

October 4 2021: Bluebell Dene Phase 1

As many are aware, Bluebell Dene is a local beauty spot in Newbiggin Hall, through which runs the main footpath that connects the housing estate with the Metro Station and the surrounding areas of Bank Foot and Kingston Park.



In recent years many of the original bluebells and other spring flowers have died off and the area has become untidy and subject to increased anti-social behaviour.

Our Parish Council Biodiversity Project, “The Restoration of Bluebell Dene”, aims to restore the area to its former glory. The objective of this initiative is to introduce a range of spring bulbs, including native bluebells, in a variety of locations throughout the Dene, in a carefully managed plan over the next few years.

The benefits will be multiple; not only will this enhance the attractive grassed areas and woodland but will also make a significant contribution in helping to improve the general health and well-being of the local community, whilst at the same time encouraging nature to thrive.

Left: Bluebell Dene - site of Daffodil carpet marked in red.

Costain Jacobs

The Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to Costain Jacobs, the civil engineering company who are currently upgrading the A1, for its generosity in supporting the Bluebell Dene Project, Phase 1. Costain Jacobs supplied over 5000 spring bulbs, the mini daffodil Tête-à-Tête, together with a volunteer task force, who turned up in numbers on October 4th 2021 to help plant them.

All eyes are on the area next spring for a lovely cheery display.



Work begins lifting the turf



The Costain Jacobs` task force



**The site is prepared, using shaving foam as no spray paint was available in shops
– smelt nice though**



The Parish Council biodiversity team, John Littleton and Joanne Couchman help preparing the site



Politicians and Costain Jacobs' team ready to start



Councillor George Pattison



Catherine McKinnell MP, and Habib Rahman having a breather



The Lord Mayor Habib Rahman showing how to do it in style



The Costain Jacobs` team apply the finishing touches



Job done; we will be back in the spring to see the results

Councillor Sharon Pattison

The event also commemorated the retirement of Councillor Sharon Pattison who, after 14 years serving as a Ward Councillor at Newcastle City Council, has decided to step down. Sharon was presented with a bouquet by the Lord Mayor, Habib Rahman and Catherine McKinnell, MP for Newcastle upon Tyne North.

Sharon added, "I moved into the area in 1969 from the City Centre. When I discovered Bluebell Dene I thought that I was living in the countryside. I want Bluebell Dene to be protected and nurtured for the enjoyment of future generations. Although I have retired as a City Councillor I remain committed to serving as a Parish Councillor, and I am proud of what has been achieved so far."

The Parish Council would also like to thank the Lord Mayor and MP, and Councillors George Pattison and Alex Hay for their support, and for showcasing their skill with a spade. They all helped turned this event into a special and memorable occasion.



Congratulations Sharon