

Barton Brook Working Party – Postponed until Sat 18 November

The high forecast rain fall totals associated with the approaching Storm Ciaran mean that water levels in the Brook are likely to be high on Thursday into Friday with more rain forecast for Saturday.

BPC feel that levels may therefore be too high for it to be reasonable for volunteers to work in the brook course and therefore we are POSTPONING the Brook Working Party until Saturday 18 November.

Provided levels are not too high on that day then the proposal is for anyone who wishes to volunteer to meet at Collinson Road Park at 9.30 a.m. and we will finish at lunchtime. Depending how many people turn up we will split up to work on the following sections:

Park Road to Brookside Footbridge
Brookside Bridge to Wales Lane
Wales Lane to Collinson Road
Collinson Road to the footbridge in Collinson Park
Collinson Park Bridge to St James Road
St James Road to Efflinch Lane
Efflinch Lane to Meadow Rise Footbridge

We will do what we can with the number of people available and will do any priority sections first.

Any major issues were removed by the previous work party in September 2023 so we anticipate that this will be lighter work to remove any brambles or saplings that have grown back and this can be done with hand tools such as secateurs, loppers or bow saws.

Material will be put into big Builders '1 tonne' bags and removed by trailer to skip or otherwise for disposal.

If you would like to help then you should:

- Contact Ed Sharkey on 07973 151820
- Wear old work clothes that you don't mind getting a bit damp and muddy.
- Waterproof jacket, hat, cap, etc. depending on the weather on the day
- Wellies (or waders if you have them)
- Work gloves capable of handling bramble prickles
- Bring hand tools if you have them – secateurs, loppers, bow saws, garden rakes

Access into the brook may require a bit of climbing down banks or using ladders so you need to be reasonably fit, but there will be work loading and unloading bags 'on land' for anyone who doesn't feel able to help in the brook, or brewing tea... ☺

Please be aware that the brook water is NOT 'clean' so you need to make sure that you wash your hands before eating or drinking anything after you've been working.

We'll see if we can get some 'brew making' facilities set up at the Park for a bit of a break part way though the morning and we'll have some clean water and wash bowls available for a brush up.

Until the Environment Agency are able to put in some flood protection measures up stream of the village then keeping the brook course clear is the best that we can do as a Community to provide some reassurance to those people in properties that are at flood risk that everything we can do is being done to keep people safe.

If you have a few hours spare on the 18 November then you'd be very welcome to join in.