

Committee:	Date:
Open Spaces & City Gardens	16 April 2018
Subject: City Gardens Update	Public
Report of: City Gardens Manager	For Information
<p>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 February 2018.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Finance

1. At the point of writing the budgets for both City Gardens and Bunhill Fields are on target to have no significant over or underspend at the end of year.
2. The tender contract for a four-year bedding supply has now been awarded to Amethyst Nurseries. They have been supplying City Gardens over the last two years and the plants have been of excellent quality. This contract will deliver value for money and reduce the administrative burden on the City Gardens team.

Personnel

3. Three new Assistant Gardeners are now in post. Recruitment is underway for an apprentice who will work within the City Gardens office and assist with back office transformation work.

Operational Activities

4. The City Gardens Team has assisted street cleansing clearing the snow and applying grit to the pavements around the city.

5. **Rough Sleeping at St Botolph's Bishopsgate**
There has been an ongoing problem with rough sleepers at St Botolph's Bishopsgate. The City Gardens Team have been working with the Outreach Team who have been engaging with the rough sleepers. Despite this the problem has been getting worse with long term tents, drug use, waste and a resulting increased rodent problem. We have engaged the police who have cleared the site and are prioritising dealing with the issue by attending as soon as the problem reoccurs.
6. **Project Updates:** The following project updates are current at the point of writing. Verbal updates to be given at the meeting:
7. **West Smithfield:** The play equipment has been refurbished. York stone paving has been laid, the gate has been adapted so it can be locked open and horticultural works are due to be completed by the end of March.
8. **Tower Hill Gardens:** The work for this garden is all complete apart from a connection of the water stand pipe to the mains, this is to be completed by Thames Water.
9. **Cleary Gardens:** Works to this garden are now well underway, decayed wooden steps have been replaced with metal steps. Metal railings installed to comply with health and safety. Horticultural works are due to be completed before the end of March.
10. **Seething Lane:** The new sealant has been applied to the paving. The turf that was supplied was found to have been infected with a fungal disease; this is being replaced by the supplier at no cost to the City, and is due to be completed by the end of April.
11. The city-wide mulching programme has now been completed.

Capital Projects

12. **Aldgate gyratory:** The Church frontage garden is nearing completion in readiness for the Lord Mayor's visit to site on the 7 February. The trees, hedging and underplanting across the wider site will be completed in March. Works to the main piazza area are programmed to be completed in late March.
13. **St Alphage's Garden:** Currently under construction following a major refurbishment as part of the London Wall Place development, it is anticipated that this site will be planted in late 2018/ early 2019.
14. **Annual Tree Planting:** The tree planting programme for capital projects is now complete.

Planning

15. A list of planning applications that have been received since the last Committee meeting can be found in Appendix 1.
16. **Survey of Private Trees:** Further analysis as requested at February's meeting of the health of the privately-owned trees has shown a slight decline with "Poor" trees increasing from 2% to 7%. Conversely, trees rated as "Good" increased from 3% to 28%. The majority of the trees in both surveys were marked as "Fair". Caution is advised when interpreting these figures as they were carried out by two different consultants and review has determined that the category definitions for the first survey were not clear, resulting in 94% being assessed as "Fair". The increase in poor trees is not unexpected as pest and disease and environmental pressures have increased significantly over the last ten years. The full results are as follows:

	2007	2018
Dead	1%	1%
Poor	2%	7%
Fair	94%	63%
Good	3%	28%
Excellent	0%	1%

17. Private trees are now available to view on the City Corporation's mapping system.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and Events

18. City Gardens will be judged for Britain in Bloom during the first two weeks of August; finalised dates will be available soon. London in Bloom judging will take place between the 18th of June and 18th of July.
19. The City Nature Challenge is taking place between 27-29 April. The City Gardens team and the Friends of City Gardens will be taking part in this event when over 60 cities will be competing to see who can make the greatest number of observations of nature and identify the most species.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Planning consultations considered by City Gardens officers

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Appendix 1 - Planning Application Open Spaces Consultations Jan – March 2018

Application number	Location	Description
17/01280/FULL	The Old Deanery Dean's Court London EC4V 5AA (Impact on London Plane trees on private land.)	Structural repair works to the front boundary wall of the Old Deanery facing Dean's Court. Deconstruction of the central portion of the wall to allow for a new foundation beam and mini-piles to be constructed while retaining and protecting the two adjacent London Plane trees. Reconstruction of the wall on its existing footprint to match existing details. Pruning works to three London Plane trees.
PT_BXD/17/01232/FULL	Dashwood House 69 Old Broad Street London EC2M 1QS (Impact on existing trees on Alderman's Walk)	Erection of a partially enclosed structure and external seating area with associated kitchen servery and bar (Class A3) and the felling of two trees on private land accessible to the public.
PT_TPN/17/01297/MDC	6 - 8 Bishopsgate & 150 Leadenhall Street London EC2N 4DA & EC3V 4QT (Impact on existing trees on Bishopsgate)	Details of a scheme for the protection of 6 Gingko trees on Bishopsgate (TfL) that are to be retained during the demolition, construction and operation of the site pursuant to a planning condition.
PT_TPN/17/01287/FULL	10 Lower Thames Street London EC3R 6EN (Impact on existing garden on Riverside Walkway at Dark House Walk.)	A new pavilion for cafe/restaurant/bar (Class A3 or A4) involves the stopping-up and alteration of areas of City Walkway including reduction in garden area. Proposed remodelling of the public realm involves planting of trees, hedges and other planting.
18/00152/FULEIA	100 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 3BP (Impact on Leadenhall, Bury Street and existing churchyard of Church of St Andrew Undershaft as well as wider area.)	Demolition of the existing buildings and construction of a ground plus 56 storey building with public viewing gallery. Small area of roof garden and new and improved public realm at ground level containing planters and trees on private land.
18/00150/PODC	Bernard Morgan House 43 Golden	Open Space Method Statement pursuant to the Section 106

	Lane London EC1Y 0RS (Impact on Viscount Street and Brackley Street.)	Agreement for the provision of a new privately maintained small pocket park with public access.
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