

Hi everyone

## MiB January 2010

In spite of the snow, a lot seems to have been achieved this winter. The plan has started!

- The budget for MiB which was based on the plan made by residents in October 2009, has been submitted to the Ward for Community Chest funding. It is an ambitious plan and there will be challenges but our councillors assured us at the AGM (November) that they were sympathetic to the project. We shall see!
- On 22 January, Ken Whittaker visited. He is one of the judges from the Royal Horticultural Society and he was delighted with the estate and the work so far. He recommends that we enter a part of the estate for the Neighbourhood section of Britain in Bloom in July this year (bronze, silver and gold come later!). He thought a possible route for the judges would be from Park Edge up to the Circle (past North Gate) and up Carless to the Square. Sites do not have to be horticulturally perfect and participation is voluntary, **so no pressure**; in fact community, children sustainability and environmental improvements are far more important.
- Ken (RHS) will be visiting in March to give a seed sowing demonstration and answer questions about Britain in Bloom. Evening Date to be notified.
- On 23 January, a group of Moor Pool volunteers, mainly from the Square and a group of conservation volunteers worked to clear the area, leaving a swathe of ivy for wild life, but raising the canopy to allow for a greater range of planting. The (Square) residents are meeting soon to discuss plans which will possibly include a wild flower project. BCC has supported the work and we hope they will also improve the fencing. This job was done with Graingers' agreement and they have offered to deal with the Japanese knotweed.
- The Management of MiB was discussed just before Christmas. Nobody wants another committee and so we are going to try this arrangement:
  1. MRA will deal with funding, liaison with BCC and Graingers and matters relating to the whole estate.
  2. Bimonthly informal meetings will be held at the coffee mornings to give residents and volunteers a chance for input. Anyone is welcome and we do need your support!
  3. **The first meeting will be 28 February at 11 am for 30-40 mins. A note of the topics for discussion will be sent out a week or so before.**

A shorter version of this will go in the Duck. Sorry it's so long but the news is good!

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