

PRESS RELEASE



3rd August 2026

For Immediate Release

Press Release as PDF attached

Contemporary pictures of Ryebank Fields attached

Images Credit: Jay Clarke

IT'S SUMMERTIME ON RYEBANK FIELDS... MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL, WHEN DOES YOUR SUMMER END?

"The Council cannot confirm which Planning Committee the application will be reported to until the final agenda is set which is 5 working days before the actual Committee. However please let me reassure you that the Council is working towards the application being determined before the end of the summer." (Rebecca Heron, Strategic Director for Growth and Development, Manchester City Council, in an email to Ryebank Fields Community Group on 16th July 2026)

Two planning applications sit undecided. One to keep the green space, the other to build on this nature rich place with no confirmed plan for replacing what would be lost...This is not about opposing housing. Manchester's own Full Council confirmed there is enough brownfield land to meet housing targets to 2040... (Chantal Kerr- Shepherd, Chorlton Ward Councillor on Facebook, 29th July 2026)

We have now noted that the application [for retention of Ryebank Fields as a community woodland and meadow] does not appear on the agenda for the Planning Committee meeting on 6 August 2026... In these circumstances, after repeated requests for information over many months, we consider it reasonable to expect a clear explanation for the continuing delay together with a firm commitment as to when the application will be reported to Members."
(Extract from 29th July RFCG email to Tom Stannard, CEO, Manchester City Council)

Ryebank Fields Community Group (RFCG) is insisting that the timetable for its Planning Application - Ref. 143413/FO/2025 - is confirmed. Please access the link to our latest communication email to Tom Stannard [here](#). Acutely mindful of all the people who donated hard-earned money raised to develop and submit this planning application that will protect this vital wildlife corridor, RFCG is once again knocking on the City Council's door... It's time to let Ryebank Field's Summertime in!

ENDS

For further information please email ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com or call Dr Rhett Moran on 07776264646 or Tom Butler on 07833 358703

Ryebank Fields is public land that was gifted to Manchester Polytechnic (now Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)) as a sports facility in the mid-1970s. The area was formerly a clay pit for Jackson's Brickworks; it then became an unregistered tip and was remediated in 1972 under the publicly funded 'Operation Eyesore' to make it safe to walk and play on. The University abandoned Ryebank Fields in 1996, since which time this Local Green Space has naturally re-wilded into a richly biodiverse wildlife 11-acre haven tended, over four generations, by local people. Developers acting on behalf of MMU, want to destroy the land for expensive housing. Local residents and their supporters are determined to stop this attempt to cash this public land in at the expense of wildlife and humans.

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