

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM

Charity Incorporated Organisation (C.I.O)

Financial Statements

For the period ended

31st March 2024

Registered Charity No: 1177069

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2024

Principal address:

Firs Farm Community Hub
Firs Lane
Winchmore Hill
London
N21 2PJ

Trustees and Committee Members:

Toni Guiver
Paul Guiver
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 2024

Contents

Trustees' Report	4
Notes to the accounts	9
AGM Report	11
Independent Examiner's Report	14
Trustees' Annual Report for the period	16

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2024

Trustees' Report

Annual Report

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the period ending 31st March 2024, 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

Further funds were received in the year ended 31st March 2024 for the finalisation of the community hub. Most of the funds received were spent in the year.

More events took place during the year as well, including Halloween and Santa's grotto, which attracted donations from the public.

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 25 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 2024

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 2025

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2024


Financial Accounts

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM				
Receipt and Payment Account for the year ended 31st March 2024				
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£	£	£
Donation	4,312	540	4,852	3,064
Eco club				197
Sport England				114,620
Thames Water				25,000
London Marathon Fund		20,000	20,000	
Groundworks		46,064	46,064	122,977
Garfield				10,000
Bernard Sunley				10,000
National Lottery Fund		6,033	6,033	10,000
Crowdfunding				26,894
TG Lynes				7,500
Tudor Trust		2,000	2,000	
Interest on account	1,363		1,363	313
Chapman Charitable Trust				1,000
Halloween	921		921	159
Winter trail	561		561	502
Calendar				197
Tree planting				1,219
Other fundraising				
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	7,156	74,637	81,794	333,641
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable Expenditure				
Project Activities	118		118	454
Festivals & Events				
Equipment	275		275	4
General Administration Cost	368		368	257
Consumables & Maintenance	292		292	566
Other expenses	307		307	67
Professional fees	450		450	1,130
Prizes & giveaways				193
Hub expenses		96,956	96,956	77,885
Hub depreciation		7,848	7,848	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	1,810	104,804	106,613	80,557
Net Incomings and (outgoings)	5,347	(30,167)	(24,820)	253,084
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	9,052	338,017	347,068	93,984
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MAR	14,398	307,850	322,249	347,068

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)Period Ended 31st March 2024**FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM****Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2024**

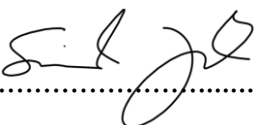
	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Current Assets			
Debtor		-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand		50,826	107,556
Deposit and Cash		-	-
Non-current Assets			
Asset Under Construction		-	239,511
PPE		271,423	-
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: Falling due within one year		-	-
Accruals and Creditors		-	-
Net Assets		<u>322,249</u>	<u>347,068</u>
As Represented By:			
Restricted Fund		307,850	338,017
Unrestricted fund		14,398	9,052
Total Funds		<u>322,249</u>	<u>347,068</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 28th June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


.....

Chair

Toni Guiver


.....

Treasurer

Simon Jarosch

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2024

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

With the completion of the community hub build, the organisation has acquired a fixed asset.

FRIENDS OF FIRS FARM (1177069)

Period Ended 31st March 2024

7. Restricted Fund

Restricted funds of £74,637 were received, mainly in relation to the Community Hub with the biggest donation from the London Marathon Fund. Many other donations from individuals, organisations and charitable funds were gratefully received.

Expenditure of restricted funds took place for the year ended 2024 relating primarily to the construction of the community hub. The restricted fund balance carried forward into 2025 is £307,850.

8. Unrestricted Fund

Unrestricted funds were generated from generous donations & fundraising activities, such as the Halloween trail and Santa's Grotto. The current balance of £14,398 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



Friends of Firs Farm

Registered Charity 1177069

L♥VE YOUR GREEN SPACE

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

Friends of Firs Farm

Wetlands Park & Playing Fields

AGM

28th June 2024

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 2024.

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

Community hub

Finally, we did it! Despite the huge increase in the build costs and challenges we faced in bringing in the services and utilities. Locating the sewer drainage pipework and fresh water source was a humongous challenge 23rd February saw the doors open for the first time to the warm welcome from the general public. Water sadly is still an ongoing issue with pressure on the low side, so we will hold off the 'official opening' until this is completed Sewer problems resolved with thanks to LBE.

Work still to be done on the sensory room, internal fit out of some of the interior areas and to bring in a Bike / buggy shelter with a bit of landscaping. Volunteering is a must for 2024 and beyond to help achieve this and to maintain the areas to keep welcoming the community.

We thank our many sponsors who include Sport England, Enfield council, Thames Water and London Marathon Foundation and more besides for their patience and generous contributions to this amazing, much needed facility.

Events

This past year included the 2nd well attended Winter Walk with a popular Santas Grotto, organised by local elves supported again by the Boys Brigade – Thank you.

Thank you to the Firs Farm Volunteers

This much valued team of dedicated people have for the 10th 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

Chris Ferrary, Simon Jarosch, Geraldine Cosh, Paul Guiver, Lisa Chapman & Toni Guiver



Friends of Firs Farm Park

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). The new facilities we hope will only encourage more of these special visitors.

We host both community & company volunteering opportunities.

Our Trustees and members

We currently have over 250 members of which 6 are trustees, with around approximately 25 part time active volunteers who work on various projects in-between work, family and other commitments.

As a charity we are only as good as our Trustees, volunteers and members without whom our work would not be possible.

We thank all the volunteers who were 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 and join us.

Volunteers – Thank you

We are very proud of the volunteers that turn up each and every week (Mondays and Saturdays) to carry out numerous gardening tasks that support maintaining Firs Farm Wetlands as a very special Go To green space. Thanks also to those who supported local young people in achieving their Duke of Edinburgh - Volunteering section. Corporate volunteering is on the increase now that the new hub with facilities are in place.

It has been encouraging seeing the increase in the number of community groups including schools, scout and local families who supported our tree planting and care over the last 12 months. The heavy watering throughout the dryer season was made more difficult due to the further vandalism in the old compound where once stood the football changing rooms. 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

We have held a number of events throughout the year which have proved to be popular and encouraged activities with other groups and can already see an improved uptake of activities including the regular joggers, walkers and cyclists over the last year. Edmonton running group are regular users of Firs Farm as are a number of cycling groups.

With the opening of the new hub facilities, 2024 is going to make such a difference, to so many in visiting Firs Farm. Our intention of the Hub is to bring the community together, to regenerate interest in sport at Firs Farm in addition to the ever-increasing popularity of Firs Farm tennis courts that we were instrumental in bringing back to Firs Farm in 2018.

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 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.

Wildlife

The terrapins are still around, and numbers are on the increase. The swans come and go every years but have never felt comfortable enough to remain and nest yet in Firs Farm. With the latest planting in the wetlands cell by the 'windows' we hope that the increase in vegetation will encourage more wildlife to this special habitat. The Egyptian geese are a favourite with locals. Numbers have increased year on year in the UK to the point that in some circles these are considered to be an invasive species. <https://www.waterfowl.org.uk/wildfowl/true-ducks/egyptian-goose/#:~:text=The%20Order%20makes%20it%20an,and%20Ruddy%20Ducks%20Oxyura%20jamaicensis.>

LOVE YOUR GREEN SPACE

friendsoffirsfarm@gmail.com www.firsfarmn21.org Facebook: @FirsFarmParkN21 Twitter: @FirsFarm



Friends of Firs Farm Park

It is good to see some of our more protected species continuing to thrive at Firs Farm e.g.: water voles, slow worms, and stag beetles to name but a few. We are keen for volunteers to get involved in the team to help with wildlife surveys Please contact the charity if you are interested.

Social Media / Google maps / website

Our bright new website was launched in the first quarter of 2024 thanks to the many hours of work by Helen Osman. Chris Ferrary and Ruth Smith. We are still reviewing content for completeness and accuracy so if you spot anything please raise it with us We continue to use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram Googles maps remains at a healthy 4.5 with 559 good reviews. Google reports that the average time spent there by visitors is 60 minutes we expect this figure to change with the fantastic new Firs Farm Community Hub.

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 27,000.**

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 2024

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 / 2024.

**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:

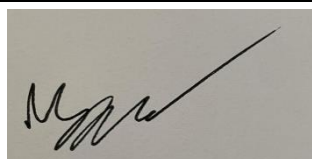
Independent examiner's statement

- 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: 27/01/2025

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 2023 Period start date To 31st March 2024 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 the final elements were completed in Q1 to prepare for the opening. It was a massive undertaking with the FoFF coordinating all the workstreams and ensuring that the hub is delivered to the required specification.</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.</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.</p>
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 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 £50,826 at the end of the reporting period and -£24,820 of net income achieved over the year. The charity now owns PPE of £271,423 as at 31 st March 2024.
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	£14,398
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	Firs Farm Community Hub, Firs Lane, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 2PJ

--	--

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	Paul Guiver	Trustee		
3	Chris Ferrary	Trustee		
4	Geraldine Cosh	Trustee		
5	Lisa Chapman	Trustee		
6	Simon Jarosch	Treasurer		
7				
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


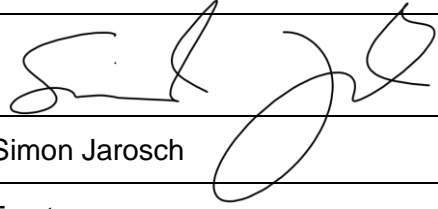
N/a

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 2025	