

Committee:	Date:
Open Spaces & City Gardens	08 April 2019
Subject: City Gardens Update	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Information
<p>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 February 2019.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Finance

1. At the point of writing, the budgets for both City Gardens (City Fund) and Bunhill Fields (City's Cash) are predicting no significant variation from its set budgets. Members will be aware of the increasing pressure on budgets, which is only likely to get worse in future years as a result of any further budget reductions, and an anticipated reduction in the availability of Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy, against the background of a significant rise in the number of people using our gardens.

Personnel

2. Interviews have been conducted for the Support Services Officer and the position has been offered to a candidate.

Operational Activities

3. The four-year tree work OJEU contract is out to tender; this will commence in July of this year. A contractor has been secured for the interim period.

4. The IT transformations programme is progressing, though the software development is taking longer than anticipated with roll out delayed until June of this year.
5. To ensure the City Gardens team is ULEZ compliant, we are in the process of awarding a contract to Limesquare to supply compliant diesel vehicles for the 8th of April for one year. Following this period, we will transition to an electric or electric / hybrid fleet. Having looked at all the possible options it was considered that this was the only solution that is ULEZ compliant and does not adversely impact on the service delivery of City Gardens.
6. City Gardens took receipt of the warm water pressure washer on the 20th March and will be receiving training in April. This is specialist kit that will be used primarily to clean the stonework at Seething Lane, being partially funded from the contribution made by the developer of that site.

Pets and Diseases

7. **Box Disease:** The Box hedge has been replaced with Yew at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Gardens. City Gardens are to undertake a visit to RHS Wisley to learn from the hedge trials they are conducting with an aim to broaden our planting palette to overcome the problem of relying on a limited number of species.

Project Updates

8. **Barbican Planters:** Four new bespoke planters are now in-situ and planted at Willoughby Podium and one replaced at Willoughby Tower.
9. **St Alphage's Garden:** this garden is currently under construction; it is anticipated that completion will take place in May 2019, following a major refurbishment of the site.
10. **Monument Street/Lower Thames Street:** This project has now been completed with the installation of multi-stemmed trees and underplanting. These planters are forming part of a trial, the large planter has been filled with a manufactured substrate, the lower smaller bed filled with normal soil. The same planting will be used in both planters so that we can compare growth and maintenance requirements of both.
11. **Stonecutter Street – Goldman Sachs development:** Trees have now been installed in the planters along Farringdon Road and underplanting will be carried out imminently. The infill for the planters on Shoe Lane and planting is programmed to be carried out in May.
12. The second phase of tree planting will be carried out on the 3rd April whilst the third phase will not happen until late spring/early summer owing to overrun of the development. Planting will take place outside of the recommended planting window but due to the high-profile nature of this project, it is important that the team complete this work.

13. **60-70 St Mary Axe:** This design incorporates three raised planters with multi-stem trees and underplanting, which is now complete.
14. **Artizan Street:** The former car park ramp has been transformed into a sloping garden along with raised planters and screen planting to enhance the streetscape. This project will be completed in early April.
15. **Senator House:** The garden infrastructure has been constructed by the developer's contractor under license. City Gardens are driving to get this site completed but due to poor drainage issues needing to be resolved we have not yet accepted handover from the developer.
16. **Millennium Bridge planters:** Two large planters, installed as part of the Riverside improvements have been planted with multi-stemmed trees and robust underplanting to complement that used outside the City of London School.
17. **St Bartholomew's Close:** Following the bankruptcy of the developer responsible for this project, the project was delayed, however works are back underway. Six street trees have already been planted with more to follow in 2020. Raised bronze planters are due for installation in early summer 2019 and will be planted with large multi stemmed trees and shrubs.
18. **St Brides Street:** City Gardens have refurbished the six large planters adjacent to Farringdon Street by removing all previous planting (except the two mature Olive Trees), topping up the soil with a crushed brick substrate and planting new central multi-stemmed trees, including underplanting.

Planning

19. A list of planning applications that have been received since the last Committee meeting can be found in Appendix 1.

Community, Volunteering and Events

20. **St Michael Cornhill:** City Gardens have been working with the Friends of City Gardens to improve the horticulture of this site. The Friends are submitting bids to secure funding for further improvements.
21. City Gardens is actively supporting the Culture Mile helping scope a number of events and installations for this summer with much of the focus on Smithfield Rotunda Garden.
22. The City Gardens Walks run by the City of London Guides will be commencing again in May.

Appendices

Appendix 1 -Planning Application Open Spaces Consultations to 19 March 2019

Jake Tibbetts

City Gardens Manager

T: 020 7374 4127

E: jake.tibbetts@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Planning Application Open Spaces Consultations to 19th March 2019

Application number	Location	Description
PT_LH/19/00022/MDC	Bartholomew Close, London EC1	Details of hard and soft landscaping for Phase 3 of the development pursuant condition 45 (in part) of planning permission 16/00165/FULMAJ dated 16th March 2017.
PT_CL/18/01198/FULL	Brewers' Hall Aldermanbury Square London EC2	Demolition of third floor mansard, erection of replacement floor and additional double mansard and change of use of second floor from livery hall (sui generis) to office (B1) to create an additional 631.5sq.m of lettable office space (B1); and works to Brewers Hall Garden.
PT_EVR/19/00186/MDC	21 Moorfields London EC2Y	Discharge of condition 7b details of all alterations to the City Walkway bridge over Moor Lane pursuant to planning permission 17/01095FULEIA dated 04/05/2018