

BRIEFING NOTE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF: Environment Forum

For information

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Subject / Title: Forty Hall

Wards:

Date: 12th September 2022

Background information

Forty Hall estate is collectively managed through teams in both Culture and Parks and Open Spaces. Culture manages the house and associated aspects including the bookings and events, whereas Parks focus is on the grounds of the estate and relationships linked to the estate, including voluntary groups, historic and natural England.

The estate grounds are maintained by three FTE members of the parks department, a wealth of volunteers, and mobile park teams which care for grass areas and the wider elements of the estate.

LBE's Culture team, consisting of 5.6 FTE's experience above 70K visitors to the house annually, and reached 350K followers via social media. The team facilitate a diverse schedule ranging from weddings, through to sewing plants workshops.

The estate participates in the green flag award scheme, Enfield in bloom and recently London in bloom, achieving high accolades for standard and detail of the grounds.

Update

Conservation grass

- Recent extreme weather saw areas within the conservation grass ignite and require blue light service intervention
- Due to the weight restrictions linked to the archaeological importance of the areas, land management through machinery has historically been complicated and limiting
- Introduction of cattle grazing has been suggested and welcomed in principle, as an alternative to machine driven land management. Initial

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discussions have included Capel Manor, Epping Forest, Historic England, Natural England and Friends of Forty Hall.

This is an exciting opportunity, a sensible and sustainable alternative, yet not without risk and significant change to use and perception of the space and management of.

Woodland Encroachment

- Woodland encroachment threatens the characteristics of the grounds
- Working with Historic England to prioritise removal of saplings in autumn / winter 2022.
- Team focus to be drawn from pleasure grounds to support the required works



Figure 1. Seen from north-west in 27th May 2015. The clump on the right has grown further. Saplings have established themselves around an open grown tree toward bottom centre of image

Walled Garden

- Main volunteer hours within the estate completed within this pocket of the estate
- Submitted for London in Bloom for 2022, submission completed by the Friends of Group, supported by LBE

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- Recent planting undertaken within the four main beds funded by LBE and planting completed by LBE and Forty Hall's volunteers.
- Pergola is to be installed in the walled garden, funded by the friend group, through Music on the lawn (event) and other funding streams. Wisteria reduction to allow for pergola installation, delayed project as identified damage to historic wall structure.

Operational

- All-Terrain vehicle (ATV) to be sited at the estate October 2022 onwards, to assist with general activities within the grounds. LBE working with Capel Manor Farm to agree suitable secure location.
- ASB issue within the car park area, groups of car drivers congregating later part of park opening times and creating nuisance. LBE working with Met police, to agree future management and control.
- Estate awarded Green Flag status for 2022, inspection of site completed as secret shopper, hopeful that 2023 inspection will be completed face to face, allowing for celebration of estate with Green Flag representatives.

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