

Merstham Rec

July 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Merstham Rec refurbishment newsletter. Read on for an update on our open space project in Merstham.

The works started on site on 13 May and are expected to be complete in February 2025. They will provide:

- a new pavilion with a café kiosk, toilets and changing rooms, with solar panels and a green roof
- a new play area with equipment for children of all ages and abilities
- a parkour course for over 12s
- an outdoor gym
- an improved network of footpaths with better accessibility for wheelchairs and buggies
- a picnic area and community orchard
- new trees, landscaping and swales (ditches) to improve drainage.

In this newsletter you can read about:

- Progress on site so far
- What is happening next
- Blakedown Landscapes, the contractor
- Meet Martin, the Contract Manager working on site
- The new football pitch at Battlebridge Rec
- How to keep in touch.



Progress on site

Since our contractor, Blakedown Landscapes, took possession of the site, they have set up the site facilities, installed the temporary access road for the contractor vehicles and created a storage area for materials and equipment.

The works started with stripping the topsoil on various areas for the construction of the new play area, pavilion and new footpaths.

Some of the new footpaths have been excavated and edging installed. They have also started installing drainage pipes across the landscape to deliver the site wide drainage system.

What is happening next

During the next five to six weeks, the contractor will:

- Complete the site wide drainage system
- Install the foundations for the pavilion
- Install the pavilion base (beam and block floor)
- Install drainage to pavilion
- Continue to deliver the site-wide footpaths.



About Blakedown Landscapes

Blakedown Landscapes, the Council's contractor for the Merstham Rec project, is an award-winning landscaping, civil engineering and sports facility construction specialist, delivering outstanding, high-quality projects throughout the UK.

With over 50 years' experience, they pride themselves on commitment to excellence, closely collaborating with clients to ensure budgets, deadlines, goals and expectations are met.

Their services include landscape construction, environmental improvements, playground construction, grounds maintenance, and the construction, planning, consultancy, design, build and maintenance of all variations of sports facilities.

Recent projects include:

- Brooklands Park
- Hainault Forest Country Park
- Shoreditch Park

More information on their website:
blakedown.co.uk/about-us



Meet Martin, the Contract Manager working on site



We are delighted to introduce you to Martin Wiles, your dedicated Contract Manager on the Merstham Recreation Ground project. Martin boasts an impressive 25 years of experience in the landscaping industry, his extensive knowledge and expertise making him an invaluable asset to the Blakedown Team.

Martin joined Blakedown in 2021 and since then he has been instrumental in driving the business forward. His understanding of the industry, together with his commitment to delivering excellence, has consistently resulted in successful projects.

In his role as Contract Manager for Merstham Recreation, Martin will oversee the overall management and act as one of the key communication channels for the Reigate & Banstead client team.

New football pitch at Battlebridge Rec update

The conversion and extension of the disused bowling green at Battlebridge Recreation Ground into a small football pitch (junior pitch U9-10), is ongoing.

After a slow start due to poor weather, the works are now progressing well. Most of the earth works have been completed, which included introducing over 400 tons of quality new topsoil.

In the next couple of weeks, the contractor will install drainage (lateral drains), add around 200 tons of sports sand and seed the grass. Works are expected to be completed by end of June, with the grass establishment continuing over the Summer.



How to keep in touch

We will be issuing a newsletter every 5 to 6 weeks to provide regular progress updates on the project. You will be able to read this and future editions of the newsletter on our website.

You can also keep in touch with us in a variety of ways:

Website: reigate-banstead.gov.uk/Merstham-Rec

Email: MersthamRec@reigate-banstead.gov.uk