

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

**Head of Service / Contact:** Amardip Healy, Chief Legal Officer

**Annexes/Appendices (attached):**

**Other available papers (not attached):**

### **Report summary**

**To note the progress of items discussed at previous meetings of the Joint Management Committee**

### **Recommendation (s)**

- (1) That the committee note the progress of outstanding items**
- (2) That the committee note the updates from Voluntary Groups**

## **1 South & South East in Bloom**

- 1.1 Nonsuch Park has entered the South & South East in Bloom Award scheme for the past three years.
- 1.2 The first year, the park was entered in to the Large Park Category and was pleased to achieve a Silver Award.
- 1.3 In 2017, it was decided to enter in to the Heritage Parks & Gardens Category where we were delighted to receive a Silver Gilt Award.
- 1.4 This year's judging visit took place on 3 July. The judge was given a two-hour tour of the park, gardens and museum and was impressed by the huge contribution made by all the volunteer groups who support the Park on a daily basis.
- 1.5 Despite being at the height of the drought period, the gardens were beginning to establish with a mix of new perennial schemes and traditional bedding plants.
- 1.6 The judge was shown how previous judging comments had been used to influence renovation works in the Formal Garden, particularly around the pond and the Yew Room.

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- 1.7 A comprehensive tour of the museum was given by the Friends of Nonsuch followed by a trip to the round pond to look at the success of the new fencing. The visit was finished with refreshments in the Pantry.
- 1.8 The results of the judging were announced at the Award Ceremony on 14 September and although representatives from Nonsuch Park did not attend due to other commitments, the results were sent via email.
- 1.9 Officers and volunteers were delighted to once again receive a Silver Gilt Award for this year's entry and felt that it was true reflection of the hard work and dedication of their combined efforts in maintaining the Park.
- 1.10 Nonsuch Park is unique in the Heritage Parks & Gardens category as unlike its competitors, it has not received Heritage Lottery Funding and it does not charge an entrance fee.

## **2 Fencing in Pinetum**

- 2.1 Following a successful first stage application to the Suez Communities Trust Landfill Fund for replacement security fencing, an invitation was received to submit a full application.
- 2.2 With the help of the Nonsuch Voles, an in-depth second stage application has now been submitted with the funding decision to be announced on 22 November 2018.

## **3 Heritage Lottery Bid**

- 3.1 As reported at the previous meeting of the Joint Management Committee, the match funding required to progress the Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) application is no longer available.
- 3.2 Whilst an HLF bid has been the desired method of injecting capital investment into the park, officers now propose to look at smaller grant funding opportunities and bring a report on alternative options to the January 2019 meeting.

## **4 Update from Nonsuch Voles**

- 4.1 The Voles have carried out the following activities between May and September 2018:
- 4.2 In and around the Mansion House Gardens:
  - Regular maintenance activities including weeding, edging and pruning.
  - Creation of a new horseshoe-shaped bed to replace four beds which were previously planted with poppies. The new bed has been planted with a sustainable planting scheme of grasses and herbaceous perennials.

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- Preparation and participation in the “South and South East in Bloom” judging, helping to achieve a Silver Gilt award for the second year running.
- A significant amount of time was spent watering in the very hot and dry Summer, to reduce plant losses and enable new planting to become established. Where possible, water from rain-water harvesting tanks was used.
- We supplemented planting in various beds with perennials grown by the volunteers.
- We carried out the Summer prune of the Garden's impressive wisterias.
- We worked with Peter Steel to erect a new rose arch at the entrance to the Pinetum. The arch was supplied free-of-charge by Agriframes. We planted Rambling Rector roses to climb over the frame. These were purchased with a donation to the Voles by the Stoneleigh Charitable Trust. The value of the arch and roses totals over £450.
- The Voles have worked with Park Staff to complete the edging of several hundred metres of lawn adjacent to paths.

#### 4.3 In the Woods and wider Parkland:

- The trees in the Walnut Copse have been weeded and watered several times throughout the dry Summer. Without this attention, it is almost certain that tree losses would have been significant.
- We worked with Park Staff and Future Woodlands to clear coppice regrowth at the Round pond to maintain the desired open aspect.
- We have repaired sections of lawn edging at the front of Mansion House which had been damaged by vehicles driving over them.

#### 4.4 Other Activities:

The Voles have worked with Samantha Whitehead to submit a grant application to the Suez Communities Trust for funding to replace the rear fence of the Pinetum, which is currently in a very poor state, and is an entry point for vandals. A particular mention goes to Peter Lockwood who has spent many hours preparing the application.

The Voles attended Cheam Charter Fair, the Nonsuch Town and Country Fair, and Nonsuch Open Day.

#### 4.5 Summary of Volunteer hours from the beginning of January to end of September 2018:

Garden 1,758

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Woodland 953

**Total 2,711 hours**

### **5 Update from Nonsuch Watch**

- 5.1 Frances Wright from Nonsuch Watch will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

### **6 Update from Friends of Nonsuch**

- 6.1 Gerald Smith from Friends of Nonsuch will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

### **7 Update from Parkrun**

- 7.1 On 9 September Parkrun supported the Nonsuch Open Day with a stand running the Illinois bleep test which proved to be very popular especially with the under 10's.
- 7.2 On 15 September Parkrun celebrated seven years of organising Saturday morning events in Nonsuch Park. A photograph is attached as Annex 1.
- 7.3 Parkrun continue to support the Duke of Edinburgh scheme by providing volunteering opportunities for all three levels - Bronze, Silver, Gold. In 2017, our young volunteers achieved 14 Bronze, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze. So far this year, they have had 4 Bronze and 4 Silver completions with up to 5 D of E candidates on the scheme at any one time.
- 7.4 On Saturday 10th November, a Remembrance Centenary run is being organised to mark 100 years since the signing of the Armistice, signalling the end of WW1. It is being supported by The Royal British Legion with poppies and an information stand. We're asking all runners to wear red to create a sea of red around the park. We've secured permission to film this with a drone (operated by a specialist film company) so we can capture the moment. Please note that timings of this event will not differ from a normal Saturday morning and we're laying on additional marshals. We'll naturally share the end product with the JMC.
- 7.5 Finally a great statistic to highlight - it took a team of 52 volunteers to put on last Saturday's event. They gave up their time so that others could have a safe and enjoyable run. All for free.

### **8 Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to note the progress of the outstanding items and updates from the voluntary groups.

**Ward(s) affected:** Nonsuch Ward; (EEBC)