

Friends of Horsehay Pool and Environs

Report to Dawley Hamlets Parish Council AGM 2023

FOHPE Activities 2022

Sewerage Installation

Severn Trent have installed drainage for the properties at the North end of the Pool. Although this caused major disruption for about 4 months the work has now been completed. This should result in a major improvement in the water quality of the Pool and benefit wildlife and people walking around that end of the Pool.

Pocket Park Scheme

Work under the auspices of the Pocket Park Scheme has continued with clearance and dredging around the North end of the Pool reinstating the island that was there more than 30 years ago. There is a little further dredging to be done when water levels permit. A team of volunteers from the Friends group have planted some 50 medium sized shrubs and trees donated by TWC to soften the edges of the island.

7 Bird boxes have been put up around the Pool and Playground with a few more to go up on the island together with 3 bat boxes.

The Friends are waiting to hear from TWC regarding prices for reed planting around the island and it is hoped this can be done in Spring 2023. Reeds will be a major improvement to wildlife habitation.

Platinum Jubilee Tree

An English Oak Tree was purchased with grants given by DHPC and local TWC Councillors. A formal tree planting ceremony was held and very well attended. A thank you to local tree man, Clive Hancock for doing the planting and offering to undertake watering and maintenance free of charge.

Management Plan

Although the Plan has been produced by TWC there are still many areas for development and the FOHPE have not heard of any progress on any of these. This is frustrating. There is concern about the appearance and indeed safety of many of the fishing pegs around the Pool perimeter.

The Council have designated Horsehay Pool and Simpsons Pool as a Local Nature Reserve which is very welcome and the FOHPE are happy to become part of this. It is hoped that this will mean further funding streams become available for the improvement of the area.

Horsehay Playground

The Friends Group applied to the Woodland Trust for a free pack of 100 native sapling trees and were successful in this. Permission was given from TWC to plant these around the perimeter and to create a small copse within the Horsehay Playground. A team of volunteers from the Friends again got together and did the planting. It is hoped that in time, this will improve the wildlife corridor between the Pool and the railway.