

<b>Committee(s):</b> West Ham Park Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 17 October 2024
<b>Subject:</b> West Ham Park 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan (2024-2029) does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Diverse engage communities Leading sustainable environment Vibrant thriving destination Providing excellent services Flourishing public spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	<b>No</b>
If so, how much?	<b>N/A</b>
What is the source of Funding?	<b>N/A</b>
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Bill LoSasso, Assistant Director (Superintendent) North London Open Spaces	<b>For Information</b>

### Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of West Ham Park.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.

### Main Report

1. West Ham Park was transferred to the City of London Corporation by the Gurney Family on 20 July 1874. Since then, the City Corporation has overseen its protection, conservation, and improvement. The City Corporation hosted a celebration to mark 150 years since the transfer of ownership, hosting a programme of activities that intended to celebrate the

past, mark the present, and instill optimism for the future.

2. The Events Manager worked closely with a steering group of Members, officers, and local stakeholders to deliver a diverse and varied programme of entertainment, workshops and sporting and wellbeing activities this spring and summer, culminating in two days of celebrations on 20 and 21 July.
3. An outdoor exhibition consisting of seven 'monoliths' was commissioned to celebrate the park. With the title of 'World in a Park' the exhibition focused on diversity, history and the community who love West Ham Park. Photos taken by volunteers of the park users were a striking addition to this informative exhibition which was on display in Guildhall Yard for a week and then West Ham Park for four weeks. This exhibition was made possible thanks to funding from the City Bridge Trust and the staff members from the Culture and Heritage department who worked to very tight deadlines to deliver it. The Lord Mayor 'opened' the exhibition in the Guildhall Yard and was very impressed with the content and design.
4. On Saturday 20 July, the focus was on music, culture and heritage. The day started with walking tours focusing on the park's history, led by renowned landscape architect Dominic Cole. The civic reception was serenaded by the Newham Air Cadets Youth Choir and then speeches were made by Policy Chair, Chris Hayward, Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz and the Lord Mayor's Representative, Sir Andrew Parmley. On the main stage there were performances by popular music acts, Celina Sharma, Fiaa Hamilton and DJ Ellis. Following that, an eclectic selection of local musicians, organised by the Friends of West Ham Park, played at the bandstand. Throughout the day there were stalls selling food and local produce, nature arts and crafts delivered by the Learning Team, photo exhibitions, a scavenger hunt, face painters and the local fire brigade running demonstrations. Approximately 7,000 people attended throughout the day and the atmosphere was very positive.
5. On Sunday 21 July, the celebrations were geared towards health, wellbeing and sport. The focus was around improving the health and wellbeing of the local community and ensuring the day was a fun day out for all the family. The London to Southend Bike Ride started the day off by departing from the park at 8am. Throughout the day there were free taster events, which included Tennis Comes True – the tennis coaches based at West Ham Park – Capital Kids Cricket and the West Ham United Foundation. The Kent Longboarding School also ran sessions, and Newham provided a cycle workshop promoting local cycle routes. The Friends of West Ham Park organised an obstacle course which could be attempted with a canine companion. In addition, there were workshops on meditation, tai chi and circus skills, plus stalls selling local produce and offering face painting. The day was a great success with over 4,000 people attending, including many families enjoying the activities and

entertainment. All these tasters were free, and West Ham Park 150 anniversary medals were given to all competitors.

6. The dedicated team of staff at West Ham Park, assisted by volunteers from the Newham Air Cadets, ensured the park looked its best over the two days of celebration.
7. A professional photographer was employed to take footage and photos over the two days and produced a short film to showcase the celebrations and the anniversary. This has been published to the City Corporation's YouTube channel and shared on social media.
8. With the support of Members and executive leadership, officers secured and allocated c. £50,000 to resource this celebration programme. This funding was used to support event and programming delivery costs including first aid, security, a stage and the supply of a number of bespoke gazebos, entertainment including face painters and a circus workshop, the monolith informational installations, and decoration for the park. It also funded additional grounds maintenance and reinstatement supply and material-related costs, as well as the hiring of occasional casual staff required for additional tasks related to the increase in activities this financial year.
9. Early discussions are underway for an annual legacy event which would be smaller in scale and led by the Friends of West Ham Park.
10. The Learning Team are planning a Halloween event for the local community which will also be funded by the additional budget and branded with the West Ham Park 150 logo.
11. The programme of events for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was only possible due to the extraordinary support and participation of a number of passionate supporters of the park, including the steering group, committee chair, Committee Members, officers, local volunteers, generous donors of time and resource, and the Friends of West Ham Park. This group ensured that the celebrations were fitting for such an important anniversary for West Ham Park and the City Corporation. It is important to acknowledge the commitment of the local park management team and the Event Manager who all went the extra mile to ensure these events were well delivered and successful while continuing to attend to the business as usual to keep the beloved park open, beautiful, and welcoming. Their commitment is greatly appreciated.

### **Climate Implications**

12. Included within the annual plan for 2023/24 is a series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy, which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving

and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions. The Climate Action Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

### **Legal Implications**

13. No implications.

### **Risk Implications**

14. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

### **Equality Implications**

15. No impact.

### **Charity implications**

16. West Ham Park is a registered charity. Charity Law obliges a trustee to ensure that the decisions taken in relation to the Charity are taken in the best interests of the Charity.

### **Security Implications**

17. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register.

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