

Friends of the Eco Park

Report for the Charity Commission May 2024 – May 2025

Events and Activities Held in the Park

1. Children's Events:

Bushcraft Sessions: We invited a former Headmaster to carry out these in the park for children up to 12 years of age. There were 4 sessions in 2024.

Scouts: The local Scouts' unit regularly use the park for all sorts of outside activities and are often involved in community events.

Schools: This January (2025) 58 children and 6 staff from the local primary schools were involved in the planting of hedges at the western border of the park.

Children also helped to plant apple and pear trees in a small section of the park we call 'the orchard'.

We encourage local people to bring children into the park and one child minder often brings her charges for adventure trails. We held a Teddy Bears' Picnic, open to all local children under 5 and their parents. 20 children attended plus mums, dads and grandparents.

2. Adults' Courses:

Throughout spring 2025 'Art in Nature' and 'Movement in Nature' courses ran for 6 weeks. These were as much about promoting wellbeing as teaching art and movement, nature being recognised as helping people establish good mental health.

Training: Our volunteers are signed up with the GAVO Volunteer Recognition Scheme and in May 2024 some of our volunteers received certificates in recognition of their work with the Friends of the Eco Park.

One Volunteer was sent on a Chainsaw Training course organised by Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC). She continues to lead our small volunteer force in carrying out maintenance of the park and has recruited more members.

Groundwork Wales often help out and organise Corporate Days when groups come into the park to learn skills and help with specific tasks, such as clearing invasive species.

3. Projects:

We installed a defibrillator last July and in November we added a Stop the Bleed unit. Trustees received instruction in the use of this.

Steps in the Park were repaired in the autumn and we purchased a Roll-a-Ramp to help those with mobility problems to access our cabin and certain areas of the park.

Clearing the overgrowth of invasive species, such as nettles, bracken and brambles was necessary to make the southern entrance of the park and the pathway more accessible. (See above).

Last year's assessment of Keep Wales Tidy on awarding us our Green Flag Award was that we should cut back the wild meadow. This has been done and a row of trees planted to distinguish this area from the events field where we carry out most of our community events.

We have an ongoing project which is the provision of water on site. This has been partly accomplished.

4. Community Events:

Last year's Dog Show (June 2024) was a new event and was very successful. It was well attended and we hope to keep this as an annual event.

Friends of the Eco Park hosted a public talk by a local horticulturist.

5. Community Consultation:

We hired the Church Hall to hold an exercise called 'Planning For the Future'. It was open to all residents of Cefn Fforest in order to inform them about 'The Friends of the Eco Park' and the work we do, raise their awareness of the park itself, and to find out what they would like us to provide for their benefit. There was a display of photographs of the park, various charts for people to fill in and questionnaires were given out.

Although there was a clash with other events, we were pleased with the

attendance, and there were many positive comments and interesting suggestions. We will now take these on board in our forward planning. Another such event was held in Fleur de Lys. As our charts are portable, we could take this kind of consultation exercise to various groups and schools in the future.

6. Partnership and Networking:

Representatives of Friends of the Eco Park attended a variety of events that bring together voluntary organisations, charities and third sector organisations.

Two trustees joined the Cefn Fforest & Pengam Community Partnership which aims to help and support community cohesion.

Trustees join in events held by other organisations to promote the Eco Park and similarly we invite local groups to our events.

7. Awards:

Last year (2024) we were awarded a Green Flag Award from Keep Wales Tidy as in the last few years.

Last Autumn our trustees' work was acknowledged by The Gwent Association for Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) and 2 of our trustees received awards at a local ceremony for charities and voluntary organisations.



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Friends of the Eco Park

On accounts for the year
ended

31/05/2025

Charity no
(if any)

1208421

Set out on pages

3-4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/05/2025**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

G. Butts

Date:

4/6/2025

Name:

Georgine Butts

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

CIMA - Chartered Institute of
Management Accountants

Address:

Wymar Bungalow

Tonypistyll Road

Newbridge, Newport, NP11 4HT

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Friends of the Eco Park

1208421

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

28/05/2024

To

31/05/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations, legacies & grants	271	2,011	-	2,282	2,632
Fundraising Events	1,635	-	-	1,635	1,501
Subscriptions	158	-	-	158	113
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,064	2,011	-	4,075	4,246
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,064	2,011	-	4,075	4,246
A3 Payments					
Cost of fundraising events	477	-	-	477	389
Rent/hire of rooms	195	-	-	195	15
Repairs and maintenance	470	1,730	-	2,200	866
Light and heating	17	-	-	17	19
Water and sewerage	288	-	-	288	449
Insurance	891	-	-	891	860
Telephone, internet and postage	183	-	-	183	-
Printing, postage, stationery and computer supplies	110	-	-	110	56
Equipment	881	-	-	881	704
Grants & Donations Paid	-	-	-	-	225
Sub total	3,512	1,730	-	5,242	3,583
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Defibrillator	1,678	-	-	1,678	-
Portable Ramp	-	1,602	-	1,602	-
Sub total	1,678	1,602	-	3,280	-
Total payments	5,190	3,332	-	8,522	3,583
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,126	- 1,321	-	- 4,447	663
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,718	2,011	-	9,729	-
Cash funds this year end	4,592	690	-	5,282	663

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Balance as at 31/05/25	4,570	690	-
	Cash in Hand	22	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,592	690	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

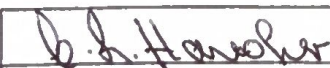
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Defibrillator	Unrestricted	1,678	-
	Porta Ramp	Restricted	1,602	-
	Container - storage	Unrestricted	-	-
	Container - office	Unrestricted	-	-
	Solar Panels	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	CHRISTOPHER L HAWKER	5/6/2025
	CHRISTINE EDWARDS	5/6/2025