

KTE – Estate Gardens Update – September 2025

Progress and Highlights from Across the Estate

In September 2025, a concerted effort was made to enhance and maintain the KTE estate's gardens, with a particular focus on Chichester Terrace. Clearance of the area has progressed efficiently, allowing for access to further sections and enabling a response to residents' feedback, including the reduction of vegetation that previously obstructed sea views. As a result, some renovation projects elsewhere on the estate are being rescheduled to maintain this priority. Nevertheless, routine maintenance has been maintained across all areas, ensuring consistently high standards throughout.

Chichester Terrace Developments

Work at Chichester Terrace has progressed well, with contractors removing approximately one metre from the perimeter, thereby improving access for further horticultural activity. Once full access is achieved, efforts will continue to lower the height of dense vegetation, enhancing sea views and addressing longstanding resident concerns. During clearance, various discarded items have been encountered, though nothing of significant note has been found. The focus on this area means that some renovation projects elsewhere will be postponed, but essential maintenance across the estate remains ongoing.

Hedge Maintenance

Despite temporary constraints, most hedges on the west side of Lewes Crescent have been cut. With all equipment expected to be fully operational soon, any outstanding work will be addressed swiftly, ensuring that regular hedge cutting continues uninterrupted.

Arundel Terrace

During recent works, contractors mistakenly believed Arundel Terrace was publicly owned and began accessing a streetlight through the hedge. Thanks to swift action by a resident, any potential disruption was prevented, and no significant damage occurred. Following completion of the maintenance, the hedge will be trimmed to restore the terrace's appearance.

Welcoming Future Garden Designers

The estate recently hosted a group of students from the London College of Garden Design, offering them a tour of the gardens and an introduction to the estate's horticultural heritage. The visit encouraged the exchange of ideas and highlighted the innovative practices in garden management and development currently in place. Students appreciated both the historical significance and the modern stewardship of the gardens, strengthening connections with the wider horticultural community.

Tree Safety and Maintenance

Essential tree care has been scheduled in collaboration with professional arborists. Planned works include remedial action on two trees in the main gardens and selective thinning in the northeast corner of Sussex Square, with further minor works to be confirmed. This proactive approach is crucial, particularly following recent storms that resulted in fallen branches—fortunately without incident. Regular inspection and maintenance are essential to ensure the health and safety of residents, visitors, and the broader estate landscape. The importance of

this work is underscored by past incidents elsewhere, highlighting the need for diligent and expert oversight.

Green Waste and Leaf Management

Green waste removal has resumed following recent repairs to access gates. Woody material will be processed and reused on-site, particularly to chip paths along the southern boundary, which helps prevent winter muddiness and reduces waste. Leaf clearance is underway, with lawns cleared twice weekly and additional sessions scheduled as required. In line with sustainable horticultural practices, a substantial proportion of leaf litter is retained on beds and borders, providing organic mulch that enriches the soil and supports moisture retention.

This approach supports local biodiversity by creating habitats for beneficial invertebrates and offering overwintering sites for wildlife such as hedgehogs, frogs, and toads. Organic mulching also improves soil structure, raises organic matter levels, and reduces reliance on chemical fertilisers, contributing to a healthier, more resilient garden ecosystem.

Looking Ahead: October and Beyond

Enhanced maintenance standards are already evident following the prioritisation of key projects and the commitment to best horticultural practices. In October, the focus on Chichester Terrace will continue, influencing the scheduling of other developments around the estate. Regular hedge cutting and lawn mowing will continue through December, while bed work—such as weeding, edging, and cutting back herbaceous growth—will help keep borders healthy and attractive as the season progresses. Additional renovations will be undertaken as time permits, depending on developments at Chichester Terrace.