

Bamford with Thornhill Recreation Ground CIO Annual Report 2024-25

Period: 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Charity registration number: 1185738

Trustees

Trustees as of 31st March 2025

- Senara Foster (Secretary)
- Richard Gower
- Denry Leighton
- Joseph Monck
- Joshua Ollerenshaw
- Malcolm Sowerby
- David Watson (Treasurer/Chair)

Address: The Secretary, 2 The Beeches, Ashopton Road, Bamford, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S33 0DB

Structure, Management, and Trustee Recruitment

The CIO's business is managed through a bi-monthly meeting of its Trustees. From time to time the Trustees call on volunteer support from the local community concerning the upkeep of the recreation ground.

Trustees are drawn from the local community, preferably from within the Bamford with Thornhill parish, which comprises the area of benefit. Trustee applicants are expected to have a history of supporting the management of the recreation ground, its activities and upkeep.

Objectives, Activities and Public Benefit

The purpose of the CIO is as set out in the constitution:

The object of the Charity shall be to provide a recreation ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parishes of Bamford and Thornhill and the surrounding area, or for the public at large, for recreation or other leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

This objective continues to guide our work and decision-making. Our focus remains on maintaining and improving the Recreation Ground so that it serves as a safe, accessible, and enjoyable facility for the community.

Overview of the Year

2024-25 has been a year of adjustment for the CIO following the sad death of our longstanding Treasurer, Sue Beckett, just before the start of the financial year.

Despite this challenging start, the Charity has continued to make progress in delivering its objectives.

Facilities and Grounds Management

Key improvements to the Recreation Ground during the year include:

- Play Equipment Upgrade – Installation of a second swing frame, designed with metal footings and Grasslok surfacing, providing a more durable and maintainable solution. Users have received this enhancement very well.
- Ground Surface Strategy – Following the successful introduction of GrassLok under the new swing frame, we are exploring its wider use as a cost-effective alternative to bark chipping.
- Safety and Access Improvements – Removal of a dangerous tree and restoration of the original access under the railway bridge, increasing both safety and flexibility of access for events and maintenance.

The football team has returned to playing on the pitch. The trustees are working closely with the team to manage pitch use responsibly and ensure compatibility with other events and users.

Community Events and Activities

The Recreation Ground continues to serve as a focal point for local events. This year, the CIO supported or hosted:

- The Beast of Bamford Fell Race and Christmas Market, both of which raised funds for the ground, while providing an enjoyable community occasion. A big thanks to all who helped make this a reality.
- Bamfest and Bamford Carnival are well-attended events that raise funds for the local school and create memorable community experiences.
- Assistance to the Hathersage Hurtle fundraiser by providing parking facilities at short notice.
- Hosted the Midlands Lotus Owners' Club Picnic, in aid of Rainbows Hospices.

We also continue to offer the Recreation Ground free of charge for school activities and the local children's Summer sports clubs, in line with our charitable objectives.

Financial Support and Acknowledgements

The trustees are grateful for the financial contributions received during the year, including support from the BSDT, Friends of Bamford Play Park, and individual donors. We also acknowledge the invaluable assistance of volunteers, without whom the Charity could not deliver its objectives.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, the CIO has been approached by community groups interested in introducing a pump track and an outdoor table tennis area. These proposals will be considered in the coming year, ensuring they align with the Charity's objectives and the needs of the wider community. We also need to examine the longer-term maintenance required for the pavilion and its infrastructure, which may be costly.

We also intend to continue strengthening our working relationship with the football team to enable us to co-exist reasonably on the Recreation Ground.

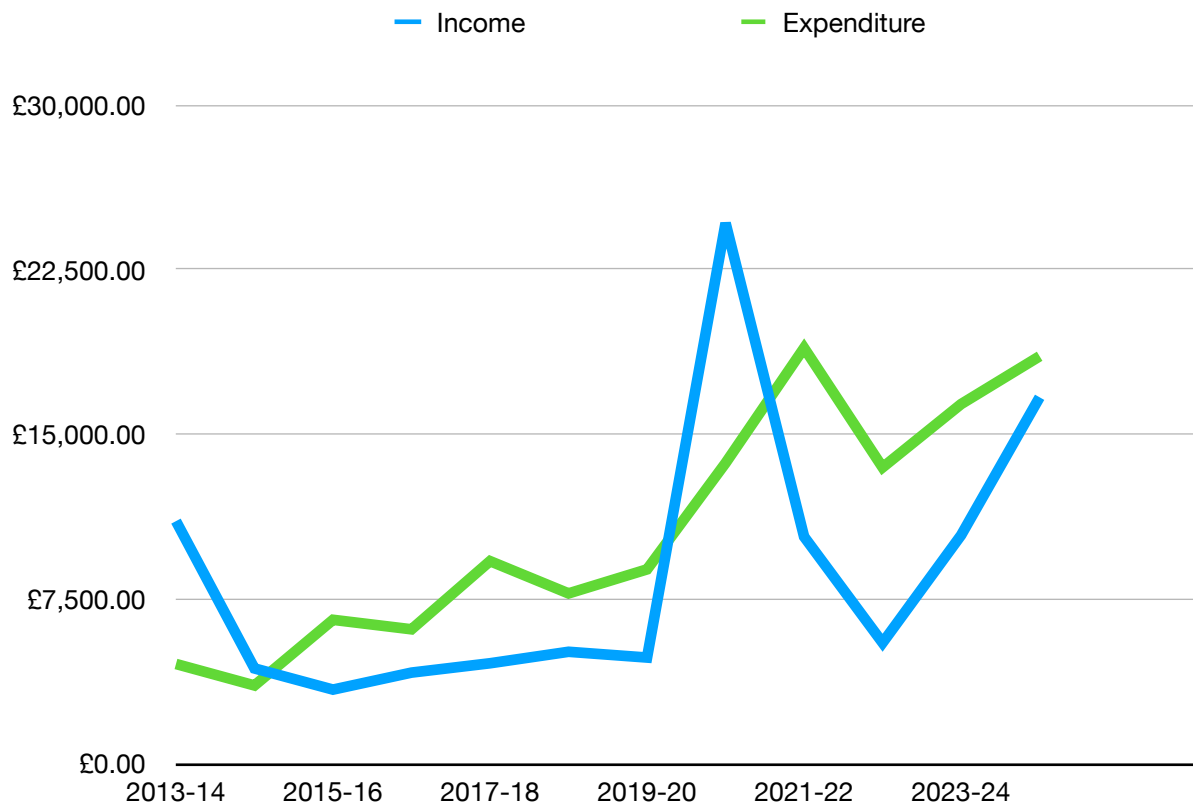
Conclusion

The trustees remain committed to ensuring that the Bamford with Thornhill Recreation Ground continues to provide significant benefit to the community. We thank all those who have contributed their time, expertise, and financial support during the year.

Financial Review

Please refer to the separate income and expenditure account spreadsheet for complete details. Of note:

- Against an annual income of £16,692, the CIO incurred a net expenditure of £18,553. Although we continue to spend more than we bring in, we had a significant income of £5,000 from one October event and Friends of Bamford Play Park & Recreation Ground.
- The CIO made an exceptional investment of £12,063 to install a second swing frame and surface. This cost was partially offset by £6,509 in donations from Bamford Play Park and other village organisations.
- Ground hire and caravan rallies remain resilient with revenue increasing 61.6% year-on-year to £8,279. Although these values may not remain sustainable, they indicate a demand for events, allowing us to set a fair price that keeps the ground more viable.
- Grounds & pavilion maintenance, electricity and insurance account for most of our regular outgoings.
- Exceptional Calor Gas expenditure is from a bulk refill of the tank in October 2023. The previous refill was before 2014, so this is an infrequent cost.
- Although expenditure exceeded income, the CIO carries healthy cash balances into the new financial year.
- Examining year-on-year income and expenditure since 2013 shows an average increase of 13.7% each year (compound annual growth rate). These costs are predominantly on the pavilion and play area, such as: play bark chipping refreshes, play fort repairs, toilet block repairs and replacement, car park extension, new play area fencing and swing frames.



However, income rarely exceeds expenditure, with expenditure outstripping income by £30,000 since 2013-14, which is a longer-term concern. Note that the 2020-21 income spike was a one-off grant made during the COVID period. To address this, the CIO has fairly increased event prices and used lower maintenance play area surfaces, such as grasslok, when replacing the swing frames. Fundraising has significantly improved thanks to the Friends of Bamford Playpark and the Beast of the Bamford fell race. Gratefully, we also continue to receive donations from local charities such as the Bamford Sheepdog Trials, Bamford Carnival and Poor's Allotment. Overall, the CIO needs an income of circa £18,000 per year to sustainably fund repairs and initiatives, and event pricing must stay in step with broader inflation.