July 2026 Update

NCIL funding secured for Sustainable Drainage improvements

We're delighted to share that we have successfully secured **£50,000 of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) funding**.

This funding will enable us to complete the site's masterplan and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) design, as well as deliver the first phase of SuDS improvements on site. These initial works will include the creation of an initial set of swales and basins to help manage surface water and reduce flooding, together with wildflower meadow planting to enhance biodiversity and create valuable habitat for wildlife.

Future phases of the project, including potential play features, will be subject to securing additional funding.

Ecology walk and community engagement

On **Sunday 13 September**, we will be hosting:

- **Ecology walk:** 11am to 1pm
- **Masterplan and SuDS engagement session:** 1pm to 3pm

The engagement session will give local residents an opportunity to help shape the developing masterplan and SuDS proposals.

Booking details for the ecology walk will be available in August, and we will share further information soon.

Relaxed mowing areas

We have introduced areas of relaxed mowing across the Recreation Ground to support wildlife, create greater landscape diversity, and add seasonal interest to the site.

To balance these benefits with visitor safety, the design includes mown edges along pathways and fire breaks to help reduce fire risk.

We also worked closely with the local school to adapt the mowing areas, ensuring they could continue to host their Sports Day and football tournament activities.

New pond

The new pond has been very well received by visitors. Information about the habitats created and the planting scheme can be found here: Have Your Say Today - Belmont Rec pond and wildlife area - Belmont Recreation Ground Masterplan.

The pond will provide valuable wetland habitat for wildlife and form an important part of the site's wider biodiversity improvements. To find out more, please sign up to the ecology walk when tickets are released.