

# Abbey Green Update

Working in partnership

BeFirst

Barking & Dagenham

Issue 2: April 2024



A mosaic of a Rose & Thistle created in 1614, within the Blue Anchor Inn, was uncovered and removed in the 1990s. It has recently been recreated by Tamara Froud.

## A Steering Group for Abbey Green – WHY?

**Abbey Green** is an important public amenity and site of historic interest. It is largely comprised of *Barking Abbey Scheduled Monument*, but also incorporates two nationally listed buildings: Barking Parish Church (St Margaret's) and the Curfew Tower; also, two schools: St Joseph's RC Primary School and St Margaret's C of E Primary School. It is an Archaeological Priority Area and its historic importance within Barking is recognised through its designation as part of the *Abbey and Barking Town Centre Conservation Area*.

**The steering group aims to:** adopt a more intelligence-led approach to managing, maintaining, protecting, conserving, and improving Abbey Green. With clearly defined policies, procedures, roles and responsibilities across organisations and departments and with relevant Stakeholders; including: Promoting and adhering to the Management Agreement with Historic England, as we seek to preserve *Barking Abbey Scheduled Monument* on behalf of the nation, for future generations.

## WHO?

The steering group will be attended by representatives of LBBD: Parks Commissioning, Parks & Environment, Heritage, Cultural Events, Specialist Services; and Be First Regeneration

## WHEN?

The next quarterly meeting will be on site with Historic England in June 2024. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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## WHAT are we doing?

- **Commissioning new heritage signage for Abbey Green:** which represents the site's history and expectations for visitors, so that local people and park users are informed of the value and role of Abbey Green. These mosaic and tile signs, by Tamara Froud, will be consistent in style and will include a map showing the boundaries of the Conservation Area, Scheduled Monument and Archaeological Priority Areas; a themed mosaic and information.
- **Updating the Management Agreement with Historic England:** *Barking Abbey Scheduled Monument* is a nationally valued site with legal protection, which the borough manages on behalf of the nation.
- **Scheduled Monument Consent:** has been obtained to move three fishing themed heritage seats from the quayside to Abbey Green play area, to provide approved and sustainable seating for park users.
- **Conservation:** Commissioning experts to repair the ancient walls, with advice from Conservation Architects.
- **Public safety and infrastructure:** Protecting the safety of pedestrians by preventing drivers from crossing public realm to access parking on Back Lane – new bollards and seating required.



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