

Committee:	Date:
Open Spaces & City Gardens	13 Oct 2020
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 October 2020.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Finance

1. Overall expenditure for City Gardens is projected to be £90k overspent this financial year due to a reduction in income generated from events and project delivery, as well as personal protective equipment and other items that have been required due to the coronavirus pandemic. Small on-site garden improvements and other non essential purchases have all been stopped to reduce pressure on the budget.

Personnel

2. City Gardens currently are shortlisting two new apprentice roles which will start January 2021.
3. City Gardens have recruited two vacancies for assistant gardeners, both will be starting around Christmas.
4. The Gardener for the Barbican which is being funded by the residents is now in post.
5. Sickness levels have increased, this is largely due to staff self-isolating due to them or members of their household developing COVID-19 symptoms.

Procurement

6. City Gardens are currently carrying out a number of procurement exercises this financial year, these will help ensure that City Gardens continue to provide a value for money service:
 - Tree purchase tender – This tender is due to go out shortly.
 - Tree Inspection tender – Tenders have now been received and are being evaluated.

Operational Activities

7. **COVID-19:** City Gardens have continued to work during the second lockdown. COVID guidance and protocols are regularly reviewed. All office-based staff continue to work from home and the Irish Chambers remain closed.
8. **Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2020:** A separate report on the timetable for the BAP is being submitted to Open Spaces Committee. The aim is for the new BAP to be adopted in July 2021.

Project Updates

9. **Covid Streets Programme 19 planters:** City Gardens are working to support the Department of the Built Environment with the temporary greening measures. 30 trees in planters have now been successfully installed. Five parklets are to be introduced in December as well as six additional planters with trees. Locations are at Cheapside, West Smithfield, Chancery Lane, Cursitor Street, Ludgate Broadway and Carter Lane junction, Creechurch Lane, Middlesex Street.
10. **St Mary Aldermary:** This project was completed in November the following was been achieved:
 - The paving has been re-laid and extended.
 - The perimeter wall, which is a Surveyors asset, has now been rebuilt and is complete and stable
 - The planted borders around the garden have been refreshed.
 - Benches returned and installed.
11. **Tower Hill Gardens – play area:** The wooden play equipment at this site was installed approximately a decade ago, it is coming to the end of its life and needs to be replaced. A bid for capital funding for the renewal of the play area has been submitted. This will be considered at the December meeting of Resource Allocation Sub-Committee.
12. **Moor Lane planters:** This is a temporary installation of several planters on the pavement area near the junction of Silk Street along the side of the Barbican, has now been installed. City Gardens will maintain these planters for

approximately two years. A permanent scheme will be installed at the end of this period.

13. **Cursitor Street:** City Gardens have been working with the Department of the Built Environment on designing three raised planters within this street. This scheme is now on hold as temporary COVID planters having been installed in this location.
14. **2-6 Cannon Street (phase 2) Old Change Court/St Nicholas Cole Abbey:** This project is a redesign of the current area incorporating new beds and trees. It is also proposed that the area to the front of the Church (St Nicolas Cole Abbey) on Queen Victoria Street will also be planted. This project has been delayed due to issues with underground structures; planting is now not anticipated until early 2021.
15. **St Bartholomew's Close:** The relocation of two of the planters from outside Butchers Hall to the corner of Little Britain and King Edward Street is being carried out by the Department for the Built Environment and will have automatic irrigation.
16. **St Pancras Gardens –** A redesign and refurbishment of this garden that is to be funded by the owners of the garden is currently being considered. The proposal is to reuse the existing paving, add new and additional planting, replace the seating and most notably to fence and gate this garden.
17. **Greening Cheapside – Phase 2** -The sunken garden on the corner of Cheapside and New Change is currently under design discussion and will form Phase 2 of Greening Cheapside. Design of the space is at an early stage.
18. **150 Bishopsgate (Heron Tower)** - A line of London Plane trees on Houndsditch have been removed as part of redevelopment works of the public highway. The same species and number of trees will be replanted. The replacement trees will now be planted directly into the ground unlike the removed trees which roots were restricted by underground containers.
19. **Brewers Hall, Aldermanbury Square –** Brewers Hall is undergoing significant refurbishment resulting in an impact on the garden on Aldermanbury Square. This impact has been restricted to the removal of two dead trees along with planting in one of the ground level beds. Funding from the developer has been secured to replace the trees and plants as well as compensation for loss of space. The schedule to their works is to last approximately 14 months.
20. **30-34 New Bridge Street-** This building and the adjacent garden form part of the City's investment property portfolio, funded by Bridge House Estate and managed by the City Surveyors. City Gardens manage the garden on their behalf. As part of a development plan for this building the wall that fronts onto the garden is going to have a new façade which will partly consist of a green wall. To facilitate the build the contractors require use of the garden for storage and deliveries. We are assessing the options with a view to ameliorating the impact on the garden and trees.

Planning

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

Community, Volunteering and Events

22. Despite COVID the Friends of City Gardens and the Barbican Wildlife Group have remained active, although their activities have been slightly curtailed. Friends of City Gardens have held, prior to this current lock down, volunteer days with MACE at Bunhill Fields and have some days planned for December.
23. The Barbican Wildlife Garden was featured on BBC2's Autumn Watch on 3rd November. Still available on BBC iplayer.

Appendix 1 -Planning Application Open Spaces Consultations to XXX.

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Planning Application Open Spaces Consultations to 19 November 2020

Application number	Location	Description
PT_KG/20/00886/MDC	88 Wood Street London EC2V 7DA	Submission of details of: (i) the materials to be used on: Cycle parking mesh, Frame and Planters; and (ii) details on the construction of the planting beds including: plant species, protection measures for the existing trees on site and maintenance regime.
PT_BXD/20/00848/FULEIA	Bury House 31 Bury Street London EC3A 5AR	Demolition of existing building and construction of a new building comprising 2 basement levels (plus 2 mezzanines) and ground floor plus 48 upper storeys for office use (Class E), flexible retail / cafe use (Class E), publicly accessible internal amenity space and community space; a new pedestrian route and new and improved Public Realm; ancillary basement cycle parking, servicing and plant. Includes 460 sqm GEA of Publicly Accessible Amenity Space.
PT_JR/20/00813/FULL	1 London Wall Place London EC2Y 5AU	Temporary installation of sculptures for a temporary period between 8th December 2020 and 17th January 2021.
PT_JS/20/00812/FULL	City Point Plaza 1 Ropemaker Street London EC2Y 9AW	Temporary installation of sculptures for a temporary period between 8th December 2020 and 17th January 2021.
PT_KG/20/00816/FULEIA	70 Gracechurch Street London EC3V 0HR	Demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a new building comprising basement levels and ground floor plus 33 upper storeys including office use (Class E), flexible retail uses, a public viewing gallery, cycle parking, servicing, refuse and plant areas, public realm

		improvements and other works associated with the development including access and highways works.
PT_CL/20/00742/MDC	Former Richard Cloudesley School Golden Lane Estate London EC1Y 0TZ	Approval of details pursuant to conditions 26 (landscaping scheme for the school) and 36 (Details of bird and bat nesting boxes), and partial approval of details pursuant to conditions 27 (landscaping scheme for the public realm) (with the exception of the soft landscaping element on Golden Lane) and 28 (Details of all tree pits)(excluding trees proposed on Golden Lane) of planning permission 17/00770/FULL dated 19th July 2018.
PT_CL/20/00765/MDC	Former Bernard Morgan House 43 Golden Lane London EC1Y 0RS	Submission of landscape materials and handrails pursuant to condition 18 a) and 18 e) of planning permission 16/00590/FULL dated 30th August 2017.
PT_CL/20/00717/FULL	Open Space Newgate Street London EC1A 7BA	Installation of the <i>Amulet</i> sculpture in Christchurch Greyfriars Churchyard, for a temporary period of five years. (Sustainable Finance Sculpture Project)