

City Gardens Management Plan – Consultation Exercise

Part 1 – 5 minute SWOT analysis

SWOT is an acronym for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The goal is to examine internal (Strengths & Weaknesses) and external (Opportunities and Threats) that impact the City Gardens and their management:

STRENGTHS: Internal

- 1) What are the City Gardens assets? What are the strengths
- 2) Which asset is strongest?

The group responses were:

People
Workforce
Teamwork
Motivation / Highly Motivated
Health and Safety
Local Knowledge
The Best Asset is the Staff
Individual Assorted Skills
Delivering projects to a high standard and on time
Assisting the Public with their enquiries

WEAKNESSES: Internal

- 1) What areas do we need to improve on?
- 2) What necessary expertise/manpower do you currently lack?

The group responses were:

Access – Getting around the sites within the square mile
Recycling / not enough being done
Better Planning for less waste / Waste
Better Communication Needed / poor Communication – further discussion was had around communication: some felt that communication was slow in informing – not always feedback, get rid of saying 'looking into it' – More feedback was required to the gardeners on issues previously raised even to update as to where they have been left if not resolved. – follow up key
Tackle Issues Poorly
Availability of Time

OPPORTUNITIES: External

- 1) What external changes present interesting opportunities for the city Gardens Team?
- 2) What trends might impact your industry?

The group responses were:

More recycling
More Green waste
Working with Other Boroughs
Income Generation
Queens Diamond Jubilee
Olympics
Good Practice

THREATS: External

- 1) Are there any external threats that could impact the work of the City Gardens Team?
- 2) Are there ways we can overcome these?

The group responses were:

Rough Sleepers
Dogs
Hosepipe Ban / water restrictions
Weather - Drought
Budget Reductions – Economic Situation

Part 2 – Specific Questions

What do you think would be useful to have in the City Gardens Management Plan?

The group responses were:

Try completing projects instead of starting all at the same time

Do you think the key service objectives reflect the work of the team? If not what should they be?

The group responses were:

Yes, but room for improvement, especially in tackling relevant issues i.e. prevention of littering, fagbutts, dog fouling, mess from rough sleepers which may include fines and enforcement.

More monitoring and controls, skateboarders

Links to partnership working – need stronger links for partnership working with other departments to tackle the bigger on-going issues – should be emphasised

How could the management plan improve accessibility within and between the City Gardens?

The group responses were:

More electric vehicles,
Parking dispensations,
Improving accessibility information - link to plan
Improve City Gardens Plan

How can the management plan balance the water management of the City Gardens in light of the impending hosepipe ban?

The group responses were:

The use of P4 in flowers beds.
Planting drought tolerant plants
More drip systems

More discussions and Group meetings were agreed