

## Press Release

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### Lydekker Park Ponds Re-Open After Refurbishment

Harpenden Town Council has officially re-opened the ponds in Lydekker Park after a three-week refurbishment project. Harpenden Town Council, the community group Friends of Lydekker, and representatives from contractor Maydencroft Limited took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony on 15 October.

Following a tender process, the refurbishment works were carried out by Maydencroft Limited and the project was funded by Harpenden Town Council with additional support from the National Lottery Community Fund. The improvements are in line with Harpenden Town Council's three-year business plan, which aims to provide outstanding green spaces for residents.

The pond area now boasts a wheelchair accessible dipping deck – which is open for public use – and has been seeded with two wildflower meadows and manageable, non-invasive vegetation around the pond, which will come to fruition in Spring 2020. Additionally, the pond edges have been re-defined to make it safer, and the pond was split into two separate, newly lined ponds to make any future repairs to the liner both quicker and more cost-effective.

Harpenden Town Mayor Cllr Brian Ellis said, "Lydekker Park is a valuable community asset, and this refurbishment makes it an even more accessible & engaging destination for residents and community groups to enjoy."

The initial scope for the project was shaped from consultation with the Friends of Lydekker, which is a local resident group. The key factors were ease of maintenance; vegetation attractive to pollinators and other wildlife; and stone-edged planting shelves within the ponds, to both provide shelter to the inhabitants and also offer some protection to the liner itself. The Town Council will be partnering with local uniform groups, such as Scouts & Brownies, to create bug hotels which will further encourage insects in the park.

The refurbishment concluded in late September, ahead of the November deadline for the project. While the project was taking place, a temporary pond was created to safely rehome wildlife including smooth newts, frogs, pond snails, pond skaters, dragonfly nymphs, and water lilies.

The Town Council is looking forward to further utilising the beautiful park for community events, with plans underway for a public opening of the newly refurbished ponds in Spring 2020.

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#### About Harpenden Town Council

Harpenden Town Council was created in 1974 and is the largest parish in the St Albans District with a population of almost 30,000 represented by 16 Councillors across 4 Wards.