



14 September 2011

Work to start on the new Jubilee Gardens Frosts Landscape Construction Ltd appointed as Contractor

Work is to start imminently on the transformation of Jubilee Gardens on the South Bank. A new, lush green landscape with 70 new trees and flowerbeds of the highest quality will replace the existing flat and featureless garden. There will be new paths, extensive seating, and new lighting. The design is by Dutch landscape architects West 8, a cutting-edge practice which delivers ground-breaking urban parks and public spaces. The £3.2m contract will be carried out by Frosts Landscape Construction Ltd, whose projects include work on the Olympic Park. Completion of the new Jubilee Gardens, which forms part of the Mayor's London's Great Outdoors programme, is scheduled for mid-May 2012, in time for both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and London 2012.

The transformation of the Gardens is being managed by an innovative partnership, the Jubilee Gardens Project Board comprising; Lambeth Council, Southbank Centre, current owner of Jubilee Gardens, the Jubilee Gardens Trust, which will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the Gardens following the completion of the contract, and Transport for London, which is providing funding towards the project on behalf of the Mayor. Other funding is from Lambeth Council, secured under planning agreements with Shell and the EDF Energy London Eye, and contributions from several charitable trusts.

The site was at the centre of the Festival of Britain in 1951. It was first laid out as a garden in 1977 in celebration of Queen's Silver Jubilee. The Jubilee Gardens project will transform what is now a patch of grass into a garden of the highest quality, as soft and green as it is sustainable, worthy of its Jubilee associations and reflecting the quality of the South Bank's cultural organisations, tourist attractions and high profile businesses. The new Jubilee Gardens will probably be the most visited green space in central London, appreciated not just by the millions who visit the South Bank, but also local employees and residents alike.

Alan Bishop, Chief Executive of Southbank Centre said:

Following the refurbishment of the Royal Festival Hall this is another important milestone in the masterplan for improving our site and we are particularly proud to be doing so in an innovative partnership with neighbouring landowners, the local community and all three levels of government.

Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall said:

I am delighted that the works are to begin. It has taken far too long and there have been very many hurdles to climb but thanks to the dedication of all involved, the support of the Mayor and the willingness of Government to support the Parliamentary process needed, we now will have a wonderful tribute for the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee.

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media, Sport and the Olympics said:

London's South Bank is one of the great success stories of the last 60 years, delighting millions of visitors every year and helping grow the economy of this part of the capital. It is vitally important to the cultural life,

not just of London, but the whole nation. This project celebrates the legacy of the Festival of Britain and will be a wonderful new asset for the city, marking both the Diamond Jubilee and London 2012.

Steve Reed, Leader of Lambeth Council said:

This is a really exciting moment for the borough and for London, because this project will make Jubilee Gardens one of London's truly great green spaces, and a major new cultural centre to be enjoyed not just by Lambeth residents, but by visitors from across the world. Lambeth has undertaken a range of important regeneration schemes over the last few years that are transforming the built environment of the borough, including schemes in The Cut, Windrush Square, and Lower Marsh, and the Jubilee Gardens scheme will be a fantastic complement to these.

Daniel Moylan, Vice-Chair of Transport for London said:

It is fantastic to see one of London's Great Outdoors flagship projects move a significant step closer to completion. By next summer the Gardens will be transformed into an inspiring place where people will want to relax and enjoy London at its very best.

Ted Inman, Chair of the Jubilee Gardens Trust said:

All those represented in the Trust, neighbouring landowners, local business and residents' organisations, have worked for many years for this day – we are looking forward to taking responsibility for the gardens and to managing them as one of London's great green spaces.

Lorna Campbell, Lambeth Cabinet Member for Environment said:

I am delighted that through cooperative working, with partners and the local community, we will transform Jubilee Gardens into a fabulous space that our residents and visitors will enjoy for generations to come.

Adriaan Geuze, Director of West 8 Landscape Architects said:

West 8 extends our congratulations to the London Borough of Lambeth, Southbank Centre and the South Bank Employers' Group for securing this outstanding landscape contractor for Jubilee Gardens. Once finished, the redeveloped Jubilee Gardens will be a magnet for people and oasis for the soul.

Maarten Buijs, Project Manager, West 8 said:

It is particularly rewarding that the resolve and perseverance of all stakeholders have paid off and that we can now focus on constructing the park. West 8 is greatly looking forward to working with Frosts Landscape Construction Ltd and to implementing the plans we have all been talking about for so long.

Aidan Lane, Director of Frosts Landscape Construction, said:

Frosts are delighted to be awarded the contract for the transformation of Jubilee Gardens. It's wonderful to be part of the team to deliver this world class garden. Opportunities to be involved in such prestigious projects as Jubilee Gardens are rare and we look forward to commencing work on site imminently.

For more information:

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Notes to Editors

For background information: www.jubileegardens.org.uk

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The project is remarkable in bringing together the very wide range of partners listed below. By working in partnership this group has created a wonderful green vision for gardens in London's most vibrant area and secured the funding and planning consent with huge public support. Work will now start on site 34 years after the gardens were first created to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

- **Southbank Centre** which holds Jubilee Gardens on a long lease from the Arts Council and has agreed to pass over the gardens to an independent Trust to provide dedicated and long term care and management.
- **Lambeth Council**, in line with its Cooperative Council policy, in working in partnership with local stakeholders and letting the contract for the re-landscaping. It had previously secured major contributions from planning agreements for the transformation of Jubilee Gardens and is playing a leading role in the project.
- **Shell and EDF Energy London Eye** contributing £3.6m via Lambeth Council with funds arising from their developments in the area.
- **The Mayor of London** contributing £1.5m through Transport for London to ensure that the quality of public space in this part of the South Bank is right for the South Bank's role in the cultural festival that will precede the games. **Jubilee Gardens** is one of the Mayor of London's Great Outdoors projects, which aim 'to transform the every day experience of London's outdoor spaces and create beautifully designed oases throughout the capital's urban jungle'. For further details see below.
- **The Jubilee Gardens Trust**, comprising Southbank Centre, EDF Energy London Eye, Shell, and representatives of local businesses, local residents and Lambeth Council, in taking responsibility for maintaining the gardens to Royal Parks standards and organising an annual programme of cultural events.
- **Kate Hoey MP** and the local community in consistently championing the upgrading of the gardens.
- **Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP**, Secretary of State for Culture, Media, Sport whose intervention enabled the project to proceed.
- the **Shirayama Corporation** (owner of neighbouring County Hall) for supporting the project.
- **South Bank Employers' Group**, an association of 17 major organisations in the South Bank neighbourhood, which has championed and coordinated the Jubilee Gardens project throughout.
- **Other donors to the project**, including the 29 May 1961 Trust, The Gosling Foundation, The Hobson Trust.

About

- **Frosts Landscape Construction Ltd** are specialists in landscaping, gardening, green roofs and walls, ponds, block paving and more. www.frostslandscapes.co.uk
- **West 8** is a cutting-edge practice which delivers ground-breaking urban parks and public spaces. Set up in 1987 as an international team of architects, urban designers and industrial designers, West 8 designs landscape interventions, urban plans, squares, parks and gardens worldwide. www.west8.nl
- **The Mayor of London's Great Outdoors** 'London's Great Outdoors - A Manifesto for Public Space' is supported by two practical guides, 'Better Streets' and 'Better Green and Water Spaces'. Together they set out the Mayor of London's vision for improving public spaces in London. This will ensure



that our streets, squares, parks and green and water spaces are fit for a great world city, are enjoyed by everyone who visits them and most importantly, help improve the quality of life in the capital. They are accompanied by an implementation plan that will see £220 million invested in over 50 public realm improvement projects over the next three years, funding for which comes from Transport for London, the London Development Agency and London's boroughs as well as other sources. The measures include redesigned streets, which can be shared by both pedestrians and vehicles and reclaimed derelict green spaces and underused waterways. The manifesto and guides have been written and produced by the Greater London Authority, London Development Agency, Design for London and Transport for London. For further information please go to www.london.gov.uk/greatoutdoors.

