

# **Sustainability Committee Report**

**August 2026**

## **Biodiversity**

Asking Seasons to stop using leaf blowers meant there was some manual raking and leaf gathering that had to be done over the autumn. Thanks very much to everyone who helped out with leaf clearing over those key weekends, hopefully we can repeat this approach this year too.

Considering the hosepipe ban and drought conditions, the water butt is evidently an important investment – the stored water has been used a bit this summer, but we need a better system for residents to make use of it for their front gardens or sections of the central planting for the rest of this year and next year.

The leaf and grass compost managed by Seasons continues to be effective and is providing CGRS a cost saving by not having to pay for removal of leaves and purchase of mulch.

As one of the best things we can do for biodiversity in city environments is to create more pond habitats, we have developed some initial proposals for a **Corner Green pond**. Our research leads us to two options:

- 1) a landscaped pond at ground level to go near the bench area;
- 2) a raised pond, using a pre-fabricated structure, to go near a wall.

The first option will be suitable for pond creatures such as frogs, and as a water source for hedgehogs and other ground animals. It also has the potential to be an attractive addition to the Green's communal space.

The second option, while less of a wildlife pond, will still be a useful water source for nature – for birds and climbing creatures. It will also be cheaper to purchase and install and will not pose a safety risk to children or pets.

**Please let us know your views, and if we should develop a full design and costings for a Corner Green pond.**

## **Garage electrical upgrade**

We have been in touch with UK Power Network that manages London's electricity infrastructure, and an electrician recommended by the Keep to begin to understand the costs associated with rewiring and upgrading the electrical supply to the garages.

A separate paper outlines the expected costs and options.

## **Collaborating with other Span estates**

We shared our 2025 report on retrofitting Corner Green houses with the other Cator Span estates. A Director from the Plantation asked to receive copies of our full reports for wider circulation. A Director from the Hall has recently been in touch for our advice and input

as they commission a retrofit and sustainability plan from one of the experts we worked with last year.

**Committee Focus for 2026 – 27**

Depending on feedback at this AGM, we will develop full plans for a pond for residents to consider and vote on.

Similarly, depending on feedback at this AGM, we will move forward with formal detailed quotes for the garage upgrade and/or EV bollards for residents to consider and vote on.

The extreme weather of this summer has shown that we need to focus on how to best combat overheating of our houses, especially the upstairs. We will dedicate time to exploring design and material options to reduce overheating, and keep up with what other Span estates are doing on this issue.

We will also seek to keep up to date with the latest developments in renewable energy systems (e.g. air source heat pumps and solar panels) to assess whether these are becoming more relevant or viable for our house type.