

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM

Charity Incorporated Organisation (C.I.O)

Financial Statements

For the period ended

31st March 2023

Registered Charity No: 1177069

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2023

Principal address:

253 Firs Lane
Winchmore Hill
London
N21 2PH

Trustees and Committee Members:

Toni Guiver
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 2023

[Contents](#)

Trustees' Report	4
Notes to the accounts	9
AGM Report.....	11
Independent Examiner's Report.....	15
Trustees' Annual Report for the period	17

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2023

Trustees' Report

Annual Report

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the period ending 31st March 2023, 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

Substantial sums were received in the year ended 31st March 2023 for the construction of the community hub. Most of the funds received were spent in the year with the largest share going on building costs (£239,511) and the foundation for the building (£76,343).

More events took place during the year as well, including an eco club and Halloween and winter trails, which attracted donations from the public.

Currents Assets increased by £13,794.

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, particularly with the new community hub that will enable many more activities and events to take place. Everyone is eagerly awaiting the opening of the hub, which is now expected to be Q1 2024 following the final safety checks.

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2023

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 2024

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2023

Financial Accounts

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM				
Receipt and Payment Account for the year ended 31st March 2023				
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£	£	£
Donation	2,219	845	3,064	71,504
Eco club		197	197	218
Sport England		114,620	114,620	
Thames Water		25,000	25,000	
Groundworks		122,977	122,977	
Garfield		10,000	10,000	
Bernard Sunley		10,000	10,000	
National Lottery Fund		10,000	10,000	
Crowdfunding		26,894	26,894	
TG Lynes		7,500	7,500	
Interest on account	313		313	
Chapman Charitable Trust		1,000	1,000	
Halloween	159		159	
Winter trail	502		502	
Calendar		197	197	
Tree planting	415	804	1,219	
Other fundraising				403
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	3,608	330,033	333,641	72,126
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable Expenditure				
Project Activities		454	454	128
Festivals & Events				164
Equipment	4		4	636
General Administration Cost		257	257	39
Consumables & Maintenance	534	32	566	
Other expenses		67	67	165
Professional fees		1,130	1,130	559
Prizes & giveaways		193	193	
Hub expenses		77,885	77,885	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	538	80,019	80,557	1,691
Net Incomings and (outgoings)	3,070	250,014	253,084	70,435
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	5,981	88,003	93,984	23,550
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MAR	9,052	338,017	347,068	93,984

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)Period Ended 31st March 2023**FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM****Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Current Assets			
Debtor		-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand		107,556	93,984
Deposit and Cash		-	-
Non-current Assets			
Asset Under Construction		239,511	-
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: Falling due within one year		-	-
Accruals and Creditors		-	-
Net Assets		<u><u>347,068</u></u>	<u><u>93,984</u></u>
As Represented By:			
Restricted Fund		338,017	88,686
Unrestricted fund		9,052	5,298
Total Funds		<u><u>347,068</u></u>	<u><u>93,984</u></u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 13th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:


.....

Chair

Toni Guiver


.....

Treasurer

Simon Jarosch

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2023

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 the clearing of the ponds, maintenance equipment for the play area and eco club.

6. Fixed assets

The organisation is in the process of constructing the community hub. It is expected that the hub will be fully operational by Q1 2024. Until that time the building is classified as an Asset Under Construction (AUC). The AUC is £239,511, which is the capitalised expenditure on the construction of the hub. There has been no depreciation or write-offs in the reporting period.

Following the completion of the building on receipt of the completion certificate, the asset will be reclassified as a tangible fixed asset.

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2023

7. Restricted Fund

Restricted funds of £330,254 were received, mainly in relation to the Community Hub.

The restricted fund balance carried forward into 2024 is £338,017 relating primarily to the community hub that is recorded as an Asset Under Construction at £239,511.

8. Unrestricted Fund

Unrestricted funds were generated from Donation & fundraising. The current balance of £9,052 is carried forward into the next financial year.

These are accumulated to enable the organisation to continue its activities in case of loss of funding and to meet organisational objectives in line with the reserve policy.

9. Staff Cost

The organisation has no paid staff on payroll.

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



13th June 2023

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 2023.

Message from the Trustees – Thank you for your continued support with this special blue-green space!

Community hub

We may have gone through Covid, but the repercussions were still with us during this past year. The result of which was a huge increase in the build costs in addition to the difficulties in accessing materials and labour. Thankfully work progressed throughout 2022 due mostly to the fact that we managed to raise a further £200k to cover the additional build costs.

The first spade went into the ground to begin the work on the foundations after which on 31st January 2023 we welcomed the craning in of the six modular building that have since been joined, sealed and now wait for the utilities connections to be completed before the internal fitout later in 2023.

We thank our many sponsors for their patience who include Sport England, Enfield council, and Thames Water. There will be more of an update on the Hub at the AGM meeting.

Crematorium

It was confirmed by the council in 2022, that this will not be progressing in Firs Farm.

Events

This past year included the NEW and well attended Winter walk with a popular Santas Grotto, organised by local elves supported by the Boys Brigade

Thank you to the Firs Farm Volunteers

This much valued team of dedicated people have for the 9th year running given up their own time for free to help make a difference to this much-loved blue & green community space. Firs Farm would not be what it is today without them.

Duke of Edinburgh – We continue to see more and more young people joining us each year and for them to get to know and understand more about volunteering in their local wetlands and how they can contribute.

Thank you
The FOFF Trustees

Firs Farm Wetlands and Playing Fields and its unique position in the borough of Enfield brings a diverse community of people together. One of the borough's earliest and largest flood alleviation schemes has in under ten years, evolved into an important blue/green space, a diverse habitat for hundreds more species; enriching the lives of residents. It is also an award-winning wetland, visited by scientific institutions, ecological groups and local authorities from across the country to study both the environmental and amenity benefits in creating an amazing sustainable urban drainage system (SUDs). Recent visitors include ZSL (Zoological Society of London), Imperial College and Brunel University, even though currently Firs Farm has no facilities.

Once the hub is open many environmental & scientific groups are keen to hold workshops to demonstrate their value in reducing water borne pollution and other climate change challenges.

In March 2023 Firs Farm was visited by a party of experts from the EU funded HYDROUSA project, seeking innovative ways of creative circular water systems, who were very complementary about the level of community engagement at Firs Farm. We host both community & company volunteering opportunities.

Information and projects from the twelve months to end of March 2023

Our Trustees and members

We currently have 258 members of which 7 are trustees, with around approximately 20 active volunteers. As a charity we are only as good as our Trustees and members and so we thank all members who got involved in the last year's work for the Friends of Firs Farm and we encourage others who feel that protecting a green space is important for the community to come forward. Whatever skills you believe will support the charity aims, particularly if you have secretary, admin, sport, events, contract or legal skills that will support the charity. We are keen to involve more people with an interest in the history, wildlife, education and environment. If any of these are of interest do please get in touch.

Volunteers & Tree Planting

The Firs Farm volunteers have been busy catching up on many of the gardening tasks in Firs Farm Wetlands. A favourite of ours, is in supporting local young people in achieving their Duke of Edinburgh - Volunteering section. Enfield Society joined forces with us in February 2023 to help tackle much of the invasive vegetation on the Tree bund to the west end of the picnic field. What an amazing team they were – Thank you 😊

Tree planting

As always, the tree planting events were a huge success. It was lovely to see so many from the community who came to get involved with these activities. Fun was had by all including local councillors, families and local school children who came to help plant more than 88 large trees all over 2m tall including white birch, rowan, hazel, Cornus mas (cornelian cherry) and several large fruiting trees. On top of this we planted 500 whips including 50 cherry plums, over the past 12 months. Both the Cornus mass (planted December 2022) and the Japanese Sakura project Cherry Trees (planted 2021) were a wonderful sight in full bloom early 2023. Tasks to water, weed and mulch these continue to be carried out by regular volunteers and residents. This important planting and care of our trees, supports mitigating some of the climate change, attracts and supports further wildlife.

Get out & Get Active in Firs Farm

It is important for us to continue encouraging families to 'Get out and Get Active' in Firs Farm. We have held a number of events throughout the year which have proved to be popular even though these have been lowkey due to only coming out of the Covid pandemic in 2022. The long-term project of the multi-sport pitch is unfortunately still in limbo with the council. Sadly, this project would have made a difference to the local hockey and football teams this year and we continue to encourage the council to now progress this project to no avail. The councils Enfield Sports strategy (adopted April 2018) has yet to be progressed by the council. Our intention of the Hub is to regenerate interest in sport at Firs Farm in addition to the popular tennis courts that we were instrumental in bringing back to Firs Farm in 2018.

Wildlife

The terrapins appear to have moved on where we do not at this point know Have you seen them?. Egyptian geese have had several reasonably successful broods in the past year. Incredibly the last batch for 2022 hatched in October. It is good to see protected species are still thriving e.g.: water voles, slow worms, and stag beetles to name but a few.

Annual Council Walkabout – Gates and bins!

The annual 'Walkabout' with the council parks officers, councillors and the FOFF last took place in 2022.

This meeting is an opportunity to discuss concerns and aspirations for the park. We are still in discussions with the council in terms of the paths, vegetation, benches all-round the 1 mile circuit, and entrance to the car park including DDA parking. Some progress early Spring 2023 with working group from the council helping to reduce brambles as these have spread quite significantly over the Covid period.

Gating and fencing for better site security is still something that we have to carry forward due to the time spent on the Hub Building. We will share updates of future maintenance / improvements / changes as and when we are in a position to do so.

Social Media / Google maps / website

We currently reviewing our website to giving with a view to launching a new look site in the coming year 2023/24. Look out for a bright new website before the year end. We will continue using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Our rating on Googles maps remains at a healthy 4.5. (532 good reviews).

Google reports that the average time spent there by visitors is 45 minutes we expect this figure to change once the community hub is built.

Funding/donations

Funds/pledges have again increased this last year particularly around the community hub. Please refer to the Finance report for further information.

Summary

In summary, FOFF, 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 of **more than 23,000**.

There is **no membership fee** in order to keep the group 'open to all', although donations are always welcome.

☺ 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 2023

Charity no.:

1177069

Company no.:

-

Set out on pages

1-14

(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 / 2023.

**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:

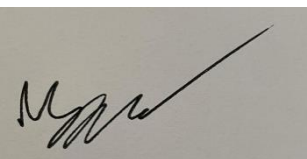
Independent examiner's statement

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- 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: 26/01/2024

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 2022 Period start date To 31st March 2023 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>The main activity was the development and installation of the community hub. It has been many years in the making and getting the shell on site in January 2023 was an enormous achievement. Many areas remain to be completed, including the connection of the utilities, but the hub has gone from its conceptual stage to a reality. It is a massive undertaking with the FoFF coordinating all the workstreams and ensuring that the hub is delivered to the required specification.</p> <p>In 2022/23 a further 2,000+ trees were planted. The extreme heat in July and August caused stress to the young trees, so watering facilities were installed and volunteers helped to water them.</p> <p>It is important for us to encourage families to 'Get out and Get active'. The 'children's area' remains a favourite for local families to spend time in a space, that helps to engage and keep them amused. New additions include a chess table and new seating. Unfortunately, vandalism resulted in the loss of the musical toys.</p> <p>While the development of the hub didn't allow more time for bigger events or activities, there is ongoing development of the wetlands with an interpretation of both history and the orchard to provide an audio guide to the wetlands. Also, new benches were ordered to assist particularly those less able to access the 1-mile circuit around Firs Farm.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity	Para 1.18	The charity makes available to all Trustees the requirements and guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Commission on public benefit		
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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 hub development, decorations were put up for Halloween and Christmas, tree planting continued to take place in the year and corporate activity days continued following the end of lock-down.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	There were total funds of £107,778 at the end of the reporting period and £13,794 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	£9,052
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? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	The charity is set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
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	Helen Osman	Trustee		
3	Soulla Thomas	Trustee		
4	Lisa Chapman	Trustee		
5	Geraldine Cosh	Trustee		
6	Chris Ferrary	Trustee		
7	Simon Jarosch	Treasurer		
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
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


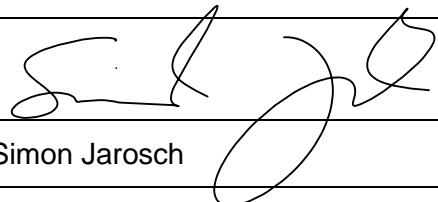
N/a

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 2024	