

## First impressions; early engagement and partnerships at Manydown



Being a good neighbour and keeping our local communities well informed is vitally important from the outset for any successful development. At Manydown the nature of our partnership with Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as well as the proximity to several well-established and active local communities adds to the importance and viability of this endeavour.

Over the last twelve months Urban&Civic team members have attended numerous parish council and community group meetings, either virtually or physically where circumstances allowed, to introduce the partnership and discuss the issues that are important to neighbouring communities. We have toured the site with local councillors, council officers, ecology, archaeology and other local interest groups helping to bring the scale of areas such as the Countryside Park to life.

We have supported local initiatives such as the Hampshire Hogs project which welcomed people from the Borough out and about again to take part in a covid-safe trail around the local area whilst helping to support local artists and businesses.

Our ongoing involvement in initiatives such as the Economic Recovery Board has enabled us to contribute to potential solutions for some of the challenges facing the Borough whilst strengthening existing relationships and developing new ones.

All of these early interactions are helping us in our collective ambition to build a progressive new neighbourhood which allows residents to enjoy the best of all worlds.

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Destination Basingstoke relies on partnership working for all its projects, and our Hampshire Hogs project proved a fantastic first real step towards our aspiration of a close and productive working relationship with the Manydown Partnership as a key investor in Basingstoke's future. The enthusiasm of the Manydown Partnership team for the project demonstrates a real understanding and shared vision of bringing together the community in a creative, innovative way that builds a positive profile for Basingstoke both locally and further afield. We look forward to working with the team much more in the future.”

FELICITY EDWARDS

Managing Director, Destination Basingstoke.

