

## **Fairford**

### **Basic Goal**

The ERDF Wild Towns project will improve access to greenspaces around Fairford through installation of accessible paths and a sensory garden, biodiversity will also be improved through planting of wildflowers and management of water ways for species such as Otter, Kingfisher and Water voles.

### **Vision Statement**

The ERDF Wild Towns Project will improve access for the people of Fairford and its visitors to greenspaces around the town and improve greenspaces for wildlife. Through ERDF Wild Towns, the path running along the banks of the River Coln will be regraded, making it accessible to all throughout the year. The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group will also be carrying out river bank restoration along stretches of the path that have been identified to ensure bank stability and habitat for various riparian plants and animals. This idyllic stretch of river plays host to Water Voles, Kingfisher and Otters. To improve this habitat, works will be happening to the south of the path, this will involve pollarding willows to reduce overshadowing of the river and marginal vegetation planting which will provide food and shelter to the water voles.

The project will be installing a sensory garden and wildflower meadow areas in the Walnut field. This will be somewhere for people to have all their senses stimulated, providing sounds, smells, visuals and tastes. This will be a great area for parents to take their children to immerse them in nature.

Along with these new features there will be a variety of other works that will be taking place in and around the town. This will involve ditch restoration around the Northern edge of Fairford along with hedge restoration to go with this to improve the habitat for birds, mammals and invertebrates. Bat and Barn Owl boxes will also be installed around the town, providing roosting and nesting opportunities to strengthen their populations in the area. Town centre greening will also take place, this will involve the installation of flower beds, pots and raised bed around the town to make this picturesque town even more colourful.