

London Its Your Neighbourhood 2016

Friends of City Gardens

Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)

The group is working towards things such as:

Being inclusive of local people

Local ownership and direction

Making a difference to local people

Involving local people with planning, decision-making, communication & implementation

Representative of the local community

Getting support (e.g. from local council, grant aid, sponsorship, in-kind aid etc.)

Planning for the future

Working in partnership with other organisations (i.e. police, community support officers, environmental groups etc.

Total Points Assessed (Out of 40)

36

Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)

The group is engaged in environmental activities such as:

Conservation (e.g. resources, heritage, wildlife, built environment)

Composting

Recycling

Creating, maintaining or improving green space

Sharing knowledge and skills

The group is engaged in addressing environmental issues such as:

Fly-tipping

Fly-posting

Litter

Graffiti

Dog fouling

Total Points Assessed (Out of 30)

26

SECTION C - Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)

The group is employing good gardening practices appropriate to the area, such as:

good plant choice

Good maintenance, presentation and management

Creativity

Innovation

Overcoming site difficulties

Enhancing the area through gardening

Total Points Assessed (Out of 30)

25

GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED

87

LEVEL ACHIEVED Outstanding (5)

Areas of Achievement

It was a great pleasure to meet Sarah Hudson who with her fellow Trustees have brought together in a relatively short time a group of diverse schemes (parks, schools, cemetery, street scape and an underground station) to form Friends of City Gardens. It has taken three years to amass a following of 170 active members and with the help of the many city companies have raised £17,000 and held over 50 events. Generally we commend the work carried out in the Bird surveys, environmental responsibilities and the setting up a scheme of leaf composting bins across the city. They also organize the city local in bloom competition, which had over 150 entries. More specifically we visited Fan Street Community Orchard and herb garden. A delightful display of fruit trees in large square tubs under planted with herbs. Locals are encouraged to help themselves and a member of public sitting on an oak seat whilst we were visiting confirmed this. Fortune Park where a corner has been made over to growing vegetables and the local primary school benefits from visits. Part of Bunhill Fields where a section is being left to grow wild to create a woodland habitat for insects and birds. It was here that we saw the start of the scheme to create bins for leaf compost and green compost. If successful it would save the City a fortune in not having transport waste matter away to depots. Hundred of bulbs have been planted for a spring show. The gravestones are being restored by the city. The Barbican Station garden, which sadly is temporary. But hopefully the plants contained in 35 tubs will be relocated to a different site. Took 18 months of negotiation to install and it is very impressive in what can be achieved with perseverance. Over 50 volunteers have been involved and now that it is installed a strict water rota is in place. The supply being kindly supplied by Cross Rail. Last but not least we visited Sir John Cass Primary School. This roof top school garden used to be tended by the teachers and Caretaker (since retired). So now parents and the Friends Group manage the garden. All the produce goes to the School Kitchen.

Areas for Development

This extremely successful group, which was only formed in 2013, is in danger of growing too large for entering "London Its Your Neighbourhood" Scheme in its own right. It took an hour and 15 minutes of enjoyable rushing around to assess. Strictly speaking by the rules it should have taken no more an hour. However this is easily overcome. There are obvious parts of the visit that could in future warrant separate entries. Friends of Fortune Park and St John Cass Primary School (as it's tended by the parents and volunteers) being examples. We look forward to hearing what new ventures this enthusiastic team undertakes in the future.

Results

Level	Description	Points
	Establishing (1)	0 - 35
	Improving (2)	36 - 52
	Advancing (3)	53 - 68
	Thriving (4)	69 - 85
	Outstanding (5)	86 - 100