

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023



Charity Name: Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum
Queens Award for Voluntary Service Recipient.

Charity Registration Number: 1145700
Entrust Number EB136023

Registered Office:

c/o Hyndburn Borough
Council, Willows lane
Depot, Accrington

BB5 0RT

Trustees:

Ms Cath Holmes	Chair
Mrs Yvonne Heap	Vice Chair
Ms Kimberley Whitehead	Secretary
Mr Gavin Crossley	Treasurer

Authority Liaison:

Councillor Steven Smithson	Portfolio Holder for Parks & Leisure
Mr Craig Haraben	Deputy Director of Environmental Services
Mrs Shirley Parkinson	Parks Liaison Officer

Website:

WWW.hyndburngreenspaces.co.uk

Email; chair@hyndburngreenspaces.co.uk

Message from the Chair

None of the work we do each year would be possible without the support of our volunteers and community groups who do so much to improve facilities for residents, and the funders whose generosity enables us to make community dreams into realities. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Hyndburn Borough Council in particular the Parks department, who advise and support us.

Our aims and objectives**Purpose and vision**

Our charity's purpose is set out in the objects in our constitution:

For the benefit of the inhabitants of the Borough of Hyndburn, Lancashire and the surrounding area to;

Provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of sex, or of political, religious or other opinions in particular but not exclusively by the preservation, promotion, support, assistance and improvement of all green spaces within the Borough of Hyndburn.

Our vision is to empower our communities and promote social action, so every resident has a voice and access to free, high quality open spaces.

Our aims and objectives will be unchanged in the change of governance structure.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims.

The Forum works to a project plan approved in principle at the meetings. Proposed projects are discussed with the Deputy Director of Environmental services to prioritise strategic need.

The community can also approach the Forum for help with a project that they feel would benefit their community.

These project proposals are then reviewed by Forum members to assess community value and whether the proposed project would meet our objectives.

All projects undertaken under the Forum's umbrella are evaluated at the end of the construction/delivery phase to look at the benefits that they have brought to the community.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charity established under a constitution adopted 18 January 2011 Revised in February 2019 to enable meetings to be virtual when circumstances make it necessary.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Under requirements of our constitution, the trustees are elected to serve for a period of 12 months after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting. They can put themselves forward, or be nominated.

The nomination must be seconded by another Forum member. In 2023, a virtual AGM meeting agreed all the trustees.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

The Trustees in 2022/23 are:

Chair – Ms Cath Holmes

Vice Chair – Yvonne Heap

Secretary Kimberley Whitehead

Treasurer - Mr Gavin Crossley

Forum Member Group - Representatives.

Member Groups are composed entirely of volunteers from the local areas. We value the local knowledge that they bring to our charity and the hours they spend on helping us meet our aims and objectives. We recognise the importance of their roles within our charity and have nominated them for various awards over the years.

Each member group can appoint two representatives to attend the forum meetings on behalf of their organisation.

Each member group is entitled to one vote on any issue and project submission. Each affiliated member group must be a community not for profit organisation, legally constituted with their own constitution and bank account. Member groups can choose to adopt the Forum policies (Health & Safety, Child Protection etc.).

The new CIO structure will have a board of Trustees which will act on the decisions proposed/ agreed by the members panel. The reason for the change in governance is so that the forum can enter into formal leases on behalf of its members.

How our activities deliver public benefit

Covid 19 has shown how vital good quality free to use open green spaces are for our mental and physical health. Hyndburn is a Borough where the majority of the housing stock is terraces without gardens front or back, making our open spaces, parks and recreation grounds all the more precious.

All our charitable activities focus on engaging with the 81,000 residents of Hyndburn inspiring them to take a more active role / ownership of the open space and leisure facilities within their community.

We use Parks and Recreational activities as the mechanism for delivering the following social benefits.

Increase Physical Activity – improved community health by:

- Providing freely accessible play/sports facilities of a good quality, based on the 3 Free's – Free of charge – Free to come and go - Free to choose
- Providing opportunities to take part in practical environmental events.
- Encourage community food growing projects.

Increased Biodiversity & Access to Nature - improved environmental understanding and its links to well-being by:

- Improving access for everyone to some of Hyndburn's green spaces.
- Creating learning opportunities for residents to get close to and learn about nature.
- Improving biodiversity within the Borough to attract more wildlife to its parks & open spaces.
- Providing training and workshops to undertake wildlife surveys.
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Improved Community Cohesion – Improving family and community relationships by:

- Providing free opportunities, which allow differing communities to connect and interact with each other around a positive similar aim.
- Good quality, open space and free leisure facilities enables the most vulnerable families to spend quality time together.

- Encouraging all to value and appreciate others views, whilst creating strong positive friendships, work practices and forming interest clubs, event days and sharing this within our Borough and beyond.

Capacity building within the community - Improved skills and community ownership by:

- Giving residents the confidence that they can make a difference within their community.
- Providing a mechanism for residents to have a voice.
- Including opportunities to learn new life skills.

The Charity is continuing to seek funding to improve the following facilities:

- To install a Musa games/fitness area at Cutwood Park.
- To increase the amount of community engagement within parks by the appointment of two community engagement officers.
- Provide a visitors centre for Peel Park the Largest Nature Reserve in Lancashire.
- Help the Hyndburn Parents and Carers group to raise the funds necessary to build a very special Public SEND Playground for young people with Special Educational Needs.
- The redevelopment of Gatty growing facilities.

Many of the projects above are carried over from a previous year/s. Consultation and fundraising is still ongoing. *Once again our activities have been varied within the community.*

Training

There have been no training events organised this year by the forum, but groups were made aware of a training opportunities organised by other organisations.

The Future

We will continue to:

- Work with member groups and partners on improving the Borough's biodiversity and wildlife habitats.
- Increase the level of community engagement taking place within Parks and Open Spaces, through increased events and activities.
- We will continue to work with the community and local authority to improve the remaining parks to Green Flag standard.
- We will work in partnership to improve the play/ sport and leisure provision within the Borough.

Financial Information

Principal Funding Sources

Funding secured by the Forum is often on behalf of a community group and is project specific. Our day to day operational costs are currently at zero thanks to the generosity of the Trustees who do not take any remuneration from the charity and

the generous support from Hyndburn Borough Council in the form of a free room for meetings or training courses, secretarial minute support, photocopying. The Forum also tries to be as paper free as possible corresponding 90 % of the time electronically.

This allows us to use every penny raised by the Forum to meet our aims and objectives.

The Forum accounts run from the 1 January to 31 December each year. In addition to the funds, the Forum has raised directly, the Forum has supported many of its members groups to secure funding for their individual projects over the last few years.

The proposed changes will result in an increase in operational costs.

The Year in View

Knuzden Recreation Ground

The funding required for improvements to Knuzden Recreation ground which included a new playground and a multi games area was secured at the end of 2022 and finally became a reality in 2023.

Following extensive consultation with the local community, including nearby St Oswald's Primary School, the improvements have been tailored to meet the demands and preferences of the residents. The new play area features inclusive play equipment, accommodating children of all abilities. Moreover, a variety of age-appropriate play structures has been incorporated to ensure engaging experiences for children of different age groups.



In response to the expressed need for expanded recreational opportunities, the project also includes a multi-use games area. This versatile space will cater to a range of ball sports, including football, basketball, netball, and even the popular choice of dodgeball, as voted by the local children. Additionally, the games area will provide opportunities for other activities, bringing a diverse array of options for both structured and spontaneous play.

The project, which aims to cater to the diverse needs of the community, is set to transform the recreational space into a vibrant hub of active play and leisure.



The Knuzden community has eagerly participated in the development process, with an overwhelming response to the online questionnaire, which received 136 submissions. The valuable insights and preferences shared by local residents and St Oswald's Primary School have greatly influenced the final proposals for the play area and multi-use games area.

The modernised play area which features swings, a basket swing, a trampoline, a net pyramid, a hide and slide climbing frame, and a seesaw, among other playful accessories. These installations have been carefully chosen to encourage active play, foster social interaction, and provide inclusive opportunities for individuals of all ages and physical abilities. The vibrant colour scheme of the equipment aims to create an inviting and joyful atmosphere for everyone visiting the park.

The Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum secured a grant of £30K from the Lancashire Environmental Fund for this project. The collaborative efforts of these stakeholders have made this transformative project a reality.

Events

This year we have seen several events take place at premises that we have helped to improve, led by Hyndburn Leisure Trust. These events were part of the lets-move-Hyndburn initiative which has been very successful.

<https://www.hyndburnleisure.co.uk/community/lets-move-hyndburn/to> create

Lowerfold Park- where residents were able to take part in tennis and bowling



Mercer Park and Milnshaw Park, also hosted an array of activities.



Mercer Park Event Evaluation

Following the success of our Milnshaw Park event in August 2022, the PCSO asked for a similar event to be held in Clayton-le-moors to address anti social behaviour in the area.

Let's Move Hyndburn along with their partners planned and executed a free event at Mercer Park to bring the Clayton residents together to show the positive facilities in the area accessible to them. A new partnership was formed in December 2022 with LCC who had experience in delivering park events beforehand. Together we reached 400 people giving them their biggest footprint for an event due to collaborative partnership allowing us to have a bigger impact on the community by meeting the need for an event that brings the community together

The LMH team also conducted Youth Engagement Events within Clayton at Clayton Community Centre, St Mary's RC Primary Clayton and Hyndburn Academy in which the young people voiced what they wanted to see in their local park such as a marked out football area. This was a positive outcome from the engagement meetings.



HYNDBURN GREEN SPACES FORUM

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Year ending 31 December 2023

INCOME

Balance b/f Jan 23 £16,823.20

Income 2023

Hyndburn Borough Council	£300.00
Lancashire Environment Fund	£30,000.00

Closing Balance £ 30,300.00

EXPENDITURE

000090	£31.50
000130	£86.60
000131	£40.00

Expenditure closing balance £158.10

Cash in Bank balance £46,965.10

Ring Fenced/ held in trust

£14,964.05 is ring fenced for Play4UZ2 (PU) Paypal Acc for Play4 Uz 2 transferred to main account balance £656.43 transferred to main statement total reserves £15,620.48

Balance carried forward to 1 January 2024

£15,620.48 committed funds

Forum Disposable Income/ Reserves £ 1,202.72

Signed

