

CIC 34

Community Interest Company Report

For official use
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*Please
complete in
typescript, or
in bold black
capitals.*

Company Name in
full

FRIENDS OF PARKINSON'S PARK CIC

Company Number

10044868

Year Ending

31 MARCH 2021

PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

Please insert a general account of the company's activities in the financial year to which the report relates, including a description of how they have benefited the community.

As indoor community spaces closed down during the pandemic and resulting lockdowns, outdoor spaces such as the Park took on an increased level of importance for health and wellbeing. The focus of FOPP in 2020/2021 therefore was to step up and support the local community. In April 2020 we completed an urgent survey from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government who wanted to know what barriers and challenges there were to the public use of parks and green spaces during the pandemic. In May 2020 FOPP, along with other Leeds Parks Forum members, received a 'Local Legends' blue plaque from Leeds Civic Trust for looking after the Park in difficult times. In September 2020 ITV Calendar chose Parkinson's Park as one of four quirky, interesting, Yorkshire Parks to feature in their Park Life series. The park was mentioned a number of times by respondents to a Guiseley survey in February 2021 on how local people had coped with the pandemic and lockdown.

1. **Many of our usual events could not be held because of Government public health regulations on gathering and lockdown. FOPP therefore designed new, flexible, events that could be done by families under the regulations current at any one time. The objective was to improve physical and mental health by generating a feeling of social connection and community spirit at a difficult time:**
 - The Park was decorated with displays for national VE Day anniversary celebrations: different areas were done by different families to showcase a particular local aspect of the Victory in Europe. Residents were invited to take a daily walk to explore the displays.
 - With gatherings in doubt, we changed our lantern parade for a much acclaimed Christmas Light Display and Elf Trail – the display was done via individual families completing their area, but creating a unifying whole across the park. We also involved Guiseley Primary School and the 1st Reva Rainbows. The trail was designed for individuals/families to do in their own time throughout the Christmas period.
 - We encouraged families and individuals to use both the Park and our social media for sharing community art and activities on daily walks. A display of 'hope rainbows' were put in Park notice boards, (4 new notice boards were added at the main gates) craft items could be displayed on the celebration tree (all hanging in the open air and the sunshine), painted stones were left around the Park for others to find, photography could be shared on social media. In the winter 2021 lockdown, residents, including those in care homes, were encouraged to add painted stones recording contemporary events to the Parkinson's Python – a painted stone trail.
 - When gathering restrictions relaxed in summer 2020 the Park could be booked by groups for permitted activity such as 'baby signing' classes and youth group activities. In winter 2021 the Park was used by a local group for month long 'Day In the Wood trails' funded by Leeds City Council for young people.
 - We joined with other organizations in various ways. Remembrance Sunday 2020 came during a lockdown; as people could not attend the usual community events, FOPP organized a poppy display in the Park done by local crafters with a collection for the Royal British Legion. A similar lockdown event was created for Valentine's Day 2021 in conjunction with local sponsors where people, including those from care homes, could hang crafted hearts on a display for missed loved ones.
2. **We have always made improvements to the Park's ecological habitats in conjunction with community organizations but in 2020 it became more important to involve individuals with nature to help relieve stress from the pandemic and lockdown with positive action. We particularly aimed to keep people in touch with the sights and sounds of each season. This in turn has helped reignite an interest in the natural world for many people which we hope to build on in the future:**

- Work continued on developing areas of the park on an individual or small group basis in line with fluctuating regulations. eg the wild flower area, the orchard, bog garden and the entrance gates. Our policy of different people taking responsibility for different areas meant that this worked well.
- A monthly display of wild flowers to find was displayed in the main notice board and on social media. We also regularly posted information on wildlife to spot, count and nurture in the park eg hedgehogs and butterflies. For Heritage Open Day a FOPP online presentation featured 'hidden nature' in the park. Seeds and bulbs given by outside organizations eg RHS were distributed to local residents, especially children, to grow or plant. And, in the autumn 2020 we organized a tree seed collection for a Leeds project to create more woodland.
- In early 2021 we were able to give a work placement to a student from Craven College whose normal route to work placements had been closed due to lockdown. This was managed successfully in line with Government regulations, and a number of useful projects completed eg improving the Greenshaw entrance and wood, creating a small allotment in the Orchard for increased biodiversity.

3. Creating a Quality Park was of prime concern in 2020/21 with a particular focus on safety and features.

- All activity was undertaken with a specific coronavirus risk assessment. (see part 2 LCC)
- We discouraged gatherings in the Park when regulations did not allow for them, and have taken steps to promote Leeds Park By-Laws in a 'carrot' rather than a 'stick' way. Overcoming the anti-social issues of drug taking and dog mess are two ongoing tasks.
- Individual activity to maintain a safe park eg litter picking, removing dog waste, was encouraged, especially as the numbers using the park increased. FOPP lent out our litter pickers for the task.
- Dognapping became more prevalent in 2020 – residents could use both our social media and Park Watch scheme as an alert system. FOPP kept an eye on local incidents and liaised with the Police.
- Once Government regulations allowed, general park upkeep was resumed eg grass cutting and hedge trimming.
- In October 2020 we started a campaign for donations towards new benches for the park. This was especially important given that social lives and support went 'outside', and for the increase in the number of older people who used the park. January 2021 saw four new benches fitted – one was designated a 'natter bench'. These are becoming popular in many parks and encourage people to start up conversations with each other; this helps counter the increase in loneliness, isolation and depression.
- As a result of the benches a new herb planter was donated by a local resident in memory of his wife: working in conjunction with Incredible Edible Aireborough this is for park users to pick and use.
- We were able to put woodchip on paths over winter to try and make them safer but the increase in park use and a wet winter meant that this was not as successful as in previous years and some areas became treacherous. In early 2021 we successfully applied to Leeds City Council for S106 monies to enable us to put down hardcore paths to improve things for winter 2021/22.

4. Resources and income streams for activity came from the following:

- Grant from Betty's in conjunction with Open Country for creating new habitats
- Local Councillor community 'mice' money for gate notice boards
- Fund raising events eg Christmas Trail
- Donations via Local Giving
- A match funded coronavirus recovery campaign from Local Giving in Autumn 2020
- Donations from private individuals for general use or particular items eg benches
- Provision of seeds and bulbs to distribute from organizations such as RHS

PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS - *Please indicate who the company's stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been engaged and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its engagement? If there has been no consultation, this should be made clear.*

Friends – have been involved in all the activities of the Park in 2020/21. Much of this has had to be through individuals taking on responsibility for their part of the operation to improve health and wellbeing and working alone or with their families: this has therefore been a very democratic process. FOPP has provided the co-ordination and project management.

Local Community Organizations and Representatives – FOPP has been able to provide local organizations with a venue for their activities in line with regulations at any one time including a student placement. External organizations have also supported FOPP's activities in a variety of ways and brought their own ideas to projects. This has enabled us to improve the facilities in the Park eg more benches.

Local Community – have been kept informed and engaged through a variety of media from digital to personal. In 2020/21 we branched out into new channels such as notice boards, zoom and YouTube.

Meadfleet (land managers) – We have regular discussions and consult with the relevant area and regional managers at Meadfleet.

Leeds City Council (LCC)– FOPP keeps regular contact with our ward Councillors who support our activities. We are also members of Leeds Parks Forum which is organized by LCC. On a day to day basis various departments of LCC may be involved with work we are doing eg we consulted their safety advisory group over CV risk management, or we support work that LCC is doing eg creating woodland through seed gathering. The Park is now officially recognized in the Leeds Local Plan – Strategic Green Infrastructure, as both a Natural Area and a Community Park.

(If applicable, please just state "A social audit report covering these points is attached").

PART 3 – DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION – *if you have provided full details in your accounts you need not reproduce it here. Please clearly identify the information within the accounts and confirm that, "There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director's loss of office, which require to be disclosed" (See example with full notes). If no remuneration was received you must state that "no remuneration was received" below.*

No remuneration has been received by any of the Directors.

PART 4 – TRANSFERS OF ASSETS OTHER THAN FOR FULL CONSIDERATION – *Please insert full details of any transfers of assets other than for full consideration e.g. Donations to outside bodies. If this does not apply you must state that “no transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made” below.*

No transfer of assets of any kind has occurred

(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)

PART 5 – SIGNATORY

The original report must be signed by a director or secretary of the company

Signed

Jennifer A Kirkby

Date

16 October
2021

*Office held - **Director***

You do not have to give any contact information in the box opposite but if you do, it will help the Registrar of Companies to contact you if there is a query on the form. The contact information that you give will be visible to searchers of the public record.

2 The Sycamores, Guiseley	
West Yorkshire	
LS20 9EN	
Tel 01943 877360	
DX Number	DX Exchange

When you have completed and signed the form, please attach it to the accounts and send both forms by post to the Registrar of Companies at:

For companies registered in England and Wales: Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ
DX 33050 Cardiff

For companies registered in Scotland: Companies House, 4th Floor, Edinburgh Quay 2, 139
Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, EH3 9FF DX 235 Edinburgh or LP – 4 Edinburgh 2

For companies registered in Northern Ireland: Companies House, 2nd Floor, The Linenhall, 32-38
Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BG

(N.B. Please enclose a cheque for £15 payable to Companies House)