

Annual Working Party Review – Minutes of Gardens Advisory Group (GAG) – June 2014 – March 2015

Gardens Advisory Group
01.09.14

Helen Davinson	BEO	HD
Michael Bennett	BEO	MB
Louisa Allen	Open Spaces	LA
Geoff Rogers	Open Spaces	GR
Anne Naphine	Resident	AN
Sarah Hudson	Resident	SH
Paula Tomlinson	Resident	PT
Gillian Laidlaw	Resident	GL
Berthe Wallis	Resident	BW
Natalie Robinson	Resident	NR
Judith Serota	Resident	JS

Apologies	Nancy Chessum	Resident
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	Remit for Gardens Advisory Group The Barbican gardens which include the private areas at Speed House, Thomas More and Fann Street as well as the planted podium raised beds and planters are managed on behalf of residents by the Barbican Estate Office in accordance with a Service Level Agreement, the actual work is carried out by the City Gardens team of the City of London's Open Spaces Department. Firstly the Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) has approved the establishment of a Gardens Advisory Group dealing with "soft" issues to provide input to the technical aspects of garden maintenance process and introduce the knowledge and experience of residents who have an interest in gardening issues. Key remit areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Joint Inspections with House Officers and Open Spaces Officers • To comment upon plants being used. To help prioritise new and trial planting schemes for new planters such as those being installed outside Shakespeare Tower - all schemes subject to funding • To comment upon levels of maintenance being undertaken by Open Spaces such as pruning • To provide a steer for the RCC and BRC for new projects and trials e.g. Providing allotment spaces - subject to funding 	
	Fann Street Garden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools. Tools required for the volunteers can be purchased, but there is nowhere suitable for their storage with Bunyan Car Park. Group to look for a suitable storage space in the garden and report back. • Next scything booked in for 10.09 	PT
	Allotments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra planters provided. Defoe Place and Mountjoy/Thomas More House. • GSMD collaboration? FP attempting contact. 	Allotment Group
	Actions from Walkaround Thomas More Lawn All mulched quite recently Some pruning required	OS

	<p>Log piles to be tidied up.</p> <p>Berthe's chosen plants have all dies – Overwatered? Aftercare? Not staked?</p> <p>New plant species chosen by group.</p> <p>Honey fungus possible present. OS to monitor</p> <p>Lake</p> <p>Western Berm has really struggled this year. To investigate further when cutting back. To lift and divide? No – more research needed.</p> <p>Waterlilies – not worked this year. To try again in 2015.</p> <p>Speed Lawn</p> <p>Tree by Eucalyptus – not v. happy. To monitor.</p> <p>Gapping of shrubs</p> <p>Border – bulbs, seedmix, lavenders</p> <p>Thomas More Lawn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage has been the biggest problem recently esp. south east corner. Technical Services to advise if anything can be done to stop paths flooding. Property Services monitoring 	<p>OS</p> <p>OS</p> <p>OS</p> <p>OS</p> <p>OS</p> <p>Property Services</p>
	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulb planting. Resident volunteer dates to plant out bulbs in the Autumn. To plant – Speed Lawn, Thomas More lawn, Cromwell planters and Defoe new planters. Would be good to do one weekend and one weekday (preferred dates – 26.10 and 02.11). OS to order 10,000 bulbs. BEO Email Broadcast ahead of date. • Willoughby 01 ramp garden – on wish list • Squirrel proof bird feeders – to investigate for gardens 	
	<p>Next meeting date.</p> <p>Friday 28.11.14 at 10.00am</p> <p>Walk-around to be first – Geoff Rogers to accompany</p>	

Gardens Advisory Group
28.11.14

Helen Davinson	BEO	HD
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Berthe Wallis	Resident	BW
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Judith Serota	Resident	JS

Apologies	Nancy Chessum	Resident
	Geoff Rogers	Open Spaces

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	<p>Fann Street Garden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 Wildlife Survey scheduled for April 2015. London Wildlife Trust. PT to circulate information to group. • Coppicing being organised by group. PT sourcing quote (KPS) • Chippings and log edging can also be provided by KPS. PT organising quote • Seed order for meadow due in December • 5K donation still sitting there. Perhaps survey will give a steer as to how best to spend? 	<p>PT</p> <p>PT PT</p> <p>HD</p>
	<p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watering point for new Mountjoy/TMH planters. • GSMD collaboration? No. This is a staff initiative. • Please see attached update from group. • Working very well in blocks • To consider an allotment bed in any future landscaping? 	<p>HD</p>

	<p>Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All working parties will now be reviewed annually by RCC • GAG feel that there should be representatives from the following groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWG • BHS • Allotments • Possible formation of backup advisory group if interest is great? <p>Paula Tomlinson BWG Nancy Chessum BHS Sarah Hudson BWG and Friend of CG Judith Serota BHS and new member Natalie Robinson new member Anne Napthine Allotment Berthe Wallis Gillian Laidlaw BWG</p> <p>BW and GL ready to step down AN ready to step down but would like assurance that allotment would be represented. Candace Gillies Wright id keen to take over her place. Everyone else keen to stay on WP.</p> <p>Thank you to Anne, Berthe and Gillian for their valuable contribution since the formation of the GAG</p>	
	<p>Actions from Walkaround Cromwell Bed (podium) Huge improvement. When clearing ivy, GR saw very little evidence of old nests. All plants came up from St Giles planters. Ivy creeping back through to south of bed. More bulbs (incl. primroses) to be planted to the south of the bed.</p> <p>Trial of sparrow box to smoke turrets – attached to fencing and not the concrete though. SH to source box.</p> <p>Cromwell Forecourt. 2 large planters by roadside have had ground elder removed? This occurred on resident planting day by Cromwell residents. Ground elder was deliberately planted and chosen because of location, pollution etc. PT to investigate and explain. To hopefully provide replacement plants should budget allow? Middle island. Partially planted with bulbs. OS to complete.</p> <p>Brandon Mews Ground elder working well in planters. (The planters are very congested from the large palms.) Where the cedum has failed, begonias will be planted.</p> <p>Berm by Girls School Has failed this year. OS to think whether to replant or just closely monitor for next year. Other berms to be cut back</p> <p>Tree replacement at St Giles OS to clarify type going back.</p> <p>Past outstanding Thomas More Lawn Honey fungus possible present. OS to monitor</p> <p>Lake Waterlilies – not worked this year. To try again in 2015.</p> <p>Speed Lawn Tree by Eucalyptus – not v. happy. To monitor. Gapping of shrubs</p>	<p>OS OS</p> <p>SH</p> <p>PT</p> <p>OS OS OS</p>

<p>Border – bulbs, seedmix, lavenders Thomas More Lawn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage has been the biggest problem recently esp. south east corner. Technical Services to advise if anything can be done to stop paths flooding. Property Services monitoring <p>28.11.14 update. Ed Payne form Landscape Agency is working with PS to come up with solutions.</p>	<p>Property Services</p>
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willoughby 01 ramp garden – on wish list • Balcony planting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular skip? • Soil purchase? • Sub group to meet in early New Year and report back next mtg • SH, JS, HD and LA – possibly David Murray? • Annual online calendar for all gardening events? PT to look into • Future walkaround locations to be advertised • Bulb planting - thank you to volunteers and Geoff for making this possible • Redrow. Concern about wildlife garden's status and their donation. BEO cannot engage with Redrow about any gift until post planning process. Wildlife Garden is just that. Any change would have to go through GAG and RCC. • Britain in Bloom. Prizes for residential edibles, yellow pollinators and best residential. Well done to all involved! 	<p>HD</p> <p>PT</p>
<p>Next meeting dates 30 January 2015 at 10am Beech gardens and Any suggestions from group? 24 April 2015 at 10am 4 September at 10am 13 November at 10am Walk-around to be first – Geoff Rogers to accompany</p>	

Gardens Advisory Group
30.01.15 (walkaround 02.03.15)

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	<p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watering point for new Mountjoy/TMH planters. • I broken planter by Mountjoy/TMH. Can it be repaired? Property Services believes so. • Photo of our allotments is front of most recent Grassroots RHS magazine (attached) 	<p>HD</p> <p>HD</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beech Gardens resident volunteering. Unfortunately, it can't be an open estate wide offer. The timings are just too critical and pressured. Our 5 regular volunteers will be given some time to help. Additionally a resident maintenance day will be organised for the Autumn. Open Spaces involved in Open Squares weekend with LA doing a talk about the new planting scheme. (photos for the event if weather permitting) • Priorities. For next meeting, please think about priorities to be discussed. Both Landlord and Service Charge areas. (Service Charge – anything you need a key to get to) at next meeting a presentation on budgets. 	
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