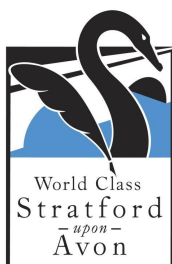


# NEWS RELEASE



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## **World Class Stratford welcomes Stratford Voice decision to withdraw challenge to Bancroft Gardens scheme**

The chairman of the World Class Stratford strategy group has welcomed the decision by Stratford Voice to withdraw a legal challenge to the re-landscaping of the Bancroft Gardens.

Cllr Les Topham said that the move was in the best interests of the town and would allow work to be rescheduled on the project, which forms part of Phase One of the World Class Stratford initiative.

“A legal challenge would have been expensive and damaging to the scheme so I am pleased that Stratford Voice has chosen not to proceed with that ill-advised course of action. Unfortunately, the threat of a challenge has already resulted in the start of the project being delayed and we now need to find a way of getting it back on schedule as soon as possible,” said Cllr Topham.

A meeting of Stratford District Council’s Executive early next week will discuss and consider the situation.

Work was due to begin on site last month, with contractors ready and a full schedule of works agreed. But the last minute emergence of Stratford Voice’s intention to seek re-classification of the Gardens as a town green under the Commons Act 2006, resulted in legal advice to suspend work until the challenge had been fully considered and passed through the legal process.

The re-landscaping of the Bancroft Gardens aims to improve its design, appearance and long-term amenity value for residents and visitors. The scheme will use high-quality materials to create an attractive and durable area able to withstand the pressures of high visitor numbers as well as the additional pressures associated with its location within the flood plain.

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