

Potters Fields Park Management Trust Business Plan 2017-2020

Executive Summary

1. Overview

Potters Fields Park Management Trust manages and maintains Potters Fields Park and will soon be taking on St John's Churchyard Park. It has a 22 year lease remaining for the spaces.

The Trust is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and was set up in March 2005. The Trust is managed by a Board of Directors made up of local stakeholders.

The objectives for which the Trust was established are; for the benefit of the people of the United Kingdom as a whole and the local community in particular:

- To occupy, promote, manage and maintain as a public open space the park and garden area known as "Potters Fields Park" in the area of London to the North and South of the River Thames from London Bridge to Tower Bridge known as the "Pool of London" in the interests of public welfare, including the educational and recreational benefit of visitors to the park;
- To manage and maintain other areas of sustainable land neighbouring the River Thames and benefiting the environment of the Pool of London
- To advance awareness and educate, with access to the Park and neighbouring areas of sustainable land, in the fields of horticulture, arboriculture and wildlife; and
- To assist in the provision of recreational facilities to improve the quality of life for visitors to the Park

Potters Fields Park

Potters Fields Park lies on the southern side of the Thames between Tower Bridge and City Hall. It is one of the few remaining green open spaces along the riverside.

Extensively landscaped in 2007, the park you see today has been transformed into a beautiful, world class facility. Landscape architects Gross Max created a place for public events and private contemplation; a park which reflects upon its distinctive local history, and provides a safe, clean and restful space within the bustle of the city.



St John's Churchyard

St John's Churchyard is located across the road from Potters Fields Park. The Church, St John Horsleydown and Vicarage were created between 1727 and 1733 on the site of an old militia ground.

The Churchyard became a public park in 1882. During the Second World War the church was badly damaged and later demolished, its plinth base is incorporated into the London City Mission offices, which were built on the site in 1972-6. The park has undergone extensive renovation in recent history to improve desire lines, planting and seating.

2. Development Plans 2017 - 2020

2.1 Community engagement

The Trust's Community engagement strategy outlines our plans to improve stakeholder engagement on the parks. We are currently working with 'Wild in the City' who are producing a proposal to deliver these plans. We have also made contact with 'Our Parks' who facilitate community fitness classes and activities.

An outline of the Trust's plans can be found below;

Activity/Event	Frequency	Location
Fitness/sport classes for local stakeholders	Monthly	Both parks
Wildlife/planting walks and workshops	Monthly	Both parks
Arts & crafts workshops	Quarterly	St John's Churchyard
Curriculum based information packs for local schools	n/a	
Outdoor learning classes for local schools. Gardener visits to schools.	Monthly	St John's Churchyard
Community events and festivals	June each year	Both parks
Volunteer days for residents and local businesses	December each year	Both parks

2.2 Events calendar

It is not possible for the Trust to plan its events calendar a year in advance as we take the majority of our bookings from external clients. These bookings are often only a month or two in advance of the event. However, we can forward plan for our own events which are summarised below;

Activity/Event	Date	Location
Fitness/sport classes for local stakeholders	Monthly	St John's Churchyard
Wildlife walks and workshops	Monthly	St John's Churchyard
Planting workshops and volunteer days	Monthly	Both parks
The Big Picnic festival	June each year	Both parks
Christmas tree lighting ceremony	December each year	Potters Fields Park
Lantern workshops and parade	November each year	Potters Fields Park
Christmas present collection for local dog charity	December each year	Both parks



2.3 Marketing

The Trust’s marketing strategy outlines our plans to improve awareness of the Trust and its work. The immediate priorities can be found below;

Item/activity
Create branding for St John’s Churchyard that ties in with our existing branding of the Trust
Create a sub-website for St John’s
Install interpretation signage and noticeboards on St Johns
Create curriculum based literature and activities for both parks
Develop contact list for local stakeholders
Create branded material to be used during events in the parks

2.4 St John’s Churchyard improvement programme

The Trust aims to complete on taking over the management of St John’s Churchyard in 2017-2018. Once this has occurred a number of improvement works will take place.

The programme of works has been developed between the Trust and ‘Dannatt Johnson Architects’ and ‘D4P’. These plans stemmed from two consultation processes in 2014 and 2016 with local residents, discussions with Southwark Council and with the planning consultants ‘ECA’.

There is a budget allocation of £380,000 to complete the works which also covers legal fees, consultant fees and contingency.

2.5 Biodiversity improvement

The Trust will continue to improve the biodiversity on the parks through the following;

Potters Fields Park	St John’s Churchyard
Further planting of the bluebell meadow with ‘bee-friendly’ wildflower	Edible hedge lines
Installation of new bird and bat boxes in the trees on site	Wildflower meadows

Creation and installation of insect hotels in the perennial beds	Mulching composter
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We will work closely with Team London Bridge and the Green Partnership network in the London Bridge area to share good practise and expand green channels between the existing spaces.

Once the improvement programme has been completed on St John’s Churchyard the Trust will conduct another Biodiversity survey. This will take place once new planting has bedded in and will enable us to quantify any improvements made. Recommendations will be taken forward and actioned where possible.

2.6 Hard landscaping works

A capital programme of works is being created by Gavin Jones Ltd for the remaining 22 years of the leases. This will form the basis of our annual hard landscaping works.

Over the 2017 – 2020 period the following works will be a priority;

Potters Fields Park	St John’s Churchyard
Final interface works for Potters Fields road entrance	New playground & surfaces
Re-surfacing damaged paths	Increased planting
Installation of bollard line by Tower Bridge	Installation of temporary maintenance compound
Installation of power point for Ice cream van	Improvements to entrances
Remedial lawn works	LED lighting upgrade & CCTV installation
Replacement of damaged stone edging	New interpretation signage & noticeboard
Additional planting in Piet Oudolf beds	Boules & table tennis equipment
Modifications to compound area	New seating & removal of old stone blocks



“Every blade of grass is worth its weight in gold” Lil Patrick

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