

Committee(s):		Date(s):
West Ham Park	- For Information	12 May 2017
Subject: Superintendents 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 2016</p> <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the report 		

Main Report

Budget

1. Outturn for 2016/17 is still being finalised however it is anticipated that West Ham Park will show a slight overspend against budget (circa £5,000 or 0.7%). West Ham Park Nursery is also expected to show an over spend (circa £4,000 or 6.5%). Final figures will be confirmed in the Budget outturn report which is expected to be brought to this committee in July.

Personnel

2. The Park currently has a full complement of staff. The summer casual position in the ornamental gardens has also been filled. This member of staff will support the team from April to July.

Property Matters

3. Separate update reports are being brought to the committee regarding the Nursery project and Food Concession licences.
4. Park Primary sole access gate. The Park Manager met with the London Borough of Newham's (LBN) Highways department regarding their enhancement scheme for Ham Park Road. The additional gate entrance for Park Primary school was discussed, however as the information requested by this committee was not provided and approval for the gate not granted they

were advised that this part of the scheme could not go ahead. Other safety improvements are being implemented such as a raised table pelican crossing from the school gate to the park side of the pavement along with re-surfacing of all footways. The entrances to the park were also discussed and LBN have agreed to re-instate the cobbled entrance ways (these have been tarmacked over in recent years). The two gates on Ham Park road are the original Victorian gates; it was felt that cobbled entrance would be more fitting and reflect their historical significance.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and events

5. Wild East Project: The Wild East tricycle sessions are now fully integrated into the event schedule of the park, and since March there has been a increase in participation, with West Ham Park sessions averaging around 35-40 participants per session. Currently there are 15 regular volunteers involved in supporting the project and there has been an increasing amount of interest in volunteering from people who live close to the park. The feedback from the sessions has been overwhelmingly positive.
6. Green Space Friendly (GSF) schools: Since January the GSF officer has worked with 10 local primary schools to deliver lessons in West Ham Park, a total of 1286 children have come to the park for outdoor sessions. The GSF officer has been working more closely with three schools to embed outdoor learning across the whole curriculum, as detailed below.
 - a. Every child from years 1-6 in Elmhurst School has attended an outdoor maths trail in West Ham Park's ornamental gardens, a total of over 700 children. These maths sessions were very popular with staff and children and we are now planning a reception maths trail as well. Another whole school 'escape to the park' is planned for Elmhurst in June, these sessions will cover a number of subjects in the primary curriculum.
 - b. Park Primary have attended sessions on physics, orienteering, geography and we have an ongoing bi-weekly Forest School session for a group of SEN children, we are now planning a whole school WW2 trail for children to learn about how the park changed during the War.
 - c. We have supported West Ham Church School with the training of a Forest School lead teacher and children have attended bulb planting sessions in the orchard in West Ham Park. More sessions are planned for the summer term.
7. Friends of West Ham Park: The friends have lead various events over the spring including two bird walks in January to help to support the RSPB's Big Garden bird watch, in spite of the rain 14 people took part over the weekend with the walks. Star Gazing events continue to be very popular, on the 4th January 38 people attended and on 2nd February 30 local people came to listen to our local expert. Additional bird walks were held on the 1st and 2nd April. Dry and bright weather encouraged more local people to attend with 40 people taking part over the weekend. One of the friends attended Hornchurch

wildlife group to talk about the wildlife habitats in the park and raise awareness of the work that the friends do in the local area with very positive feedback being received.

8. The group are also taking a more active involvement in the maintenance of the wildlife gardens in the park. To date a 'Spring Clean' of the garden took place on the 4th March with volunteers helping to carry out repairs to the pond, rejuvenate the bug hotel, mulch paths, remove weeds and cut back overhanging branches. The friends have also committed to

Operational activities

9. The park has completed a number of improvement projects in the park over the spring including the planting of 11 trees, the installation of native hedging around the tennis courts and gym equipment area, securing funding from Tesco 'Bags of help' scheme to purchase 3 new pieces of Gym equipment which have been installed, the creation of a new wildflower meadow at the rear of 2 Linden cottage and the completion of a Beth Chatto inspired 'dry garden' in the ornamental gardens. A new walks trail for the ornamental gardens has also been created. The new walk uses QR codes which park visitors can 'scan' on their mobile phones to open webpages with information about the tree or park location and photographs being displayed. The entrance signs to the garden will be updated to support this.
10. Tennis activity in the park continues to increase. Over the 2016/17 year a total of 2824 hours of tennis was played on the courts, this exceeded our business plan target of 2475. The tennis coaches have been successful in securing funding from the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) Pay Tennis fund to deliver sessions for 12-15 year olds in the park. The coaches aim is to create a fun, social environment to attract 56, 12 to 15-year-olds to improve their tennis skills at the Park over an 8 week period between May and June.
11. Cricket: The new cricket season has started with three adult cricket clubs (CC) using the grass cricket square: Bow Rovers CC (two teams one playing on a Saturday and the other Sunday), Amez CC and Star CC. A licence agreement has been signed with West Ham and Stratford junior team. This aims to help promote and support youth cricket in the park and aims to grow the participation on site from 182 hours per year to 280 hours per year.

Appendices

- None

Lucy Murphy

West Ham Park Manager

E: lucy.murphy@cityoflondon.gov.uk

T: 020 8475 7104