

Allen Gardens

Newsletter Summer 2021

In October 2020 we wrote to you about plans to make improvements to Allen Gardens. Unfortunately, the ongoing pandemic has restricted how we have been able to connect with people locally. A large number of organisations have been closed and staff have been on furlough. However, we have been able to get a fair amount of feedback from local residents.

- We have been able to email those of you who have asked to be kept informed. Please complete the form at the end of this newsletter if you wish to be added to this list. A number of residents have given feedback regarding the gardens.
- We have had discussions with some local organisations including Spitalfields Farm, Providence Row Housing Association and Daniel Gilbert House about how they and their service users would like to use the site.
- We met with parents of children outside three primary schools towards the end of 2020.
- In total we had input from just under 100 individuals.



Activity Summer 2021

The Tower Hamlets Parks service is working with Spitalfields City Farm to deliver activities every Thursday and Friday to help children explore the farm's unique environment. You are invited to take part in den building, cookery classes, animal care and gardening.

Thursdays midday to 3pm, Fridays 11am to 3pm. Commencing 29th July and finishing 27th August.

Address: Buxton Street, London E1 5AR

Booking in advance is required as spaces are limited (12 children per session)

Family activities suitable for 5-11. All children must be accompanied.

For more information or to book: rachel@spitalfieldscityfarm.org



General Feedback

- The garden at present is used by dog walkers, children and those using the site for ASB.
- The majority view is that Allen Gardens has been left to decline and something has to happen without delay to stop it from further decline.
- Local residents have a fondness for Allen Gardens and very clearly want it to be looked after and cared for. It is used by dog walkers and for people to pass through. Some use it or would like to use it for their children to play in, but the children's play equipment is not seen as fit for purpose.
- There are major concerns about ASB, drug users, drug paraphernalia left in the park, noise, litter and prostitution (this last comment was based on feedback from residents and has not been substantiated with local police).
- There is a feeling that the space should not be used as a spill over from the busy traffic of visitors to Brick Lane. There were some who thought that the 'additional' people could be managed better if the space were developed and maintained.

Next Steps:

A brief is being developed to appoint a new design team. The work will take on board the feedback from the 20-21 consultation. The design team will create options to go to the local community for feedback, so you will be able to see what the proposals are – **give us your contact details below.**

Keep up to date

Please let us know if you wish to be informed about what is happening with Allen Gardens by emailing allen.gardens@towerhamlets.gov.uk