

# Annual Working Party Review – Minutes of Gardens Advisory Group (GAG) – July 2013 – May 2014

## Gardens Advisory Group 1 July 2013

Present	Helen Davinson Michael Bennett Rosie Hardicker Louisa Allen Berthe Wallis Anne Naphthine Nancy Chessum Gillian Laidlaw Sarah Hudson Paula Tomlinson	BEO BEO Open Spaces Open Spaces Resident Resident Resident Resident Resident Resident	HD MB RH LA BW AN NC GL SH PT
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	<p><b>Remit</b> The group seemed happy with the remit as laid out previously. The different areas of garden and planting and how they are charged for was explained. This then helps to dictate the priorities for the future. The GAG will help to choose the priorities on the Estate.</p>	
	<p><b>Fann Street Garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rosie to carry out some basic Health and Safety training with group. To be held in September – more of a “toolbox talk”</li> <li>• Accessibility path. To review if funding is available for this year and possible options to include a viewing area.</li> <li>• Risk Assessments – Rosie to check format – can they be shortened /modified so they don’t run to so many pages. Complete</li> <li>• Wildlife Group to meet with BEO in September as scheduled</li> </ul>	RH  HD/BEO
	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defoe Place – large planters to south of Shakespeare not considered suitable (may well fall apart when ivy is removed). BEO now looking to replace these with concrete rings (waiting on price)</li> <li>• Could possibly use ones to north of Tower? Reviewing</li> <li>• Possible amendment of agreement for future planters to highlight that they are for produce. “edible gardens” Some planters an issue during winter in terms of how they look.</li> <li>• Litter behind planters. Less of an issue but cleaners to check more regularly</li> <li>• Some planters removed because of their condition.</li> <li>• Inspection to be held with prior notice given to holders.</li> </ul>	HD  HD
	<p><b>Walkaround</b> <b>Thomas More Lawn</b> Defoe bed being watered in addition to irrigation. Some of the new planting is dying back – gardeners to monitor. Tree that will be going in the Autumn (on advice from Open Spaces ) was agreed upon. Overall new Defoe bed planting is doing well. Some self-seeded grasses are to be left. If extra planting is required. To consider herbs such as marjoram, thyme and sage. Some areas that require weeding were point out.</p>	LA  LA

	<p>Some paving slabs that require replacement were noted.</p> <p><b>Speed Lawn</b> Looking well maintained. One border of bedding was commented on as being particularly pretty.</p> <p><b>St Giles Terrace</b> New planters now in-situ. GAG approved of planting in place. Having to be frequently watered as they are metal.</p> <p><b>Past Walkaround - update</b> Thomas More Lawn – possible site for compost bin by Girls Schools. Area to be cordoned off. Open Spaces to provide costings etc. <b>Not feasible</b> Thomas More Lawn – removal of 3 trees. Open Spaces to check re TPOs etc. BEO to double check listing issues. Notice needed for neighbouring blocks. <b>1 tree decided on following advice. To be removed in autumn.</b> <b>Open Spaces seeking further advice re. extra bird and bat boxes.</b></p>	
	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Irrigation system beneath Breton/Ben Jonson</b> This is currently still off. Large shrubs beginning to look distressed. Open Spaces will monitor and water if needed. Ongoing.</li> <li>• <b>Difficult to access areas</b> Including Frobisher Crescent Buttresses, Thomas More Hanging Gardens – BEO has spoken with Planning and putting together an application. Quotes will follow. No work can be carried out until new measures are in place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London in Bloom. July Inspections (11<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Open Squares Garden a great success with nearly 500 visitors to Fann St Gdn</li> <li>• BHS and OS 11 May event in Speed Lawn. As advertised across the estate. Gardening demonstrations and children's activities. Successful poor numbers due to weather.</li> <li>• Autumn bulb planting event for residents. <b>26.10.13</b> to be advertised. Open Spaces to order snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils. As this is the first time, will keep the event to Thomas More Lawn.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Barbican Estate Management Plan</b> Open Spaces and BEO to think about this ahead of next mtg.</li> </ul>	HD
	<p><b>Next meeting dates –</b> <b>30 September at 2pm</b> <b>Geoff to accompany walkaround</b></p>	

# Gardens Advisory Group

## 30.09.13

Helen Davinson	BEO	HD
Michael Bennett	BEO	MB
Rosie Hardicker	Open Spaces	RH
Louisa Allen	Open Spaces	LA
Geoff Rogers	Open Spaces	GR
Berthe Wallis	Resident	BW
Anne Naphine	Resident	AN
Nancy Chessum	Resident	NC
Gillian Laidlaw	Resident	GL
Sarah Hudson	Resident	SH
Paula Tomlinson	Resident	PT

	<p><b>Remit</b> The group seemed happy with the remit as laid out previously. The different areas of garden and planting and how they are charged for was explained. This then helps to dictate the priorities for the future. The GAG will help to choose the priorities on the Estate.</p>	
	<p><b>Fann Street Garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rosie to carry out some basic Health and Safety training with group. To be held in 27.11.13 – more of a “toolbox talk”</li> <li>Accessibility path. To review if funding is available for this year and possible options to include a viewing area.</li> <li>Orders for clematis and bird seed to be processed.</li> </ul>	RH
	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planters to the north of Shakespeare Tower to be converted.</li> <li>BEO to handover to group (incl w/list)</li> <li>All plot holders and w/list to be notified prior.</li> <li>Litter behind planters still an issue. HD to reiterate to cleaners</li> </ul>	HD HD/AN HD HD
	<p><b>Walkaround</b></p> <p><b>Defoe Place, Sculpture Court and Ben Jonson/Cromwell Highwalk</b> FC sculpture court – trees to come out (not suitable) Shrubs to be pruned. Buttresses – access method established. First visit in the early spring. Breton – (some tiling issues) shrubs to be pruned. Ben Jonson Highwalk planters. Bulbs and then seeded in April Residents generally very happy with the work of the gardeners.</p> <p><b>Past Walkaround – update</b> Thomas More Lawn – 1 tree to go in Autumn. Larger logs to be kept for insects. Thomas More Lawn – dying new plants will be replaced by OS</p>	OS HD HD OS

	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigation system beneath Breton/Ben Jonson</li> </ul> <p>This is currently still off. Large shrubs beginning to look distressed. Open Spaces will monitor and water if needed. Next fin year if there is an issue Barbican Centre will be recharged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to access areas</li> </ul> <p>Including Frobisher Crescent Buttresses, Thomas More Hanging Gardens – BEO has spoken with Planning and putting together an application. Quotes will follow. No work can be carried out until new measures are in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autumn bulb planting event for residents – possibly 09.11.13. Open Spaces to order snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils. As this is the first time, will keep the event to Thomas More Lawn.</li> <li>• Skanska want to do a volunteer day. To plant bulbs in Ben Jonson Highwalk.</li> <li>• Barbican Estate Management Plan BEO and OS to review</li> <li>• Feeding the ducks Still an issue. New signage? New notices?</li> </ul>	<p>BEO</p> <p>HD</p> <p>OS and res RH BEO &amp; OS</p> <p>HD</p>
	<p><b>Next meeting dates.</b>  <b>Tuesday 25.02.14 at 10.00am</b>  <b>Monday 12.05.14 at 10.00am</b>  <b>Monday 01.09.14 at 10.00am</b>  <b>Friday 28.11.14 at 10.00am</b>  <b>Walk-arounds to be first – Geoff to accompany</b></p>	

# Gardens Advisory Group

## 25.02.14

Helen Davinson	BEO	HD
Michael Bennett	BEO	MB
Louisa Allen	Open Spaces	LA
Geoff Rogers	Open Spaces	GR
Anne Naphine	Resident	AN
Sarah Hudson	Resident	SH
Paula Tomlinson	Resident	PT

Apologies	Gillian Laidlaw	Resident
	Berthe Wallis	Resident
	Nancy Chessum	Resident

	<p><b>Remit</b> The group seemed happy with the remit as laid out previously. The different areas of garden and planting and how they are charged for was explained. This then helps to dictate the priorities for the future. The GAG will help to choose the priorities on the Estate.</p>	
	<p><b>Fann Street Garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health and Safety training was very good.</li> <li>Basic Risk Assessments now in place (and reviewed) for all activities</li> <li>Group looking into courses.</li> <li>Pathway. PT looking into appropriate surfaces and to report back.</li> <li>Double yellow line to be redone.</li> </ul>	PT PT HD
	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planters to the north of Shakespeare Tower converted and handed to allotment group.</li> <li>Details of planter holders and waiting list handed over.</li> <li>Allotment Group meeting this week to discuss.</li> <li>BEO to handover to group (incl w/list)</li> <li>All plot holders and w/list to be notified prior.</li> <li>Litter behind planters still an issue. HD to reiterate to cleaners</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Actions from Walkaround</b></p> <p><b>Thomas More Lawn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage has been the biggest problem recently esp. south east corner. Technical Services to advise if anything can be done to stop paths flooding.</li> <li>Bradley Viljoen to join September meeting with his proposals for North bed of Thomas More Lawn. To look at whole bed holistically. Hibiscus potentially wrong plant. BV to bear in mind that area is dry and full sun; the Defoe House overhang; and to lift and divide where possible. (BV to also come and present his ideas for igloos).</li> <li>OS to remove sawdust and reseed area in Spring.</li> <li>Resident throwing books out of windows.</li> <li>Stag Beetle – AN and PT to investigate what can be done to attract them to new log piles. London wildlife Trust may help.</li> </ul> <p><b>Speed Lawn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal bed (on south side) has suffered with the damp weather. To stop seasonal bedding here also.</li> <li>Bulb planting next year?</li> </ul>	Property Services BV OS AN/PT LA

	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident bulb planting. Very successful last Autumn – 3 planting days 65 volunteers in total. To do again (Thomas Moore Lawn and possibly Speed as well) in late October, possibly half term. 2 sessions across a weekend. Same mix (tete a tete, pheasants eye and snow drops)</li> <li>• Tree Survey specialist to come back with advice for the Andrewes Fore Street trees. Do they need to be pruned?</li> </ul> <p><b>Next walkaround.</b> Ben Jonson and Breton Highwalks plus new planters.</p> <p>June RCC/BRC GAG minutes to be presented. To review ways of communication (such as those used by UFH working party – dropbox)</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>LA</p>
	<p><b>Next meeting dates.</b>  <b>Monday 12.05.14 at 10.00am</b>  <b>Monday 01.09.14 at 10.00am (Bradley Viljoen to join)</b>  <b>Friday 28.11.14 at 10.00am</b>  <b>Walk-arounds to be first – Geoff to accompany</b></p>	

# Gardens Advisory Group

## 12.05.14

Helen Davinson	BEO	HD
Michael Bennett	BEO	MB
Louisa Allen	Open Spaces	LA
Geoff Rogers	Open Spaces	GR
Anne Naphine	Resident	AN
Sarah Hudson	Resident	SH
Paula Tomlinson	Resident	PT
Gillian Laidlaw	Resident	GL
Berthe Wallis	Resident	BW

Apologies	Judith Serota	Resident
	Nancy Chessum	Resident
	Natalie Robinson	Resident

	<p><b>Remit for Gardens Advisory Group</b></p> <p>The Barbican gardens which include the private areas at Speed House, Thomas More and Fann Street as well as the planted podium raised beds and planters are managed on behalf of residents by the Barbican Estate Office in accordance with a Service Level Agreement, the actual work is carried out by the City Gardens team of the City of London's Open Spaces Department.</p> <p>Firstly the Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) has approved the establishment of a Gardens Advisory Group dealing with "soft" issues to provide input to the technical aspects of garden maintenance process and introduce the knowledge and experience of residents who have an interest in gardening issues.</p> <p>Key remit areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly Joint Inspections with House Officers and Open Spaces Officers</li> <li>• To comment upon plants being used. To help prioritise new and trial planting schemes for new planters such as those being installed outside Shakespeare Tower - all schemes subject to funding</li> <li>• To comment upon levels of maintenance being undertaken by Open Spaces such as pruning</li> <li>• To provide a steer for the RCC and BRC for new projects and trials eg. Providing allotment spaces - subject to funding</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Fann Street Garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Risk Assessments now in place (and reviewed) for all activities</li> <li>• Group looking into 1<sup>st</sup> Aid courses (Red Cross or St John's Ambulance).</li> <li>• Pathway. Chipping decided upon. Open Spaces to come back with a quote for review.</li> <li>• Tools. Tools required for the volunteers can be purchased, but there is nowhere suitable for their storage with Bunyan Car Park. Group to look for a suitable storage space in the garden and report back</li> </ul>	<p>PT OS</p> <p>PT</p>
	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cluster on Defoe Place looking really good. Works well to have a central area (aesthetically and for the group).</li> <li>• If there were to be more allotment planters it would make sense to put them here.</li> <li>• BEO to provide a box for a hose.</li> <li>• Waiting List broadcast to be sent out.</li> </ul>	<p>BEO AN BEO</p>

	<p><b>Actions from Walkaround</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Planters and Breton, Ben Jonson Highwalk</li> <li>• New planters looking really good. Watering needed for some (daisy ones in Lauderdale Place and Cromwell Tower)</li> <li>• No funding likely this year for extra smaller size planters for either Cromwell or Lauderdale Tower.</li> <li>• Defoe Place – weed spraying required.</li> <li>• Defoe Place - Allotment Planters looking really good at the moment.</li> <li>• Wild flower planters on Ben Jonson highwalk. Daffodils have all died back. Wild flowers looking lovely already.</li> <li>• Ben Jonson highwalk – balustrade planters that have been moved out of the way for the Beech Gardens project – will they be going back? <b>Post Meeting. These 4 planters are actually damaged and unsafe; the side concrete panels are not safely secured. To investigate further if they can be repaired.</b></li> <li>• Dancing Dolphins fountain – requires maintenance. It was suggested that this would be a good opportunity to change the colour (currently swimming pool blue). <b>Post meeting. Speaking with Planners, they would be supportive of a change of colour to something more sympathetic (very dark green as sited at Claremont). BEO to investigate further.</b></li> <li>• Back of Ben Jonson and Breton – to keep a close eye on these beds during the summer months in case extra watering is required (last year some of the larger specimens became quite distressed in hotter months but have all recovered now). OS to just go ahead if required.</li> <li>• To mulch the larger trees in the autumn.</li> <li>• Breton underplanting looks good (plants taken from St Alphage)</li> <li>• Ben Jonson (SC64) a planter with severe overhang onto Beech St below. Pruning Required. <b>Post Meeting. Rineys will be carrying out works in Beech Street from a cherry picker during the road closure. They'll liaise with our gardening team to carry out the pruning as well.</b></li> <li>• Cromwell podium bed. Ivy has been removed form half of the bed. Surviving plants are doing well. To remove the rest of the ivy AFTER the nesting season to reveal what is underneath. Bradley Viljoen can then visit and take a view as to what planting required for the whole bed. This planting should take into account the biodiversity elements of the ivy i.e. higher shrubs for nesting birds. BV to report back in September</li> </ul> <p><b>Thomas More Lawn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage has been the biggest problem recently esp. south east corner. Property Services to advise if anything can be done to stop paths flooding. <b>Property Services monitoring</b></li> <li>• OS to remove sawdust and reseed area in spring. <b>W/C 19.05.14</b></li> <li>• Stag Beetle – AN and PT to investigate what can be done to attract them to new log piles. London wildlife Trust may help. <b>Nothing more can be done.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Speed Lawn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seasonal bed (on south side) has suffered with the damp weather. To stop seasonal bedding here also. <b>Some disquiet about losing the colour. Would this be good for a herbaceous border? BV in September</b></li> </ul>	<p>OS</p> <p>OS</p> <p>Property Services</p> <p>BEO</p> <p>OS</p> <p>OS</p> <p>OS</p> <p>OS</p> <p>OS</p> <p>Property Services</p> <p>OS</p> <p>OS</p>
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	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree Survey specialist has come back with advice for the Andrewes Fore Street. No works required</li> <li>• 500 primroses to be planted out. By our gardeners rather than volunteers. Thomas More Lawn and Speed. GAG to let LA know if any other locations would be suitable.</li> <li>• Bulb planting. Resident volunteer dates to plant out bulbs in the Autumn. To plant – Speed Lawn, Thomas More lawn, Cromwell planters and Defoe new planters. Would be good to do one weekend and one weekday (preferably half term 23.10. to 31.10). OS to order 10,000 bulbs</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting</b> Bradley Viljoen to come with proposals for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thomas More lawn north bed</li> <li>• Igloos</li> <li>• Speed lawn herbaceous border</li> <li>• Cromwell podium bed</li> </ul> <p><b>Next walkaround.</b> Thomas More Garden (specifically north bed), Igloos in Lake and Cromwell Tower podium bed</p> <p>June RCC/BRC GAG minutes to be presented. To review ways of communication (such as those used by UFH working party – dropbox)</p>	<p>all OS BEO SH</p>
	<p><b>Next meeting dates.</b> <b>Monday 01.09.14 at 10.00am (Bradley Viljoen to join)</b> <b>Friday 28.11.14 at 10.00am</b> <b>Walk-arounds to be first – Geoff Rogers to accompany</b></p>	