

Committee(s)	Dated:
West Ham Park Committee	28 April 2021
Subject: West Ham Park Managers Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Colin Buttery	For Information
Report author: Lucy Stowell-Smith	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the West Ham Park Committee on management and operational activities at West Ham Park since February 2021. The funding for the work stated is met through the Park's local risk budget, apart from the Friends of West Ham Park's Exhibition which is being paid for by external funding raised by the Friend's group.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Current Position

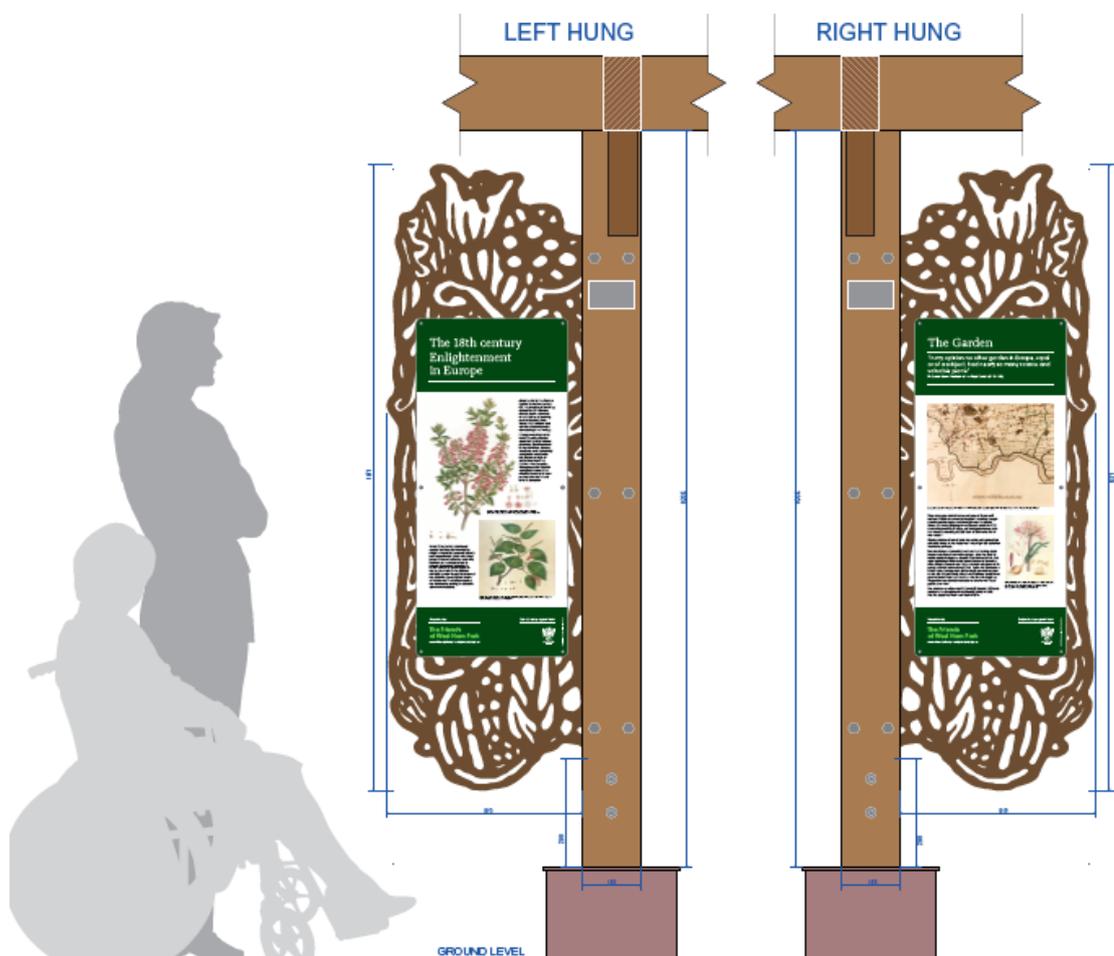
Budget and Personnel

1. **Budgets:** As stated in previous reports the budget for the end of 2020/21 was impacted by lockdown and it is expected that expenditure will exceed allocated budgets by approximately £10,000.
2. **Staffing:** Self isolating staff returned to the park at the end of March. Visitor numbers remain high and additional staff were brought in over the Easter weekend to assist with patrolling. Although the park was busy, we did not see the mass gatherings that took place last year and antisocial behaviour was lower. The playground continues to be exceptionally busy and signage had been renewed to encourage people to not enter if social distancing can not be observed.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and events

- Wild Schools:** Since pupils returned to school in March the parks Wild Schools officer has been very busy with bookings reaching full capacity. 24 sessions were delivered in March reaching a total of 649 children. The summer term is already almost fully booked. Demand for the use of the wildlife gardens for self-led sessions has also been very high. In order to enable the park to facilitate more sessions the South Meadow area has been developed so that it can be used as another, more open area for teaching. Developments include the addition of a log circle, dead hedges, a designated digging area and additional wood for shelter building.
- Friends of West Ham Park:** The Friends conducted another food bank collection on the 17th April and held a litter pick after the busy Easter weekend. Now that six people can meet outside, they are planning to restart their maintenance sessions in the wildlife garden. The Fothergill exhibition is currently being manufactured and it is hoped that it will be installed on site by the end of May. Due to COVID restrictions a large opening event is not planned, but more low key activities and self-led events are being discussed. The Friends would still like to have a more formal opening when restrictions allow.

Figure 1: Design of the Fothergill exhibition to be installed on the pergola in the rose garden.



Operational activities

5. The Park continues to be much busier than we would normally expect for this time of year. With lockdown easing sports have returned – the parks tennis courts have been very busy, so too the cricket nets. The green gym is again open and the cricket season began in mid March. Capital kids cricket also carried out cricket coaching over the Easter school holiday.
6. In the ornamental gardens with the help of apprentices from City gardens the heather bed has been replanted. Work has also continued on restoring and rejuvenating worn areas of grass from the increased footfall that the park has sustained.
7. **Playground:** Jupiter play has been awarded the contract to build a bespoke ship which will be the central feature of the new playground, see Figure 2. Documents are being drawn together for the main contract, with work scheduled to begin in September.

Figure 2: Bespoke Ship – Jupiter Play



Property Matters

8. Nursery project: Subject of a separate report.

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