

Case Study:

ST MICHAEL'S HURST

Location: Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

Size size: 26ha/300+ properties

Site Type: Service charge

Site Take on: 2019

About St Michael's Hurst

St Michael's Hurst is a new community with beautiful communal open spaces, play areas and the 16 hectare Bat Willow Hurst Country Park. These green spaces have been created to fulfil a range of shared functions such as providing safe pedestrian and cycle access routes, allowing for sustainable drainage and creating leisure and social opportunities for the benefit of the local community.

History

Much of the naming around this new development centres on the trees around the area. The name 'hurst' means a wood or wooded hill, and the country park is named Bat Willow as the willow trees in the area are used to make cricket bats.



DELIVERING CHARITABLE OUTCOMES ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

Bat Willow Hurst Country Park has tremendous potential for delivering positive outcomes for environment and biodiversity. Once a phase of remedial works have been completed we are planning on carrying out a series of Bioblitz events to better understand the variety of species that call the Country Park home. We will be encouraging residents to help create homes for nature within Bat Willow Country Park through themed events and community engagement, such as social media posts and newsletters.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

As Covid-19 restrictions hopefully ease in 2021 we plan to run a series of bat walks and health walks. These activities not only provide environment and physical and mental wellbeing benefits but have the added bonus of getting the community outside together, building new connections and forming new friendships. As the development continues to grow, we will be running environmentally themed events such as creating bird feeders and bird boxes that will help connect residents with the country park.

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

There is easy access from the local school to Bat Willow Hurst Country Park and we have plans to develop this relationship in the future, develop some education pack materials and explore the possibility of creating an outdoor classroom.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Bat Willow Hurst Country Park is a popular spot for residents and the local community to use for a walk and is part of the Waterside Stortford route which is promoted by the council.

ECONOMIC VITALITY

We use local contractors to manage the public open spaces at St Michael's Hurst which provides a boost to the local economy. We are currently exploring the possibility of creating some opportunities for young people on site including apprenticeships.

If you would like any further information about the work we do at St Michael's Hurst please contact the Estates Manager Lauren Hull
at laurenhull@thelandtrust.org.uk.

