

# Merstham Recreation Ground Refurbishment

## Newsletter

We have good news! Reigate & Banstead Borough Councillors have approved the funding to deliver the project and design proposals for Merstham Recreation Ground Refurbishment. We are now almost ready to submit a detailed planning application for the scheme. We want to share the designs ahead of the planning submission.

## The proposals

The emerging design has been informed by the feedback gathered since September 2020, from the community through a number of routes, such as surveys and discussion groups.

We have placed the main facilities all together in a central location to be convenient to users and to keep a large space for sports pitches. We have added all weather paths, including a circular walking and fitness route around the edge of the park, and paths across Merstham Rec for easy access through the Rec for residents.

The proposals include a new play area, youth space, outdoor gym, picnic area and community orchard. This helps define the Recreation Ground as a central 'green heart' in Merstham.

The proposed works to be delivered, within the available budget, are:



- New network of footpaths
- New play area and youth space
- Outdoor gym
- New pavilion to include a café kiosk, toilets and changing rooms
- New planting, trees, woodland and orchard
- Swales and water management works to mitigate flooding of the Rec



## New play area

Ambitions for the new play area are:

- Accessible for all - achieve 'Plan Inclusive Play Areas' gold accreditation
- Delivering fun, challenging play, to allow all stages of development and to be able to enjoy the space together
- Use of natural elements and formal equipment
- Sensory play opportunities: use of colour, texture, sound, smell
- Robust and easy to maintain.





## New youth area

Ambitions for the new youth area are:

- A parkour course – an area that young people (12s and over) will want to use to hang out and be active in. A facility that offers something different to what is already available locally
- To include shelter – provide a protected area for use in bad weather
- Design in cooperation with parkour specialist to maximise play value.



## A new pavilion

The new pavilion will include changing rooms (for two teams), a refreshments kiosk and toilets (including disabled and baby changing facilities). The ambitions for the pavilion are:

- Provide quality facilities to support sports users, with hot showers and heated changing rooms
- Functional but attractive building that is environmentally sustainable and improve biodiversity using solar panels and an ecological 'green roof'.





## Improving drainage – swales and water channel east of the Rec

(Subject to Surrey County Council funding)

- The proposals include swales (landscaped sunken areas) to help drain the Rec and surrounding areas (especially in Weldon Way)
- Works to the water channel (east of the Rec, end of Weldon Way). These include widening the water channel so it can accommodate larger volume of water during heavy rain
- Increasing the amount and quality of native planting within Merstham Rec
- Improving people's access to and contact with nature and water.



### What happens next?

- We aim to submit the Planning Application in December and hope to achieve planning permission in February 2022.
- In spring 2022 we will develop the technical design and appoint a contractor to construct the scheme.
- The selected contractor will then start work in the summer 2022.
- If you have any comments or need any additional information, please contact us on the project email address: **[MersthamRec@reigate-banstead.gov.uk](mailto:MersthamRec@reigate-banstead.gov.uk)**