

Committee:	Date:
West Ham Park	5 February 2018
Subject: Park Manager's 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 2017.</p> <p>Recommendation</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,
2. The apprentice gardener is settling in well and will begin college in January 2018. Recruitment is currently taking place for three apprenticeship posts, one sports turf operative and two further office based posts that will be shared with City Gardens (business administration and marketing/social media focused). The gardener vacancy has been advertised and interviews are due to take place in early February (the position has been filled by a temporary agency staff during the interim period).

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and events

3. Wild East Project: The Wild East Officer resigned from post before Christmas. Interviews for a replacement were held before Christmas and a new individual has been offered the post and is expected to start with the team in March. The Head of Learning and a member of the Hampstead Heath learning team ran an outreach session with the Wild East Trike and two wild East Volunteers on the 14th January to coincide with the Friends of West Ham Park's bird watching event. 29 individuals were engaged with on the day despite the inclement weather.
4. Wild Schools: During the quieter winter period, the Wild Schools officer has been leading on renovations to the Linden wildlife garden, with ornamental

non-native shrubs such as *Aucuba japonica* being removed and native species such as multi stemmed *Corylus avellana* and spring bulbs being planted. A trial section of the Hawthorn hedge along the edge of the garden has been laid using traditional practices, and additional native hedgerow species added to thicken it in places where growth had become sparse. If the hedge rejuvenates well, the remainder of the hedge will be laid next autumn.

5. The Friends of West Ham Park have continued to hold events over the winter period. Park in the Dark remains a very popular event with 90 members of the public attending. Stargazing evenings were also held in November and January, with a third scheduled for February. Unfortunately due to poor weather these were not as well attended as they have been in the past. On the 13th and 14th January a birdwatching event took place, again numbers were lower than expected due to bad weather with only 6 people in attendance in total over the weekend.

Operational activities

6. Wildlife Garden: A proposed extension of the wildlife garden is the subject of a separate report.
7. Winter tree works have been completed with the new term contractor Gristwood and Toms. Keepers and gardeners have been busy collecting up the last of the leaves and completing hedge cutting around the site.

Property Matters

8. Nursery update: The Nursery Project Board team met with the appointed consultants in the January to explore the development of the ideas for the future of the nursery site. A workshop with the Options Review Group is planned for February.
9. City Surveyor's projects: an upgrade of existing CCTV equipment on site is underway and additional funding has been obtained to increase the camera coverage at all gates across the site. This is expected to be in place in time for the busy summer season.

Appendices

- None

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