

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM

Charity Incorporated Organisation (C.I.O)

Financial Statements

For the period ended

31st March 2021

Registered Charity No: 1177069

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2021

Principal address:

253 Firs Lane
Winchmore Hill
London
N21 2PH

Trustees and Committee Members:

Toni Guiver
Gail Nielen
Helen Osman
Soulla Thomas
Lisa Chapman
Geraldine Cosh
Chris Ferrary
Simon Jarosch

Governing document

The organisation is operated under the rules of its constitution.

Bankers:

HSBC Bank PLC
1 The Town
Enfield, EN2 6LD

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2021

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FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2021

Trustees' Report

Annual Report

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the period ending 31st March 2021, which are prepared to meet the requirements for a trustees' report and accounts for Charities Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the constitution, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Financial Review

It was a tough year with lockdowns and restrictions reducing donations. Less than a fifth was donated in the year ended 2021 compared to the prior year. However, many planned activities had to be cancelled, which reduced the expenditure even further. As a result, even against lower donations the charity was able to increase its assets by £787.

Structure, Governance and Management

Friends of Firs Farm is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the Charity Commission and governed by its constitution, dated 31st March 2019.

Membership of the CIO is open to anyone who is interested in furthering its purposes and, who by applying for membership, has indicated agreement to become a member and accept the duties of membership. If the CIO is wound up, the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

The affairs of the charity are managed on a day to day basis by the trustees, who may exercise all the powers of the CIO.

The trustees who served during the period are shown on page 2 of this report.

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the terms of the constitution, there must be at least three charity trustees. If the number falls below the minimum, the remaining trustees can act only to call a meeting of the trustees or appoint a new trustee.

The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting by a decision of the members.

Each new trustee is given a copy of the constitution and the latest trustees' annual report and accounts, on or before appointment.

Our volunteers

Friends of Firs Farm is very involved in the community and relies on voluntary help. Around 20 volunteers assist with our on-going activities. We wish to thank our volunteers for their loyal support and contribution.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity undertake.
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

The Trustees constantly review risks relevant to the charity. Any risks identified are reported to the Trustees and decisions made on how to minimise risk.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Trustees have assessed the charity's requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. As a result, the Trustees have approved a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed, should be held in reserve and maintained at a level which ensures that Friends of Firs Farm core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The target reserve amount represents at least 3 months' (12 weeks) expenditure and will be reviewed annually.

Organisational Charitable Objects

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 the conditions of life of the public in North London / Enfield by supporting the preservation, promotion and improvement of Firs Farm Wetlands Park & Playing Fields.

Trustees and Their Responsibilities

Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. The principles and main duties are the same in all cases.

Trustees have, and must accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and meeting the needs for which it has been set up.

Achievements

Please refer to the AGM report.

Future Plan

The organisation will continue to generate income and fundraise to support its increasing demand for its services for public benefit.

Planning application for the community hub has been approved and plans are underway to build the hub. Everyone is very excited to see the long awaited plans come to fruition.

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2021

We thank all volunteers and members for their valuable support in achieving our goals and objectives for the year.

Signed on behalf of all Trustees

Toni Guiver



Chair

30th January 2022

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2021

Statement of Financial Activities

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM					
Statement of Financial Activities for the period ended 31 st March 2021					
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES	(3)	£	£	£	£
Donation		26	200	226	6,735
Enfield In Bloom		-	-	-	100
Groundworks		-	-	-	5,000
Winter Wonderland		5	-	5	-
Forest school		-	1,314	1,314	-
Other fundraising		193	-	193	3,307
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		224	1,514	1,738	15,142
RESOURCES EXPENDED	(4)				
Expenses in raising funds		-	-	-	490
Charitable Expenditure					
Project Activities		27	-	27	8,322
Festivals & Events		-	-	-	2,538
Equipment	(5)	806	-	806	-
General Administration costs		118	-	118	266
Professional fees		-	-	-	500
TOTAL RESOUCES EXPENDED		951	-	951	12,116
Net Incomings and (outgoings)		(727)	1,514	787	3,026
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		4,337	18,480	22,817	19,791
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD		3,610	19,994	23,604	22,817

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2021

Balance Sheet

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM Balance Sheet as at 31st MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Current Assets	(6)		
Debtor		108	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand		23,550	22,817
Deposit and Cash		-	-
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: Falling due within one year	(54)	-	-
Accruals and Creditors		-	-
Net Assets		<u>23,604</u>	<u>22,817</u>
As Represented By:			
Restricted Fund	(7)	19,994	18,480
Unrestricted fund	(8)	3,610	4,337
Total Funds		<u>23,604</u>	<u>22,817</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 24th June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



.....

Chair

Toni Guiver



.....

Treasurer

Simon Jarosch

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2021

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Basis

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). Friends of Firs Farm meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis:

The Charity trustees are of the view that measures taken in reviewing organisational costs regularly and successful in applying for continuation funding have secured the immediate future of the Charity for the next 12 months and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

2. Cash Flow Statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

3. Incoming resources

Income is recognised in the period to which it relates, unless specified otherwise by the funder. Project funding is, in general, repayable if not expended within the relevant project. Such income is only recognised to the extent that it ceases to be repayable. The income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

4. Resource Expendable

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

5. Equipment

Equipment was purchased to support litter picking activities (£274), materials for the mud kitchen (£230) and materials for the music wall (£223).

6. Fixed assets

The organisation has no fixed assets.

7. Unrestricted Fund

Unrestricted funds were generated from Donation & fundraising. The current balance of £3,610 is carried forward into the next financial year.

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2021

These are accumulated to enable the organisation to continue its activities in case of loss of funding and to cover cost which is not funded by funders but to meet our organisational objectives in line with our reserve policy.

8. Restricted Fund

Restricted funds of £1,514 were received, mainly in relation to the Eco Club through facebook fundraising.

No expenditure of restricted funds took place for the year ended 2021. Preparations are underway to utilise these funds once the lockdown eases. The restricted fund balance carried forward into 2022 is £19,994.

There were no transactions of any nature with any of the Trustees

Community working together to help shape how our park works, is maintained, & protected

Friends of Firs Farm Wetlands Park & Playing Fields AGM



24th June 2021

This report is to highlight the achievements and the aims of the group 'Friends of Firs Farm (FOFF)' for the twelve-month period to 31st March 2021.

Message from the Trustees – we need more people and support – call for skills!

Over the last year, Firs Farm wetlands has proven to be a 'life saver' for families and many of the community who need to experience and engage with wildlife and fresh air. The park has had an increase in footfall as some of the community realise the benefits of the park especially the newly reinvigorated children's area for families with young people.

Over the years, footfall has seen to be increasing based on a one entrance survey, and saw an uplift from Autumn 2019 to Autumn 2020 of 200%. As a result, this shows that even in a difficult and challenging year the Friends of Firs farm has been successful in creating interesting initiatives in the park such as children's trails, Themed seasonal areas and hidden green rooms where users can find some alone time off the normal mile circuit. This has attracted the community in using the park extensively for leisure activities even in socially distanced times. The FOF have been working with the council to ensure that picnic tables are covered, notices on social distancing are visible around the park.

Despite visitor numbers to the park, wildlife has thrived and we are seeing a wealth of species within the boundaries. Protected species such as water voles, slow worms, and stag beetles plus many other species: newts, frogs, swans, Egyptian geese, cormorants, hedge sparrows, swallows, song thrush, gold finch, herons, woodpeckers to name a few.

The wetlands and park has been a valuable asset for many, however, this success comes at a cost. We have experienced high levels of litter, fly tipping on a regular basis and anti-social behaviour. In November 2020, sadly we did see a serious police incident and as a result, concerns were raised both by community and police that we consider gating and fencing the park. The council have signposted additional funding for the Friends to access and to ultimately improve the security of the park. In addition, the park's paths and banks have become eroded. The friends continue to work on this during the next year including increasing the number of bins in populated areas to reduce litter.

Unfortunately, working with the council has been frustrating and challenging this year with outstanding actions from both community hub and multi-sport pitch not fulfilled and the potential loss of solid funding, generated by FOF. In addition, we have missed out on potential funding pots and grants. We are highly optimistic that progress will be made once COVID-19 becomes less of an issue.

As always we must end by saying a big 'THANK YOU' to all the volunteers and supporters for their hard work and dedication over the last 12 challenging months.

Thank you

The FOF Trustees

What has been accomplished during the past twelve months?

In addition to the usual business of the Friends to ensure we further our purposes and encourage all to participate in the park (refer to the 2018 AGM report), we have the following to share with you:

1. Celebration of past year Trustees achievements including new members

As a charity we are only as good as our Trustees and so we thank the new members who got involved in the last year's sessions. These members have 'brought to the table' skills and expertise in local business and marketing, financial and planning. However, we would encourage others who feel that protecting a green space is important for the community to come forward whatever skills they believe will support the charity aims, particularly if you have fundraising, events or legal skills that will support the charity.

2. Dedicated programme of tree planting in Firs Farm (Autumn and early Spring)

This has not only spanned local trees but also special Japanese trees that we managed to successful bid for.

Native trees: FOFI planted over 300 native parkland trees with the help of a raft of energetic volunteers.

This was done within strict COVID-19 guidance. We also planted more than 100 native hedgerow shrubs.

Japanese trees: The Friends of Firs Farm, Carey Hall Preschool & Winchmore School children planted 30 of these special trees in Firs Farm Wetlands as part of the Japanese Sakura cherry tree project – 6,500 will be planted across the country in parks, gardens and schools.

The Sakura Cherry Trees have been distributed to over 400 schools and 160 sites in all four countries of the UK from St Ives to Aberdeen to Londonderry, Cardiff and several of London's biggest parks. The project was formally launched with a planting ceremony at The Regent's Park attended by HRH The Duke of Gloucester, the Japanese Ambassador Yasumasa Nagamine, Joint Chairman of the Sakura Cherry Tree Project Keisaku Sandy Sano and local schoolchildren.

All of the varieties of cherry trees to be planted as part of this project are of Japanese origin. The vast majority will be of three varieties, 'Beni-yutaka', 'Taihaku', and 'Somei-yoshino', which have been chosen for their variation in colour, timing, and historical significance. For example, 'Taihaku' is a large, single white blossom variety, which became extinct in Japan but was reintroduced to its homeland by Britain's Collingwood 'Cherry' Ingram in 1932.

3. Firs Farm (FF) Transformation Project / improvements/ maintenance...

Key improvements that have been implemented throughout the year

- **Children's play area** - during lockdown, we realised that families needed to have a space that helps with engaging children and keeping them amused. Hence, we expedited the natural children's play area ('Get out and Get active') and inserted mud kitchens, music wall, stepping posts, and wishing well. We plan further developments in the next year e.g. chess table, seating and wildlife pond.
- **Welcome board with map at the entrance to the A10 with additional new gate** – this has improved the A10 entrance area and safety for all users including youngsters on two wheels.

- **Tree planting:** Since 2021, over a 1000 new trees have now been planted. We plan to further develop the orchard in the coming year and pledge to plant another 100 trees in 2021/2022.
- **British beavers return to Firs Farm**
Water voles (termed British beavers by some) have been identified as taking up residence in the park. They are crucial to help with diversifying the eco system in which they live. The presence of water voles is a testament to the community conservation which has been seen in this green space.
The Enfield council are aware and monitoring the numbers. Voles are legally protected as they have rapidly declined in the UK countryside. Hence, they are a priority conservation species. Their decline is due to lack of habitat and pollution in the waterways.
- **Reinstating the FOFF Eco club proposed** –The last year has seen the friends raise funds to support new eco club e.g. litter helper club (publicised Neo the hero) plus trainer training
- **Wildlife:** increased spotting of wider variety of birds and water fowl. Including red data species House Sparrows, sparrow hawk, grebe, and egret. Surveys to monitor this wildlife, delivered to date, will be published onto the website. Over the last year, we have seen new additions such as swans, woodpeckers and Herons.

Accolades

- Social media sites and overwhelming positive comments from the public.

Working with third parties/stakeholders/business.

- FOFF continue to work with Enfield council to review the key milestones for Firs Farm transformation. This includes progressing the community hub and delivering a temporary structure in next year.
- There has been a hiatus, due to Covid, on work with schools and corporate volunteer events

4. Membership / Volunteers

Despite COVID-19, our current membership continues to grow. For FOFF, there are still no fees charged for membership although donations are always welcome.

5. Social Media / Google maps

We currently have 1428 facebook followers, 668 on Twitter and 1,152 on Instagram.

Our rating on Googles maps remains at a healthy 4.5

We have received 429 good reviews

6. Funding/donations

Funding was down this year but we did have Enfield in bloom plus an anonymous donor generous give us some funds. In addition, donations have been given to us via social media to support family initiatives.

The Friends applied for a number of funds so kindly refer to the Treasurers report for the complete list of all donations received during the past year.

What does the Future hold for Firs Farm and our much loved green space?

- Community hub development which includes the sports facilities is an ongoing project.

- Events that will safely bring our community together (Covid restrictions permitting)

Summary- In summary, FOF, a registered Charity, dedicated to maintaining and protecting the park and wildlife for public benefit. The friends are an active group which is evidenced by volunteer hours since inception **in excess of 15,000**. There is **no membership fee** in order to keep the group 'open to all'.

Come and join us and show that you **L♥ve your Green Space**.

Thank you

The Trustees of Friends of Firs Farm
Registered Charity 1177069

Independent Examiner's Report



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on
the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the
trustees/directors/
members of**

Friends of Firs Farm

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st March 2021

Charity no.:

1177069

Company no.:

-

Set out on pages

1-16

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of
report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or

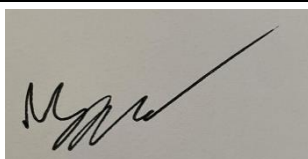
Independent examiner's statement

- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:



Date: 24/01/2022

Name: Nicholas Hayes

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales

Address: 58 Brooklands Park

London

SE3 9AJ



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2020 Period start date To 31st March 2021 Period end date

Charity name: Friends of Firs Farm

Charity registration number: 1177069

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The charity brings the community together for events, interests, and sporting / other in/outdoor activities, as well as providing volunteer opportunities, reduce loneliness and encourage healthier lifestyles.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Tree planting: Native trees: FOFF planted over 300 native parkland trees with the help of a raft of energetic volunteers. We also planted more than 100 native hedgerow shrubs. Japanese trees: The Friends of Firs Farm, Carey Hall Preschool & Winchmore School children planted 30 of these special trees in Firs Farm Wetlands as part of the Japanese Sakura cherry tree project. Since 20214, over a 1000 new trees have now been planted. We plan to further develop the orchard in the coming year and pledge to plant another 100 trees in 2021/2022.</p> <p>Children's play area: during lockdown, we realised that families needed to have a space that helps with engaging children and keeping them amused. Hence, we expedited the natural children's play area ('Get out and Get active') and inserted mud kitchens, music wall, stepping posts, and wishing well. We plan further developments in the next year e.g. chess table, seating and wildlife pond.</p> <p>Welcome board with map at the entrance to the A10 with additional new gate – this has improved the A10 entrance area and safety for all users including youngsters on two wheels.</p> <p>British beavers return to Firs Farm: Water voles (termed British beavers by some) have been identified as taking up residence in the park. They are crucial to help with diversifying the eco system in which they live. The presence of water voles is a testament to the community conservation which has been seen in this green space. The Enfield council are aware and monitoring the numbers. Voles are legally protected as they have rapidly declined in the UK countryside. Hence, they are a priority conservation species. Their decline is due to lack of habitat and pollution in the waterways.</p>

		Reinstating the FOFF Eco club proposed: The last year has seen the friends raise funds to support new eco club e.g. litter helper club (publicised Neo the hero) plus trainer training Wildlife: increased spotting of wider variety of birds and water fowl. Including red data species House Sparrows, sparrow hawk, grebe, and egret. Surveys to monitor this wildlife, delivered to date, will be published onto the website. Over the last year, we have seen new additions such as swans, woodpeckers and Herons.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The charity makes available to all Trustees the requirements and guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	While there has been a hiatus to the normal events calendar because of the lockdowns and pandemic induced restrictions, Enfield in Bloom took place, decorations were put up for Halloween and Christmas and tree planting continued to take place in the year.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	There were total funds of £23,604 at the end of the reporting period and £787 of net income achieved over the year.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The target level of reserves, from unrestricted funds, is 3 months' worth of expenditure.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£3,610
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Not applicable

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		None
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	The charity is set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

(e.g unincorporated association, CIO)		
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Applicant fills out a fit & proper persons declaration form and is interviewed by the Chair. There are a maximum number of 12 trustees, as per the constitution.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Friends of Firs Farm
Other name the charity uses	None
Registered charity number	1177069
Charity's principal address	253 Firs Lane, Winchmore Hill, London,N21 2PH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Toni Guiver	Chair		
2	Gail Nielen	Secretary		
3	Helen Osman	Trustee		
4	Soulla Thomas	Trustee		
5	Lisa Chapman	Trustee		
6	Geraldine Cosh	Trustee		
7	Chris Ferrary	Trustee		
8	Simon Jarosch	Treasurer		
9				
10				
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20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
-		
-		
-		
-		
-		
-		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
-		
-		
-		
-		
-		
-		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Not applicable
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Not applicable

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details



N/a

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Toni Guiver	Simon Jarosch
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Trustee
Date	30 th January 2022	