

Committee:	Date:
Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee	27 July 2015
Subject: Superintendent's update July 2015	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Parks & Gardens	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>This report provides an update to Members of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee on management and operational activities across the City Gardens section since June 2015.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report. 	

Main Report

Budget

1. The City Gardens budget is in line with agreed budget profiles.

Personnel

2. A full complement of staff is in place.

Operational Activities

3. The last of the summer annual bedding schemes were planted out by the team at the end of June and are providing a good display despite the hot weather experienced recently.
4. As a result of one of the busiest winter/spring project work periods, the team have been catching up with general maintenance tasks across the City Gardens as well as preparing the gardens for judging from the London Gardens Society and London in Bloom.

Events

5. Open Squares Weekend 13/14 June.

The City Gardens team supported the event with a truly impressive array of activities available across the City's green spaces, ranging from walks, talks and visits to Fann Street wildlife garden, Sir John Cass primary school roof garden, Golden Lane baggers, the new Barbican Station pop-up garden and the Nigel Dunnett planting at Beech Gardens. There were five poets and an author of a recently published book talking about the Watts memorial, all of which contributed to making a diverse and entertaining range of events to cater for new and existing audiences. Nomura Bank and the Eversheds roof gardens received over 1,800 visitors each and the Friends of City Gardens raised an impressive £750 from selling teas and coffees and plant donations, almost double last year's fundraising amount. As a whole the City received approximately 5,000 visitors, double from last year. The Open Squares organisers estimate that the City received approximately half the visitors across London for the whole weekend.

6. London in Bloom judges visited the City on 8th and 14th July. Staff arranged two comprehensive tours covering many aspects of the City Gardens service including a couple of the recently re landscaped gardens, Beech Gardens and St Olave churchyard as well as the new planned green space at Aldgate. The judges were introduced to a number of the gardening team, volunteers, residents, the Friends of City Gardens, City Guides and partners.

7. City in Bloom judging is under way organised by the Friends of City Gardens who have received 110 applications, including applications from businesses, schools, residents, estates and community groups. A celebration event will be held on 14th September.

Property Matters

8. None to report

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