manager for the East Midlands. He presented the new plan to the committee last Spring and later it received full approval from Chris Riley on behalf of Broxtowe Borough Council. Charles gave an excellent talk at the AGM in November about the area but agreed that members would appreciate more details about some of the future development he envisages. Below is a summary of the programme. (See map attached.)

- A. The viewpoint. No longer can you see Wollaton Hall etc. Felling three or four mature trees will re-establish this view.
- B. The wildflower area is dominated by mugwort. Weeding will help but not completely control, so cutting to ground level each July will help reduce seeding.
- C. Woodland glades have regrown with rough grass and brambles. Rotational cutting, raking and removing in the autumn will prevent succession back to woodland.
- D. This area is particularly popular with young people; opening it up will improve its visibility, possibly helping to reduce any negative consequences of its use and certainly making it easier to collect litter. (This clearance started January/February 2016.)
- E. The bridle path will benefit from creating openings in the tree canopy above. Improved sunlight will assist drying of the surface and make leaf removal easier in the late autumn.
- F. The new grassland area. Cutting in August and removing growth in September will help maintain low nutrient soil necessary for heathland. Opposite this grassland is the old hedge line. To maintain this feature trimming and clearance of debris is required. (Already underway – see working sessions report.)
- G. Ivy Wood is still dark and enclosed. Creating glades from the path will have greater benefits than just thinning trees.
- H. Dark, muddy paths require tree and scrub removal to increase light and assist drying.

The details set out above are suggested ideas to be applied over a number of years. Bramcote Ridge is an important open space, not only for local residents to enjoy its use while feeling safe, but also ecologically in providing plants and insect habitat. To continue to provide these things the sites do need to be continually managed.

I wish to record the thanks of "The Friends" to Charles for this excellent management plan.

## WORKING SESSION REPORT: NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2016

We had very good turnouts for both these sessions. In the double avenue near Jasmine Close the removal of some complete trees and the lower branches of others was completed apart from some tidying up work. This feature is now obvious and has been restored to what it probably would have looked like some decades ago. Also on the Markham Road site an area was cleared of numerous shrubs and small trees to restore a grassy alcove and two circular plots at the entrance were thoroughly dug over and planted with bulbs.

Once again the bridle path was cleared of leaves and mud; litter was collected from both reserves.

**Next working session dates: 5<sup>th</sup> February**

**5<sup>th</sup> March**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**7<sup>th</sup> May**

### Planned New Path.

The main entrance to the Sandy Lane Open Space site is by a short, steep and narrow path from Markham Road. (See photo below.) This is the only access for wheelchairs, pushchairs and for those with mobility problems to this Nature Reserve.

For several years this has been a concern. Chris Riley from Broxtowe Borough Council has kindly agreed to help me apply for funding to rebuild this path with a gentle gradient and curve from a position much further back from the corner. The present path and rather unsightly metal bar will be removed.

We have received three quotations from contractors to bid for this work. In addition, and included in this costing, is a plan to resurface the Alexandrina circular path with a new top dressing. After fourteen years it is gradually being eroded.

In January I will begin filling in application forms in the hope that we can raise enough money to make these improvements. I will keep you posted of any further developments.

