

Railside Community Garden Strategy paper January 2022

In October 2020 the RCG Committee agreed a Strategy paper that comprised a blueprint of objectives to be achieved during 2021. This paper summarises the progress made against those objectives, and sets out those that go forward to underpin our work in 2022.

As can be seen below, almost all of the objectives have either been commenced, or completed. Whilst the Objectives can and will evolve during the course of the year, we should ensure that all decisions taken and work carried out during 2022 fit with these objectives. For example, committee meetings should be a mixture of proactive progress against the objectives, and reacting to questions/suggestions/events - there will of course necessarily be overlap between the two.

1) A secure site satisfying both COVID and 'regular' H&S obligations

As per Strategy October 2020 paper:

Work to repair bottom step and slippery area outside the Arch	Not achieved	To be continued during 2022 subject to resource/funding
Continue chain link fencing on both stretches of fence	Achieved: completed by August 2021	
boards at bottom of each fence	Achieved: Completed by October 2021	
make clear which areas are can be walked on and which not (eg the steep banked terraces)	Achieved: H&S signage installed throughout site during summer 2021	
removal or tidying of any trip hazards/piles of wood/protruding spikes etc	Achieved: Regular clearance of the site during 2021 has significantly reduced potential H&S hazards	

Other H&S work achieved that contributes to this objective:

Handrail installed adjacent to steepest slope	As part of H&S and Accessibility objectives	
Continual implementation of Covid operating policy	Achieved throughout 2021	To continue during 2022 as long as necessary
Tunnel Arch used for public event in 'safe mode'	Achieved: a trial event took place in the Arch that proved that we could safely use this space for gatherings; this forms a blueprint for future public use of this space going forward. .	To continue during 2022 to make this space even more H&S secure.
Wild Garden cleared	This space is now clear of rubbish and debris, and can now be safely accessed.	

Actions/Objectives for 2022

Almost all of the 2021 objectives have been completed and the RCG site is much more

secure than previously. However H&S is never a completed objective, so all activity going forward will be assessed and permitted on that basis. Specific objectives include:

- i) **Work to repair bottom step and slippery area outside the Arch**
- ii) **Continue to make the Arch area completely secure for public/members use**
- ii) **Continue to maintain a H&S and Covid secure policy during 2022**

ii) **A clear use/purpose for each area of the site that we are building towards .**

As per Strategy October 2020 paper:

Using the garden plans and updating them	Partially achieved	To be continued during 2022
Continue tidying of the 'main site', and start clearance of the area beyond the arch site.	Achieved.	Only remaining area for clearance is next to the Wellfield tunnel portal next to track - to be cleared during early 2022.

Going forward in 2022:

- **Clear last remaining area**
- **Maintain garden usage plan**
- **Purchase and site new greenhouse**
- **Beehives in Wild Garden**
- **Continue to update and use Garden plans**

iii) **Regular members access**

- regular slots (alternate Sat/Sun) for	Achieved - where permitted by Covid	To continue during 2022
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members, within COVID guidelines		
Regular events	Partially achieved - restricted by Covid	To continue during 2022

Going forward in 2022:

- Continue to hold regular events on site, including in the Arch
- Continue to offer regular slots and to grow the number of regular member visits so that more can visit autonomously (outside of the core committee regulars)

iv) Maximise yield by Summer 2021:

Implement an Autumn/Winter planting schedule	Achieved	To be continued during 2022
Continue to build planters	Achieved: 6 new planters/beds built in 2021.	To be continued during 2022 in Wild Garden and as and when further remaining area cleared.

Going forward in 2022:

- Winter Planting schedule
- Continue to build planters
- In addition, further cold frame storage to be constructed from materials already sourced
- Greenhouse to be purchased and sited

v) Maximise all short term funding available to us

Veolia funding	Achieved. Almost all RCG infrastructure projects have been funded by Veolia at a cost of c.£13000	
Western Riverside funding	Partially achieved	To be continued until WR deadline of April 2022. Greenhouse is likely to be the last significant purchase.

Going forward in 2022

- **Continue Western Riverside funding as above**
- **Identify and pursue new revenue streams**

vi) Contribute to the Community

Objectives for 2021:

Continue to provide to Foodbank	Achieved - we have continued to provide a regular supply of veg and produce to Brixton & West Norwood foodbank	To be continued during 2022
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Additional activity in support of this objective:

Hosted an initial visit for parents and children from New Vision for Women	Giving an opportunity for those who wouldn't usually have access to a community garden	To be continued during 2022
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Objectives for 2022:

- **As above**
- **Reaching out to other local Community groups who would benefit from access/use to the Garden**

vii) Raise our profile within the local area

- Engagement with local MP	Commenced - meetings with Bell R-A MP and Cllr Marianna Masters. Funding provided.	To be continued
- Continue our Comms and outreach	Commenced/Achieved Regular updates now provided to members	To be continued
- Permanent signage on gates	Achieved - completed	
Continue to engage and liaise with other local Gardens eg Brockwell, Streatham Coop, and via the Community Harvest/Capital Growth/Incredible Edible Lambeth networks.	Commenced - contact and engagement has started.	To be continued

Objectives for 2022:

- **As above**

LONG TERM OBJECTIVES

In October 2020, the Committee identified these as the longer term objectives, to be achieved within the next 3-5 years. However given resource and time commitments, it was decided to prioritise and action the shorter term and more immediate objectives as per above. However these three will continue to be our LTOs.

- **Use of the Arch as a 'liveable' area with potential fundraising use.**
- **Wider community use of the site; outreach to local schools, Spires etc**
- **Secured wider funding to evolve beyond the short term**