

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee West Ham Park Committee Epping Forest and Commons Committee Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2013  7 <sup>th</sup> October 2013 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2013 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2013
<b>Subject:</b> Green Flag Awards 2013	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Open Spaces	<b>For Decision</b>
<b><u>Summary</u></b>	
<p>Once again the City of London Open Spaces have been successful in the Green Flag and London in Bloom award schemes. This report provides information about the process and the value of these awards.</p>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	
<p>(i) That the great success achieved by the City of London's Open Spaces in the Green Flag and London in Bloom Awards is noted and reported to the Court of Common Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013.</p> <p>(ii) That the members of staff and volunteers at all the Open Spaces are congratulated on their contribution to the success in the awards.</p>	

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The Green Flag Awards are designed to recognise the best green spaces in the country. The Green Flag Scheme is owned by the Department of Communities and Local Government, who license the management of the scheme to a consortium led by Keep Britain Tidy.
2. Since 1997 the Awards have set the standard for the management of parks and green spaces. Awards are made on an annual basis, and sites must re-apply each year to maintain their status.
3. Parks and green spaces are judged against the following eight criteria:
  - **That it is a welcoming place** (judges will look for good access and good signage)

- **That it is healthy, safe and secure** (for example equipment and facilities are safe, dog fouling is addressed, adequate health and safety policies are in place)
- **That it is clean and well maintained** (policies on litter, vandalism and maintenance are in place and in practice)
- **Sustainability** (that environmentally sound techniques are used in the management)
- **Conservation and heritage** (natural features, landscapes, building and structural features are appropriately managed).
- **Community involvement** (the site should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community and have knowledge of the patterns of use of the site)
- **Marketing** (a marketing strategy should be in place and the space should be promoted as a community resource)
- **Management** (a management plan should be in place, actively implement and regularly reviewed)

### **2013/14 Green Flag Awards**

4. All of the City of London's Open Spaces were successful in retaining their Green Flag status. Nine sites received additional Green Heritage Awards: Epping Forest, Ashted Common, Kenley Common, Burnham Beeches, Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, West Ham Park, Bunhill Fields and the Cemetery and Crematorium.
5. Feedback reports from judges have been received for a majority of the sites for the green flag awards. The reports for the sites which had been received from the judges at the time of writing are attached as an appendix.

### **Other Awards**

6. Open Spaces sites have once again taken part in London in Bloom. City of London was also nominated by London in Bloom to be a finalist in Britain in Bloom for 2013. Results of both these competition were not available at the time the report was prepared, but will be available at the time of the committee meeting.

### **7. Corporate and Strategic Implications**

The achievement of Green Flag Awards supports many of the themes of the City Together Strategy relating to supporting communities, protecting, promoting and enhancing the environment and ensuring that the City is vibrant and culturally rich.

### **8. Conclusion**

The achievement of these awards provided independent recognition of the successful work of volunteers, members of staff and elected members in ensuring the Open Spaces are well managed. The Green Flag Award Scheme provides the

impetus for on-going improvement at each site and provides a good benchmark against which the quality of our sites can be measured.

The Open Spaces' success in winning these awards will be reported to the Court of Common Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

**Contact:**

Jennifer Allott  
Departmental Business Manager  
020 7332 3517  
[jennifer.allott@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.allott@cityoflondon.gov.uk)