

Wirksworth Town Council



Meadows Volunteer Policy

Policy Adopted: 17 March 2025

Minute No: FBP24/108

Background

Wirksworth Town Council [WTC] bought The Meadows in 2019, in response to a public appeal when the land was put up for sale. It is the last remaining piece of a greater meadow which covered the Yokecliffe estate.

The Meadows Rejuvenation Project now aims to fulfil the brief provided by residents to enrich the existing landscape for both wildlife and the community. This is a green sanctuary between two housing estates and the town centre; a spot where many older residents pause to rest on their walk into town, and a route taken by families to avoid the historically narrow pavements of the main road. Wildflower meadow will be recreated in the majority of the space to improve biodiversity. Volunteers have a key role in helping establish a successful meadow: creation can take up to five years to come to fruition and in that time the seeded areas require care and maintenance to survive and thrive.

The Volunteer Role

Volunteers may be involved in a variety of tasks and may work independently.

A typical Meadows volunteer role will be primarily physical and include:

- Meadow cultivation and weeding
- Maintenance work to fencing and pathways
- Litter picking
- Coppicing
- Giving community talks
- Advocating for meadows and their multiple benefits

We hope to provide an enjoyable role which will be beneficial in terms of health, expertise and personal development.

What Wirksworth Town Council offer a volunteer

Wirksworth Town Council supports equal opportunities and wishes to encourage social inclusion. It is hoped that the time dedicated to working for us will be of value to the community and enriching for the individual. We offer:

- An induction including an explanation of health and safety.
- Physical activity within a natural setting
- An interesting and varied role
- The opportunity to meet like-minded people and enjoy being part of a team
- The opportunity to gain experience working in a public space, to gain confidence and enhance your CV by developing new skills.

What Wirksworth Town Council asks of a volunteer

- To be polite and helpful to visitors to The Meadows
- To adhere to WTC procedures and policies
- To carry out agreed tasks efficiently and to dress appropriately
- To work as a team member with other volunteers and WTC staff
- It would be advantageous for the volunteer to display knowledge of/ willingness to learn about countryside maintenance and conservation.
- Volunteers will be representing WTC and we ask that volunteers are professional and positive. We will provide information about the project and if you are asked questions beyond this we will provide you with contact details so that people can contact WTC directly.
- To maintain the confidentiality of privileged information learned of whilst volunteering for WTC.

Recruitment

Wirksworth Town Council recruits volunteers through a variety of sources including local newspaper advertisements, email, posters and word of mouth.

Applicants will be given an informal interview, references may be requested and they may be subject to a DBS check. A trial period may be necessary. All successful candidates will be given an induction and can expect working hours to be found to suit both the Volunteer and WTC.

Important Information

The first contact and support for volunteers is the WTC Office 01629 823408. They can also be contacted on enquiries@wirksworth.gov.uk.

Volunteers are not employees of WTC and thus work without pay or expenses or any expectation of pay or expenses. They do not have the authority to represent Wirksworth Town Council in an official capacity or make any commitment on their behalf.

All volunteers are covered by Wirksworth Town Council's insurance whilst engaged in work on our behalf on The Meadows.

Wirksworth Town Council reserves the right to terminate its relationship with a volunteer at any time.

This is not a contractual agreement and Wirksworth Town Council reserves the right to change the policy at any time.

This policy does not apply to students on work placements who would make individual arrangements with the Town Council office.

This policy will be reviewed annually with changes as appropriate.