

Committee	Dated:
West Ham Park	05/12/2016
Subject: Superintendent's Update	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 October 2016

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Budget

1. The expenditure for West Ham Park is in line with budget profiles for this time of year. The nursery will meet its resource base for the 6 months it was trading. The operation is now closed, surplus equipment and machinery is currently being disposed of to raise funds to help offset the deficit in the Nursery Reserve.

Personnel

2. The Park has a full complement of staff. Two new officers associated with the Open Spaces Learning Programme are now based at West Ham Park. The Learning Project Officer is developing the 'Wild East' Project, an outreach programme looking to recruit volunteers who will then deliver wildlife interpretation sessions at West Ham Park and Wanstead Flats. The Learning Officer will be working with 5 schools (within easy walking distance of West Ham Park) each year to develop outdoor learning sessions with the teachers that can be easily replicated in the future.

Property Matters

3. **Nursery Site:** The review of the nursery site is the subject of a separate report to this committee.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and Events

4. **Volunteers:** The Park has been successful in securing a number of corporate volunteers through the East London Business Alliance (ELBA) this year. In October, 25 volunteers from Lockton came to the park and helped to distribute 10 tonnes of mulch in the ornamental gardens. A bulb planting day was held on the 3 November with a member of the Rotary Club of Newham and the public attending to help to plant bulbs in the new woodland walk area. The Rotary Club of Newham has kindly donated 5,000 bulbs to the park this year, the remainder of which will be planted by local school children.
5. **Wild East Project:** The project held its first event in the park on the 31 October. A modified tricycle, full of wildlife activities specific to West Ham Park was used to interact with local people for the first time. The event coincided with Newham's Heritage Week and a local historian volunteered to lead a walk around the gardens. Nine people braved the fog to join the 'People, Plants and History' walk.
6. **Friends of West Ham Park:** Three of the Friends attended a first aid training course run for West Ham Park staff. The training will allow them to provide additional support at events, reducing the number of park staff required to attend. On the 6 November the Friends ran 'Newham's biggest leaf pile'. The event was attended by over 100 people with many local children getting involved. The Wild East Tricycles were used to connect with 44 individuals. The Friends also led on craft activities which included making Green Man masks and leaf paintings – see images in Appendix 1.
7. The Friends' last event of 2016 will be 'Park in the Dark' on Friday 2 December. This year the Friends will also lead a stargazing activity at the event.

Operational Activities

8. The pine trees that were situated along the western edge of the tennis courts will be moved to new locations in the park using a 'tree spade'. The pine trees can then be left to grow to their full potential rather than being clipped into a hedge shape. Native hedging is being planted around the edge of the courts with the help of local volunteers. Winter maintenance work has been carried out on the cricket pitch and the team has been trialing a new ride-on mower, which will replace two old ride-on machines.
9. The Superintendents update report from October can be found in Appendix 2. The committee was cancelled and the update provided by email to Members.
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