

## **Friends of Ellington Park CIO – 1185399**

**(Referred to variously as “the Charity”, “the Friends”, “FoEP” “CIO” hereafter)**

Report January – December 2023

Previous reports have advised that Ellington Park was undergoing major refurbishment and building works after being awarded a National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF), in partnership with our local Council (the landowners). This was due to be completed by December 2023 but a few parts are still in progress before the final sign off by the NHLF. At this point the contract with the Lottery-funded Activity Officer (A/O) will also end, although there are some funds remaining and she has advised that she is keen to continue working with the Friends on a voluntary basis.

Part of the project was the building of a community café – the site of which the Charity leases from the Council - with toilet facilities and a new children’s play area. The café, which continues to be operated by the Friends of Ellington Park Café Ltd (a separate legal entity to the Charity), is run by paid managers and a group of reliable volunteers. It is open 6 days a week and offers a comfortable space with good value food and drink for the local community. In the summer holidays, working with a local school, it was able to provide vouchers for free packed lunches for less fortunate children and in the winter months it opens on a Monday (when it is usually closed), as a “Warm Space” to provide free hot drinks and toast. It has also introduced weekly Yoga sessions. In addition, in response to feedback from the Charity’s beneficiaries, the Council was able to install an all-inclusive swing seat in the children’s area making it more accessible to a wider range of children.

In conjunction with FoEP and the A/O there are several groups of various backgrounds, ages and abilities that are using the café and park regularly and this has continued to build over the last year.

The A/O has liaised with many specialists/creative artists/performers that have offered their services at reduced rates or even for free! These contacts continue to grow and we have enabled regular presentations such as local history talks, archeology, tree and nature walks, local author readings and book signings, painting and crafting sessions etc. to take place in the park.

We are proud to announce that Ellington Park retained the prestigious Green Flag award and also Green Heritage Site accreditation for a second year – making it the only park in our district to have received these accolades. We are most grateful to all of our hardworking volunteers who help to maintain the park to keep it at its best. We were also nominated and selected as winners for Design Awards organised by a local civic and historical society. Please see details below.

In 2023 we held the following events: Easter Fun Day; May Fayre - our largest fundraising and engagement event - with up to 8000 visitors during the day, with music on the bandstand, a funfair, over 100 stalls and food vendors; Family Picnic in the Park for families to come and enjoy the park and listen to the music on the bandstand; in September, as part of the annual English Heritage Open Days, we also celebrated the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ellington Park becoming a public park, where we presented the history of the park which goes back to 11<sup>th</sup> century and introduced our new Ellington

Park Players who have devised a costumed walk including many characters that have been involved with the park throughout its history.

These events, along with kind donations from park users, membership payments and the money made from our second-hand bookshop provides the income for the charity. The Charity's free reserves at the end of the reporting period was £31,937. From this we need to ring fence a certain amount for necessary expenses including the annual contract for the defibrillator, website support, insurance and other professional fees along with the costs involved to support events and activities in the park such as portaloos, first aiders, the entertainment etc. which for this year were £13771. We also need to build the Charity's resilience to enable it to further its objectives when the NHLF project is completed.

We have helped enable an increased number of events, activities and entertainment, led by other charities and community organisations, to happen in the park including: mental health awareness days to encourage people to come and enjoy our beautiful park and to showcase the many organisations that can offer support and advice; the Power of Women Festival who held a family fun day for International Women's Day and Festival of Sound who put on a family fun day and evening cabaret. Local schools regularly come for nature walks and some have also set up litter picking sessions. We have helped many young people achieve their Duke of Edinburgh awards through volunteering activities within the park.

From April – October, weather permitting, we are able to open our second-hand book shop which is staffed by volunteers and has a vast selection of reference and fiction books for all ages. It is well supported and bringing in good revenue for the CIO, and importantly has become a community hub in itself (with 14 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds), promoting social inclusion and an increased sense of community ownership of the park. We hope in future to be able to adapt the space so that the volunteers do not have to carry the stock in and out each time and we would then be able to be open all year round.

This year we welcomed a new trustee whose appointment has enabled the Charity to build its capacity by adopting a suite of new policies and procedures, with a focus, among other things, on the safeguarding of the Charity's beneficiaries and volunteers. Sadly, we saw a trustee and long term volunteer step down and we are grateful to her for her hard work and commitment in helping with events and wider contribution within the park. We are in the process of recruiting further trustees who will add their skills to the effective functioning of the Charity.

The NHLF project has certainly had a very positive impact on the park and its users and it is at once noticeable that there has been an increase in daily visitors to the park to enjoy nature, exercise, dog walk etc. but also now to use the café and the new children's play area. The visitor data collection, which was done as part of the NHLF project, has shown year on year increases from prior to the project starting in 2019 to the end 2023 with overall increase to visitor numbers of close to 75%. This has given us a strong foundation to build from and we are now planning activities and projects for 2024 to continue the legacy.

**Treasurer**

**Friends of Ellington Park CIO**

## Ramsgate Sociey Design Awards 2023

The Ramsgate Design Awards received 32 nominations in the various categories. All the nominated projects varied widely in their nature and character, so the independent judging panel, had their work cut out to pick the winners in each category. We are so proud that Ellington Park was selected as winner of 2 categories



### PUBLIC REALM

**WINNER ELLINGTON PARK** Fabulous effort over a long period of time to bring the café, a restored bandstand and some well-designed landscaping to this much appreciated community park.

### BUILDING OF THE YEAR

**WINNER ELLINGTON PARK** The community group established over ten years ago worked hard to get National Heritage Lottery funding to restore the Victorian features of the park, bring a new café, toilets, refurbished bandstand and play area to this community park which was under considerable threat. The judges were delighted to award this year's top prize to this amazing achievement.

Winner of the prestigious Building of the Year award went to the Friends of Ellington Park for their renovation of the popular park in the centre of Ramsgate. The landscaping, bandstand, and new café all combine to make this project an outstanding feat of community effort.



issue, which is distributed to all households in the town.

## Ellington Park Update

**Ellington Park was bright and beautiful during the spring with the tree blossoms and flowers bringing colour and joy!**

Whether it was new trees planted as part of the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) project along the cherry tree avenue, the sponsored fruit trees or the spring bulbs and wildflowers introduced by our hardworking and dedicated volunteers, it all looked magnificent.



With summer here, it is a wonderful green space to come and spend some time: for the more energetic to exercise

or maybe to just relax and enjoy nature and the calmness of the wildlife area, for children to have fun in the play area, to meet up for a drink and a snack on the café terrace looking out to the bandstand and beyond...

We are very grateful to all of our volunteers who work so hard throughout the year helping to keep the park tidy and clean, to organise the events and so much more behind the scenes! In addition to volunteers we also need kind and talented people to join us on the Board of Trustees. We are looking for people with a range of administrative and practical skills, but most importantly people who are willing to work and learn together as part of a team to support the Friends in their efforts to preserve, promote and improve this beautiful park.

DON'T PANIC at the thought of joining the Trustees in whatever capacity, the Trustees have access to a range of governance advice which can help make the running of the charity a whole lot smoother.

**CALL TO ACTION** - If you or anybody you know would be interested in finding out more please email us at: [friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com) and we would be delighted to get back to you with more details.

The Friends of Ellington Park have some events arranged to take us to the end of the year, look out for more details!

Please note that the correct times for the Christmas Fayre is 10am - 3pm.

Please also check out the running days of the little steam trains operated throughout the year by The Ramsgate and District Model Engineering Club at [radmec.co.uk](http://radmec.co.uk).



For further information or to get involved with Friends of Ellington Park or at Ellington Park Café. Please visit our Facebook pages and websites: [ellingtonpark.org.uk](http://ellingtonpark.org.uk) and [ellingtoncafe.co.uk](http://ellingtoncafe.co.uk)







CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name

The Friends of Ellington Park CIO

No (if any)

1185399

CC16a

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01/01/2023

To

Period end date  
31/12/2023

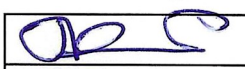

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
TDC Funding - for Salary	-	17,700	-	17,700	8,850
RTC Grant - for Petanque Court	-	-	-	-	2,626
Bookshop Sales	7,426	-	-	7,426	5,847
Profit from Café	-	-	-	-	5,717
Loan repaid from Cafe	-	-	-	-	11,483
Community Fundraising Events	6,602	-	-	6,602	11,501
Tree Sponsorship - for Wildlife Garden	-	-	-	-	1,340
Subscriptions & Donations	1,788	-	-	1,788	1,563
Other Income	40	-	-	40	176
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>15,856</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,556</b>	<b>49,103</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>15,856</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,556</b>	<b>49,103</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Salary to Activity Officer	-	12,542	-	12,542	8,550
Admin Costs	1,629	-	-	1,629	1,067
Accountancy	540	-	-	540	-
Wildlife Garden Expenses	1,093	-	-	1,093	6,443
Community Fundraising Expenses	6,720	-	-	6,720	7,804
Workshop	-	-	-	-	500
Insurance	1,394	-	-	1,394	1,337
Defibrillator Rental	438	-	-	438	588
Property Maintenance	1,547	-	-	1,547	509
Expenses for Pentanque Court Project	-	-	-	-	380
Training Expenses	410	-	-	410	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>13,771</b>	<b>12,542</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,313</b>	<b>27,178</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Two Printers	-	-	-	-	129
Cabinet for Defibrillator	-	-	-	-	752
Improvements to Notice Board	-	-	-	-	250
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1131</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>13,771</b>	<b>12,542</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,313</b>	<b>28,309</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>5,158</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,243</b>	<b>20,794</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>29,852</b>	<b>6,546</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,398</b>	<b>15,604</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>31,937</b>	<b>11,704</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,641</b>	<b>36,398</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Balance	31,797	11,704	-
	Cash Held	140	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>31,937</b>	<b>11,704</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Accountancy Fee	unrestricted	540	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		JULIE LONG	24/08/24
		Vincent Tucker	24/08/24



Charity No 1185399

## **Reserves policy for the Friends of Ellington Park 2023**

The Charity's free reserves at the end of the reporting period stood at £31,937. The Trustees consider the current level of reserves to be more than enough to cover the Charity's expected expenditure for the year ahead were projected sources of income not to materialise.

For this reporting period, the Friends have focused on managing the Heritage-funded regeneration project successfully through to its completion date, which was due to be December 2023 but some parts are still ongoing before the final sign off by the National Lottery.

Once the regeneration project is completed, the Trustees plan to utilise a suitable proportion of the Charity's reserves for other projects which further the Charity's objects.

In the meantime, the Trustees are taking the opportunity to build the Charity's resilience and capacity, strengthening its reserves through fundraising activities such as the community bookshop, community cafe, and other events.