Earlswood Causeway Public Amenity Working Party

What's happening at Earlswood Causeway? 🌿
From places to pause and enjoy the wildlife to making routes accessible for everyone, the Earlswood Causeway Public Amenity Working Party is exploring how the area can be improved for the community. Whilst instigated by the upcoming trial closure, the group is also looking beyond just the Causeway to the wider area of The Lakes to improve the facility for the future. Residents and councillors met on 15 October to share ideas, raise questions and agree three priorities: **accessibility, biodiversity and safety.**

First, an important clarification: Warwickshire County Council - not the Parish Council - is responsible for the trial closure to vehicle traffic. The meeting heard that a temporary traffic regulation order had been approved for a trial potentially lasting up to 18 months, but its start date, design, monitoring arrangements and exact duration were still awaiting confirmation. Whilst the Parish Council has supported a closure in principle, as a possible way to improve public amenity, it has not been formally consulted and requires more information to reach a fully informed view.

The working party has not taken a position on whether a closure should become permanent.

So, what was put forward during the initial session to be explored further?
🪴 **A welcoming space:** removable planters, benches, nature information, bird-viewing points and walking-route signs - ideas that could be reused elsewhere in the parish if the trial does not become permanent.
♿ **Access for everyone:** clear routes for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs, alongside questions about cyclists, horse riders and how emergency access would work in practice.
🌿 **Safety:** checking existing life-saving equipment and any gaps and weighing up whether low-impact lighting could improve visibility without disturbing wildlife or changing the character of the lakes. Investigation of CCTV possibilities was also raised.
🚚 **The surrounding roads:** advance warning signs, monitoring traffic and parking on Valley Road and Springbrook, and concerns about the Valley Road steps and school-bus stopping points.

These are ideas for investigation, not approved projects. The working party makes recommendations; it cannot authorise works or spending. Proposals would need approval from the Canal & River Trust, which owns the causeway, and Warwickshire County Council, which manages the road.

What happens next—and how can you get involved?
The next steps are to request a clear update from Warwickshire County Council on the trial's timing, design, access, consultation, monitoring and budgets. A further meeting will take place once meaningful clarification is available.

The working party is open to wider participation, and different views are welcome. The aim is to bring residents' questions and priorities together so if you would like to contribute ideas or get involved, please contact the Clerk.

#Earlswood #EarlswoodCauseway #CommunityUpdate

