

Committee	Dated:
West Ham Park	18/07/2016
Subject: Superintendent's Update June 2016	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Parks and Gardens	For Information
Report author: Lucy Murphy	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the West Ham Park Committee on management and operational activities at West Ham Park since April 2016

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Budget

1. The expenditure for West Ham Park for 2015/16 was within budget allocation. As previously advised, the income generated from floral and bedding sales at the Nursery fell short of the expected levels. However the resulting overspend is lower than previously estimated, and the final figure is confirmed in a separate outturn committee report. The Chamberlin is working with us to help minimise the impact on the nursery reserve.

Personnel

2. The Park and Nursery have a full complement of staff.

Operational Activities

3. **Tennis Courts:** The works progressed well and the courts were opened to the public on the 18th June. On-line booking through the Clubspark is being launched in early July (see <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WestHamPark>). The gym equipment has been re-sited outside the courts with 3 new pieces being installed. These are proving popular with local users. Due to the smaller dimensions of the run-off areas of the new courts, around 170m² has been returned to the ornamental garden. 80 tons of soil and leaf compost (generated on site) have been used to create a new woodland walk area in the garden. This will be planted with woodland plants in the autumn.

4. **Ornamental gardens:** The rose garden has been planted with over 2,000 herbaceous perennials and shrubs. Annual bedding in the 3 and 5 beds has been removed and replaced with perennial plants but in a bedding layout. A South Africa planting scheme will be implemented in the 'ribbon beds' to reflect Dr John Fothergill's plant hunting heritage of the park.

Property Matters

5. **Infrastructure maintenance:** Various paving repairs have taken place in the ornamental garden, including new cobbled sets in a traditional 'fan' pattern (leading from the rose garden gate towards the tennis courts). The tarmac path that leads from the main gate along the boundary of the gardens towards the office was failing at the edges and has been re-surfaced.
6. **Nursery Project:** The Gateway 1/2 report was presented to Project Sub-Committee on the 11th May and was approved. Tenders have been received from a number of companies to provide their services to evaluate potential options for the nursery site. The Park Manager is working with the City Surveyor department and the City Procurement team to review the documents received and select a consultant to take the project forward.
7. **Park Primary gate:** The Park Manager has been in contact with LB Newham's Fire Officer regarding the requirement for a gate and the proposed design and location. More specifically whether he deemed a new access gate a necessary and required escape route in case of an emergency. A response has not yet been received.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and Events

8. **Corporate Volunteers:** 80 staff from Thomson Reuters volunteered at the park in May. Over a three day period they rubbed down, undercoated and painted railings, benches, bins and the small children's play structure in the children's playground. The volunteers were charged £25 per head to cover the cost of all equipment involved. Further volunteers referred to us by the East London Business Alliance assisted on a fourth day to complete the works. The volunteers' work has given the playground a real lift before the opening of the paddling pool and the start of the summer season in June. Another 27 corporate volunteers came to site on 17th June and assisted with maintenance in the ornamental gardens and orchard area.
9. **WHP Friends group:** At their April meeting the Chair and Deputy presented a draft constitution for the group's consideration and outlined the events that they will be leading on during the remainder of 2016 as listed below. The constitution was formally adopted by the friends at their AGM on the 21st June. The existing Chair and Deputy Chair were re-elected for their final year
 - 17 July – Support at Give it a Go event
 - 25 August - Bat walk
 - 30 September - Bat walk
 - 6 November - 'Newham's biggest leaf pile'

- 2 December - 'Park in the Dark'
10. **'Give it a go' event, 17th July:** To celebrate the opening of the tennis courts and to promote healthy and active lifestyles the park will be holding a 'Give it a Go' event in the park on Sunday 17th July. This event has been run at Hampstead Heath over a number of years and allows people to try various different sporting activities for free. West Ham Park is working with the Lawn Tennis Association to promote the event and will be offering free tennis coaching on the day. West Ham Cricket Club have also confirmed their attendance, along with The Space East Yoga company. Pop up food stalls from Shepherds markets will provide a range of food and beverages. The high quality food market was selected by the Culture Heritage and Libraries department to deliver the 'Summer Lunch Market' in Guildhall Yard and have been fully checked for hygiene licenses etc.
11. **Summer Bandstand programme:** following the success of last year's music on the bandstand, we have programmed in further acts for this summer. In consultation with our friends group we have moved the performances to July when the park is busier. The performances will take place between 1:30 and 3:30pm – further details below:
- a. 10 July: The Bundy Brothers (Country music)
 - b. 17 July: The Basil Hodge Quartet (Latin, Jazz and Blues)
 - c. 24 July: Taru (interactive percussion session followed by a range of styles from the Rio sounds of Samba to the more mellow vibes of jazz)
 - d. 31 July: Mike Edmonds Band (Smooth jazz / jazz fusion)

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