

Report of Trustees to Charity Commission - 2022– 2023

Introduction

The Friends of Kennington Park was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission in April 2020. Seven Trustees were appointed. Our status is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registration number 1188922.

Our Charitable purpose is defined as ***being for the benefit of the inhabitants of South London ("the area of benefit"), 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 for the inhabitants of the area of benefit in particular by supporting the preservation, conservation, improvement and protection of Kennington Park.***

Our financial year ran from the end March 2022 to the end of March 2023. Our current income level means that we are classified as a small charity. Our accounts are audited annually by an independent Auditor and copies are available on our website.

This activity report covers the period from the last AGM held in September 2022

Park Infrastructure – Improvement and Protection

2022/23 has been a busy year. As well as organising the annual programme of events and managing the day-to-day issues relating to the park, members of the committee have been actively involved in shaping the council's **capital development programme for the park**.

The programme comprises several elements – the restoration of the iconic 1970s skatebowl, development of a new children's play area, creation of a youth zone, the improvement of the toilet facilities and pathways and the provision of drinking water fountains.

Unfortunately, there have been significant delays with the work on **the skatebowl** due to technical difficulties. This was always a challenging project, but the hoped-for simpler restoration options have not proved possible leaving only a costly and complex solution which will necessitate additional funding. Work on the project has been suspended until funds can be found. All options, including commercial sponsorship, are being explored and discussions will take place with the Lambeth Council officer responsible for fundraising in September.

In contrast, the redesign of the **children's play area** has now taken place and is already proving to be very popular with local children. It was officially opened by Cllr Chowdhury on 19th July having passed the necessary RoSPA certification the previous week. A major disappointment for this element of the overall project is that it wasn't possible, despite repeated efforts, to replace the children's toilet block, a facility considered by FoKP committee members to be in a poor condition and not fit for purpose. This issue remains part of an ongoing debate with the Council's Planners about the need for modern toilet facilities on the site.

Early progress is now being made on the design of **a youth zone**. Consultation has begun with local youth groups based on the concept of a modular design featuring both activity and social space. This consultation process is seen as important by both FoKP and the Council.

Work on the **pathways** which are prone to flooding will take place alongside the development of each individual project.

Another time-consuming issue has been the re-opening and restoration of the resized **dog walking area**. This area was made available to park users again in 2022 having been requisitioned for use

by TfL some years ago to complete work on the Northern Line Extension project. The site will remain under the management of TfL for 5 years beyond the handover date and this is the source of a number of ongoing concerns and complications.

Securing the full restoration of the dog area facilities, which included park benches and litter bins, has proved difficult. An added problem is that the maintenance of the area is very poor. Complaints have been registered with the Council, individual councillors and Cabinet Members and in turn, via Parks senior management, with the TfL contractors. However, little progress is being made in resolving numerous issues. The formal agreement between the Council and TfL covering the handover and the 5-year period has very little in the way of enforcement protocols meaning that what was agreed in theory at the start of the project several years ago is not happening in practice. There are ongoing problems with the condition and maintenance of the dog area surface - flooding, bare patches, litter etc and the agreement to provide benches is not being fulfilled. The committee is not confident that matters will be resolved and are concerned that the parks budget will have to meet the cost of the work that has not been rectified by the contractor.

Large Commercial Events in the Park

A tricky issue of a very different nature arose in February following the Council's decision to allow Burberry to use the park as the venue for its London Fashion Week Show, an event which caused both delight and dismay with local people. Delight because of the international profile of the event and celebrity attendees. Dismay because mounting the show involved the erection of a temporary structure which occupied a significant area of the park's south field for 4 weeks, also requiring considerable traffic movements through the park. Many saw this event as an inappropriate use of a public parks, and it resulted in a small number of strongly worded objections being received by FoKP. Although these were predominantly handled by the Council's Events Team, the committee had the task of trying to steer a path through the two sides of the argument. From the Council's perspective its advantage was income generation. A proportion of the income will be invested directly in the park and therefore benefit all users. For park users there was a commitment that no further large commercial events would take place during the remainder of 2023.

Events and Activities for Local People

10th April 2023 marked the 175th anniversary of the 1848 Monster Chartist Rally which took place on Kennington Common. To mark this important milestone, we launched an audio trail, written by one committee member, narrated by another, and involving others in promotion and design. Posters containing information and QR codes are located around the park allowing visitors to listen to the recording and imagine the events unfolding in the field all that time ago. The recording is available on the FoKP website where it has already been accessed well over 200 times.

FoKP has already held a diverse programme of events this year – all events were free, open to everybody and well promoted through posters and social media. The programme included nature and history walks, including a Dawn Walk to mark the International Dawn Chorus Day and a Chartist walk to commemorate the 1848 Rally. The Easter Egg Hunt and the Summer Festival, both bigger and better than in 2021, were very successful as were all the monthly gardening sessions. The Committee recognises the need to arrange events which will appeal to all ages and communities and has plans for a possible dog show, tree hugging competition and an outdoor art event through the Autumn.

Partnership Working and Protection of the Park

The working relationship between committee members and Lambeth Landscapes staff and management remains strong, as do relationships with local councillors. We continue to work in partnership with other park-based organisations such as Bee Urban and Trees for Cities to promote events and activities. Events such as the Summer Festival strengthen our ties with local businesses and organisations such as community services, schools, churches and colleges, also with community groups and independent traders. This year we worked closely with one of the leading figures in the Brandon Estate, a large housing estate adjacent to the park, a useful connection, which we hope to continue.

In addition, FoKP is a member of both Lambeth-wide and London-wide organisations which support parks and the environment helping us to keep in touch with developing issues, legislative requirements, etc. The Park was awarded a Green Flag for the 13th year, has accreditation as a Green Heritage Site and received Gold awards from London in Bloom. Later this year, extensive hedging will be planted on the park extension supported by grant funding and designed to improve biodiversity in that part of the park. FoKP are also encouraging the Council to proceed with the Field in Trust Initiative helping to ensure the long-term future of the park as a recreational space.

Governance

Financial Reporting

As the result of commercial sponsorship for some of our events and the generosity of new and existing members our budget position is strong. The usual financial protocols have been followed. Although on maternity leave overseas, our Treasurer has prepared the final accounts which were submitted to our Auditors for review prior to the AGM.

Membership Numbers

Similarly, our membership levels are also healthy, having been strengthened by new members joining at recent events, both those we have organised and those we have attended.

Committee Membership and Trusteeship

A long-standing committee member stood down this year, although she agreed to remain a trustee for the remainder of the year. Two new volunteers were co-opted to the committee, one helping to strengthen the all-important area of social media, the other taking on the responsibilities of the Treasurer while the office holder is on maternity leave. One is sadly leaving the area, but the other has agreed to stand for election as committee members at the AGM as have the remainder of the committee.

Unfortunately, this year it has been necessary to consider the removal of one of the trustees due to a lack of participation in meetings and failure to respond to any communication, despite communication by mail, email and text. Due process has been followed in accordance with the Constitution. The trustee was advised in writing of the intended action and given the appropriate notice to respond explaining any mitigating circumstances. No response was received by the given deadline and there has been no response to email communication on other issues.

The AGM is therefore recommended to remove Colin Hunte as a Trustee.

If approved, the number of trustees for 2023/24 will therefore be 5. The minimum requirement is 3 and our aim is to restore the number to 7.

Public Benefit Statement

FoKP continues to act in accordance with the required protocols and legislation, required by the Charity Commission. This means that there is appropriate decision making and recording of decisions and there are protocols and policies in place. Specifically, this ensure that:

- money is appropriately spent, managed, and reported.
- decisions are made through the committee process and in accordance with our charitable purpose; these decisions are recorded in meeting notes and through the AGM process.
- the interest of the park and its users are the focus of our decision-making and actions.

Summary

We have built on the success of our 20th anniversary year and added a new feature to the park. We plan to extend our calendar of events with new activities such as tree hugging and a dog show. There has been a significant increase in membership applications in recent months and our partnership working has extended beyond previous partners.

Progress on some of major developments in the park have been slower than anticipated mainly due to technical difficulties while one has been completed and launched. Work continues with FoKP Committee members well represented on the Council's Capital Programme working groups. Consultation with local people is taking place on some key design elements of the remaining programme.

We have had additional committee members this year which has strengthened our capacity to act. Unfortunately, as reported above, our trustee numbers for next year will be reduced by two. We will seek to recruit new trustees in the coming year and to engage those new members who have offered support in developing new events and activities as well as supporting our established calendar of events.

Marietta Crichton Stuart – Trustee and Chair of FoKP

September 2023

The AGM is recommended to endorse the report of the Trustees.

The Friends of Kennington Park

Report and
Financial Statements

For the Year Ended
31st March 2023

HW Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

The Friends of Kennington Park

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The Friends of Kennington Park

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Management Committee presents its annual report with the financial statements of the organisation for the year ended 31st March 2023.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Friends of Kennington Park is a registered charity (1188922) run by volunteers. The address is Prince Consort Lodge, Kennington Park Place, London, SE11 4AS. The objects of the organisation are set out in the constitution:

- for the benefit of the inhabitants of South London ("the area of benefit"), 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 for the inhabitants of the area of benefit in particular by supporting the preservation, conservation, improvement and protection of Kennington Park

HM Revenue and Customs have accepted The Friends of Kennington Park as a charity for tax purposes under the reference XT26286 with effect from 12 May 2008.

Following the period end 2020 The Friends of Kennington Park was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO", 1188922) on 6th April 2020 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Friends of Kennington Park is a registered charity governed by trustees and managed by a management committee elected at the Annual General Meeting.

ACTIVITIES

- The Friends have worked with Lambeth Council, gardening volunteers and volunteer groups to help improve the park. Plans for the Capital Programme investing in the park have progressed. PIL money was spent on cleaning the war memorial and new litter bins.
- The Park retained its Green Flag for the 12th year and the park and flower garden both received a Gold from London in Bloom
- The Friends have held a range of events throughout the last twelve months including monthly gardening sessions; history, bat and tree walks and an Easter Egg hunt; kept an up-to-date website and sent out regular Mailchimp communications to the membership. A Junior Park run is now held each Sunday morning in the park.
- The Friends organized a second Kennington Park Festival for park users, in collaboration with partners and sponsors. It was so successful a third one is planned for July 2023.
- The 175th anniversary of the Chartist rally is to be commemorated with a new audio park walk.
- The dog walk area at the north of the park re-opened and the Committee has been taking up various issues with the Council.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Grants and the support of our donors and members have provided an income of £15,525 (2022: £4,644). A surplus of £146 (2021: £3,078 deficit) was recorded. The Friends of Kennington Park apply this income to the promotion of their objectives. In the event that income exceeds expenditure such surplus is not distributed but is retained by the Friends for the promotion of these objectives. A statement of financial activities is set out on page 5.

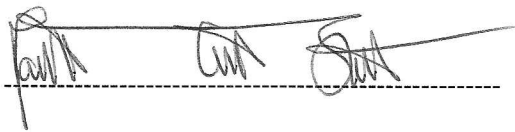
STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Management Committee is required to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation as at the end of the financial year and of the Income & Expenditure for that year. In preparing those statements, the committee is required to:

- Select the appropriate accounting policies and apply them consistently (see Note 1);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue its activities.

The Management Committee members are responsible for ensuring that the organisation keeps accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the organisation and which enable it to ensure the financial statements comply with the constitution of the organisation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation by taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by:



Marietta Crichton Stuart (Chair)

Dated: 4 September 2023



Vilde Aagenaes (Treasurer)

Dated: 4 September 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Member of The Friends of Kennington Park

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

We have audited the financial statements of The Friends of Kennington Park for the year ended 31 March 2023 as set out on pages 4 to 7. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out therein and the requirements of the Management Committee.

This report is made solely to the members, as a body, in accordance with the constitution of The Friends of Kennington Park. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Management Committee

As described in the Statement of The Management Committee's Responsibilities the management committee are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the constitution.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, the financial statements are properly prepared in accordance with the constitution and the information given in the management committees' report is consistent with the financial statements. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the management committee has not kept proper accounting records and if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the management committee in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the group's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities, of the state of the affairs as at 31st March 2023.
- the information provided in the Management Committee Report is consistent with the financial statements.

HW Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Portmill House
Portmill Lane
Hitchin
Herts SG5 1DJ

Mark Hjertzen BA FCA



Dated: 11 September 2023

The Friends of Kennington Park

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	NOTE	2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand		11,857	7,109
Savings Account		3,925	8,522
Debtors		-	-
		<u>15,782</u>	<u>15,632</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors (Amounts due within one year)	2	<u>(529)</u>	<u>(525)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>15,253</u>	<u>15,107</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>15,253</u>	<u>15,107</u>
RESERVES			
Restricted funds	4	-	4,592
General Funds		<u>15,253</u>	<u>10,515</u>
		<u>15,253</u>	<u>15,107</u>

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Management on 4 September 2023



Marietta Crichton Stuart (Chair)

Vilde Aagenaes (Treasurer)



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

	NOTES	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME					
Memberships, Sales & Donations Received		8,916	-	8,916	3,061
Festival income and donations		5,442	-	5,442	1,000
Garden donations		1,100	-	1,100	500
Cash income		65	-	65	80
Interest Received		2	-	2	4
Total incoming resources		15,525	-	15,525	4,644
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Direct charitable expenditure		-	4,950	4,950	3,941
Management and administration		3,385	-	3,385	989
Festival		5,807	-	5,807	1,593
Gardens		1,238	-	1,238	1,200
Total resources expended		10,429	4,950	15,379	7,723
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		5,096	(4,950)	146	(3,078)
Transfers between funds/Accruals		(358)	358	-	-
Fund balances brought forward at 1st April 2022		10,515	4,592	15,107	18,185
Fund balances carried forward at 31st March 2023		15,253	-	15,253	15,107

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME		
Memberships, Sales & Donations	8,981	3,141
Festival	5,442	1,000
Gardens	1,100	500
Bank Interest	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	15,525	4,644
LESS GENERAL EXPENDITURE		
Management & Administration	2,799	386
Accountancy Fees	529	525
Festival	5,807	1,593
Gardens	1,238	1,200
Dev/Fund	4,950	3,941
Bank charges and interest	<u>57</u>	<u>78</u>
	(15,379)	(7,723)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>146</u>	<u>(3,078)</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Accounting conventions

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

2. SUNDRY CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accountancy Fees	529	525
Other Creditors	-	-
	<u>529</u>	<u>525</u>

3. GRANTS AND NAMED PROJECTS RECEIVED

	2023	2022
	£	£
Festival Project	5,442	1,000
Gardens Project	1,100	500
	<u>6,542</u>	<u>1,500</u>

4. Restricted Funds by Project

	2023	2022
	£	£
Development and Fundraising	-	4,592
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>4,592</u>