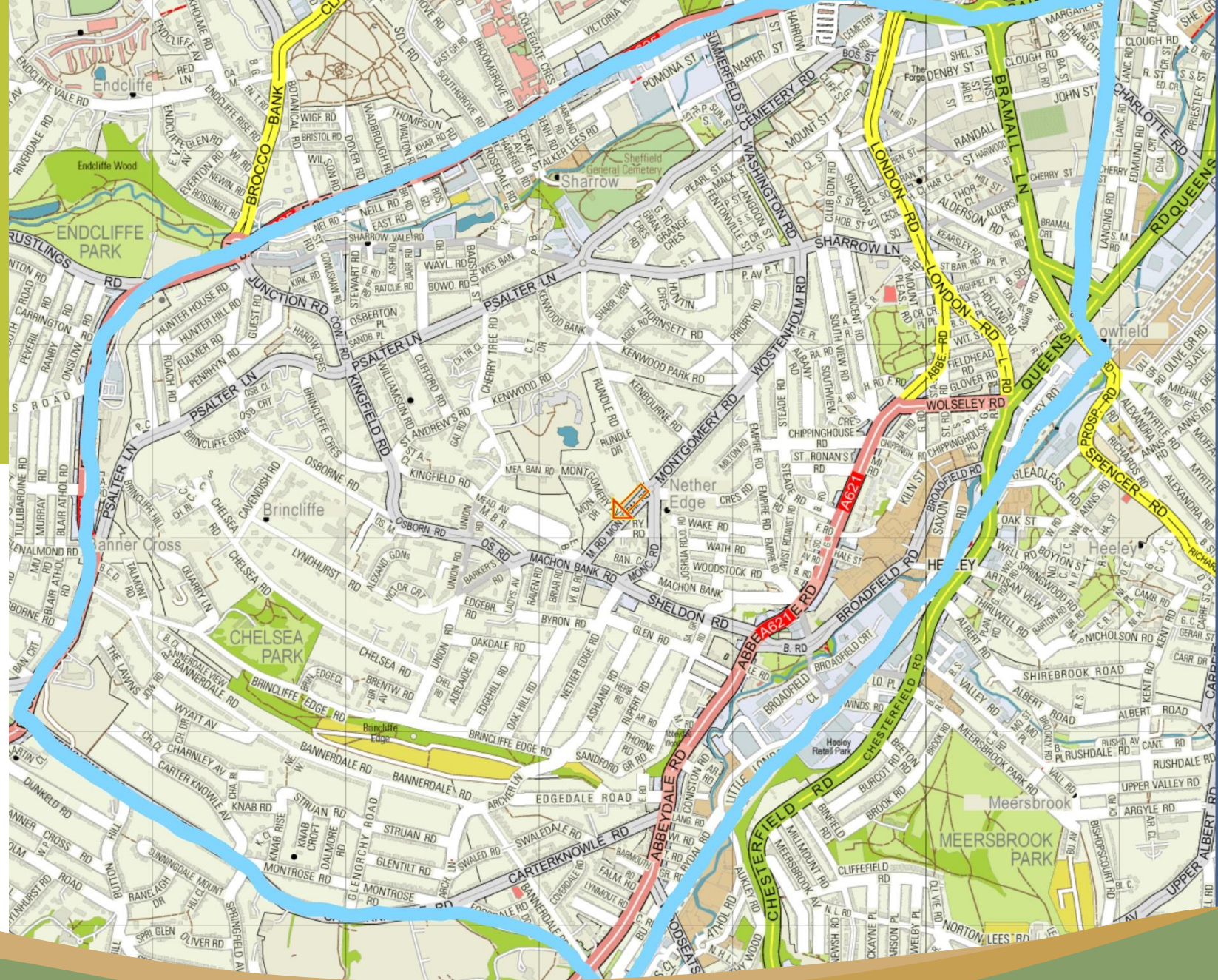


Welcome to the fourth

# Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation (NESST)

## Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024



NESST, Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation, is a common endeavour by the community of Nether Edge and Sharrow to watch over, maintain and improve our urban environment.

# Agenda

## **Formal Business**

- Chairperson's Report on NESST's Achievements in the last year – Paul Selby
- Treasurer's Report on NESST's financial situation – Jo Millett
- Election of NESST Committee Members – Paul Selby

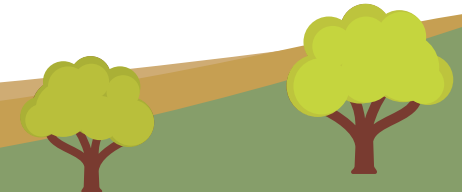
## **Presentation**

- Insect Decline: What does European butterfly research tell us? – Paul Selby



# Chairperson's Report – Paul Selby

- Continuing the work of our predecessor organisation, Save Nether Edge Trees (SNET), to ensure the 160 street trees in our area that the Council aimed to fell, were not actually felled. 70% of these are now formally saved. However, the remaining threatened trees are perhaps more at risk than they were last year. There is a genuine risk we may need to carry out Peaceful Protest again. 😞
- Continuing to work with Sheffield Council to persuade them not to fell 20+ large trees on Washington Road and Cemetery Road as part of the Connecting Sheffield initiative.
- Ensured most of the 256 additional street trees planted in the NESST area since early 2022 survived. The first 76 of these have now survived 3 summers and so have been formally adopted onto the Highways Network, and are fully the responsibility of Amey.
- Coordinated efforts to fund a further 43 street trees in the NESST area, 100% of which are on roads which had no street trees prior to 2022. These will be planted between November 2024 and February 2025.
- 10 of those 43 new trees will be in Highfield/Lowfield, 8 of which will be outside of Lowfield Primary School, the most polluted school in Sheffield.
- Increasing NESST membership by another 11% in the last 12 months, to just under 520 members.
- We're beginning to see the impacts of the 543 Buckthorn whips we coordinated the planting of, in 2021. More Brimstone's are being seen. The population "explosion" won't be seen until 2026-2031.
- We've continued to update the data in the map of all the 309 green & brown spaces in the NESST area, of various sizes.
- Continued to lead the S7 Swift initiative, and coordinated the erection of over 30 Swift nest boxes in the S7 postcode area.

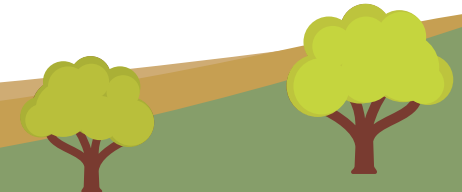


# Chairperson's Report – Paul Selby

- Continued the monthly Educational Talks/Walks, including:
  - Winter Flowering Nectar Plants (Talk and Xmas Social)
  - Heat Pumps: Busting the Myths (Talk)
  - All about Swifts (Talk)
  - The new street trees in Highfield and Lowfield (Walk)
  - Where is the River Banner (Walk)
  - Insects in the City (Talk)
  - The Lost Brooks of Nether Edge (Walk)
  - Plants: Earning their place in the city (Talk)
  - Street Trees and Biodiversity (Talk)
  - ~~Bringing land and buildings into community ownership (Talk)~~
- The NESST House Sparrow sub-group carried out a second survey in April and May to track the population changes in the NESST area since 2022. Thirty members took part. Results show House Sparrows declining in some areas though overall there was no significant difference. The group is in the process of planning a new strategy based on the results. They continue to provide nest boxes.

## Woodhead Road Planter

- As part of the strategy to support insect populations, the House Sparrow group took on stewardship of a large neglected planter on Woodhead Road, supported by the council and local residents. The group successfully applied for a Grow Wild Community Grant from Kew Gardens of £2000, covering the costs of garden design and plants - mostly native wildflowers, with a tree to be planted over the coming winter. Residents have been active in watering and caring for the planter.
- This project has been an important step to working in one of the less green areas of NESST and has involved many volunteer hours and co-operation with residents, with the intention of inspiring further community take overs of neglected spaces in the area. A celebratory event was held on 29th September.
- As NESST carries out more gardening based projects, so the need for more long term maintenance grows. Volunteers will always be needed to support these activities.

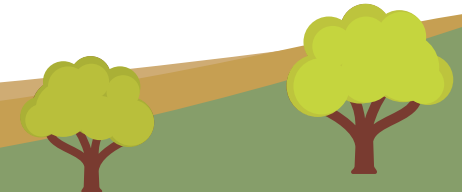


# Chairperson's Report – Paul Selby

## Chelsea Park

- In Chelsea Park, in collaboration with Sheffield Council Parks and the Friends of Chelsea Park, NESST volunteers have worked on creating:
  - a new perennial wildflower meadow
  - a native hedge
  - a wildlife garden with trees and nectar rich shrubs and perennials, particularly for early pollinators.
- Last December 7 trees were planted. The work of clearing grass and planting is taking place this month.
- These projects have been supported by a grant from Localgiving and two grants from the Local Area Committee, which cover the cost of the plants and seeds, but all projects are only possible with volunteer help.

- All of the achievements above are just in the last 12 months. A fantastic set of achievements from such a small community group.
- However:
  - These achievements are only occurring because of the coordinating activities of a very small number of people.
  - We have the administration capacity and membership willingness to do many great things if we call upon them to act.
  - But we have virtually no coordinating capacity at all, and so we aren't calling upon members to act as much as we could.
  - NESST is therefore not yet fulfilling its full potential.
  - If we don't get more volunteers willing to coordinate initiatives, either from existing Committee Members or new Committee Members, we will have to retrench further and focus only on one or two priorities.



# Treasurer's Report – Jo Millett

Previous balance 17th October 2023: £80,275.96

Income 18th October 2023 to 10th October 2024: £40,897.16

Expenditure 18th October 2023 to 10th October 2024: £96,598.36

Balance as of 10th October 2024: £24,574.76

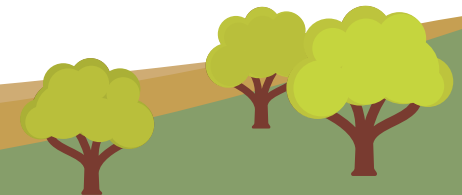
## Income

- £20,000 donation for street trees from Bluebell Energy
- £865 donation from Alison Teal
- £200 anonymous donation for general funds
- £14,927.12 raised through Localgiving Crowdfunders and other donations for street trees
- £500 Magic Little Grant for meadows and hedges project
- £1,125 Local Area Committee grants for Chelsea Park Wildlife garden
- £2,000 Grow Wild Community Grant from Kew Gardens for Woodhead Road Wildlife garden
- £561.65 raised from farmers' markets proceeds, card sales and sparrow nest box sales
- £718.39 interest on savings

## Expenditure

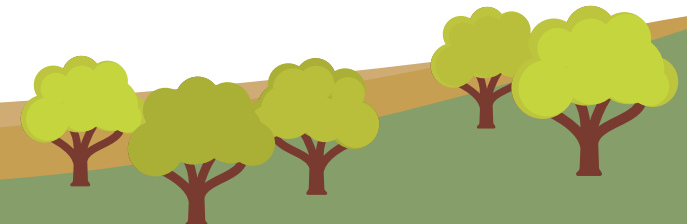
- £23,461 payment to Sheffield City Council for street trees planted 2022/23
- £33,570 payment to SCC for street trees planted 2023/24
- £35,385 payment to SCC for Urban Tree Challenge Fund trees
- £640 to replace two failed street trees
- £772.93 House Sparrow box materials & fitting fees, Chelsea Park expenditure
- £392.63 Repayment of donations and gift aid
- £593.60 on fees for talks, room hire, bank charges, Public Liability Insurance and membership of Localgiving
- £1,783.20 of Woodhead Road planter costs

We are still awaiting payment from The Urban Tree Challenge Fund Grant, to pay for the planting costs of the 70 trees planted in Highfield / Lowfield in February



# Election of NESST Committee Members

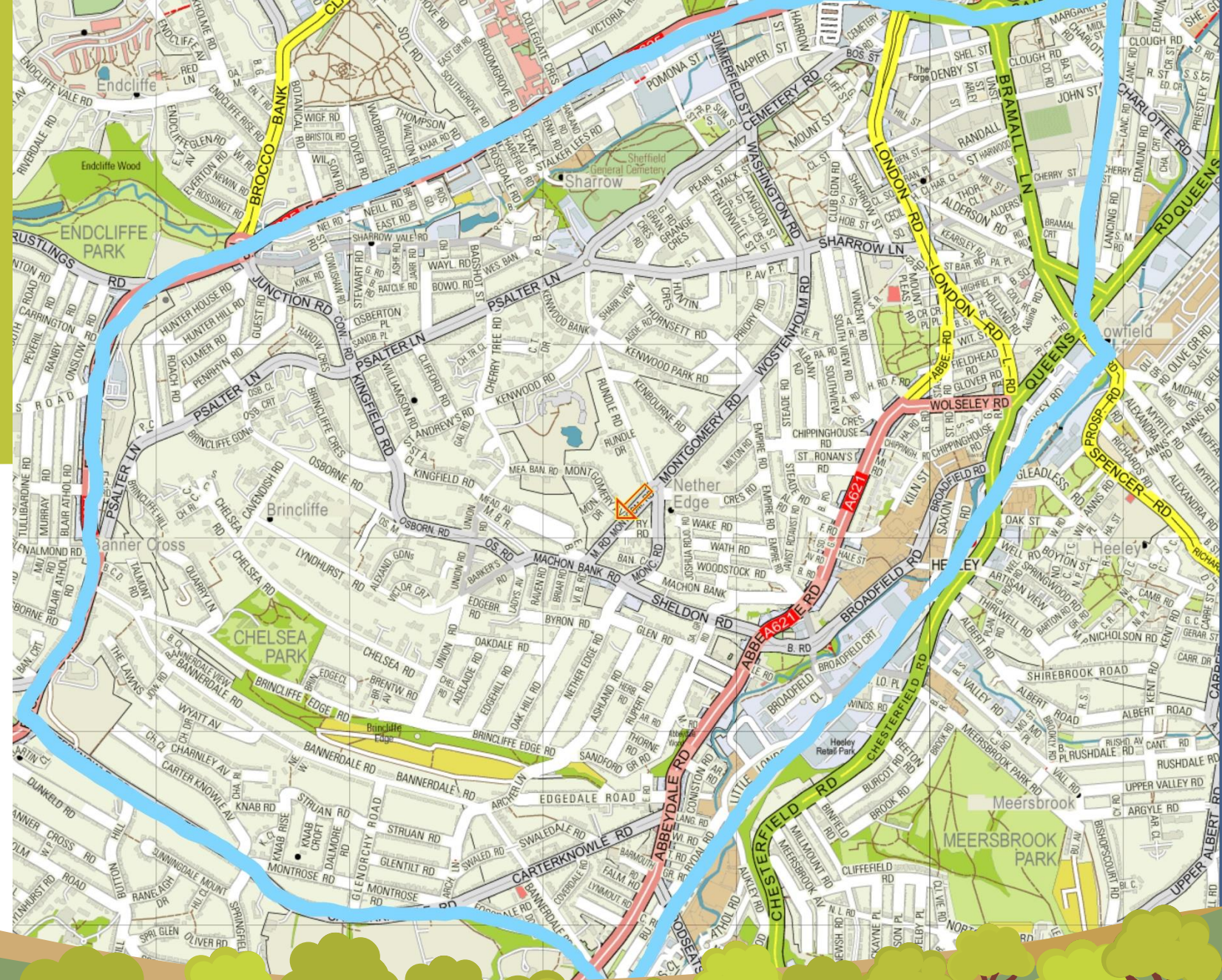
| Role                                     | Current Committee Member | Proposed Committee Member |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Chairperson</b>                       | Paul Selby               | <b>Paul Selby</b>         |
| <b>General Secretary</b>                 | Helen Kemp               | <b>Helen Kemp</b>         |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                         | Jo Millett               | <b>Jo Millett</b>         |
| <b>Vice Chairperson</b>                  | (Vacant)                 | (Vacant)                  |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>              | (Vacant)                 | (Vacant)                  |
| <b>Equal Opportunities and Diversity</b> | (Vacant)                 | (Vacant)                  |
| <b>Education and Outreach</b>            | (Vacant)                 | (Vacant)                  |



Thank you for attending the  
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Sustainable Transformation  
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Annual General Meeting

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