



# Friends of Yeovil Country Park

*"Supporting and helping to maintain Yeovil Country Park in conjunction with the Countryside Team"*

Reference: FOYCP04042023

Dated: 04 April 2023

## **Friends of Yeovil Country Park**

### **Trustees Annual Report**

### **for the Year ending**

### **31 December 2022**

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## Reference and administrative information

The reference and administrative information forms part of this report.

Charity name

Friends of Yeovil Country Park CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Registered Charity number

Charity No: 1185579 Registered 1 October 2019

Principal and operational address

Yeovil Country Park, Brunswick Street, Yeovil. BA20 1QZ

Trustees

The Trustees who served during this period in alphabetical order are as follows:

- Amanda Card - Treasurer;
- Gary Cashmore - Chairman;
- David Fincham - (died 13 December 2022);
- James Fison;
- Nicholas Hill;
- Edward Sadler;
- Alison Suter.

Constitution

Friends of Yeovil Country Park CIO was registered on 1 October 2019. The Constitution for the Friends of Yeovil Country Park CIO has been reviewed and updated with some minor changes and the updated version submitted on the Charity Commission website 20 April 2022, document Reference: FoYCP28042019 Issue 3.

## Trustees Report

Friends of Yeovil Country Park report and financial statement as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the Charity's third period ended 31 December 2022.

It is with much sadness that we had to announce that one of our Trustees, David Fincham, passed away. He was a great asset to the Friends with his wealth of knowledge and experience he brought to the group.

The constitution allows for up to eight Trustees and we are quite happy running with six Trustees. However, should suitable candidates with the necessary skills, experience and qualifications arise in the future we will seek to recruit them to our team.

Our thanks to all of the Trustees, Members and Volunteers who generously gave their time and expertise over the year to achieve the goals of the Charity. They are our most valuable asset.

We are pleased to say the impact of COVID-19 has significantly reduced and foot fall in the Park has noticeably increased. There seems to be a trend for more outdoor activities where people feel safer.

The year started well and the Friends were able to advertise the Country Park at a local venue, Westlands Conference Centre, where Gordon Buchannan was giving a talk. Attendance was from far and wide and so we were able to promote the virtues of the Park to the public during the interludes.

The Spring Trail which was postponed for two years followed and was supported by local supermarkets donating goods to be handed out for completing the trail. All the organisation and hard work paid off again and set the scene for the event. Over 450 adults and children walked the trail and some really great feedback was received. Numbers were down compared to previous years but then that was before Covid-19 and the new way of life for many.

We continue to support the Park obtaining the Green Flag award and this was awarded to the Park again in the year. We also applied for the Pride in Parks award in June , judging occurred in September and everyone's efforts were rewarded with five stars and positive feedback.

We continue to advertise the work that our Charity does for the Park and have procured a new banner to promote this which is used at all of our events.

The Super Saturday event had to be postponed due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

We have registered for Gift Aid and produced Gift Aid forms for donors to complete if they wish to enable us to claim some extra funding.

Friends of Yeovil Country Park remains an active going concern.

## Accounts

The accounts were reviewed and approved by the Trustees. The detailed Accounts are included below.

Over the period we have successfully closed the original Friends bank account which was deemed not suitable for a Charity Commission CIO charity by the bank. The new bank account is fully operational and the details communicated to the charity commission.

We have procured a card payment facility to enable card payments at our events. This was a requirement driven by public demand to pay/donate electronically at our events.

We had approximately 10 volunteers, excluding Trustees.

### Income and Spending

Accounting period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 and the financial controls for the period for this report were reviewed.

The accounts include funds and commitments from 31 December 2021 accounts. These amounted to £12,855.57

### Funds generated principal income;

The two principal events were both successful and the Spring Trail generated an income of £549.98 at the start of the year and was attended by over 450 adults and children walking the trail.

The Halloween trail generated an income of £1,110.00 and was attended by over 900 adults and children.

Public donations for dog biscuits over the year totalled £1,129.81

Grants were received from Wessex Water £750.00 and Asda £400.00 together with other sundry items summarised on the accounts sheet.

In total, receipts for the year amounted to £4,503.21

### Key spending was for;


Halloween trail expenses £52.00. We have to thank our sponsors Tesco, Asda and Morrisons for their donation of goods which kept our expenses down.

Wellness event expenditure £151.72

Google domain name yearly expenditure of £10.00

In total expenditure for the year amounted to £352.85

Accounts summary sheet;

		<b>Friends of Yeovil Country Park</b>	
		<b>Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Balances</b> <b>for the year ending 31st December 2022</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Payments</b>	
Tesco Bags of Help	0.00	<b>Purchases</b>	0.00
Sales of Knitted/Handmade Items	7.60	<b>SSDC Invoices</b>	0.00
<b>Sponsorship</b>	0.00	<b>Misc Expenses</b>	149.13
Pencil Sales	87.80	Pencil Purchases	0.00
<b>Public Donations</b>	276.28	Calendar Printing	0.00
Post Code Lottery Award	0.00	Spring Trail Expenses	0.00
<b>SSDC reimbursements</b>	0.00	Purchases for Park	0.00
Dog Biscuits Donations	1,129.81	Park Yoga	0.00
Super Saturday	0.00	Activities	0.00
Post Card Sales/Donations	62.70	Halloween Expenses	52.00
Halloween	1,110.00	Google Domain Cost	0.00
Calendar Sales	0.00	Wellness Event	151.72
Sale of Photographic Prints	0.00		
Spring Trail	549.58		
Wellness Event	129.44		
Wessex Water Grant	750.00		
Asda - Green Giving Tokens	400.00		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>4,503.21</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>352.85</b>
-	-	<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>4,150.36</b>
	<b>4,503.21</b>		<b>4,503.21</b>
<b>RESERVE FUND</b>			
Balance at start of year 1st Jan 2022	12,855.57		
		<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>	
		Balance at Bank 31/12/22	
		Current Account Old	0.00
		Current Account New	16,905.85
		Deposit Account	0.08
		Cash in hand of Treasurer (Café safe)	100.00
		Credits yet to be on statement	0.00
		Cheques (and Debit Card) not on statement	0.00
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>4,150.36</b>		
-	-		
<b>Balance to date</b>	<b>17,005.93</b>		<b>17,005.93</b>
<b>Amanda Card, Honorary Treasurer</b>			

## Objectives and activities

Fundraising opportunities. We have applied to the Woodward Charitable Trust small grants for outdoor activities delivered to families with vulnerable children. The outcome is expected early in 2023.

We have formalised a Friends equal opportunities policy document June 2022.

Regular Friends group meetings are now back to normal over the year.

## Summary of main achievements during the year

The Spring Trail event was successfully held during April and attended by over 450 parents and children. This yearly event is a key country Park activity.

A Well Dressing event was held in July and the paths, natural springs and streams decorated with flowers. This free event was attended by over 200 people and there was live music and entertainers along the route next to the woodland in the Park.

Our yearly Halloween Trail held in October attracted over 900 parents and children. This generates an income after the costs of the trail display equipment and handouts are taken into consideration. This event is run together with the onsite Park Ranger team, who play an active role in the Trail layout for public benefit.

Park Yoga was funded jointly with South Somerset District Council. This is a valuable outdoor community event. It is a free event to attend but there is an opportunity for the participants to donate to the Friends.

Application for funding to the Wessex Water Foundation for money to provide improvements at the wildlife garden was successful with the award of £750 to which the Friends will add additional funds to enable the project to proceed. The improvements will give the public a quiet place to visit and see nature at work.

## Key plans for the future

We will continue to run our key public events being the Spring Trail and Hallowe'en Trail;

Establishing Friends website;

Tesco Bags of Help Wildlife Trail project completion, delayed due to the impact of COVID-19;

Wyndham Hill project is almost complete, with minor outstanding elements being signage and grass/wildflower seeding which is season and weather dependant;

Park yoga sponsorship;

Exploring new fundraising and sponsorship opportunities.

## Reserves policy

Our reserves policy is to retain a working capital to cover costs incurred prior to income being received; cover unforeseen events; project overrun costs; etc. The amount is set at £2,500 unallocated reserves.

## Risk

Somerset is establishing a new Unitary Council effective 1 April 2023. Concern about how this might impact Yeovil Country Park Ranger staffing levels and budget allocation to the Park in the future could put more pressure on the Friends resources.

Opportunities for funding are becoming increasingly harder to obtain in the current economic climate, which could impact the delivery of events in the future.

Increasing inflation is impacting family expenditure and the ability to attend events in the Park especially where a charge is levied, meaning there is more pressure on seeking/generating funding so that events have a lower charge or are free to attend for the community.

## DBS

We will continue to review this for any new roles that we may undertake. No action was required for this financial year, since the original guidance was obtained from DBS. We currently have no Trustees, employees or volunteers who are in roles that are eligible.

## Report approval

Report approved by all of the serving Trustees of Friends of Yeovil Country Park.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees;



.....  
Gary Cashmore

Position: Trustee - Chairman

Date: 06 April 2023



.....  
Amanda Card

Position: Trustee - Treasurer

Date: 06 April 2023