



QUEEN'S PARK GARDENS – PILOT PROJECT

Queen's Park Community Council (QPCC) is proposing to work with Westminster City Council (WCC) to develop a new model of enhanced community management for their local park space – Queen's Park Gardens. Recent QPCC commissioned work from Publica (while developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the area) analysed and consolidated the findings from previous QPCC community consultations. In addition to this the 'On the Street' pop-up shop on Harrow Road from 23 June to 17 July 2015 gathered more opinions from residents and included a dedicated workshop 'Queen's Park Gardens and Open Spaces' on 13 July.

QPCC have a vision that in the future the projects that we have identified will make a real, measurable and, most importantly, lasting difference locally. The basis of this plan is to create a model that will deliver our initial Queen's Park Gardens pilot project and project goals, with a future delivery model that is self-sustaining. The pilot project will take place from January 2016 to December 2016. Based on the success of this we will seek to work further with WCC to expand on this work and deliver similar projects in other green open spaces (existing and potential in the area) including Harrow Road Open Space.

The priority as decided by the QPCC Gardens Working Party is to work within the existing structure of the park as rather than spend budget at this point in time on changing the functions of any of the park zoned areas.

Through the consultation processes seven priorities have been identified:

- Recruit and supervise a local part-time Community Gardens coordinator (1 day a week) to help run local scheme
- Recruit and train 1 local volunteer in open space maintenance and gardening
- Provide equipment and secure storage facilities for supervised community use
- Start a children's gardening project that includes the participation of local families
- Support the QPCC's other activities in working on anti-social behaviour and dogs within the park
- Liaise with the Friends of Queen's Park Gardens (FQPG) and other interested residents and local stakeholders to manage the project.

QPCC are inviting tenders for Queen's Park Gardens based on the following project criteria:-

PROJECT BRIEF

The following evidence and solutions have been identified by the QPCC and our community.

Evidence: - *Queen's* Park Gardens is the ward's principle open space. There are few other green or open spaces in the immediate area. Access to nearby larger parks including Queen's Park



(Brent), Emslie Horniman's Pleasance (Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea) and Paddington Rec (Westminster) is considered difficult by a considerable number of residents.

The current zoning of the gardens was finalised in 2009/10 when the dog run and wildlife area were added. The gardens include a children's playground for 9–12 year olds (including equipment from community-fundraised additions in 2014), a piece of equipment for older children on the hill (currently under repair) and an outdoor tennis table. A multi use games area (MUGA) (changes and alterations in early-2015) and outdoor gym equipment (installed 2014/15) have been worked on by WCC Sports & Leisure. Two additional areas that require more horticultural management are the wildlife area (volunteer managed by the FQPG and not in the current WCC Parks Management Plan) and the rose garden (included in the current WCC Parks Management Plan).

Since August 2015 the FQPG have successfully arranged via Continental Management for the Wildlife Area to open to the public (although only at weekends) and it is opened by pre-arrangement to local pre-school groups at certain times during the week. The FQPG act as a contact point between Continental Management and the public and local groups and organisations for this.

The garden's current management contract is with Continental. This keeps the grassed areas, hedging and low maintenance shrubs and planting in order. Staffing is on a rotational basis over three sites in the area and park is opened and closed daily by Continental Management.

The gardens benefit greatly from the active participation of a small and regular volunteer group – FQPG. However, this group have become a volunteer maintenance group tied to the Gardens and it is hoped that by adding professional horticultural support to the Gardens that they can be released from the arduous nature of some of this work and instead redirect their enthusiasm on more creative and rewarding projects. They are keen to work not only in the Gardens but also other key green spaces in the area. The FQPG have also until recently assisted in the running of Harrington Court Allotments.

In the corner of the park on Fourth Avenue is a sizeable hut and courtyard area currently used by the WCC/Continental Management staff and is the main access point for vehicles and bins.

Queen's Park Gardens is an 'on lead' park for dogs with the exception of the dog run area.

Community gardening projects do already exist in the area – Open Age and Paddington Development Trust (PDT)/Community Champions do have initiatives underway, as do volunteer group FQPG, A2 Dominion and other local housing associations. The QPCC hope that creating a Community Gardening Hub in Queen's Park Gardens will enable us to properly network these projects, share precept funded resources and make sure all these local projects are supported.

Problems:- Residents regularly express concerns about the behaviour of some large groups of older children/young adults and a limited amount of adult antisocial behaviour. There has been a significant reduction in the number of older residents using the rose garden area in recent years.

Maintenance of more interestingly planted areas has been difficult under the present contract and the rose garden in particular has become overgrown. The FQPG have taken responsibility for all maintenance of the wildlife area since 2012 and have undertaken pruning work in the Rose Garden



in 2015. They have been notified this year that the bartering system they had with Continental Management/WCC for limited plant supplies in exchange for this labour can no longer take place due to budget cuts.

Recently, dog owners exercising their dogs off lead and a high level of dog fouling have been a widely reported concern of local residents. This is something that the QPCC have plans to work with WCC and a local resident on throughout 2016.

Solutions: - The following 'Queen's Park Gardens Pilot Project' is proposed with a projected delivery of January–December 2016

1. Appoint a part-time Community Gardens coordinator (1 day a week) and train local volunteers in open space maintenance and gardening.
2. Provide equipment for supervised community use. Storage facilities to be discussed and agreed with QPCC/Continental Management/WCC.
3. Create a sensory garden in the rose garden area that might include site specific and functional art work such as a sculpture gate, sound sculpture or children's mosaic wall (work with the QPCC on fundraising opportunities for this additional art project element).
4. Keep a monthly check on Harrington Court Allotments and run a spring and summer project for residents using that scheme.
5. Initiate dialogue with local schools to assess how the Council can develop the park in line with their curriculum needs and encourage children to use the park more frequently.
6. Replant and maintain the circular flower bed on the entrance to the park from Third Avenue and the centre rose bed by the entrance on Fourth Avenue.
7. Develop an appropriate maintenance plan with FQPG for the wildlife area and work with the FQPG to identify key projects and developments within this area
8. Work with the QPCC Gardens Management Committee to manage the budget and works
9. Work with the QPCC and WCC Communications Team on enhanced signage and information points – so that the community are informed of project developments and opportunities for residents.

The amount available for the Pilot Project will be £15,000. The Pilot Project will be managed by the QPCC Gardens Management Committee (to be created). Evaluations held throughout the year by the Management Committee will determine extension of a similar contract.

OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME

'Residents, especially children, young people, families and the elderly will report an increased usage of open spaces, the latter having been improved and maintained to a higher standard than before.'

Long Term Aims and Objectives:

- Residents will benefit from improvements and additions to a vital green space in our community and increase their usage of all zones of Queen's Park Gardens
- Health and wellbeing benefits directly benefit residents as a result of access to green spaces and participation gardening activities and food-growing projects.
- Approx. 40–50 Local residents' skills and experience of gardening and maintenance will be directly enhanced and some key residents will develop leadership skills and training with the intention of increasing resident led maintenance of sites.
- Community gardening will increase a sense of resident's ownership and pride in our community spaces and extend to our private green spaces – front/back gardens and balconies.
- Residents' awareness and ideas will be stimulated by attending workshops and visiting other community gardening projects



Specific Pilot Project Outputs January to December 2016:

- An initial project timeline and plan within one month of commencement of contract.
- Twelve gardening/growing workshops held during Spring and Summer months involving a minimum of 25 local residents, with 4–6 or more residents attending each session
- Provide relevant horticultural training for 7–8 residents
- Publicity, including banners and flyers produced to promote the project seek involvement from local residents at the sessions. This can include features in the Queen's Park Voice, the QPCC Community e-newsletter and use of the QPCC and Parks noticeboards – plus potential access to the Mozart Estate notice boards
- Provide 1 aspirational 'pick your own' day trip that includes young people and elderly residents engaging 30 different local residents with a minimum of 15 attending
- Provide evidence that those residents with whom the project has engaged broadly reflect the socio-economic profile of the Queen's Park Ward via quarterly analysis of data
- Pilot holiday gardening clubs in 1 local school engaging a minimum of 10 pupils per session and an after school club in the area
- Run open space developmental clubs in at least 1 school/after school club/youth clubs, developing the activities in light of the evaluation of the pilots and in line with the changing seasons
- Stall activity at Queen's Park Summer Festival and potential spring event. Participation in annual Keep Queen's Park Tidy event
- Provide evidence of effective partnerships made with other key stakeholders including the local authority, FQPG, housing associations, schools, young peoples' organisations and other environmental organisations active in the area. Progress to be fed back in the quarterly report
- Provide three 'Ask an Expert' advice sessions for people with front gardens, balconies and window boxes as the project positively impacts on the overall appearance of the area and will play a part in increasing participation in the Queen's Park In Bloom competition.

Monitoring & reporting:

- The appointed organisation will devise and implement an evaluation strategy to include a three-stage resident satisfaction and involvement survey. The evaluation strategy should seek to involve residents in its implementation and should offer insights into the impact of the project on resident satisfaction with their living environment; social cohesion at a micro level (around each space) and at an estate level; development of skills in adults and children; opportunities for children's play; resident health and wellbeing. It should also identify what worked and what did not, what lessons have been learned and make recommendations for the future of the strategy including initial conclusions on long-term sustainability
- The appointed organisation will carry out quarterly monitoring and evaluation of the project and report to the QPCC and Queen's Park Gardens Management Committee, with support from the Community Council Director
- The appointed organisation will be required to keep registers and collect the postcodes of participants to all activities and visits. A minimum of 75% of participants must live within the immediate QPCC ward
- The appointed organisation will need to retain receipts of purchase and invoice QPCC accordingly
- Payment will be quarterly and made by BACs transfer.



Roles & Responsibilities:

The appointed organisation will be responsible for overseeing the effective delivery of the project, reporting directly to the QPCC. Other responsibilities include:

- Coordinating quarterly meetings with the QPCC Gardens Management Committee meeting
- Design and print of the marketing material
- Carrying out risk assessments for events/visits
- Organisation, planning and delivery of the workshops and any visits
- Organisation, planning and delivery of children/young peoples' events
- Recruitment and training of open space champions
- Design, implementation and reporting of monitoring systems
- Carrying out the monitoring and evaluation of the project
- Communications with QPCC and promoting the Gardens
- Selection and purchasing of the equipment and materials needed to deliver the sessions
- Advise QPCC with regards to fundraising opportunities for the extension of the project.

Fee:

Please provide a detailed quote for the proposed outlined in this document. This must include a full break down of:

Staff (revenue) costs

All relevant staffing qualifications and clearances

Materials (capital)

Transport and other expenditure.

Timescale for tender:

Advertise tender opportunity	11 November 2015
Deadline for receipt of project proposals	Friday 18 th December
Interviews (if necessary)	Friday 8 th January
Award organisation	End of January 2016
Project start date	March 2016

Tenders should be submitted by 18th December 2015 to:

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