



## **Dosthill and Two Gates Residents' Association**

### **Background Information for It's Your Neighbourhood Judging on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

#### **Dosthill and Two Gates Residents' Association**

The Dosthill and Two Gates Residents' Association was formed in 2015 and covers the Dosthill and Two Gates villages of the Trinity Ward of Tamworth Borough Council (TBC). Residents meet monthly to tackle local issues and raise money to carry out minor projects in the area.

#### **The Broom, Dosthill**

Over two years ago, the Association decided to focus on improving 'The Broom' - a piece of green open space which is held under the Charities and Trusts Committee of Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and gifted to the community. It is used daily by local residents, schoolchildren, dog walkers etc. Dosthill Primary Academy uses the grassed area for sports and TBC cuts the grass, however general maintenance and improvement works around the edges of The Broom eg bramble clearance, trees, bushes etc., were not being attended to, so the Association stepped in to help.

Early work included the removal of dead trees, branches and brambles and some of the dead tree trunks were carved out and used as planters for Spring bulbs and flowers throughout the year. Hedging, a wide variety of shrubs and wild-flower seeds have also been planted over the years, with help from the Dosthill Womens' Institute (WI), Footsteps (nursery) Gardening Club, Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, together with funding from SCC and donations.

There is a weekly Task Group Day and litter picks are now regularly carried out using litter pickers, recently purchased by the Residents' Association. We have a compost bin and children have recently made containers to collect rainwater for our gardening activities.

Improvement works continue on the section of Public Footpath '80', which runs through The Broom and there are plans for further signage and an information panel to improve navigation and encourage walking and healthier lifestyles. The three benches installed in The Broom, (funded by the Dosthill WI, Dosthill Primary Academy and the Residents' Association), enable walkers to take a rest and enjoy our lovely open space and also see our 'Stick Man', Dementia Awareness Tree, First World War remembrance display and our home made bug hotel. A Bat box is also planned.

The Association is also working with SCC and other local Groups and landowners to further promote Public Footpath '73', which leads on from Footpath '80', to connect Dosthill village to the Nature Reserve and the RSPB at Middleton Lakes.

#### **Promotion and Events**

Events are being organised to encourage the local community to use The Broom and these are promoted through our Facebook page *Dosthill and Two Gates Residents Association*. In August 2018, the Residents' Association held its first *Picnic on the Broom*, where many came along with picnics and games and enjoyed an afternoon together. We were also joined by all three of our local TBC Councillors. Another *Picnic on the Broom* has been organised for this August.

In May this year, the Dosthill Open Gardens Weekend was held, organised by the Dosthill WI. Lots of gardens and spaces (including The Broom) were open for viewing and enjoyment, together with events and refreshments. A number of local Clubs and businesses supported the weekend and nearly £800 was raised for local good causes.

The Judges' feedback for Tamworth in Bloom 2018 suggested that local communities be encouraged to enter the *It's Your Neighbourhood* (IYN) campaign. In direct response to this, we have entered IYN for the first time this year and look forward to meeting our Assessor, Paul Ash on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019.