

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
West Ham Park Committee	5 December 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Assistant Directors 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, 5, 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 October. The funding for the work stated is met through the West Ham Park local risk budget (City's Cash).

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.

### Main Report

#### Nature recovery and Biodiversity

1. The gardeners have been busy in the ornamental gardens by creating a mini meadow bordered by a flowering hedge. On the bank by the small pond the gardeners have sown a spring flowering meadow. This flowering hedge has been designed to attract bees, beneficial insects, birds, butterflies, moths and other pollinators. It has nectar/pollen rich flowers, provides shelter and habitat, has seeds for birds and makes a good wildlife hedge.

#### Friends of West Ham Park (FoWHP)

2. The Friends have continued to assist the keepers with litter picking three times a week as the visitor number remain high due to the warmer weather. This is great

support for the keepers as they battle to keep the grass down and clear the leaves up.

3. The Friends have been developing an interpretation panel that tells the Fothergill story and have had it made by signage company Fitzpatrick Woolmer. The story tells how Dr Fothergill collected plants on his travels and grew them at West Ham Park. The panel was brought to life by park user and local illustrator Salvatore Rubbino who worked with the Friends to produce this amazing story board. The panel will be displayed for all to see in the playground near the explorer ship

### **Sport and engagement**

4. The keepers have done great work on renovating the football pitch. They scarified, aerated, and seeded the pitch to encourage better grass coverage as the pitch had been scorched during the summer and grass coverage was inadequate for league matches. Now renovation is complete and the games have commenced in November.
5. Over the past month the park has had four companies choose West Ham Park as a venue to hold their volunteering days. We have had the pleasure of welcoming Chubb Insurance, National Grid, Societe Generale and Lexis Nexis who have been carrying out various volunteering tasks around the park. Tasks have included weeding, mulching, pruning, installing vertical log stacks, shrub and ivy removal and planting. Between these companies they have supplied 60 volunteers, who have done a combined total of over 360 volunteer hours. This is a great help to the park team as this helps us keep on top of all the maintenance tasks. We have had great feedback from all the volunteers and many of them would like to volunteer again next year.

### **Events**

6. Newham biggest leaf pile event from the Friends of West Ham Park was postponed to the end of November.

### **Learning**

7. Wild Schools: October has been relatively busy for the team. During October 20 sessions were taught to roughly 410 children. These sessions covered a variety of topics from habitats to orienteering. Children from the charity Ambition Aspire Achieve (AAA) benefitted from an amazing session in which they took part in outdoor cooking and shelter building.
8. Other autumn sessions:
  - November – 31 sessions booked
  - December – 9 sessions booked currently, but in November a new Festive Storytelling around the campfire session will be offered to schools if there is still space in December.

## **Playground**

9. The playground is still very popular with children. We entered a defect period when discussions with the contractor are now taking place to remedy any issues after opening. The park team are regularly in contact with the playground contractors and suppliers to get the issues with the playground rectified. The contractors recently met with the gravel suppliers on site to discuss and find a solution to the gravel not binding adequately. The suppliers of the net climber, Galopin, are currently speaking to the contractor about the poorly fitting slide, which should be rectified shortly.

## **Corporate and Strategic Implications**

### Strategic Implications

10. The works and activities outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23. Contribute to a flourishing society (1-4), Support a thriving economy (5) and Shape outstanding environments (9-12).

### Financial Implications

11. N/A.

### Legal Implications

12. N/A.

### Risk Implications

13. Risks are recorded and monitored via the Departmental Risk Register.

### Equality Implications

14. N/A

### Climate Implications

15. The City of London Corporation has a Climate Action Strategy which seeks to achieve Net 0 by 2040. There will be a range of measures implemented to realise this including increasing carbon sequestration and storage across the Open Spaces alongside biodiversity enhancement and resilience measures.

## **Conclusion**

16. The park is proving to be a great asset for community participation with successful engagements of businesses and schools. The Friends of West Ham Park continue to be a key partner to keep the park well managed and to involve the local communities. Staff is remaining engaged in the implementation of the wider Natural Environment strategic framework which includes nature recovery and community engagement.

## **Ricky O'Garro**

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