# <u>Annual Working Party Review – Minutes of Gardens Advisory Group (GAG) – April 2016 to February 2017</u>

### 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
<b>Candace Gillies-Wrig</b>	ht Resident	CGW
Maggie Urry	Resident	MU
Colin Slaughter	Resident	CS
Natalie Robinson	Resident	NR
Nancy Chessum	Resident	NC

#### **APOLOGIES**

Mark Mallandine	Resident	MM
Jenni Addison	Resident	JA
Mary Winch	Resident	MW

#### **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

- "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.
- Meadow Trial pits of different seed type to ascertain what works well and what doesn't

#### 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

#### 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 Eucalyputus – 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.

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 toughs 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.

#### Gardens Advisory Group 26 September 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
Candace Gillies-Wri	CGW	
Maggie Urry	Resident	MU
Colin Slaughter	Resident	CS
Natalie Robinson	Resident	NR
Nancy Chessum	Resident	NC
Mark Mallandine	Resident	MM
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#### Key remit areas:

interest in gardening issues.

- 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

- "enjoy and respect" gardens. BWG has come up with wording. HD to order professional sign
- Pond completed by TCV. Some chestnut fencing needed to protect it for first few seasons. Group to provide measurements and OS will order.

#### **Allotments**

- Still some concerns form Shakespeare Tower House Group. Some of the planters possibly
- 4 smaller ones by police office to be removed (top logs to be used on BHS planters by Willoughby if possible)
- 2 larger ones to be put in place (in better location away from police office
- Group will now be monitored by committee
- Thank you to Candace for her work in leading the group over the last few years

#### **Actions from Walkaround**

#### Fann St Wildlife Garden

Covered above

45 Beech St

Greening in Grey award.

**Allotment Planters** 

Covered above

#### Past outstanding

#### 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.

Sept 16 update. Photos taken from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. Clear indication from affected residents that they would like to see some pruning. Group in agreement.

#### **Berms**

No clear idea of cause of failure. End of natural life? Sept 16 update. There is a current problem with the pumps and therefore the circulation of water between the lakes. This should be corrected prior to replanting as this is a likely contributing factor.

#### **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 Eucalyputus – not v. happy. OS to monitor.

#### **AOB**

#### **New Lauderdale Planters**

OS to organise for some underplanting

#### **Thomas More Hanging gardens**

To be mulched next visit

#### **Resident Planting Days**

29/30 October 19/20 November

Members of GAG to help if possible

To order seed and bulbs for these days

(comment about seed having a short season – important to inform residents)

#### Speed Lawn

Smaller sub group brief has been to RCC

Open Spaces to write brief for this work.

#### **Beech Gardens**

Extra volunteers needed. OS to provide wording for estatewide broadcast

Open Spaces to organise for Nigel Dunnett to facilitate training days (one per quarter)

#### Sculpture Court

I more tree has been removed. Open Spaces will not be replanting with trees.

Instead – interesting shrubs or multi stemmed.

GAG to put some suggestions forward.

#### Next meeting dates.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 10am

To meet at Barbican Estate Office for walk around.

#### Gardens Advisory Group 18 November 2016 at 10.00

Barbican Estate Office	HD
Open Spaces	LA
Open Spaces	GR
Resident	SH
Resident	PT
Resident	CS
Resident	NR
Resident	NC
Resident	JA
Resident	MW
	Open Spaces Open Spaces Resident Resident Resident Resident Resident Resident Resident

#### **Apologies**

Judith SerotaResidentJSCandace Gillies-Wright ResidentCGWMaggie UrryResidentMUMark MallandineResidentMM

#### **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**

- Group now being Chaired by Jo Rogers and Francis Pugh
- Thank you to Paula
- Fencing around pond now in place. Foxes digging large holes in banks seeking advice from LWT as to what if anything, should be done.
- Bird survey being reported weekly and fed through to GIGL (green space information for Greater London)
- Feasibility of bee hives in FSWG. City Gardens say no to public gardens but don't consider Fann St a public garden in that sense. Lots of bee hives in area already. Some concerns about conflict with wild bees? Some concerns about H&S and lack of training. HD to go back to group. They need to look into that competition element further and report back to GAG

#### **Allotments**

- 4 smaller ones by police office to be removed (top logs to be used on BHS planters by Willoughby if possible – HD, GR to meet MW 21.11.16 to confirm
- 2 larger ones to be put in place (in better location away from police office
- Group will now be monitored by committee led by Peter Archbold (with Colin Slaughter, Anne Napthine, Sarah Hudson and Stephanie Ross)
- Allotments being advertised and PA consolidating who has what planter and allocating to new members.

#### **Actions from Walkaround**

#### Speed Lawn

Climbers and Hebes now in place. 2 semi circles remain empty. OS to transfer into these 2 as well. Climber chosen can be quite dark. But it was chosen as it is shallow rooting and can be pruned hard. It's also flowers and has a lovely scent.

3 smaller trees in Brandon Mews bed still being monitored as they are not thriving.

Eucalyptus will be surveyed this year. OS to report back on any actions required.

#### **Thomas More Garden**

Compost bins fit in really well. Room for 6 more.

#### Past outstanding

#### 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.

Sept 16 update. Photos taken from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. Clear indication from affected residents that they would like to see some pruning. Group in agreement.

#### Trees will be pruned Autumn 16

#### Berms

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

Sept 16 update. There is a current problem with the pumps and therefore the circulation of water between the lakes. This should be corrected prior to replanting as this is a likely contributing factor. **Mtg held between BEO, OS and BC. BC leading. Awaiting to hear back from King Coombe as to work required, methodology and cost.** 

#### **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 who have commissioned full survey (of both gardens)

#### **New Lauderdale Planters**

OS to organise for some underplanting – complete (and bulbs)

#### **Thomas More Hanging gardens**

To be mulched next visit – complete. Sculpture Court Buttresses. Virginia Creeper accidentally cropped this year.

#### **Resident Planting Days**

29/30 October 19/20 5/6 November

Davs were successful and well attended

#### Speed Lawn

Smaller sub group brief has been to RCC

Open Spaces to write brief for this work.

Brief being written by Patrick Heggarty - OS (following input from Louisa and Bradley). This will then come back to GAG (before Christmas electronically) for comment and then circulated more widely.

#### **Beech Gardens**

Extra volunteers now helping on a Friday morning. Time credits available, details of new volunteers to SH.

Open Spaces to organise for Nigel Dunnett to facilitate training days (one per quarter). **He is in agreement dates to follow.** 

#### **Sculpture Court**

1 more tree has been removed. Open Spaces will not be replanting with trees. Instead – interesting shrubs or multi stemmed.

GAG to put some suggestions forward.

#### Beech Gardens 2

The BEO is currently looking at extending the waterproofing project across the rest of the podium. it is likely the Ben Jonson, Breton and Cromwell will be first. This is at the very early stages of City approval. The procurement process and specification has not yet begun. It's likely that the earliest start date will be Spring 2018. Communication with residents will be throughout 2017 as the BEO knows more.

#### AOB

Compost for residents arriving 28.11. Thomas More Garden and Fann St again. GR to confirm date and BEO will broadcast 25.11

Working at Height. Garden between Andrewes and Postern not being gardened. HD to confirm railings are safe.

"A request from some resident members of GAG that an extra GAG meeting is arranged, for as soon as possible, to review the GAG's remit and how it's being implemented.

This request comes from Natalie Robinson, Nancy Chessum, Paula Tomlinson, Judith Serota and Mary Winch.

In the remit it is stated that we should comment on certain items such as planting schemes, level of maintenance under the contract with Open Spaces and to provide a steer for new projects. We feel that these important aspects of the remit are not being addressed in the present meetings of GAG, much of this is due to fact that there is no or very little information provided on future plans, budgets, costs and maintenance standards, the latest evidence of this lack of forward information is the possible misunderstanding of the proposal for Speed Garden. Also to be effective in the light of some of the initiatives/consultations that are around or proposed, such as the Golden Lane residents petition to request a conservation area covering the Golden Lane and Barbican estates and the Low Emission Neighbourhood impact and general greening of the area, GAG needs to focus more on the

future."

(extra) Meeting to be held to discuss further 16.01.16

Any suggestions for a change to the remit would have to go to RCC seeking approval.

Some residents are concerned about the weed spraying. Procedure now in place whereby BEO will publicise prior to spraying by OS.

From Louisa:

Open Spaces to soon have a new Director. Biodiversity Action Plan available on CoL website City Gardens recruiting 4 apprentices

Queries from BHS meeting (that LA attended)

- Issues about cleaning moss/lichen. Also ivy. HD to consult LBMG in first instance
- Wood Chipped area on Moor Lane. What's happening?
- Waste soil and plant waste. Disposal queries.
- Window boxes. Planting up contractors. LA to compile list then to BA magazine.

#### GAG membership. Any vacancies will be put before RCC AGM

Next meeting dates.

Extra meeting 16.01.16 at 2.30

2017 GAG meetings

Friday 3 February, Friday 5 May, Friday 8 September and Friday 24 November To meet at 10.00 at Barbican Estate Office

#### Gardens Advisory Group [GAG]

A working group of the Barbican Residents Consultation Committee [RCC]

GAG Meeting no. 4 [2016/7] held on 03 February 2017

#### **MINUTES**

#### **Attendance List**

Name of Member		Meeting no. 4 03/02/2017
	Louisa Allen [LA –Open Spaces]	✓
CoL	Helen Davinson [HD –Barbican Estate Office]	✓
	Geoff Rogers [GR –Open Spaces]	✓
	Nancy Chessum [NC]	A
	Candace Gilles-Wright [CGW]	✓
Barbican Residents	Sarah Hudson [SH]	<b>✓</b>
	Mark Mallindine [MM]	<b>✓</b>
	Jenny Addison [JN]	A
	Natalie Robinson [NR] minutes	✓
	Judith Serota [JS] <b>chair</b>	✓
	Colin Slaughter [CS]	✓
	Paula Tomlinson [PT]	✓
	Maggie Urry [MU]	✓
	Mary Winch [MW]	A

In attendance: none

Attendance key: 
✓ Present

A Apologies received N/A No apologies received

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
1.00	Speed House Garden	
1.01	LA presented the draft Design Brief as circulated to members prior to the meeting.	
1.02	Comments were recorded by NR for update of document for use by LA in further development of design brief. [Post Meeting Note: updated document attached to these minutes]	NR –dealt with 100217
2.00	Minutes of previous GAG Meeting	
2.01	The Minutes of the meeting held 18 November 2016 were agreed.	
2.02	Matters Arising from these Minutes were reviewed as follows:	
	• Fann St Garden: beehives confirmed as not appropriate; reporting of wildlife sightings clarified as via the BTO [British Trust for Ornithology]. [Post Meeting Note: update from Allison Parkes via MU "I submit separately to the BTO, who have their own well established on-line system, and then via an excel spread sheet directly to GiGL (all sightings now back dated to September when we first started recording). I keep copies of what's been sent in case anyone wants to see them. Should any GAG member or anyone from the BEO want me to chat to them about what or how we do things re the data either for interest or in case they wish to submit results themselves, I'd be happy to do so"].	
	<ul> <li>Allotments: GAG rep is Colin Slaughter; Peter Archibold producing register of current users and re-advertising availability of planters; agreed removal/replacements for Defoe cluster</li> </ul>	
	imminent; arrangements for retrieving top logs for repair of BHS	
	Willoughby planters agreed.	HD
	Outstanding Tree pruning [Thomas More]: the tree[s] impacting light for some Seddon residents are being pruned today. [Post Meeting Note: MM requested clarification 070217 "Has the pruning of the tree close to Seddon House been completed? It seems that very few and very small diameter branches were removed. We had understood that the pruning was to allow views from the Seddon House flats to be	
	<ul> <li>opened up somewhat"].</li> <li>Berms: failure in lake circulation thought to be the likely cause of berm failures; no progress so far on Barbican Arts Centre [BC] implementing works remedial work to lakes; meeting held yesterday and situation likely to improve with appointment of new BC Director of Facilities [Jonathan Poynter]; progress may have been delayed by assuming lakeside retiling in remedial project so</li> </ul>	HD
	this will be pursued separately.	HD
	<ul> <li>Thomas More Lawn: the surveys are complete; there is drainage in both Thomas More and Speed Gardens</li> </ul>	
	Beech Gardens: first of Nigel Dunnett quarterly facilitation days is today.	
	<ul> <li>Sculpture Court: [Post Meeting Note: CGW made suggestions as follows "Fuchsia magellanica - just the ordinary one, vg for long flowering season, and can be allowed to grow to small tree size (I had one approx 8 feet tall). Or the variegated one but I think it's less tough.</li> </ul>	

	Other hardy fuchias with larger flowers	
	Fremontedenron	
	Carpenteria	
	Cytisus battandieri (or other cytisus)	
	Cistus - the larger ones will get to about 5ft and have good	
	long flowering season and vg for insects Hebe - ditto	
	Pittosporum - flowers insignificant but scented, and there are	
	ones with coloured foliage Cornus - the ones with coloured	
	stems, and also variegated forms Big grasses?	
	More phormiums?	
	Euphorbia mellifera	
	Just bung in some of the good old faithful red geraniums and	
	let them grow big - there is a pink one in one of the TM	
	allotments which has done splendidly and has flowered	
	continuously for about 10 months so far"].	
	Compost: JS noted that the Buckingham Palace supply provided	
	last November ran out very quickly; LA advised that the amount	
	supplied to the Estate was free [via City Gardens] but that more	
	could be ordered if paid for.	
	Wood-chipped area on Moor Lane: area is remit of Built	
	Environment and will be location for LEN-funded initiative "Clean	
	& Green 2017".	
	•	
3.00	Report to RCC	
3.01	The paper "Presentation from the Gardens Advisory Group [GAG] to RCC" was agreed	NR –dealt
	as circulated prior to the meeting except that reference to the "wood-chipped area on	with 110217
3.02	Moor Lane" needed to be removed from the section on Inspection Areas  The Appendix, recording the outcome of the discussion at the "special" GAG meeting	
3.02	held 16 January 2017, was agreed as circulated	
3.03	SH suggested including the skills audit template in the submission	NR –dealt
		with 110217
3.04	Noting that Officers [apart from the Town Clerk] do not attend the RCC AGM –the	NR –dealt
	destination for the paper- NR would liaise with HD about submitting the document in	with 110217
	good time for the March meeting. [Post Meeting Note: paper updated and circulated to	
4.00	HD & NC 110217]	
<b>4.00</b> 4.01	GAG Skills Audit	NC & JN to
4.01	The audit template was completed/returned by GAG resident members present who were intending to continue; SH & JS are standing down.	complete/retur
	intending to continue, 511 & 33 are standing down.	n audit to HD
5.00	Open Spaces/BEO SLA 2017/8	
5.01	LA tabled a copy of the Open Spaces [OS]/BEO Service Level Agreement [SLA] for the	
	current year [2016/7] for information and shared the summary cost data which went with	
	it.	
5.02	The SLA for the coming year [2017/8] was in preparation and would be bought to the	LA
	next GAG meeting [05 0517] together with the cost matrix; this would not be much	
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5.05	To inform development of the 2017/8 SLA, LA invited GAG members to comment on	GAG
	the current SLA before end of February	
6.00	Any Other Business	
6.01	NR and MW volunteered to chair [nr] and minute [mw] the next meeting. Post Meeting	NR + MW
	Note: NR will be away –another team to be identified	
6.02	The aim is to develop a standard Agenda, with the meeting running from 10am-12noon	
	and preceded by a walkabout starting at 9am. An outline for the next meeting is attached	
	below	
6.03	GAG supported Barbican Wildlife Group [MU] building a "temporary" structure in	
	Fann St. Garden for birdwatching	
6.04	HD noted that the LEN Project Manager [Ben Kennedy] has allocated £5k to the BEO	HD
	for spending before 310317. This is going to be used to fund soil & compost for residents	
	[John Innes no. 3] –including a skip for collection of spent soil. This will be advertised to	
	residents but "Blooming Balconies" will be held in the spring/summer as usual.	

#### <u>end</u>

Minutes by Natalie Robinson; checked by Judith Serota

## Template for running Action List Actions to be added if not reported as complete at following meeting

Meeting (Date)	Action	Owner	Added/Comple ted (Date)	Comments