

## Belle Vue House and Pool Timeline

**1780s** - Nathaniel Burrough (Gainsborough's cousin) builds Georgian house on the Belle Vue site

**1871/2** – Belle Vue House built by Edmund Stedman after the old Georgian house on the site was pulled down

**1912** – Gifted to the Red Cross for use as a hospital.

**1914-1918** – Red Cross Hospital during the First World War.

**1922** – Sold to a private owner

**1936** – Town Council acquire Belle Vue

**1939** – Outdoor pool site opens after the closure of the Old Bathing Place on the river following an outbreak of diphtheria in the town

**1945** – Music and celebrations held at Belle Vue and Market Hill to celebrate VE day

**1966-1972** – East side of Belle Vue House is extended and internally adapted for use as a college

**1971** – Police Station building demolished on King Street to make way for the roundabout adjacent to Belle Vue

**1974** – Belle Vue ownership is passed to Babergh District Council following local government re-organisation. House was used for some local services including rents payment office for council tenants from after this date

**c.1985** – Outdoor pool closes at Belle Vue and infilled with concrete

**1987** – Kingfisher Leisure Centre and indoor pool opens in Station Road

**2005** – Skate ramps installed on Belle Vue swimming pool site

**2013** – Babergh resolves to dispose of the house and old pool site

**2015/6** – BMX ramps on swimming pool site are closed due to safety concerns

**2015-2020** – House and old pool site listed for Asset of Community Value (ACV). Park remains listed as ACV after house/pool site removed

**2016** – Citizen's Advice Bureau relocate away from Belle Vue House

**2016** – Historic England fully assess house and determine not to list (remains locally listed)

**2018/9** - Plans progress for the future of Belle Vue site incorporating hotel/restaurant

**2019** – Upgraded skatepark suitable for all wheeled sports and games area (MUGA) opens at Belle Vue Park

**2020** – Belle Vue site added to town masterplan work as hotel/restaurant proposal collapses

\* Note: Indicative only based on available information and not to be inferred as complete and full history

**Note:** The outdoor pool site sits at an elevation of over three metres above the adjacent busy traffic junction. The pool operated between 1939 and the mid-1980s, when it was then closed and concrete-filled. The site's outdoor public swim facilities were re-provided via the new build Kingfisher Leisure Centre and indoor pool in Station Road (approximately 200 metres away from Belle Vue).

Between 2005 and 2015/16 the pool site provided skate/BMX uses until closed due to safety concerns. A new purpose-built skate facility was installed within the north east area of the park in 2019.





# CONCEPT FOR NEW PARK ENTRANCE (2021 – BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL)

