

OPEN SPACES, CITY GARDENS & WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, 15 April 2013

Minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park
Committee held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday,
15 April 2013 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Robert Hall (Chairman)
Alex Deane
Alderman Ian Luder
Deputy Wendy Mead
Deputy Michael Welbank
Richard Gurney
Justin Meath-Baker
The Rev. Stennett Kirby
Councillor Joy Laguda
Cllr Bryan Collier
Alderman Gordon Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
Barbara Newman (Ex-Officio Member)
Jeremy Simons (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Jacky Compton	- Committee & Member Services Officer
Esther Sumner	- Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent, West Ham Park and City Gardens
Louisa Allen	- City Gardens Manager
Alison Elam	- Chamberlain's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Bob Meldrum	- City Surveyor's Department
Peter Shadbolt	- Department of Built Environment

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Catherine Bickmore and Robert Cazenove.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS IN THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Deputy Wendy Mead declared an interest as a Member of the City Bridge Trust Committee.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30. The Town Clerk read a list of Members eligible to stand and Alderman Ian Luder, being the only Member expressing his willingness to serve, was declared to be duly elected Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

4. **MINUTES**

The public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 4 February 2013 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Members Declarations (page 2) – Jeremy Simons declaration to read "...a Trustee of 2 Charities based at St Andrew's Holborn" and Alex Deane's declaration to read "...a Trustee of St Andrew's Fundraising Board."

National Planning Policy Framework (page 2) – The Director of Open Spaces advised that with the support of Paul Becket from Dept of Built Environment, they had recently met with the Mayor of London's London Plan team on 14th March and had a very positive consideration of the need to protect areas and strategic spaces from un-appropriate development.

Schedule of Visits (page 2) – The Town Clerk advised that the July visit, in consultation with the Chairman, would now take place on 12 July.

LB of Newham Representative (page 2) – The new representative, Councillor Bryan Collier was in attendance.

West Ham Park

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Superintendent of West Ham Park. The following points were made –

Finance – in advance of the final out-turn, the end of the 2012/13 FY looks healthy - West Ham Park £11k planned underspend which we would seek to carry forward for planned projects in 2013/14, subject to the appropriate approvals. The Nursery shows an over-achievement of income in the sum of £13k.

Staff – at the end of last month we appointed a temporary nursery gardener post – fixed term to the end of November.

Works update – the team has replaced approx 1/3 of the hedge around the tennis courts with spp of *Pinus*. Refurbishment of three of the tennis courts has begun; this is funded by a grant from the London Marathon Trust secured by TSFA. In the Nursery we are all hands to the pump growing summer bedding for TRP. Including bedding for the City and other OS, we are growing over 350 species divided into many more varieties, totalling over 200,000 plants.

Visits - Committee lunch separated from visit this year. Lunch is scheduled on 17 May at Barber Surgeon's Hall – invitations have been sent. Visit will take place Thursday 5th September, Lady Mayoress will attend. Details to follow.

Events – Yesterday saw the Newham 10K run and half marathon start and finish in the park. Over 3000 runners took part in total. Number of well-known international runners took part as this is seen as a 'warm-up' and timing event for the full marathons coming up over the summer. Although those attending would not particularly have experienced any problems, there were a number of issues that occurred behind the scenes on the day that I was not happy with. Although our staff undertook their duties professionally and efficiently, this did not appear to be the case with the event organisers. I will be feeding this back to them at a wash-up meeting in the next few days and will seek to tighten arrangements next year through the granting of a formal event license.

-April 27th heroes and heroines day organised by the Friends of WHP. There will be a hired story teller for children and craft time (instrument making from recycled materials).

Tomorrow and Wednesday, 3 primary schools will be sowing wild flower meadows around park cottage and in the jubilee food garden as part of our CBT-funded improvements to biodiversity.

6. **WEST HAM PARK NURSERY BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces updating Members on the progress made over the past year in delivering projects set out in year 3 (2012-13) of the West Ham Park Nursery Business Plan.

RECEIVED.

7. **PROVISIONAL ADDITIONAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2014/15**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor setting out a provisional list of cyclical projects being considered for properties under the management of Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Committee's views be sought on the provisional list of works.

Open Spaces

8. **CURRENT TOPICAL ISSUES FOR OPEN SPACES**

The Director of Open Spaces advised that as this was the last meeting of the Committee in its current format, she stated that she thought it would be helpful to update Members on progress, following on from the various topical issues presented or mentioned to Members in the last year.

Planning – with the support of Paul Becket (Director of Policy and Performance in the Department of Built Environment) met with the Mayor of London's London Plan team on 14th March and had a very positive consideration of the need to protect areas and strategic spaces from inappropriate development.

Litter Management – The trial commenced earlier this year of installing recycling bins in the City Gardens Open Spaces. Each bin cost £800 and to date 15 have been installed and within the new financial year we hope to install a similar number. A report will be submitted on the outcome of the trial at the end of the year ie early 2014.

Dog Control Orders – The Superintendent of Burnham Beeches has been progressing this project, both in terms of identifying the means to administrative orders in a cool effective way and also, preparing for public consultation on the proposals.

Tree Disease – Following the tree conference just before Christmas with the Forestry Commission.

9. **OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT BUSINESS PLAN 2013/2016**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces outlining the overall departmental aims and objectives, the key projects for the next three years and the key indicators that have been set to measure performance.

Members are also asked to consider the key projects for the City Gardens and West Ham Park.

RESOLVED: That Members –

1. approve the Open Spaces Department Business Plan for 2013-2016, including the key projects for City Gardens and West Ham Park, and agree the targets for service delivery as quantified by the performance indicators; and
2. determine whether any projects and performance indicators represent high risk and priority sectors of service which you would expect to be featured in the quarterly progress reports which will be submitted to the Committee during 2013/14.

10. **OPEN SPACES AUDIT REPORT 2012**

The Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment summarising the key findings of the City of London Open Spaces Audit Report 2012.

RECEIVED.

City Gardens

11. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the City Gardens Manager. The following points were made –

Finance – City Garden's budget is in line with agreed budget profiles. The budget at year end is demonstrating a small underspend which subject to approvals to be spent on a repeat Massaria survey, associated tree works and the purchase of more recycling bins.

Staff – full complement of staff. A newly appointed Project Support Officer and a new Assistant Gardener have been recruited recently.

St Botolph Bishopsgate – Dashwood House S106 Improvements – Conservation and levelling issues in relation to the fountain have now been resolved enabling City Gardens and contractors to instigate drainage improvements during May. Other improvements to the garden have included: the installation of metal edging between the lawns and newly planted border, the planting of a replacement tree and the installation of three new watering points. One of the traditional bedding beds is to be converted temporarily into a decorative vegetable planting as part of the City's in Bloom campaign. In terms of designing out previous anti-social behaviour, the area behind the tennis/netball courts is now accessed via a locked gate. The installation of lamps and lighting bollards is complete. Remaining planting will be carried out in the autumn.

Green Corridors Update – A three year Transport for London funded project worth £415k in total. The City's Tree Strategy aims to increase the existing stock of trees, especially through the planting of large-canopied species, and to increase the number of City owned trees by 5% by 2019. The Green Corridors project significantly contributes to this target through the planting of around 50 street trees which will exceed this target.

Friends of City Gardens and volunteer activities

- 22 March – Friends of City Gardens and 10 volunteers from a regeneration charity based in Bromley by Bow have planted 450 native whips to create a native hedge in Bunhill Fields. This project supports the Town Clerk's and the Chairman of Policy's vision to work with and involve wider communities;
- 17 April – volunteers from Lloyds Bank are planting a woodland meadow, converting a patchy area of grass in Bunhill Fields in partnership with the Friends;
- 11 May – Barbican in Bloom event, organised by City Gardens in partnership with the Barbican Estate, the library and the Barbican Horticultural Society. The event will include: 'how to care for plants in container demonstrations and workshops, storytelling for children (gardening themed) and a treasure hunt;
- 8-9 June – Open Squares Weekend. A number of City gardens are promoted through this scheme. The Barbican Wildlife Group will be opening Fann Street garden to the general public. An edible walk has been organised by the City Gardens and a historical treasure hunt for families will be organised by the Friends of City Gardens and volunteers in Bunhill Fields.

12. RESULTS OF A FACE-TO-FACE SURVEY OF USERS AND NON-USERS OF THE CITY'S OPEN SPACE

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces relative to the results of a face-to-face survey of users and non-users of the City's Open Space.

The Director stated that the findings from the user survey were very positive, with 79.4% of users rating the City Gardens service as good or very good.

RECEIVED.

13. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were none.

14. URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraphs in Schedule 12A</u>
16	3
17-18	-

SUMMARY OF MATTERS CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED

16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2013 were approved.

17. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were none.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were none.

The meeting ended at 1.15pm

Chairman

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