



Friends of Ilkley Riverside Parks

Trustees Annual Report

Year Ending 31 March 2023

The trustees present their Report and Accounts for the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. FOIRP became a Registered Charity. No. 1189048 in April 2020



The Trustees

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Date of Appointment
Edward Duguid	Chair	14 April 2020
Pauline Munro	Deputy Chair	14 April 2020

Clare Smith	Treasurer	14 April 2020
Douglas Mowat	Trustee	14 April 2020
Ken Whittington	Trustee	27 September 2021
Nicola Coldwell	Secretary	27 September 2021
George Buckley	Trustee	6 October 2022

Registered Office

12 Lister Street, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 9ET

Bankers

Natwest, 63 North Street, Keighley BD21 3SB

Independent Examiner

Elite Accounting Services, Suite 2, The Point, Mayfield Road, Ilkley LS29 8FL

Structure, governance and management

Friends of Ilkley Riverside Parks is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members other than its charity trustees. It is run by a Committee of trustees who are elected annually by its members at the Annual General Meeting. At the end of the first year all the trustees stand down and are up for re-election. In subsequent years one third of trustees will stand down. The normal term of a trustee is therefore three years and the maximum term is 9 years, after which they must stand down for at least 3 years before standing for re-election. All trustees must be registered with the Charity Commission

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The Committee of the charity will recruit additional trustees as required, having the appropriate skills to join the Committee and assist in the running of the organisation, subject to the approval of members at the first Annual General meeting after their nomination.



New Stone Raised Beds Riverside Gardens Autumn 2022

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objects: For the benefit of Ilkley and surrounding area ("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 of the inhabitants of the area of benefit, in particular but not exclusively by the preservation, promotion, support, assistance and improvement of Ilkley Riverside Parks.

The charity's activities: To achieve the above, the charity liaises on a regular basis with the local District Council of Bradford on all aspects of park maintenance and improvement, consults with a variety of local stakeholders, including other environmental groups, the Town Council in Ilkley and members of the public via opinion surveys. We have created a Master Plan for the Parks as a basis for consultation on future improvements. Volunteers take part in Work Parties twice a week throughout the year in order to ensure key aspects of maintenance of the parks is kept up to date and improvements are made. The charity also makes applications to a variety of bodies for grants, seeks sponsorship from local businesses and lobbies the District Council for direction of funds, as appropriate, to ensure that necessary improvements are carried out. All activities are risk assessed to ensure their safe execution and the charity holds the necessary public and management insurance indemnities for the protection of the public, our volunteers and the Committee of trustees.

Public Benefit Statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular, ensuring that the public living within the scope of our charitable purpose gain real and measureable benefit from the activities we carry out.



New Planting Embankment Riverside Gardens 2022

Achievements & Performance in 2022/23

Friends of Ilkley Riverside Parks was originally formed in 2018 in response to the gradual deterioration in infrastructure and standards of maintenance of the parks forming Ilkley Riverside Parks and discontent within the town and from visitors to the parks, and has been operating since August 2018. Many of the improvements in the parks result from the Master Plan from which more refined plans have been developed to tackle the issues identified at the formation of the charity.

- The parks have again seen further improvement during 2022/23 following on from the achievements since 2018.
- **Firstly to recall earlier work, this included;**
- New Signage replacing the old redundant signage,
- New paths, ramps and fencing installed which meet DDA standards and now allow better access into the parks by those with mobility issues,
- The renovation of the WW2 Memorial in Riverside Gardens and the creation of large flowerbeds to surround the Memorial in partnership with a group of local Landscape Gardeners led by Helen Taylor Associates,
- New flowerbeds have also been created at the Platform area above the Memorial and at the Bridge Lane entrance to Riverside Gardens,
- A Petanque Terrain has been built and is now in use, maintained with the assistance of FOIRP,
- The creation and extension of a large Wildflower area.
- Plans were also put in place for the complete refurbishment of the Playground in Riverside Gardens,
- Raised Flowerbeds at Riverside Gardens were renovated, repainted and replanted,
- Nearly 20 benches have been renovated, stripped back and re-varnished,
- Park bins were renovated, stripped and repainted, or replaced so that all bins in the park areas are to a satisfactory standard,
- All paths have been edged and width has been recovered,
- Trees have been lower limbed and bushes trimmed to allow views of the river to be achieved,
- New trees have been planted to replace those which have been damaged,
- Discussions took place with the Yorkshire Rivers Trust and Rewilding Yorkshire to consider the rewilding of the River Wharfe banks which abut the parks, which have been eroded over the years,
- Twice weekly Litter Picks of all the park areas are carried out to ensure levels of litter are kept under control,
- Regular reviews are carried out with the Council in relation to "special measures" required during school holidays, bank holidays and warm weather during the summer months to ensure that services to the parks (e.g. Litter collection, warden patrols, etc.) are escalated where this is required,
- Funding for all the above has either been raised directly by the charity or in the case of a few projects at the urging or as a result of pressure from the charity to ensure the projects take place



New Planting at Embankment Riverside Gardens – Autumn 2022

In 2022/23, apart from the regular work including Litter Picking, looking after the newly created flowerbeds in the parks and the general maintenance tasks carried out by the Group, the following improvements have been achieved;

- The Playground at Riverside Gardens has been fully refurbished and new more modern play equipment installed, with the planning and additional fundraising of £50,000 being done by FOIRP with specialist assistance from a small team of local supporters, led by the Deputy Chair, Pauline Munro. Our particular thanks go to Amy Rawson, Dominique Demaine and Nicola Maharjan for the help on this project, which has turned out to be a massive success, regularly attracting hundreds of children and families every week. The Park has now been awarded recognition as the best free day out by the Parents organisation of Craven and Wharfedale. Our thanks go to the many local people, schoolchildren, businesses and the Town Council who helped us raise the necessary funds to help build the Playground we wanted to build, given the restrictions on funds available from the District Council.
- One side of the Embankment area at the East end entrance to Riverside Gardens has been cleared and completely replanted, again with the fantastic help of our Landscape Gardeners led by Helen Taylor, who created the Planting Scheme. This area further enhances the flowerbeds FOIRP created around the War Memorial with their help. A special mention also to the volunteers from Virgin-O2 who assisted in clearing the area on a number of occasions.
- The Old Wooden Raised Beds adjacent to the Riverside Hotel have now been replaced with Stone built beds, following further fundraising, which included the sale of our popular calendar and donations from The Ilkley Roundtable and Riverside Hotel. Our thanks go to them for their support which has improved this popular area of the park. The new structure enables us to enhance the planting within the Raised Flower Beds.
- Further work has been done to extend the Wildflower area with planting of both annual and perennial plants and this is finally showing the progress we had hoped. It is a long term project and will take a few more years to mature.
- Further benches have been repaired and renovated. We would specially like to mention our Ukrainian volunteer, Stefan, who has used his extensive carpentry skills to renovate

some badly deteriorated benches. We will miss him when he finally has the opportunity to return to his homeland

- More bins have been cleaned, painted or replaced where necessary
- More plants have been added to the new flowerbeds to fill them out following last year's initial planting
- More Trees have been planted or replaced as necessary in liaison with the Tree Section of Bradford Council. Our thanks go in particular to Peter Wilman, from Bradford Council's Tree Section in this respect.
- Two Work Parties have been organised for most weeks of the year, where necessary maintenance tasks have been carried out, including regular litter picking, path edging, weeding of the flowerbeds and ongoing maintenance of the Raised beds
- Further liaison has taken place with Bradford Council and the Police to ensure the "Warm Weather" Strategy and the Public Spaces Protection order covering the parks we maintain can be effectively implemented.
- Further signage has been placed to ensure clear messages exist about expected conduct of visitors to the parks.



Revitalised Playground with new equipment Summer 2022

Looking Ahead to 2023/24

Looking ahead to 2023/24 we expect the following to be completed:

- The project to improve the Embankment Area at the eastern end of Riverside Gardens will continue, covering the other side of the entrance area adjacent to the Memorial flowerbeds
- More trees to be planted and for those with damage (e.g. Ash Dieback) to be replaced
- Some progress made towards rewilding the riverbanks which abut the park areas, in particular the area on West Holme Fields which runs towards the Old Bridge. Consultations with other local environmental groups and the Environment Agency are continuing.
- Further progress to be made on all ongoing maintenance and improvement works in the park areas.

Financial Review

This summary covers the financial year 2022/23. It also briefly looks ahead to the next financial year. A copy of our accounts is available separately.

Income

Key sources of income were grants (Bradford Council), donations from individuals and organisations, in addition to fundraising events. A few individual donations were substantial. The support of individuals and organisations from within the community is important to us and show us that the work we do is much appreciated. There are several regular monthly individual donations alongside one-off donations. Fundraising events relates to the Playground Appeal in particular.

Special thanks

We would like to thank the following for their donations to our work this year, without which the playground and flowerbed projects would have been very difficult to achieve: the Riverside Hotel, Elite Accountancy, Rotary Club of Ilkley Wharfedale, NG Bailey, Ilkley Town Council, Ilkley District Round Table, the Pam Marshall Trust and Bradford Council.

Grants:

Amounts:

Bradford Council	£ 4095
Tesco Community Grant (flowerbeds)	£375

Donations:

From Individuals	£5978
From Organisations	£36088
Fundraising events	£2685

Spend

During the year funds have been spent as follows: Public & Committee Liability Insurance to protect both FOIRP, its volunteers and members of the Public who we come into contact with, publicity material to get key messages over to the visitors, equipment which helps us do our work maintaining the Parks, new signage which was designed by FOIRP, and

planting in the new flowerbeds and the wildflower meadow we have been developing. Examples of the range of expenditure required are: plants for the new planting on the Embankment, strutch and mulch for the ongoing maintenance of the flowerbeds, hire of and fuel for the various machines, timber for bench repairs and playground replacement items.

Reserves

Thanks to the financial support we have received during the year, we have been able to create a small reserve of £500. Given most grants we receive are for specific projects this allows the charity a little more flexibility when having to meet unusual costs or the need to act quickly prior to receiving any further specific project support, in addition to any of the organisation's overheads like insurance, Hi Vis Jackets, printing, tools etc.

At year end of 31 March 2023, most of the grant monies received had been spent. This also included the sponsorship and donations received for the playground project.

Membership income

Income from FOIRP membership, which was started after receiving charity status in April 2020, has amounted to £430 with 31 memberships during the year. This was down slightly on the previous year.

Although the initial membership join-up was good we need to look at ways of attracting new members, especially given the high number of followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. This will assist us in covering the regular overheads of the charity.

Income and expenditure going forward to 2023/24

Now that the Playground Project is completed, focus has turned to the formation and planting of the flowerbeds to help improve the attractiveness of the various parks entrances and to create more diversity in terms of planting. A second application will be submitted to the Tesco Community Grant to help fund the plants for the flowerbeds and money was received via the Bradford Council Community Chest Fund. A major project we are making progress with is the recovery and replanting of the Embankment area at the east end of Riverside Gardens. FOIRP will continue to coordinate further grant applications and fundraising activities to meet the overall cost of the project

A second application has been successful to the Co-op Community Fund and the money raised will go towards the costs for the flowerbeds.

Other: The Just Giving account was set up in April 2021 and continues to provide monthly donations, alongside registration with HMRC for Gift Aid, allowing us to claim further monies where applicable. By September 2023 FOIRP had received £500 via this route

We will continue to look at other sources of income and grant applications as required e.g. National Lottery for Good Causes, Peoples Postcode Lottery, etc.

Friends of Ilkley Riverside Parks (FOIRP)

Total Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31/3/23

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Receipts			
Individual Donations	778.00	5,200.00	5,978.00
Organisational Donations	588.00	35,500.00	36,088.00
Grants	4,095.00	375.00	4,470.00
Sponsorship	-	3,500.00	3,500.00
Fundraising Events	242.02	2,442.85	2,684.87
Membership	430.00	-	430.00
Amazon Smile website	23.09	-	23.09
Gift Aid	60.18	-	60.18
Total receipts	6,216.29	47,017.85	53,234.14
Payments			
Insurance	181.97	-	181.97
Planting	1,580.41	292.20	1,872.61
Maintenance	-	-	-
Equipment	3,310.57	21,618.51	24,929.08
General Administration	-	57.05	57.05
Publicity	90.00	-	90.00
Signage	72.00	1,250.85	1,322.85
Materials	921.75	25,791.96	26,713.71
Total payments	6,156.70	49,010.57	55,167.27
Net receipts / (payments)	59.59	(1,992.72)	(1,933.13)
Transfer	346.03	(346.03)	-
Balance brought forward	901.23	9,640.93	10,542.16
Balance carried forward	1,306.85	7,302.18	8,609.03
Made up of:			
Current account	8,609.03		
Savings account	-		
Petty cash 1	-		
Petty cash 2	-		
Credit card	-		
Other bank 1	-		
Other bank 2	-		
Other bank 3	-		
	8,609.03		

Checks - this should equal zero

0.00

Approval of the accounts

The financial statements were approved at a meeting of the management committee and signed on its behalf by:

Signed:

Name (Management Committee member)

Date:

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Friends of Ilkley Riverside Parks

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1189048

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2023**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Signed:

Date:

28/09/2023

Name:

Stephanie J Lawson

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCCA

Address:

Elite Accountancy Services Ltd

Suite 2 The Point, Mayfield Road

Ilkley, LS29 8FL