

GRAFFITI SCREENING IN DIGBY PARK

As part of the Big Tidy Up celebrations Constituency Parks Manager for Hodge Hill, Pat Tarry, and Quadron were out in force on Sunday 20th February planting Virginia Creepers along a section of fence in Digby Park.



Virginia Creepers ready to be planted into prepared planting holes along the fence line



Planting up the Virginia Creepers

The section of fence in question is frequently targeted by graffiti 'artists' and local residents were becoming increasingly frustrated with the unsightly mess that was spoiling their enjoyment of the park. It was, therefore, decided to screen the graffiti by planting climbers along the fence in order to discourage it whilst at the same time encourage more biodiversity into the park.



Quadron's Andy Pember firming in the newly planted Creepers.



Virginia Creepers along the fence line

The planting initiative was supervised by Andy Pember - Quadron's newly appointed Leading Hand for the Hodge Hill Constituency – who along with his team ensured that the ground was suitably prepared before planting commenced.



Well rotted leaf mould is used around the new plants to help them get off to a flying start and to retain moisture during periods of drought

Over one hundred plants were planted in total with three different varieties of Virginia Creeper being used. These were *parthenocissus henryana*, *p. quinquefolia* and *p. tricuspidata*. All of the varieties have exceptional autumn colour, turning a brilliant scarlet before the foliage falls in late autumn.

It is hoped that come the spring when the Creepers begin to leaf up the view for the park users will be a lot greener and more pleasant.