

King and Miller to Kingfisher NEWSLETTER

Consultation continues on King and Miller to Kingfisher Project

As part of the King and Miller to Kingfisher project, Ashfield District Council has teamed up with a number of groups and organisations to help shape the future of three open spaces in the district.

Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, together with partners, last year secured **£121,000 of support from National Lottery players** for the project.

Throughout June, consultation sessions have been held across Ashfield and Mansfield to brainstorm thoughts, ideas and activities for the project as well as encouraging people to get actively involved and to learn more about the heritage of Kings Mill Reservoir, Sutton Lawn and Hermitage Ponds.

The workshops have been wide in their variety, reaching out to residents from as many different walks of life as possible.



Duke of Edinburgh students from Portland College helped to complete an access audit of the three sites. The students looked at the accessibility of entrances, car

parking, signage, pathways and the café facilities.

Their recommendations for improvements will be included in the project bid for the second stage of funding in early 2018.



At Kings Mill Reservoir, back-to-back sessions were held on Saturday 17 June to brainstorm ideas and potential activities for the project activity plan. The morning's Walk and Talk session involved representatives from local friends groups, community organisations, heritage societies, walking groups, along with representatives from the NHS, Fire Service and the local sailing club.

The afternoon consisted of a family friendly wildlife activity session for the International Club which gave youngsters the chance to enjoy making bug hotels and go on a wildlife safari to spot insects and animals.

One group member at the Walk and Talk session said: "I really enjoyed the workshop today. It's always good to work with other parties and gain a perspective from all angles. I always learn so much from working with others who I may not have considered

had a stake if I was just looking from our own point of view. I hope we can all work together to make this project successful and improve the environment for so many different groups of people, plus the wildlife, who rely on us not to mess up their habitat and movement".

The Council also supported by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, attended the monthly meeting of the Forget-me-not Dementia Support Group at the Trinity Church in Kirkby. The group gave their opinions on potential activities for the project activity plan and enjoyed a dementia-friendly wildlife activity session with recordings of birdsong and planting wildflower seeds.



Additionally, project stands have been held at Kings Mill Hospital and the Lammas Leisure centre, the Ashfield (Notts) Canine Society Companion Dog Show on Sutton Lawn and at a family picnic event at the Polish School in Mansfield.

A number of the ideas raised at the sessions will be included in the activity plan to encourage local people to get actively involved and learn more about the heritage and wildlife opportunities at the three sites.

SURVEY UPDATE

The Council is keen to involve local communities in this exciting project. We want local residents and groups to help us to decide on the activities that we should provide and to tell us how they could be involved in the project. We have an online survey open for residents to tell us their views. Paper copies are available from the Council's Sutton Locality team. Please call 01623 457451 if you would like to receive one.

Below are a few interesting facts from the survey so far...



92% think that visiting parks and open spaces improves health and wellbeing



71% would be interested in activities around outdoor nature



Time is the main thing that would stop people from developing new skills, along with childcare and cost



Two thirds of respondents are quite or very interested in local history



56% walk to visit places, 75% by car



13% had difficulty accessing parks - due to paths, seating and lack of information on site

MORE INTERESTING STATISTICS

- People know where Sutton Lawn and Kingsmill Reservoir are but only 49% know where the Hermitage Ponds are
- 29% of respondents already volunteer
- 61% think that getting involved will make a difference to their local community
- 59% think that the activities and volunteer opportunities would help improve their skills and health and wellbeing

PEOPLE HAVE COMMENTED...

Sutton Lawn

"I have been using this wonderful resource since I was a child and it always brings back very happy memories. A beautiful piece of greenery in Sutton."

Hermitage Ponds

"Love the herons especially when nesting. So peaceful here - a hidden gem!"

Kings Mill Reservoir

"I like to walk around the reservoir and see the wildlife and relax, it's a lovely place whatever the weather."

We asked what activities people would like to suggest for the sites. Among the responses were electric bike hire, fitness activities, art and photography class, and teddy bear picnics along with craft activities. People were keen to share their skills and interests as part of the project. These skills included gardening, local history knowledge, angling, and leading walks. If they didn't have a particular skill, many people said that they would contribute enthusiasm and a love of nature.

DON'T FORGET... the survey is available until Sunday 6 August. [Click here to take the survey.](#)

GET IN TOUCH... if you have any questions, email us at kingfisher@ashfield.gov.uk

SUPPORTED BY...



The next newsletters will be released in October 2017 and January 2018