

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
West Ham Park Committee	15 February 2022
<b>Subject:</b> West Ham Park Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12</b>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment Department	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Ricky O'Garro, West Ham Park Acting Supervisor	

### Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the West Ham Park Committee on management and operational activities at West Ham Park since December 2021. The funding for the work stated is met through the Park's local risk budget (City's Cash), apart from the Playground Project, which is a capital bid.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

### Main Report

#### Current Position

#### Budget and Personnel

1. **Budgets:** At this point in the financial year, the outturn is projected to be in line with the budget envelope, with the potential for a small underspend because of the delay in purchasing the replacement vehicle due to the impacts of both Brexit and Covid (causing supply chain issues).
2. **Staffing:** with the weather remaining mostly dry the visitor numbers remain constant over the winter period. The keepers and gardeners have been busy with regular maintenance, clearing leaves, renovating grass areas, cutting hedges, and mulching and manuring beds. The security company Park Guard have been invaluable in assisting keepers with patrolling the park but, now

that a member of staff has returned from long term sickness, their services are no longer required.

### **Community, Volunteering, Outreach, and events**

3. **Friends of West Ham Park:** The Friends held a food bank collection on the bandstand on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021. At the event the public were called upon to donate non-perishable food items, hygiene, and baby products. Many people donated throughout the day and at close of business, two full carloads of goods left the Park to be transferred to a central food bank in Plaistow.
4. Park in the Dark was held in early December. The participants made lanterns using glowsticks for a procession through the Park to the bandstand after the normal closing time. Refreshments and carol singing, with the Park Primary School Choir, took place on the bandstand. Approximately 250 people attended the event with excellent post-event feedback on social media.
5. The Friends and the RSPB joined forces over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. There were nearly 100 participants over the two days, spotting and learning about birds around the Park.

### **Operational activities**

6. Park Primary School have been involved in bulb planting in the Ornamental Gardens. The bulbs were supplied free of charge by Taylors, Bulbs for London scheme. The gardeners, with the help of four classes over three days, planted nearly 1000 daffodil, tulip, and allium bulbs.
7. The Park has recently purchased a new semi-automatic defibrillator. The unit is extremely easy to use and has voice prompts to keep the user calm and provide instructions on use. It also gives direction on how to apply CPR correctly. The unit is in the main office and signage is displayed around the Park to inform users of its location and how to access it.
8. The team has recently purchased a new Opico 4.5m Hydraulic Folding Grass Harrow, which will be delivered before the end of the month. This is to replace the very old chain harrow that had been used for many years and for which, due to its age, it was no longer possible to obtain replacement parts to maintain it. The purpose of a grass harrow is to remove thatch from the grass sward, which then allows air movement to improve root aeration and water infiltration.
9. The Youth Cricket Club held a small event on the bandstand on 26<sup>th</sup> January launching their "Bowl out racism" campaign. To attract visitors, they had arranged to borrow the Cricket World Cup Trophy to display, and for photo shoots. Local schools and cricket clubs were invited along. The group are planning another event with the silverware later in the spring.

### **Property Matters**

10. **Playground Refurbishment Project:** The selected contractor took temporary possession of the playground site on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January and demolition work has started. Contractors have been working closely with Park staff on setting up and Health and Safety on site.

### **Corporate and Strategic Implications**

11. The work and activities outlined in this report contribute to numerous strands of the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-2023, but notably outcome 12. “our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained”, under the Shape Outstanding Environments strand.

### **Financial/Resource/Legal/Risk/Equalities/Climate/Security/Public sector equality duty Implications**

12. None.

### **Conclusion**

13. Officers have been working hard to manage increased numbers of visitors and to encourage people back to using the Park’s full range of services as lockdown restrictions have eased. Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

### **Ricky O’Garro**

Acting Supervisor, Environment Department

T: 020 8472 3584

E: [Ricky.O’Garro@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Ricky.O’Garro@cityoflondon.gov.uk)