

Committees: Corporate Projects Board <i>[for information]</i> Projects Sub <i>[for decision]</i> Open Spaces & City Gardens <i>[for decision]</i>		Dates: 04 February 2020 24 February 2020 16 July 2020
Subject: St Botolph Bishopsgate Churchyard Improvements Unique Project Identifier: 9723	Gateway 6: Summarised Outcome Report Light	
Report of: Director of Open Spaces Report Author: Patrick Hegarty		For Decision

Summary

1. Status Update	Project Description: <p>Improvements to the hard and soft landscaping of the Churchyard of St Botolph without Bishopsgate to reduce occurrences of anti-social behaviour and to generally improve the amenity and infrastructure of the garden.</p> <p>RAG Status: Green</p> <p>Risk Status: Low</p> <p>Final Outturn Cost: £83,139</p> <p>Slippage: The project was carried out intermittently over a 3-year period. There was a delay of 4 years between the proposed completion in the Evaluation Report and the actual completion.</p> <p>Works completed are:</p> <p><u>Reducing antisocial behaviour</u> – Additional fencing was introduced to close off an area used for antisocial behaviour. In addition, trees were pruned, old overgrown shrubberies were replaced with narrower planted beds and bollard lighting was introduced.</p> <p><u>Improved amenity</u> – The planting and lawns were improved and made more attractive and additional seating and an information board were introduced to encourage greater usage of the area. Improved maintenance has been facilitated by the introduction of four new waterpoints.</p>
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2. Next steps and Requested decisions	Requested Decisions: That the project is closed.
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3. Budget	<p>Funding for this project was allocated from a Section 106 agreement related to the development of Dashwood House, 69 Old Broad Street.</p> <p>*This project was approved by Members on the basis of an Evaluation Report in December 2010, before the current Project Procedure was introduced, hence there is no reference to a Gateway 2 or Gateway 5 report.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="486 891 1369 1234"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>*Member approval (Evaluation Report)</th> <th>Final Outturn Cost (G6)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Staff Costs</i></td> <td>20,000</td> <td>20,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Works</i></td> <td>62,600</td> <td>63,139</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Contingency</i></td> <td>9,100</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>91,700</td> <td>83,139</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Final Account for this project has not been verified.</p>		*Member approval (Evaluation Report)	Final Outturn Cost (G6)	<i>Staff Costs</i>	20,000	20,000	<i>Works</i>	62,600	63,139	<i>Contingency</i>	9,100		Total	91,700	83,139
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	operation of the Church. Most of the works were largely completed at the end of 2014 but there was some additional making good in the lawn area in early 2015.
5. Key Conclusions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project delivered an enhanced garden space which has been very popular, particularly given the closure of the nearby Finsbury Circus Garden to facilitate Crossrail. 2. Rough sleeping in the area is still an issue. The Manager responsible for this project subsequently left the City Corporation so there was not the opportunity to fully evaluate if there was a reduction in rough sleeping as a result of the project. However, some of the problems arising from the presence of rough sleepers have been mitigated by restricting access to concealed areas of the Churchyard. 3. There are lessons which have been learnt here about programming and working on active Church sites. Having a number of stakeholders trying to deliver projects, along with the Church's routine activities, delayed the delivery of our project while we tried to work around each other on site. Having more accurate estimates of the timescales of our activities and early identification of clashes and constraints through greater consultation with stakeholders, will help deliver more structured project programmes, and so help reduce the time for delivery of projects in the future. 4. Similarly, there were lessons learnt about having early consultation and careful site assessment for the delivery of projects in heritage settings. Experience gained on this site has seen greater appreciation of the tasks and milestones to be identified early in the project programme. These lessons have been shared within the Churchyard Enhancement Programme and we now have closer working relations with the Church Faculty office.

Contact

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Appendix 1

Churchyard of St Botolph without Bishopsgate following improvement works.

