



## Queen's Wood News and Events

### November 2021

#### **Beating the Bounds Walk**

##### **Change of time**

Please note that the time of the "Beating the Bounds" walk on Sunday 21 November led by Lucy Roots and Sarah Graham Brown has been changed to 2.00pm to ensure it is completed in the light. Meet outside the Lodge off Muswell Hill Road.

#### **Working Parties**

**An additional working party will be held on Sunday 14 November**

**There will also be the usual end of month working party on Sunday 28 November.**

**There will be no working party in December.**

Both working parties will be from 10.30 to 12.00. Meet at the Lodge off Muswell Hill Road. Bring your own gloves but tools will be provided.

## **Queen's Wood Flood Management Scheme**

Update from John Dorken, Chair FQW

Some limited progress has been made since our last newsletter on 13 October. Following the encouraging site visit with the Parks Department of the Council on 1 October we had a similar site visit on 26 October with the wider project team including not only the Highways and Parks Departments but also the consultant engineer who had been responsible for the detailed designs. This was the first such visit despite our having repeatedly asked for it for some 10 months. Before the visit we had circulated to attendees the ideas previously put to Parks for some possible changes to the scheme.

The visit had been billed by Highways as primarily enabling them to explain the present scheme on site and making a few minor changes to finalise it. We thus had no expectations of any real progress. In the event the discussion was more open minded than we had expected in taking on board some of our ideas. It was left that the engineer would circulate a revised design for discussion, always bearing in mind, however, that this could still leave parts of the scheme still unacceptable, and for which as yet no redesign had been put forward. Other vital aspects of the scheme were also discussed – such as the pollution of road runoff, the means of construction, effects on ancient trees, the soil and historic features and the use of materials from outside the Wood, but no conclusions were reached.

Highways have now passed to us the specification for new designs, without any indication that they accept them. When the detailed plans arrive we will scrutinise them carefully to see whether they are acceptable as the basis of a way forward.

Progress of a sort it may be, but it would be wrong to describe it as a breakthrough. The future timetable remains unclear, but even if the new designs remove the worst features of the scheme as originally put forward it does not mean the result would be acceptable and do only limited damage to the Wood. A lot of work will be needed to lick the scheme into shape. Until this has been done, and we have consulted further with members, we intend to maintain our position of vigorously opposing it.