

Committee(s):	Date:
Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee	1 st February 2016
Subject: Superintendent's update February 2016	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 December 2016.</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. Income from Section 106 project work so far this year has been lower than in previous years.

Personnel

2. A full complement of staff is in place.

Operational Activities

3. The City Gardens team have started work implementing the second phase of replacing a further sixteen timber planters with concrete planters on the Barbican Estate, the project will be completed by the end of March. As part of this project there will be a two day road closure in Moor Lane to enable a large crane to manoeuvre the planters into place. Barbican staff will keep Barbican residents fully informed regarding the project's progress.
4. An increasing number of dogs being let off their leads and bicyclists cycling through the main thoroughfare of Bunhill Fields Burial Ground is causing a nuisance to park users and breaching the site's Byelaws.
5. Parkguard Ltd, an independent community safety service, has recently been contracted to deliver patrols on the Golden Lane and Mansell Street Estates

regarding similar issues as a pilot from February to August 2016. As part of this contract Parkguard Ltd will undertake patrols at key times in Bunhill Fields to evaluate if their presence improves these issues. Findings will be reported to committee in the autumn.

6. The City Gardens Team continues to work closely with City of London colleagues and outside agencies on the development of the following projects: The Aldgate Public Realm Improvement Project, the Cycle Super Highway, Finsbury Circus reinstatement, and London Wall Place.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and Events

7. The annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony held on 8th December 2015 was attended by the Lord Mayor and hosted by St Paul's Cathedral School. Over eighty people were in attendance including Members, staff, residents, City Garden Guides, Friends of City Gardens and volunteers.
8. The annual RSPB Big Garden Bird watch 2016 is scheduled for Saturday 30th January; more information can be found on the City Gardens website.
9. City Gardens will be representing London in the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom campaign this year in the Town category. The Friends of City Gardens will take on a more prominent role in the planning of this along with London- and City in Bloom campaigns. A launch event is planned at the end of February to generate interest and launch all three campaigns.
10. Rebecca Louise Laws, a well-known dried flower artist, will be creating a cut flower display using our gardens as inspiration. The display will be held in the City marketing suite from April to September. School children, volunteers, Friends of City Gardens amongst others will be invited to take part in installing the feature in mid-April and it will be promoted as part of Open Squares weekend.
11. Open Squares weekend will take place on 18th and 19th June this year. Events for City Gardens will include a number of guided walks and talks, including one delivered by Professor Nigel Dunnett about Beech Gardens. Five poets will be in residence, teas and coffees will be served, and a plant sale and a photography exhibition will held.

Louisa Allen

City Gardens Manager

T: 020 7374 4140

E: Louisa.allen@cityoflondon.gov.uk