

Committee:	Date:
West Ham Park	04 February 2019
Subject: Park Manager's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Parks and Gardens	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>This report provides an update to Members of the West Ham Park Committee on management and operational activities at West Ham Park since December 2018.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Budget and Personnel

1. The budget for West Ham Park is currently in line with anticipated expenditure for this time of year. The park currently has a full complement of full-time staff. Three planned apprentice posts remain vacant, however the park manager is working with HR and the apprenticeship team to confirm ongoing funding for these and if funding is available, re-recruit for positions later in 2019.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and events

2. Wild Schools: Planting of multi-stemmed shrubs, wildflower meadows, native hedges and dead hedges has continued over the winter months in the newly extended wildlife garden with help from apprentices from across the Open Spaces department and the Barbican Conservatory.
3. The Friends of West Ham Park have continued to be active running a series of walks, talks and events in the Park. Park in the Dark on the 7th December was a great success with over 100 attendees, the highest the park as ever seen. January 2019 was scheduled to begin with a star gazing evening, however persistent cloud resulted in the event being cancelled. It is hoped that there will be clear skies for the next star gazing evening on Friday 8th February. The friends also led two bird walks on the 19th and 20th January. This annual event aims to teach local people how to spot and identify birds ahead of the RSPB's "Big Garden Bird Watch" at the end of January. 13 local people attended on Saturday and a further 9 on Sunday. Both days brought new families that have not visited the park before.

Operational activities

4. The team have been busy collecting leaves and completing winter maintenance tasks throughout December and January. The implementation of the South Meadow project has continued with native shrub planting being completed in the new border along Portway. The installation of the new access path is scheduled for February and March, with bulbs that require planting 'in the green' for example bluebells being planted by local school children later in the spring.
5. Playground Refurbishment project: Is the subject of a separate report to this committee.
6. Cricket: The Park Manager has been involved in talks with the Essex County Cricket Board (ECCB) and Clubspark regarding an on-line platform for the booking of cricket pitches and practice nets. The ECCB would like to have an East London Portal to enable local clubs to find available grounds more easily. The park is expected to be an early pilot for this scheme during 2019 with the ECCB anticipating that it will be rolled out further across east London in 2020. A more automated booking platform would also reduce the administrative burden of cricket booking for the park as well as improving our service to clubs and teams.

Property Matters

7. Claim for Adverse Possession: Please see non-public Appendix 1 (attached).
8. Restoration work of Margery and Linden Gates.
9. The refurbishment of the cricket nets was completed on schedule before Christmas. They will remain closed during a six-week settling in period but are expected to be open from mid-February. An official launch is currently being discussed with ECCB and is expected to take place before the start of the season in April 2019.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Claim for Adverse Possession (Non-Public)

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