

Supplementary Item – Darlands Nature Reserve – Funding required £17,400 + VAT

Councillor Caroline Stock and Councillor Val Duschinsky put in a joint application to restore the paths around the Darlands Nature Reserve lake on the 26th January 2023 and it was unanimously approved by the committee members. The work has now commenced as it needs to be done before the weather deteriorates in September/October.

The Council has additionally funded path works of many of the surrounding paths that lead into the Darlands Nature Reserve. Once the approved work on the reserve is completed on the newly funded areas it will leave one last section of path that is not restored.

The Darlands path restoration starts at Woodside Park and allows residents to access the area both from the Dollis Valley Green Walk and from Mill Hill. The paths then goes around the lake and leads onto the Totteridge St Andrew's Church path, which then cuts across the field to join the new Ridgeway development at Mill Hill. During the winter months this last section gets extremely muddy and makes access to the reserve difficult. Bush Wheeler have given an estimate of £17,400 + VAT to finish this last section. Councillor Stock and Councillor Duschinsky are happy for this to be split between the two wards. Since the paths works have started residents have been writing to them both as they are so delighted that the paths can be used all year round.

The Darlands Nature Reserve is visited by hundreds of people a week who have discovered this gem during the difficult period of Covid Lockdown. It is also makes up part of the London Borough of Barnet's Health Heritage walks and not only serves runners and walkers but is extremely important for mental health. The new developments at Whetstone, Millbrook Park and the Ridgeway Development have increased footfall by thousands of residents. There has just been approval of a retirement complex for another 1,000 residents recently in Mill Hill. Additionally, the Millbrook Park development is still expanding. Therefore, both Councillors Stock and Duschinsky both hope that this top up, which will now complete the accessible pathways can be looked at favourably.

Previous report & application can be viewed here: [North - Area Committee- NCIL Members Items - 26 Jan 2023 Published.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)