

Committee:	Date:
Open Spaces & City Gardens	11 October 2017
Subject: Superintendent's update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Parks & Gardens	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>This report provides an update to Members of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee on management and operational activities across the City Gardens section since July 2017.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Budgets

1. The budgets for both City Gardens and Bunhill Fields are in line with anticipated profile of expenditure for this time of year. Of the four Carry Forwards requested from the departmental City Fund underspend 2016/17, three were approved. Consequently improvement projects will take place this coming winter/spring at West Smithfield, Cleary and Tower Hill Gardens. The request for funding to undertake planting improvements at St. Dunstan's in-the-West was rejected.

Personnel

2. Two of the four team leaders who work within the City Gardens Team are leaving due to emigration and retirement. We are in the process of recruiting to these roles and have had a good number of quality applicants.
3. Three apprentices started on the 25th of October and we are working to recruit two more.
4. The new City Gardens Manager started on the 31st July.

Operational Activities

Seething Lane

5. The Pepys Garden at Seething Lane was reopened to the public on 18th August.
6. Planted in April 2017, the garden boasts a large lawn area of 259m² which has a large bespoke stone bird bath set within the grass, the planting of 14 trees, 57 linear meters of hedging, automated irrigation system throughout the garden, a large pergola and a gardeners' store room and toilet.
7. The garden is planted with a mix of shrubs and herbaceous and has many climbers which will afford shade and interest. On the pergola red climbing roses are planted which will provide the red rose for the Knollys Rose Ceremony whilst on other structures, there are nesting opportunities for birds.
8. The garden will also display the original Pepys statue on a newly created plinth
9. The stone planters have castellated edges to deter skateboarders

Mitre Square

10. Mostly completed and planted with a small element left for planting in autumn 2017 this garden is split into two areas – Creechurch Place (two small raised planters with shrubs planted) and in Mitre Square five slightly raised planters. Two planters have turf areas and wooden seating set on top of the stone edging. The planters have a variety of multi-stemmed trees, under planting and creepers.
11. The garden is fitted with automated irrigation. The stone edging is fitted with stainless steel anti-skate studs.

Aldgate

12. Due for completion by end of March 2018, this will finalise the original programme and will also include the frontage to St Botolph without Aldgate Church. This area will provide improved access from the street to the Church entrance, three new trees, hedging and various other shrub/herbaceous planting.

Others

13. The Planning and Transportation division has agreed to fund a survey of all the private trees in the City – the last being carried out in 2004. This will update our records and provide us with accurate information as to how many private trees are in the City. This will be carried out in late autumn this year.
14. **Contracts:**
 - Flexi-pave contract has been awarded to KB Industries Ltd
 - Christmas Tree contract has been awarded to Elvedon Trees
 - Tree Works Contract has been awarded to Gristwood and Tomms

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and Events

15. Friends of City Gardens – Church Entry improvements will be taking place on the 6th, 9th, 11th October with two other dates to be confirmed., corporate volunteers from either Skanska or Bloomberg will be in attendance on at least two of these days.
16. City in Bloom award ceremony is being organised by the Friends of City Gardens, with date and location to be confirmed.
17. Moor Lane pop up garden – Built by volunteers from Friends of City Gardens, designed by Studio Xmples, commissioned as part of the Low Emission Neighbourhood project. The launch of the garden coincided with the UK's first National Clean Air Day, which aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of air pollution.
18. City Gardens have been working to support the Culture Mile with installations at West Smithfield and Moor Lane pop up Garden.
19. Following last year's success, Nomad cinema held their second pop up cinema event on 17th October in Festival Gardens. The event was again very successful.
20. Bunhill Fields Burial Ground received both a Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Site. Bunhill Fields was judged in May with the judges commenting that it was a 'fantastic site conserved and enjoyed' during the site visit. Entrants must have a concise management plan and a clear understanding of their users, their site and management strategy by fulfilling eight key criteria to achieve Green Flag Award status.
21. The City was awarded the Flowers in The City Luder Trophy for St. Andrew's Churchyard, Holborn.
22. City Gardens enjoyed a success in this year's London in Bloom awards:
 - City of London – Overall winner in the Town category (based on population size)
 - St Olave's Churchyard, Hart Street – Gold and overall winner of Churchyard of the year award.
 - Beech Gardens, the Barbican Estate – won Gold in the Small Park/Garden category
 - St Dunstan in the East – also won Gold in the Small Park/Garden category
23. Volunteer groups that work with the City also performed very well in the "It's Your Neighbourhood" category :
 - Fann street community garden - level 4 award "Thriving"
 - Friend of City Gardens - level 5 award "Outstanding"

Appendices

- None

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