

Committee(s):		Date(s):
West Ham Park	- For Information	11 October 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 and Personnel

1. The budget for West Ham Park is currently in line with anticipated expenditure for this time of year. The gardening team saw one of its gardeners leave in August, this place is currently being filled by a temporary position. A further temporary member of staff has also been assisting with duties over the busy summer months. Five individuals were interviewed for an apprentice position at West Ham Park, the successful candidate has been offered the post and subject to references will start work with the team and join Capel Manor College in October.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and events

2. Wild East Project: Outreach sessions continued throughout July and August reaching 444 participants, (65% BME). During September, the volunteers have begun to lead some sessions themselves and have been creating new activities included making conker shell hedgehogs. The team are holding a heritage walk to celebrate the parks past on the 29th October to coincide with London Borough of Newham's Heritage Week and will be involved in the Friends Leaf Pile event, creating a giant leaf painting with participants.
3. Wild Schools: During the 2016/17 school term, 3,800 children participated in outdoor learning session in the park. For the new term, four new schools have been identified and approached to join the programme. In the first year maths, geography, sciences and also some history and art are the main core subjects. This is also being expanded to include literacy, i.e. storytelling and

descriptive writing sessions, with the children being encouraged to create their own narratives using the outside world as their inspiration.

4. Friends of West Ham Park: The friends have been trialling ticketing their recent bat walks to control numbers due to their popularity. 60 people attended the walk in August, and the September walk is already fully booked. The friends have a busy autumn and winter season of events coming up as listed below.
 - a. 29th October 12pm – Wildlife Garden Maintenance and pond renovation
 - b. 5th November 1pm Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile
 - c. 22nd November 6pm – Stargazing
 - d. 8th December – Park in the Dark and Moon Watch
5. Wildlife Garden: The use of the wildlife garden at the rear of East Lodge has recently been reviewed. The garden is not big enough to accommodate a whole class of children and the pond is in need of renovation due to the liner being punctured. A PHD student has joined the park as a volunteer and is working with our Wild Schools officer and the Friends of West Ham Park to develop a proposal for the extension of the garden and to assist with the pond renovation works. They have visited Camley Street Wildlife Garden and Woodbury wetlands to see how other sites manage ponds and wildlife education gardens. *A future report will be brought to committee regarding the extension of the garden as this would increase the area of land that is enclosed and therefore would have restricted public use.*

Operational activities

6. The London in Bloom awards were held on the 22nd September. The park was awarded a Gold Award and increased its score from 166 to 177. The judge 'applauded' the increasing use of herbaceous perennials and highlighted the new 'noteworthy planting schemes' in the rose garden and South Africa border as well as the innovative outdoor learning scheme, Wild Schools. The Park was also successful in retaining its Green Flag and Green Heritage awards in 2017. The park was 'mystery shopped' this year and will receive a report from the judges by the end of the year.
7. Summer holiday sports camps:
 - a. Tennis: Summer holidays camps were held in the park for children, in total 42 participants attended the 5-8 year old sessions and 48 attended the 9-12 year old sessions. In total 910 hours of coaching have been carried out on the courts between the 1st July and the 31st August. In addition to this there has been 1,423 hours of general play.
 - b. Cricket: Capital Kids Cricket also held summer holiday camps in the park. Numbers were up on those seen last year with around 10 children attending daily.
8. Football: The football season has begun, this year the park is playing on Football Pitch Number 1, with Number 2 pitch being renovated and rested. A Saturday and Sunday league team have booked to use the pitches for the season along with the children's training team Heroes 2020, which trains

children from 5 to 15 years old, with on average 40 children attending weekly since it started in the park in 2014.

9. Football Fair: We have been approached by Upton Park Football Club who have requested to use the parks two football pitches on Sunday 5th November to commemorate the first game played in the FA cup and the fact that the first goal scored in the competition was at West Ham Park in 1871. Details are still being agreed, but the event would see Upton Park Football Club and Clapham Rovers playing a match on Pitch 1 and Pitch 2 being used for skills competitions with local children.
10. Antisocial issues: The stronger heavier gauge chains that were installed on the gates have been successful in deterring unauthorised access of the park at night time. There have been antisocial issues in the area surrounding the park over the summer months

Property Matters

11. Nursery update: Tenders have been received for the appointment of a consultant to progress the nursery project. These are currently being reviewed by the Park Manager, City Surveyor and Project Manager.
12. Upton Lane Lodges: 240 and 242 Upton Lane properties came to the end of the first year of being externally leased in September. Both of the original tenants are still resident in the properties. Strutt and Parker have completed an inspection of the properties to ensure that expected standards are being maintained and both properties are being well looked after.
13. Park Cottage: the completion of the refurbishment works at Park Cottage has been delayed due to a problem with one of the windows, but it is anticipated that this should be completed by early October.
14. Mobile food concessions: The wet August weather resulted in low numbers of park visitors and consequentially sales at the 'Snack Shack' were not as high as anticipated, however, a very warm bank holiday weekend helped to compensate for this. Snack Shack are continuing to trade on site at weekends until the end of September and then will remove their trailer.

Appendices

- None

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