

Friends of Devonport Park, (FDP)

Chair's report - year ending March 31st 2021

Introduction:

It has been an interesting and unusual time since the last Chair's report with the pandemic having a significant effect on activities in Devonport Park. While green spaces became more used and necessary for people, upkeep became more challenging for both council staff and Friends of Devonport Park, (FDP), volunteer gardeners. The high footfall in the park was noted by stakeholders and has hopefully underlined the importance to the city and communities of ensuring that the park is well maintained and accessible to everyone in the future.

Horticultural program:

The volunteer gardening project was initially put on hold during the early part of the pandemic. As guidelines changed, volunteers resumed gardening activities following strict health protocols to ensure their own and members of the public's safety. Their contribution was all the more important given reduced staffing levels of council employees at the same time as usage of the park was growing noticeably. It is a tribute to the volunteers' work and dedication that park looked as good as it did with the public often remarking on its beautiful appearance.

Projects delivered include...The continuation of our "Mayflower 400" commemoration program including the creation of a permanent horticultural memorial to the Pilgrims and celebrating "Mayflower". The forward planning on the scheme to run workshops, for the local community, on the management and maintenance of the Fruiting Arboretum.

Events:

The pandemic effectively ended public events for the year, with a heavily curtailed program of activities including the cancellation of all our planned community events for the entire year. This naturally had a negative impact on fund raising for FDP and the park. We were also severely limited in our routine maintenance activities in the Park but, with limited resources, both material and in manpower, still managed to keep the park looking presentable.

Improvements:

A project to restore and increase the park's tree canopy cover and create interest in a less used area, Ferry Field, came to fruition in Spring 2020, shortly before lockdown. Over 50 heritage fruit trees were planted together with structure and nurse species to create a Fruiting Arboretum. Planning for the project included collaboration with the local authority, Plymouth Tree Partnership, and Devon Garden Trust, and the planting was undertaken by members of the local community and local environmental groups, council staff and Babcock staff volunteers. The project also included the planting of two apple trees celebrating the Mayflower 400 anniversary, (Pilgrim 400 and Mayflower 400), planted by local MP, Luke Pollard, and the Pilgrim 400 apple tree project founder, Celia Steven. The arboretum has settled in well, though lack of council watering facilities resulted in a FDP member with a mini tractor and 1000L water tank watering frequently. The space has subsequently been better used with positive feedback from members of the public.

Funding:

Fund raising has been affected by the pandemic, with events being cancelled. Plant sales from stock in the FDP nursery have continued and we have received valuable support again from the Cooperative Local Community Fund.

Awards for All grants have enabled FDP to continue to retain its Kew trained horticulturist to lead the volunteer gardening project. It is of concern, however, that after a long period of austerity, declining council budgets and council re-organisations that sufficient maintenance of the park continues to be delivered. Relations with the council are currently in a good state, with outstanding maintenance commitments in an HLF grant, gradually being addressed.

James JM Brown, CMLI, Chair Friends of
Devonport Park

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Outreach:

Numbers of FDP members remain reasonably constant, although active participants on both the gardening project and the committee have declined recently. It is a point of concern and will require consideration and continued outreach to the community.

A committee member participated in council initiatives, Future Parks Accelerator and Enrich, the former focusing on

new and better ways of managing parks and the latter on community and social enterprise involvement in parks. Outcomes are not clear.

Governance:

The AGM for 2020 was originally due in April, but postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic, as it was not felt that it would be held successfully online. On-line committee meetings were held. Zoom meetings with the council took place, although progress from them was often slow due to conflicting priorities.

Plans: As previously noted, we intend to organize community workshops in the maintenance and care of the fruit trees. The unavailability of having new "memorials of Remembrance" in the existing Park Memorial Garden, has resulted in an increase in the number of requests regarding memorials to park users who have passed on. To address this issue, we are looking at creating a new Memorial Rose Garden.

It is intended to seek funding to replace the wooden fencing around the War Memorial Flower Beds, with metal railings, in keeping with the style of the existing railings in other areas of the park, thus meeting the requirements of the Heritage status of the park.

Summary

The last 18 months have shown and highlighted the importance of local parks and green spaces to people. The juxtaposition of this with a decline in public funding for parks is concerning. Volunteers, such as FDP, mask to some degree the maintenance shortfall from the council. There is no doubt that Devonport Park would not have looked so inviting, well cared for and safe, if it were not for the contribution of local volunteers. There is little practical acknowledgement of their work...to some degree it has become taken for granted. This is not sustainable, as participants age, move away, respond to different priorities. It takes considerable energy and time to ensure the successful and ongoing activity of a group such as FDP. It would be of assistance if there was a means of providing greater acknowledgement, practical assistance and support to enable re-investment in the social, environmental and financial benefits of a charity, like FDP, working to protect, maintain and enhance a public asset.

On behalf of the Committee of the Friends of Devonport Park,



James Brown, CMLI,
Chair

*FDP's Objects from the Constitution

James JM Brown, CMLI, Chair Friends of
Devonport Park

Friends of Devonport Park, (FDP)

Chair's report - year ending March 31st 2021

The Friends of Devonport Park, (FDP), made a valuable contribution to the care, maintenance and improvement of Devonport Park. Its aim is to ensure an attractive, welcoming and interesting environment for the local community to enjoy. FDP's volunteer activities include a gardening group, grant applications to fund park projects, and a series of free events which provide entertainment for park users and raise resources for the park. These activities on behalf of the park add value to social and wellbeing outcomes for the local communities.

In the context of budget cuts to local authority parks departments, FDP's contribution to the park is all the more important and valuable. Plymouth City Council's (PCC's) Street Cleansing and Grounds Service department faces increasing challenges to deliver satisfactory maintenance to parks and green spaces. Devonport Park is protected to an extent by the Heritage Lottery Fund's, (HLF), provisions in its renewal grant, that PCC honour pre-existing levels of maintenance until 2022. It is clear, however, that the voluntary sector is making a significant and noticeable input to the public realm, and FDP is concerned that this work should not mask a decline in maintenance standards or reduced services by the local authority, particularly during the HLF maintenance period.

may lead to negative impacts on park users and local residents, such as increases in anti-social behavior, crime rates and drug use, and diminished perceptions of neighbourhood safety, as evidenced in the 1980s/90s. It is conceivable Devonport Park could lose its Green Flag status if resources and maintenance standards are reduced.

FDP is aware of its own limited scope and resources, yet the scenario mentioned above makes FDP's contribution to the park and its effect on the local community even more relevant and valuable. FDP is committed to and has for over a decade worked in partnership with local stakeholders to preserve and maintain the park through its volunteer activities - gardening, improvements, fundraising, and events for the enjoyment of local communities and visitors. This has made a positive contribution to the lives of local people and to the goodwill of the local community. Feedback received tends to confirm this. FDP's sole aim and focus is to preserve the heritage park's high quality, historic green space, and all its activities work to this end. FDP exists to help make Devonport Park a welcoming place in which people can enjoy nature, peace and heritage, can meet other people and participate in activities, and be part of a healthy, active and engaged community. We are aware of the mutual benefit between a well maintained, well used and active park and a resilient community with strong social ties, and consequently the importance of maintaining and caring for the park. It is hoped that all stakeholders, public, private and voluntary, will play their part and commit to achieving this end.

Friends of Devonport Park. Main Account No: 05257589.

1/4/20 - 31/3/21

Date	Detail	Method	Our Ref:	Debit	Credit	Balance	Analysis
1.4.20	opening balance					£ 3,051.41	
1.4.20	Plymouth Tree Partnership		20/1	£ 24.00	£ -	£ 3,027.41	
2.4.20	123.Reg Ltd	card	20/2	£ 28.78		£ 2,998.63	Domain name (.co.uk)
8.4.20	Amazon Ltd	card		£ 5.99		£ 2,992.64	
14.4.20	Amazon Ltd	card	20/3	£ 14.97		£ 2,977.67	
14.4.20	Hp Instaink	DD	contract	£ 7.99		£ 2,969.68	
30.4.20	B&Q Ltd	card	20/4	£ 41.07		£ 2,928.61	
1.5.20	National Lottery Grant				£ 7,383.00	£ 10,311.61	
11.5.20	MacNaughtan	Chq			£ 48.95	£ 10,360.56	
11.5.20	Cash deposit				£ 55.00	£ 10,415.56	
11.5.20	Paypal				£ 10.00	£ 10,425.56	
11.5.20	Cash Deposit	Chq			£ 245.00	£ 10,670.56	
11.5.20	Hp Instaink		Contract	£ 7.99		£ 10,662.57	
11.5.20	AVG Technology	card		£ 47.76		£ 10,614.81	
12.5.20	unpaid chq - McNaughtan			£ 48.95		£ 10,565.86	
18.5.20	Adobe Pdf	card		£ 15.64		£ 10,550.22	
20.5.20	Deposit				£ 85.00	£ 10,635.22	
20.5.20	Microsoft Store			£ 59.99		£ 10,575.23	
21.5.20	McNaughtan				£ 48.95	£ 10,624.18	
26.5.20	Amazon Ltd	card	20/5	£ 39.98		£ 10,584.20	
26.5.20	Deposit	cash			£ 30.00	£ 10,614.20	
27.5.20	AVG Technology (refund)				£ 47.76	£ 10,661.96	
27.5.20	Amazon Ltd	card				£ 10,658.49	
28.5.20	James Brown	TFR	20/8	£ 3.47		£ 9,866.51	Arboretum Fees
1.6.20	The Range	card	20/9	£ 791.98		£ 9,862.51	
1.6.20	Plants Galore	card		£ 4.00		£ 9,847.56	
5.6.20	Morrisons	card	20/10	£ 14.95		£ 9,844.26	
8.6.0	Swains Photography	card	20/11	£ 3.30		£ 9,955.51	Donation
10.6.20	Tamar View Nursery				£ 111.25	£ 9,820.81	compost delivery
11.6.20	Plymouth Tree Partnership	card		£ 134.70		£ 9,981.61	donation Arboretum

11.6.20	Paypal purchase	card	20/12	£	2.56	£	9,979.05	
11.6.20	Paypal purchase		"	£	3.56	£	9,975.49	
11.6.20	Hp Imnstaink	contract		£	7.99	£	9,967.50	
11.6.20	Paypal purchase	card	20/37	£	5.64	£	9,961.86	
15.6.20	Amazon (receipts A-E)	card	20/13	£	122.96	£	9,838.90	
16.6.20	Plants Galore	card	20/14	£	90.35	£	9,748.55	replacement plants
24.6.20	Paypal purchase	card		£	11.97	£	9,736.58	
29.6.20	ASDA Ltd	card		£	22.00	£	9,714.58	refreshments
29.6.20	Amazon purchase	card	20/15	£	32.47	£	9,682.11	
30.6.20	Local Giving			£	96.00	£	9,586.11	donation
1.7.20	B&Q Ltd	card	20/16	£	14.25	£	9,571.86	Gardenig supplies
1.7.20	Morrisons	card	20/17	£	28.00	£	9,543.86	Volunteer Exp
6.7.20	B&Q Ltd	card	20/18	£	20.75	£	9,523.11	
13.7.20	Hp Instaink	contract		£	7.99	£	9,515.12	
15.7.20	Paypal purchase	card		£	27.60	£	9,487.52	
23.7.20	CheeryBuys	card	20/20	£	10.50	£	9,477.02	gardening gloves
27.7.20	Plants Galore	card	20/21	£	72.65	£	9,404.37	plants
29.7.20	Amazon purchase	card	20/22	£	12.48	£	9,391.89	
30.7.20	123.Reg Ltd	card	20/23	£	28.78	£	9,363.11	Domain name (.com)
3.8.20	Lidl GB	card	20/34	£	8.09	£	9,355.02	
10.8.20	Cheerybuys	card	20/35	£	8.97	£	9,346.05	
10.8.20	Booker Ltd	card		£	34.67	£	9,311.38	Vol Gardeners Exp
12.8.20	Hp Instaink	DD	contract	£	7.99	£	9,303.39	
12.8.20	Wilko Ltd	card	20/36	£	9.25	£	9,294.14	noticeboard
14.8.20	Morrisons	card		£	4.40	£	9,289.74	hand sanitizer
8.9.20	Lidl GB	card	20/24	£	51.41	£	9,238.33	bulbs
9.9.20	Lidl GB	card	20/25	£	31.30	£	9,207.03	bulbs
11.9.20	Cash dposit			£	160.00	£	9,367.03	
11.9.20	Hp Instaink	DD	contract	£	7.99	£	9,359.04	
23.9.20	Peacock Insurance	Bacs	20/26	£	433.67	£	8,925.37	
28.9.20	B&Q Ltd	card	20/27	£	67.27	£	8,858.10	
29.9.20	D Trewin	Bacs	20/28	£	600.00	£	8,258.10	consultancy
5.10.20	Post Office Counters Ltd	card	20/29	£	32.50	£	8,225.60	stamps

5.10.20	Tamar View Nurseries	card	20/30	£	194.64	£	8,030.96	
9.10.20	Social Change (POP)					£	8,080.96	grant
9.10.20	Buyology Ltd	card	20/31	£	20.05	£	8,060.91	Hose fittings
12.10.20	Hp Instaink	DD	contract	£	7.99	£	8,052.92	
13.10.20	D Trewin	Bacs	20/32	£	300.00	£	7,752.92	consultancy
19.10.20	Social Change (POP)					£	7,952.92	grant
23.10.20	B&Q Ltd	card	20/33	£	54.43	£	7,898.49	security costs (hon.box)
11.11.20	Hp instaink	DD	contract	£	7.99	£	7,890.50	
16.11.20	Amazon Europe					£	7,897.22	donations
11.12.20	Hp Instaink	DD	contract	£	9.99	£	7,887.23	
14.12.20	B&Q Ltd	card	20/35	£	5.68	£	7,881.55	plant food
21.12.20	McColls	card	20/37	£	7.80	£	7,873.75	Vol refreshments
22.12.20	B&Q Ltd	card	20/36	£	10.05	£	7,863.70	Gardening Equip
24.12.20	Plymouth City Council	TFR				£	8,063.70	
24.12.20	D Trewin	BACS	20/39	£	150.00	£	7,913.70	consultancy
13.1.21	Hp Instaink	DD	contract	£	9.99	£	7,903.71	
19.1.21	Cash Deposit		20/38			£	8,190.71	Post Office Counter
11.2.21	Buyology Ltd	card	20/40	£	27.66	£	8,163.05	Spring Bulbs/seed trays
15.2.21	Cash Deposit		20/41			£	8,363.05	Post Office Counter
17.2.21	Devon Door & LockCo	Card	20/42	£	7.00	£	8,356.05	Toll Store new keys
24.2.21	Lidl UK	card	20/43	£	5.98	£	8,350.07	Seeds
25.2.21	D Parker	TFR		£	100.00	£	8,250.07	Payment on A/c. Greenhouse repairs
9.2.21	Goalshopper HK			£	11.28	£	8,238.79	Rooting powder
9.2.21	Lloyds	Deb		£	0.31	£	8,238.48	Charges
11.2.21	Hp Instaink		contract	£	9.99	£	8,228.49	
25.2.21	B&Q Ltd	card		£	20.22	£	8,208.27	Repair materials
02.3.21	Deposit					£	8,398.27	
02.3.21	Deposit					£	8,598.27	
						£	8,598.27	Seeds
08.3.21	Buyology Ltd	card		£	17.35	£	8,580.92	gardening Eqpt
08.3.21	B&Q Ltd	card		£	14.85	£	8,566.07	Tools
12.3.21	D Parker	TFR		£	110.00	£	8,456.07	Greenhouse Repair
22.3.21	Co-op Community Fund	TFR				£	11,966.74	
						£	3,510.67	

11.3.21	HP Instaink		contract	£	1.99		£	11,964.75	
25.3.21	Well Connected	BACS				£	500.00	£	12,464.75
29.3.21	Tamar View Nurseries	card		£	228.60			£	12,236.15
30.3.21	Deposit					£	266.00	£	12,502.15
30.3.21	Deposit					£	20.00	£	12,522.15
31.3.21	Range	card		£	28.41			£	12,493.74
31.3.21	LIDL	card		£	12.16			£	12,481.58
31.3.21	Tamar View Nurseries	Card		£	45.97			£	12,435.61
				£4,680.96	£14,016.10			£12,435.61	

Donation
Compost/tools

Friends of Devonport Park Bandstand. Account No: 4897460

1/4/20 - 31/3/21

<u>Date</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Our Ref:</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Analysis</u>
1/4	opening balance					464.83	
27/4	Plymouth City Council	Bacs			£ 3,000.00	3,464.83	Mayflower Grant
1/5	Devon Community Fund	Bacs			£ 10,000.00	13,464.83	Grant. Held on behalf of
						13,464.83	Plymouth PIE Club
24/9	TFR to Pie Club	Bacs		£ 5,000.00		8,464.83	
29/9	Balance TFR to PIE club			£ 5,000.00		3,464.83	
30/11	Donation to Routeways	Bacs		£ 50.00		3,414.83	Contribution for Security
				£10,050.00	£13,000.00	£3,414.83	

Friends of Devonport Park Event Account No 05389418

1/4/20 - 31/3/21

Date	Detail	Method	Ref:	Debit	Credit	Balance	Analysis
1/4/20	opening balance					£ 1,855.55	
29/4	Elliotts	Bacs	15734616	£ 42.24		£ 1,813.31	Container Hire
18/5	Elliotts	Bacs	15752633	£ 42.24		£ 1,771.07	Container Hire
10/6	Elliotts	Bacs	15763799	£ 42.24		£ 1,728.83	Container Hire
20/7	Elliotts	Bacs	15777307	£ 42.24		£ 1,686.59	Container Hire
13/8	Elliotts	Bacs	15791375	£ 42.24		£ 1,644.35	Container Hire
14/9	Elliotts	Bacs	15815867	£ 42.24		£ 1,602.11	Container Hire
29/9	Elliotts	Bacs	15820054	£ 42.24		£ 1,559.87	Container Hire
29/10	Elliotts	Bacs	15834887	£ 42.24		£ 1,517.63	Container Hire
5/11	Royal British Legion	Chq - 190		£ 80.00		£ 1,437.63	Poppy Appeal
30/11	Elliotts	Bacs	15849761	£ 42.24		£ 1,395.39	Container Hire
21/12	Elliotts	Bacs	15864610	£ 42.24		£ 1,353.15	Container Hire
28/1/21	Elliotts	Bacs	15878905	£ 42.24		£ 1,310.91	Container Hire
15.2.21	Elliotts	Bacs	15893098	£ 42.24		£ 1,268.67	Container Hire
06.04.21	Elliotts	Bacs	15909364	£ 35.20		£ 1,233.47	Container Hire
28.04.21	Elliotts	Bacs	15922047	£ 35.20		£ 1,198.27	Container Hire
				£ 657.28		£1,198.27	Closing Balance

Mrs C Gifford
92 Granby Street
Devonport
Plymouth
PL1 4BN

9 January 2022

To Whom it may concern:

Re: Friends of Devonport Park. Reg Charity No: 1155177

Having examined the financial records, as presented to me, of the above organisation for the financial year ending 31 March 2021, I can confirm that the figures for each account correspond to those shown on the relevant bank statements and that I find no irregularities whatsoever.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Gifford', written in a cursive style.

Christine Gifford (Mrs)