

# Annual Working Party Review – Minutes of Gardens Advisory Group (GAG) – July 2015 to May 2016

Gardens Advisory Group  
4 September at 10.00

Helen Davinson	BEO	HD
Michael Bennett	BEO	MB
Louisa Allen	Open Spaces	LA
Geoff Rogers	Open Spaces	GR
Stephen Leaman	Open Spaces	SL
Sarah Hudson	Resident	SH
Paula Tomlinson	Resident	PT
Natalie Robinson	Resident	NR
Judith Serota	Resident	JS
Nancy Chessum	Resident	NC
Maggie Urry	Resident	MU
Candace Gillies-Wright	Resident	CGW
Colin Slaughter	Resident	CS
Mark Mallandine	Resident	MM
Jenni Addison	Resident	JA
Kate Wood	Resident	KW
Mary Winch	Resident	MW

	<p><b>Remit for Gardens Advisory Group</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Key remit areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly Joint Inspections with House Officers and Open Spaces Officers</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• To comment upon levels of maintenance being undertaken by Open Spaces such as pruning</li> <li>• To provide a steer for the RCC and BRC for new projects and trials eg. Providing allotment spaces - subject to funding</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Fann Street Garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 1 Wildlife Survey scheduled for April 2015. London Wildlife Trust. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To increase amount of water by 50%</li> <li>○ To increase the wooded area (Bunyan side) to encourage more birds</li> <li>○ To ascertain if LWT are able to help with recommendations from survey results.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Survey to be distributed with minutes.</li> <li>• £5000 bequest. How to be spent?</li> </ul>	FP/PT

[illegible]

	<p><b>Past Outstanding</b></p> <p><b>Thomas More Lawn</b> Honey fungus possible present. OS to monitor</p> <p><b>Speed Lawn</b> Tree by Eucalyptus – not v. happy. To monitor.</p> <p><b>Thomas More Lawn</b> 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 28.11.14 update. Ed Payne from Landscape Agency is working with PS to come up with solutions. <b>18.03.15 Drainage Engineer has reviewed and come up with possible solution. Is drawing up some plans for PS to organise a trial against</b></p>	<p>OS</p> <p>OS</p> <p>Property Services</p>
	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual online calendar for all gardening events? PT to look into. Work in Progress</li> <li>• <b>BA news</b> – Maggie Urry is Editor and happy to do brief quarterly overview of work of group.</li> <li>• <b>Water Lilies</b> to attempt to transfer again this year. (Previously failed due to shoots being eaten by the birds) If group could look into possible bird scarers.</li> <li>• <b>Sunday Telegraph</b> article about Beech Gardens. Most likely 04.10.15.</li> <li>• <b>Gardeners Question Time.</b> 11.06.15. FAQ to be circulated.</li> </ul>	SH
	<p><b>AOB</b> Speed Garden and Thomas More Garden overview and replant. Small working party to be formed from within GAG to look at scope of rethink and to compose remit for possible Landscape Architect/Designer. Work could potentially be done in phases over several years. Volunteers to have interest/knowledge of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Horticulture</li> <li>• Design</li> </ul> <p>Please email Helen if you are interested in joining with a short paragraph as to what you can bring to the sub group. Thank you.</p>	
	<p><b>Next meeting dates</b> <b>13 November at 10am</b> <b>Walk-around to be first – Geoff Rogers to accompany</b></p>	
	<p><b>Autumn Bulb planting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To add in bulbs to take home? Possible dates 31 Oct/1 Nov and 7/8 November</li> <li>▪ SH to provide posters</li> <li>▪ Predominantly tulips. Thomas More Garden and Cromwell Forecourt</li> </ul>	

**Gardens Advisory Group**  
**13 November at 10.00**

**Helen Davinson**  
**Geoff Rogers**  
**Sarah Hudson**  
**Paula Tomlinson**

**BEO**  
**Open Spaces**  
**Resident**  
**Resident**

**HD**  
**GR**  
**SH**  
**PT**

Natalie Robinson	Resident	NR
Judith Serota	Resident	JS
Nancy Chessum	Resident	NC
Candace Gillies-Wright	Resident	CGW
Jenni Addison	Resident	JA
Kate Wood	Resident	KW
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<b>APOLOGIES</b>		
Michael Bennett	BEO	MB
Louisa Allen	Open Spaces	LA
Stephen Leaman	Open Spaces	SL
Maggie Urry	Resident	MU
Colin Slaughter	Resident	CS
Mark Mallandine	Resident	MM

### 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:

- 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 eg. Providing allotment spaces - subject to funding

### Fann Street Garden

- LWT further visit very helpful
- "enjoy and respect" gardens. BWG to come up with exact wording and HD will order.
- Tap work to be completed. **HD to chase**
- New gate position looked at. Funding non service charge. Group to decide on location and report back.
- Possible pond layout. Funding from bequest. Group to decide how to implement scheme.
- Trial pits of different seed type to ascertain what works well and what doesn't
- Paths – chips and logs. PT to contact KPS direct as per last year.

### Allotments

- 30+ on waiting list
- Extra 6 planters given over by Ben Jonson SC64. Watering point an issue. One over by Frobisher Crescent. One by SC64. **Still an issue.**
- **HD to chase up contractors who are watering points to ensure this is all complete.**
- Speed Planters to be emptied for removal by the end of February. HD to clarify with one resident that it is all 6. Some are very dilapidated now. If possible, they should go prior to Christmas. HD to liaise with CGW
- If any of the planters from Brandon Mews/Willoughby House survive being emptied, to be moved to Defoe cluster.
- Some negative comments received from Shakespeare Tower House Group about – proximity to their main entrance – some planters looking unkempt

- GAG found planters to be generally well planted. Some improvements and pruning needed on a few of the planters.
- CGW to organise an Autumn tidy up of all planters
- CGW to produce an update report which can publicise. What has worked well, what hasn't, variety of crops etc. photos
- Areas of moss around some of the planters on the tiles to be removed (by BEO cleaning team) – not to do with allotments, more an issue with the drains

**Actions from Walkaround  
Fann Street Wildlife Garden  
(as above)**

**Defoe Place – allotment planters  
(as above)**

**Thomas More Garden**

- Resident planting day went really well.
- To possibly replicate for leaf clearing? Good activity for small children but will have to be organised fairly last minute. Plus leaves cannot be left for too long on the grass.
- Leaf composting. Group in agreement of trialling this activity. Composting area along Girls' School wall at the back of the bed. GR to clarify that the amounts we're talking about doesn't exceed regs. If at all possible to move quickly so can be of use this Autumn
- Tree pruning and crown lifting started. To be completed from 16.11.15.

**Past outstanding**

**Thomas More Garden**

Irrigation to be diarised to check/service every March.

**Berms**

**(Please refer to AOB)**

No clear idea of cause of failure. End of natural life?

Can they be replanted without draining? Unlikely to be drained in near future. To drain just for this would be prohibitively expensive.

Gardeners when next in lake, to investigate further how plant are attached, secured, weighed down.

Reeds to be cut down after Christmas

**Speed Lawn**

**(Please refer to AOB)**

New bed has divided opinion. Looked lovely but only for a very short period of time. Rethink.

Perennial shrubs?

Returf and hedge of rosemary and lavender?

**Herbaceous border?** Like Greyfriars Churchyard (min. of 1.5m depth)

Possibly an extra tree to give added shade (Rowan)

**Thomas More Lawn**

Honey fungus possible present. OS to monitor

**Speed Lawn**

Tree by Eucalyptus – not v. happy. OS to monitor.

**Thomas More Lawn**

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

28.11.14 update. Ed Payne from Landscape Agency is working with PS to come up with solutions.

**18.03.15 Drainage Engineer has reviewed and come up with possible solution. Is drawing up some plans for PS to organise a trial against**

**AOB****Thomas More Hanging Gardens**

BEO has withdrawn their planning application. HD and LA have met with "Difficult Access" contractors (who have previously worked on Sculpture Court Buttresses). Works to be completed wc Mon 16.11.15. They will then work on the buttresses (pruning and weeding) and the waterfall (weeding).

**Speed Lawn bed and pathway.**

Proposals for south side bed on hold due to path issues.

Path is badly cracked and has recently got much worse. BEO has met with OS and Planning to discuss options.

A section of path will be taken up so the roots can be inspected.

OS do not believe that the wisteria will survive the roots being drastically cut.

It may that it has to be replaced using a root barrier and planted further into the garden. GAG would like to see it preserved if at all possible.

Bed proposals will wait until this has been resolved. In the interim OS to turf and plant periodic lavenders. Also Laurel as agreed at last mtg.

First step is to take up tiles for assessment.

**Lake – access and berms update**

Following reintroduction of Bryer Pond, it is apparent that the Risk Assessment for the main lake needs to be reviewed.

OS working with Barbican Centre to look at electricity cut off for when gardeners are in the lake.

In the interim, OS weeding from the side using long pole.

Berms review will be looked at as soon as this is resolved.

**Small sub group**

Speed Garden and Thomas More Garden overview and replant. Small working party to be formed from within GAG to look at scope of rethink and to compose remit for possible Landscape Architect/Designer. Work could potentially be done in phases over several years.

Volunteers picked:-

Sarah Hudson

Mark Mallindine

Nancy Chessum

Thank you to everyone who put their name forward.

HD to organise first meeting

**Lauderdale and Shakespeare Tower planters**

For April 2016

Comments from Lauderdale and Seddon re. removal of planters on Lauderdale Place

Comments from Shakespeare Tower HG about small wooden planters by their entrance.

Proposal for next year's concrete planters – 3, Lauderdale Place and 2, Shakespeare Tower entrance.

The 2 by Shakespeare Tower will be offered to Alex in the first instance. He currently maintains the wooden planters. GAG considered to a very high standard (plus he is prize winning) and excellent to encourage more diverse planting

3 on Lauderdale Place – to offer to residents? GAG to discuss.

If funds allow to then look at Cromwell Forecourt

In the interim. OS to look at planting for the 2 very wind burnt planters (Lauderdale and Cromwell)

Possible dogwoods which will also add colour?

Bulbs added to smaller Lauderdale Planters?

**Resident Planting Day**

Yes to holding again

Possibly May

HD to ascertain funding levels.

**Next meeting dates.**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 10am, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 10am**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 10am, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 10am**

**To meet at Barbican Estate Office for walk around.**

Rebecca Bello	BEO	RB
Michael Bennett	BEO	MB
Louisa Allen	Open Spaces	LA
Geoff Rogers	Open Spaces	GR
Sarah Hudson	Resident	SH
Paula Tomlinson	Resident	PT
Judith Serota	Resident	JS
Candace Gillies-Wright	Resident	CGW
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#### APOLOGIES

Helen Davinson	BEO	HD
Jenni Addison	Resident	JA
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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:

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- 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 eg. Providing allotment spaces - subject to funding

#### Fann Street Garden

- "enjoy and respect" gardens. BWG to come up with exact wording and HD will order.
- Tap work still to be completed. **HD to chase**
- New gate position looked at. Funding non service charge. Location has been decided PS officers met on 15/01/16 to review required work and start date. **HD to update the BWG with date for work**
- Possible pond layout. Funding from bequest. Group to decide how to implement scheme. The Conservation Trust has been contacted for advice on the pond.
- Trial pits of different seed type to ascertain what works well and what doesn't
- Paths – chips and logs. PT to contact KPS direct as per last year.
- KPS tree surgeons had recently carried out work to lift the plane trees.

#### Allotments

- 30+ on waiting list
- Extra 6 planters given over by Ben Jonson SC64. One by Frobisher Crescent. One by SC64.
- **Work to install the watering points at Ben Jonson scheduled for 25.01.16**
- Speed Planters to be emptied and all 6 removed (top and bottom of stairs) by the end of February. Some are very dilapidated now.
- Planters from Brandon Mews/Willoughby House are being cleared and removed to be replaced with new concrete ones. **GR to save 2 sets of large logs** to be moved to the Defoe cluster subject to the results of a **survey to Shakespeare and Defoe residents to be**

**drawn up by SH and CGW.**

- Decision on whether to keep the logs to be communicated to GR by the middle of February so a decision is made whether to have the spare logs removed by the crane or kept.
- Some negative comments received from Shakespeare Tower House Group about – proximity to their main entrance – some planters looking unkempt. Survey to be sent to Shakespeare and Defoe residents identifying whether more planters should be introduced in that area and looking for feedback **SH and CGW to draft the survey for BEO to send out**
- GAG found planters to be generally well planted. Some improvements and pruning needed on a few of the planters.
- CGW and SH organised an Autumn tidy up of the planters particularly looking at the ones at the Shakespeare Tower entrance and a letter has been sent to holders reminding them to tidy up their planters.
- Areas of moss around some of the planters on the tiles at Defoe Place has been cleaned by the BEO cleaning team – not to do with allotments, more an issue with the drains
- Report from CGW on allotments across the estate was circulated around the group – to be sent out via the email broadcast.
- Request for new identifying tags/labels to go on the allotment planters **HD to agree with CGW the size needed and then to purchase**
- Planting day to be arranged for after Easter.
- Potentially look at discussing a long term plan for allotments at a future meeting but need to have an audit of what allotments there are and to plot their location on a plan.

## **Actions from Walkaround**

### **Beech Gardens and Bryer Pond**

Open Gardens weekend 18/19 June will include a ticketed interview with Nigel Dunnett talking about Beech Gardens. Volunteers still working weekly with OS on the Beech Gardens beds. Dead birch trees have been replaced with smaller whips 1 meter in height.

Troughs facing Defoe Place – to be cut back as wildflowers have flowered and to allow new growth Bryer Pond – the team are monitoring the water level and aeration. Topping up is switched off at present and the water level is good. Lots of water snails have been found. Pebbles on the “beaches” to be built up to allow the frogs to get out – OS to arrange.

### **Ben Jonson Place**

BJ Place either side of the Ex Halls – wallflowers and gaura to be cut back. On the gardeners work schedule though focus at present is the Brandon/Willoughby planter replacement work.

### **Breton High Walk**

Troughs overlooking Golden Lane **OS to be cut back, pruned and tidied up.** Bed around the curved seating facing Golden Lane location for bulb planting next autumn.

Horticultural Society planters – volunteers to cut back the lavender – **RB to contact the volunteers**

### **Willoughby High Walk**

Large project organised by OS. All wooden planters to be removed apart from horticultural society ones, being replaced by concrete planters, this work will be carried out over 2 financial years with planting from April onwards. 1<sup>st</sup> March crane removal with road closures for removal of the logs and soil.

## **Past outstanding**

### **Thomas More Garden**

Irrigation to be diarised to check/service every March.

### **Berms**

No clear idea of cause of failure. End of natural life? Unlikely to be drained in near future. To drain just for this would be prohibitively expensive. Difficult to see how the plants are attached, secured, weighed down but some sort of mesh/wire. Plug planting to be carried out and OS to get advice on the different options and advice to understanding why they have failed.

### **Speed Lawn**

New bed has divided opinion. Looked lovely but only for a very short period of time. Rethink.

Perennial shrubs? Returf and hedge of rosemary and lavender? This is dependent upon the wisteria works then can look at possibly planting a herbaceous border – need to consider the effects of what climbers/species are used on the railings - Trachelospermum jasminoides. **Can a Rowan tree be planted – LA to advise and provide a quote for the tree.**

**Herbaceous border?** Like Greyfriars Churchyard (min. of 1.5m depth)



Possibly an extra tree to give added shade (Rowan)

#### **Thomas More Lawn**

Honey fungus possible present. OS to monitor

#### **Speed Lawn**

Tree by Eucalyptus – not v. happy. OS to monitor.

#### **Thomas More Lawn**

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

28.11.14 update. Ed Payne from Landscape Agency is working with PS to come up with solutions.

18.03.15 Drainage Engineer has reviewed and come up with possible solution. Is drawing up some plans for PS to organise a trial against. **HD to chase up with PS as no further action.**

#### **AOB**

##### **Small sub group**

Speed Garden and Thomas More Garden overview and replant. Small working party to be formed from within GAG to look at scope of rethink and to compose remit for possible Landscape Architect/Designer. Work could potentially be done in phases over several years.

Volunteers picked:-

Sarah Hudson

Mark Mallindine

Nancy Chessum

Thank you to everyone who put their name forward. First meeting booked for February

##### **Lauderdale and Shakespeare Tower planters**

For April 2016

Comments from Lauderdale and Seddon re. removal of planters on Lauderdale Place

Comments from Shakespeare Tower HG about small wooden planters by their entrance.

Proposal for next year's concrete planters – 3, Lauderdale Place and 2, Shakespeare Tower entrance. **HD to confirm the budget position as there will be no additional funding in 2016/17 for the Landlord's budget.**

The 2 by Shakespeare Tower will be offered to Alex in the first instance. He currently maintains the wooden planters. GAG considered to a very high standard (plus he is prize winning) and excellent to encourage more diverse planting

3 on Lauderdale Place – to offer to residents? GAG to discuss.

If funds allow to then look at Cromwell Forecourt

In the interim. OS to look at planting for the 2 very wind burnt planters (Lauderdale and Cromwell) **HD to chase for a date.** Possible dogwoods which will also add colour?

Bulbs added to smaller Lauderdale Planters?

##### **Thomas More Garden**

Group in agreement to trialling composting. Composting area along Girls' School wall at the back of the bed. **GR to provide quote for building the composter**

Compost from Buck House to be left in a large bag for collection by residents – broadcast to be sent. Mulch will be available in the next 2-3 weeks but not suitable for the allotments.

##### **Thomas More Garden**

Formalise a path through one of the beds with scattered stepping stones **GR to provide quote**

##### **Resident Planting Day**

Yes to holding again most probably in May. HD to ascertain funding but won't provide soil this time.

Feedback - Need more control over what plants are ordered – herbs, annuals and shade/wind loving, less variety but in larger numbers. Those volunteering will need to wear high vis vests and plants should only be given out after the talks.

##### **Membership**

Kate Wood has resigned from the group.

Please confirm whether you intend to continue on the working party for 2016.

##### **Proposals**

Can a schedule be prepared in advance of the walkarounds for the year so that comments can be invited from local house groups or could even invite local residents to join for the walkaround? Can an estate map be included with the agenda for those less familiar with the estate.

### **OS Update**

City Gardens are entering in London and Britain in bloom this year with the theme Clean and Green. Planning meeting to follow. COL Biodiversity action plan – 1 Feb document to go out for consultation and then to April committee to endorse it as the plan for the next 5 years. More information to follow on training for volunteers. Silk Street bed – potentially to go and to be replaced with permanent planting. LA would welcome suggestions on planting from the group.

### **Watering of planters**

Query via email – car park planters under Seddon facing Lambert Jones Mews and the troughs near Seddon House 03 entrance. Who if anyone waters them? They are so sheltered they get little rain water and the privet and bamboo planted there struggles and dies annually. OS to confirm who waters them? Also the troughs seem to be mainly sand. **OS to comment**

### **Funding**

There will be no additional funding in 2016/17 for the Landlord's budget. Meaning no additional works for planters etc. can be approved.

### **Next meeting dates.**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 10am, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 10am, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 10am**

**To meet at Barbican Estate Office for walk around.**

### **Gardens Advisory Group**

**29 April 2016 at 10.00**

Helen Davinson	Barbican Estate Office	HD
Louisa Allen	Open Spaces	LA
Geoff Rogers	Open Spaces	GR
Sarah Hudson	Resident	SH
Paula Tomlinson	Resident	PT
Judith Serota	Resident	JS
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- 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 eg. Providing allotment spaces - subject to funding

**Fann Street Garden**

- “enjoy and respect” gardens. BWG to come up with exact wording and HD will order.
- Tap work complete. Hose attachments to order once identified.
- Gate complete. To move notice board to Fann St side of garden – order raised.
- Possible pond layout. The Conservation Trust have provided quote. Bequest will cover vast majority of cost. Group to speak with TCV about logistics and scanning. Planning have been asked to confirm about archaeology concerns. Group would like to do planting, LA advised to leave quote as it and FWG assist with planting.
- Meadow - Trial pits of different seed type to ascertain what works well and what doesn't
- 4 benches to treated and stained – HD to raise order

**Allotments**

- 30+ on waiting list
- Watering taps – still an issue. 3 of 4 by Ben Jonson now fixed (GR to confirm). Thomas More - HD to reconfirm which peapod allows access.
- Concerns from Shakespeare Tower raised . Survey sent out in Feb 2016. 53 responses. **Attached for information.** Overall – positive. Email broadcast to 2 blocks who received survey with summary of results, summary of comments and actions taken/to be taken. 2 House Groups to receive full list of comments with individual responses.
- New labels ordered
- From survey, further planters to be positioned (GR to liaise with CGW and SH) and fill.

**Actions from Walkaround**

**Tree height Thomas More Garden (closest to Seddon)**

Resident of Seddon concerned at height of one tree which is beginning to block daylight and has caused the malformation of another tree in the garden.

Group pointed out that this was the only complaint, it's only an issue 2/3 months per year but that this tree is far closer to a block than any other. OS said a light pruning could occur but the height of the tree wouldn't be significantly altered.

Agreed to monitor this summer on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of Seddon and seek views of other Seddon residents

**Beech Gardens**

**A vote of thanks from GAG to the group of volunteers who work each week on the new Garden.**

Beech Gardens has been entered as a single garden for London in Bloom (judging will be in July with results announced in the Autumn)

The intention is that there will be no watering this summer bar the trees.

Possible info on species – OS to consider

Bryer Pond – some weed build-up – to be “biobombed” as per main lake. Pebble ramping for small creatures GR to organise.

**Fann St Wildlife Garden**

Covered above

**Past outstanding**

**Berms**

No clear idea of cause of failure. End of natural life? Unlikely to be drained in near future. To drain just for this would be prohibitively expensive. Difficult to see how the plants are attached, secured, weighed down but some sort of mesh/wire. Plug planting to be carried out and OS to get advice on

the different options and advice to understanding why they have failed.

**A 2m trial of new planting slightly raised up to be attempted this summer**

**Thomas More Lawn**

Honey fungus possibly present. OS to monitor

Drainage has been the biggest problem recently esp. south east corner. Technical Services to advise if anything can be done to stop paths flooding.

**With Property Services**

**Speed Lawn**

Tree by Eucalyptus – not v. happy. OS to monitor.

**AOB**

**Small sub group**

Speed Garden and Thomas More Garden overview and replant. Small working party to be formed from within GAG to look at scope of rethink and to compose remit for possible Landscape Architect/Designer. Work could potentially be done in phases over several years.

Volunteers picked:-

Sarah Hudson

Mark Mallindine

Nancy Chessum

Group has met and produced first outline to be used to seek fee proposal. **Attached.** GAG approved moving forward on this basis. LA recommending Tom Stuart-Smith in first instance.

**Lauderdale and Shakespeare Tower planters**

3 on order for Lauderdale.

2 to be ordered for front of Shakespeare later in year if budget allows.

The 2 by Shakespeare Tower will be offered to Alex in the first instance. He currently maintains the wooden planters. GAG considered to a very high standard (plus he is prize winning) and excellent to encourage more diverse planting

3 on Lauderdale Place – to offer to residents? GAG to discuss.

**Thomas More Garden**

Group in agreement to trialling composting. Volunteers to build. Will be sited alongside Girl's School wall in bed.

Compost for resident very successful and all went over one weekend. Sites used Thomas More and Fann St Garden.

Formalise a path through one of the beds with scattered stepping stones **HD has raised order.**

**Resident Planting Day**

4 June

Plants only

SH and CGW along with others to meet to discuss.

Open Spaces to order planting from list to be devised by volunteers – nectar rich, edibles, herbs, floral

**Watering of planters**

Query via email – car park planters under Seddon facing Lambert Jones Mews and the troughs near Seddon House 03 entrance. Who if anyone waters them? They are so sheltered they get little rain water and the privet and bamboo planted there struggles and dies annually. OS to confirm who waters them? Also the troughs seem to be mainly sand. **OS waters them and have focused on this area and all coming back.**

**Willoughby Planters**

Comments received about planting – not varied or colourful enough, too municipal. OS to respond.

**The plants were chosen for their robustness, managing the conditions, maintenance value and plants that work well together (plus it's still very early days)**

For next meeting to discuss middle brick planter – Cromwell Forecourt

**Next meeting dates.**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 10am, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 10am**

**To meet at Barbican Estate Office for walk around.**