

PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Photos Credit: Jay Clarke

## **Elf and Safety Warning**

### **WANTED!**

**Naughty Elf believed to be marauding on Ryebank Fields**

***Manchester Metropolitan University and Manchester City Council – is it either or both of you who should be claiming your Elf?***

### **Seasons Greetings!**

Our local artisan woodcarver and their wife have reported the theft (GMP Crime Reference: SD-9040-25-0606-03) of approximately 20 signs to the value of £500 (including of materials, labour and VAT) that were strategically placed - nay festooned - all around Ryebank Fields.

They had been sited most thoughtfully so that everyone who WALKS THE FIELDS to savour the majestic splendour of this naturally rewilded greenfield site understands that the Save Ryebank Fields Campaign means what we say: Not one blade of grass!

Please report any sightings of this Naughty Elf to:

1. Cllr Bev Craig. 2. Mayor Andy Burnham. 3. Cllr. John Hacking
4. Former MMU Chancellor Peter Mandelson.

With cc's to PC Mooney, Sergeant Gibb and [ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com](mailto:ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com)

**STOP PRESS!** Direct from the production team of the Elf Film: Prior to the thefts, the Elf is reported as having passed through the seven levels of the candy cane fields and the sea of swirly, twirly gum drops before walking through the Aspen Grove (the only one in England).

ENDS

**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: an 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 in on public land at the expense of wildlife and the community. Ryebank Fields Community Group has submitted an Alternative Planning Application to Manchester City Council for retention of Ryebank Fields as a Community Woodland and Meadow.**

**A huge thank you for your support during 2025, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**