

# River Anker Feasibility Study update

Cllr M Short – Chair of the Open Spaces Working Group

Although public consultation planned for December failed to take place, as NWBC officers advised our consultant that it would not prove productive, she has continued to build up contacts with local individuals and organisations. Importantly, she held an online meeting with Merevale Estates, which was also attended by Councillor Jones. It emerged that there are plans for the Merevale section of river-bank, so this cannot be included in our project. Consultation with other landowners, including NWBC, continues.

The working group held a meeting at the White Hart in December to discuss progress and next stages.

Sharon Bayne and I had an online meeting with representatives of The Wildlife Trust and the Tame Valley Wetlands Trust, who were very supportive and keen to engage further with us. Amongst other things we discussed potential funding opportunities, similar local projects and species records.

Sharon has now produced a story map and videos, with links to a survey, which is available online and a paper version at the library. Posters to advise people of the project and the survey have been distributed to schools, surgeries, shops and other businesses and organisations. The number of survey responses is growing steadily, and quite a few people have filled in a drop-pin survey as well.

Many thanks to Councillor Chambers, the clerk and working group members for their input.