

Hilltop Golf Course redevelopment- December 2023

1. Overview

Hilltop Golf Course which is operated by Mytime Active is currently being redeveloped in partnership with Birmingham City Council and Oakland Golf & Leisure. The new layout will include a 9-hole Par 3 Golf Course, floodlit driving range (22 bays), modernised clubhouse facility and a new car park with 100 spaces. Mytime Active are investing over £1.2 million in the project which is being constructed by Oakland Golf & Leisure. The expertly designed course will feature sustainability features such as water harvesting and improved biodiversity.

This large scale redevelopment of the course topography has seen to date just over 17,000 tonnes of new soil. This is 50% of the total being utilised in the new course design. The soil has been utilised from local building developments and recycled to construct areas of the course including tees, fairways, greens, bunkers, and the driving range.

2. Environmental Sustainability

There is a particular emphasis on ensuring the design helps Mytime Active to deliver on their environmental sustainability agenda. This includes:

- the preservation and creation of habitats friendly to native wildlife, birds, and shrews. Installation of nesting boxes and birdhouses to encourage nesting by cavity-nesting birds. These structures provide safe spaces for birds to raise their young;
- the creation of natural rainwater reservoirs that can supplement the golf courses watering requirements, reducing the need for external sources;
- A substantial replanting scheme which creates a larger native woodland area, complimenting new water bodies and existing landscaping;
- Implement water conservation practices, such as using drought-tolerant grass species and employing efficient irrigation systems. This helps to conserve water resources and maintain natural hydrological cycles;
- Reduce the frequency and extent of mowing in certain areas to allow natural habitats to flourish. Long grass areas can provide shelter and food for small mammals, insects, and birds;
- Review our golf courses and bunkers and where the removal of a bunker will have negligible effect on the game of golf, will remove and either plant native plants or turf;
- Promote environmental education and awareness among golfers, staff, and members. Encourage responsible behaviour, such as avoiding littering and respecting wildlife habitats;
- Assess the ecological health and biodiversity of the golf course;
- Monitor the success of biodiversity initiatives and adjust as necessary to achieve the desired outcomes;

3. Physical Activity

In addition to environmental objectives the scheme will provide opportunities to facilitate improved physical activity provision for residents. The creation of a new par 3 course and driving range will attract beginners into the game of Golf. These activities are ideal to create a pathway into Golf which will

support people on their journey into playing on 18-hole golf courses and becoming members of Mytime Active.

The facility will play an integral part in the Midlands Wellbeing Hub. It will be a facility that will be used to deliver health related programmes with a link to participation in golf. The facility is ideal for people rehabilitating back to health good as well as those who want to learn the game and take their first steps into or back into physical activity. This gives Mytime Activity the opportunity to deliver golf and health initiatives in partnership with a variety of stakeholders including England Golf, PGA, GP's, Voluntary Sector groups who may have funding to contribute to delivery of initiatives.

