

## From GAG Minutes

Speed Lawn 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 be potentially done in phases over several years.

25.04.16 smaller group meet

Helen Davinson	BEO
Louisa Allen Open	Spaces
Sarah Hudson	Resident
Nancy Chessum	Resident
Mark Mallindine	Resident

The group felt that of the 2 gardens, the first to be tackled should be Speed Lawn.

- Of the 2, planting in Speed Lawn is more elderly/tired.
- Although piecemeal, there has been some recent investment within Thomas More Garden.
- There are potentially 2 large infrastructure projects that need attending to within Thomas More garden. Both could be quite expensive (irrigation and drainage). These need to be attended to first or as part of the project.
- Speed Lawn is smaller and it will therefore be easier to complete this project and set up a good model for costing, consultation and implementation.

### Speed Lawn

- Speed Lawn is a well-used space, but popular with a differing groups. Families with younger children appear to like this garden but it's also popular for other residents as well.
- Speed Lawn is bordered on 2 sides by single glazed residential and one side by GSMD (office use).
- The play equipment needs to remain (or be replaced with like for like activities/kit –possibly in other materials?).
- Conflict between differing user groups
  - some resident don't like to see children playing in the borders
  - some would like more shade
  - some wouldn't want to see less lawn
- Whilst the garden is smaller there is still the opportunity to think of it as several smaller gardens.
- If these uses are then better defined it should help with conflict.

### West Border

- Perfect to make this more for children.
- As it's farthest from residential, this could be the border that children can go in and through.
- Add interest with paths and areas of seclusion and climbing opportunities
- Add interest with height – mounds (both in the bed and nearby)



### South Border

- Currently turfed over due to root barrier work.
- This will happen in May 2016 alongside replanting of climbers.
- One possibility would be to leave turf down, especially if borders were to be increased elsewhere in the garden.



### Eastern Border

- Some shrubs in the border are too big and crowded for the space.
- But there are some nice specimens
- Currently, height and depth varies due to resident of Brandon Mews and their individual wishes. This should remain.
- Differing shape and colour to be added.



### North Border

- A missed opportunity
- This is south facing and colour and interest in the form of herbaceous, pollinator friendly planting and small columnar trees could really be added to this bed. An example would be:-



- Height in front of the pillars?

- Plants gently trailing up brick



#### Other things to consider

- To possibly plant one more tree – a rowan? Or consider a bench within bed to allow for more shade
- New planting to include nectar rich and some edibles
- Seating. To consider locations and think of privacy. To consider style of seating – is what we have ok?
- To use gravel on natural pathlines

#### Next steps

- If GAG are in agreement with initial thoughts. Smaller Working Party to look to appoint Landscape Architect along these lines. Possible architects are:-