



18 October 2011

Mayor of London and Local MP kick-start construction on Jubilee Gardens

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, kick-started construction on Jubilee Gardens this afternoon with a visit to mark the official start of work on site. The Mayor of London endorsed the scheme, to which he has contributed £1.5m through Transport for London, to ensure that the quality of public space on the South Bank is of the highest quality in the run-up to the landmark year 2012. Jubilee Gardens is one of the Mayor of London's Great Outdoors projects, which aim 'to transform the everyday experience of London's outdoor spaces and create beautifully designed oases throughout the capital's urban jungle'. The balance of funding for the £5.1m project is made up of section 106 contributions from Shell and the EDF Energy London Eye via Lambeth Council and from charitable trusts.

The ceremony was attended by key figures involved in the Jubilee Gardens project including; Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall; Steve Reed, Leader of Lambeth Council; Alan Bishop, Chief Executive of Southbank Centre; Councillor Daniel Moylan, Deputy Chairman of Transport for London; and Ted Inman, Chair of the Jubilee Gardens Trust. Boris Johnson ceremonially 'broke ground' marking the official start of construction on site and said a few words about the importance of the project for the capital.

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London said:

"In 2012 London will throw open its doors and welcome the world to not only the greatest sporting event on the planet but also to one of the biggest parties this city has ever seen - the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. So it is fantastic to see this previously uninspiring and unloved corner of the capital being transformed into an oasis worthy of royalty in time for the celebrations. The new gardens will be accessible to all and make London's South Bank even more attractive, ensuring its position on the ever growing list of green spaces visitors and Londoners alike can now enjoy in the capital."

A new, lush green landscape with 70 new trees and flowerbeds of the highest quality will replace the existing flat and featureless garden with new paths, extensive seating, and new lighting. The design is by Dutch landscape architects West 8 and the contract is being carried out by Frosts Landscape Construction Ltd. Now that construction has started on site, completion of the new Jubilee Gardens is scheduled for mid-May 2012, in time for both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and London 2012.

Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall said:

“I am delighted that work has started. It has taken far too long and there have been very many hurdles to climb but thanks to the dedication of all involved and the support of the Mayor and the Secretary of State for Culture, we now will have a wonderful tribute for the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee.”

Alan Bishop, Chief Executive of Southbank Centre said:

“I am delighted that a major face lift is being given to Jubilee Gardens. Through collaboration among many organisations, the Gardens are the next project for transformation in the world’s largest cultural quarter in time for the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.”

Steve Reed, Leader of Lambeth Council said:

“This is a really exciting moment for Lambeth and for London as this project will make Jubilee Gardens one of London’s truly great green spaces, to be enjoyed by local residents and visitors from across the world. Over the last few years we have transformed our local area, including schemes in The Cut, Windrush Square, and Lower Marsh. The Jubilee Gardens scheme will be a fantastic addition and a focus for media during the 2012 Games.”

Ted Inman, Chair of the Jubilee Gardens Trust said:

“This groundbreaking event is a very significant one for Jubilee Gardens Trustees, who have been working for a new Jubilee Gardens for many years. We are delighted this new green landmark will be ready for the Diamond Jubilee and are committed to maintaining the gardens to the highest standards thereafter.”

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Notes to Editors

For background information: www.jubileegardens.org.uk

The transformation of the Gardens is being managed by 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 through planning agreements with Shell and the EDF Energy London Eye, and contributions from several charitable trusts.

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** has contributed £3.6m to the scheme and led on the delivery of the project, in line with its Cooperative Council policy, in working in partnership with local stakeholders and letting the contract for the re-landscaping.
- **Shell and EDF Energy London Eye** contributing £3.6m via Lambeth Council with funds arising from Section 106, a financial contribution from the developers to mitigate the impact of 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 everyday 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 - 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 £355m invested in 80 public realm improvement projects between 2009 and the 2012 Games; 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 the 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