



# THAKEHAM

Ref: WH/Let/Ben01/Updated

20 October 2022

## **\*\*Temporary Closure of Ben's Wood to Public\*\***

Dear Residents

Please be aware that as of Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022, we will need to close off Ben's Woods to commence the tree work and also creating a ditch / bund which is required for the surface water strategy.

In compliance with Health & Safety and as our duty of care, public access to Ben's Wood will be unavailable for approximately 6 weeks whilst work is commencing. This will mainly affect the residents in Northcote who have back garden gates that back directly onto the woods. We will be placing heras (metal wired) fence panels along the back gardens as a temporary measure. If the work is finished earlier than predicted, then the fences will be removed earlier.

By way of further explanation here is a quote from our the ecologist we are consulting with:

*'Proactive woodland management will be undertaken within Benswood over the next few weeks, not only to ensure the ongoing safety for visitors, but also to increase the biodiversity value of the site by introducing coppice management in certain areas. This will involve cutting some of the trees back to ground level which will encourage new growth from the base of the tree, creating dense new foliage which will hopefully be exploited by a number of new species. It will also allow increased light to reach the woodland floor which will encourage new flowering plants.'*

*Works are also planned to improve the ponds by opening up the banks and removing some of the silt which has accumulated over the years.*

*All the works are being undertaken in line with the Benswood SANG Management Plan, which has been approved by the Council'*

Thakeham are sorry for any inconvenience caused and thank you in advance for your patience in this matter.

Kindest regards

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