What’s going on around Belle Vue Park?

Last year we shared proposals for the development of the derelict former swimming pool and a small part of the park as part of the Delivering a Vision of Prosperity for Sudbury action plan.

Why are you doing this?

We want to:

- regenerate the redundant swimming pool and adjacent buildings
- deliver a new hotel and restaurant for Sudbury, supporting the Sudbury Vision; attracting tourists and visitors to the town and creating new jobs
- preserve and enhance Belle Vue Park for visitors as well as our community
- enhance access to the park with public rights of way maintained throughout the hotel/restaurant development
- retain Belle Vue House for future alternative use
Where is the proposed development?

This drawing shows the development boundary, in other words, the area which could potentially be developed.

This area includes the derelict former swimming pool, land where the vandalised aviaries stood, the existing toilet block, a former boiler house and diesel tank, Belle Vue House car park and – possibly – an adjacent small children’s play area consisting of a small climbing frame, wooden car and rope pyramid.

The former swimming pool site and existing toilet block within the development
The development boundary **excludes** the vast majority of the park and green areas, the skate/BMX park, the multi-use play area, the sanded play area, zip wire, Belle Vue House and gardens – and we plan to provide new amenities and equipment in the park to ensure there is no net loss of play provision.

**Why can’t you show us more detailed plans?**

Detailed plans are currently being prepared to enable a planning application to be submitted later this year. Only then will we know precisely how the areas within the development boundary will be affected and can share full details publicly. These plans will be subject to public consultation through the planning process, giving everyone the chance to see the proposals in detail and have their say.

**What will happen to the skate park?**

We have recently invested £150,000 in a new multi-use games area, completed in November 2018, and the new skate/BMX park which is due to be completed this spring.

These developments followed collaboration and feedback from Sudbury Town Council, community groups and skate park users to ensure the facilities are fit for the park which we hope will bring enjoyment to visitors for many years to come.

**What happens to play provision in the rest of the park?**

We are looking to improve play provision across the park therefore we would use this opportunity to provide new equipment and amenities – in addition to the £150,000 we’ve already spent on the new multi-use games area and skate/BMX park.

Once the new skate/BMX park opens we will be able to redesign the old skatepark area, retaining a multi-purpose hard surface space that can be used for major town and community events such as the Carnival and Party in the Park.

We also want to take this opportunity to review the fitness machines currently in the park, which will soon need replacing. We would like to consider an updated ‘trim trail’ and possible parkour unit/climbing frame which could be used for leisure or fitness.

Most importantly, we will continue to listen to the community about what facilities are required now, and in the future.

**What about toilets?**

The old toilet block is also in need of replacement and feedback from park users tells us it is not currently in the best location – especially for families with young children. This development would give us the opportunity to provide a modern facility in a more suitable location.
What will happen to Belle Vue House?

In last year’s Delivering a Vision of Prosperity for Sudbury action plan, we shared how we intended to sell Belle Vue House separately for sympathetic conversion into residential properties. This is still our plan and Belle Vue House is NOT part of this proposed redevelopment.

What will happen to the gardens of Belle Vue House?

The gardens of Belle Vue House are cherished by the local community. We are committed to preserving them. They do not form part of this proposed development nor would they form part of any future development of Belle Vue House.

What is this development worth to Sudbury?

The development would be one of the largest building projects to take place in Sudbury for many years and shows growing confidence in the town – boosting the town’s economy through increased visitor numbers, visitor spending and job creation.

Using the Government’s Employment Density Guide 2015, the future jobs created by this development are anticipated to be in the region of 35-55 jobs at the hotel and restaurant with a further estimated 15-32 jobs in the Sudbury area as a result of increased demand in the supply chain and in visitor activities, in turn boosting the town’s economy and local spending power.

Where can I find out more and have my say?

We will keep everyone updated on plans as soon as there are any developments, on our website, through our social media pages and through the local media.

When a formal planning application is submitted everyone will be able to see the plans in detail and have their say through the usual planning process.

www.babergh.gov.uk