

CIC 34

Community Interest Company Report

For official use
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*Please
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typescript, or
in bold black
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Company Name in
full

FRIENDS OF PARKINSON'S PARK CIC

Company Number

10044868

Year Ending

31 MARCH 2023

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.

Parkinson's Park continued to provide a valued green space for recreation and general wellbeing and is well supported by Local Councillors and other organizations. In August 2022 the Park was awarded 'Local Favourite' status in Yorkshire in a public vote organized nationally by Fields in Trust. The Friends continued to offer community affirming events. Most notable during 2023 was the community picnic in June for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and commemoration of her reign in September which included several projects to help build the Queen's Green Canopy legacy

1. FACILITATE A PROGRAMME OF EVENTS TO GENERATE COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

On 24 February 2022 all Covid restrictions in England were lifted; thereafter, FOPP events could take place under normal condition. Given two years of social containment, it was important in the 2022/23 event programme to bring people back together to rebuild social connection and mental health. It was fortunate that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee presented an excellent opportunity to achieve this, together with the re-establishment of traditional FOPP events. Events incorporated successful community engaging innovations from the Covid years eg children's trails, and park art.

- June 2022 saw FOPP hold a Jubilee picnic which encouraged people to join together in sharing food, community art, and fancy dress. The centrepiece was the dedication of the Jubilee Tree, which was registered as part of The Queen's Green Canopy, and for which a professional story teller was engaged and a commemoration plaque installed.
- The popular children's trails were incorporated into Easter, Jubilee and the Gala events.
- The traditional Children's Gala had a Circus theme, with a range of community led activity and a Circus performer teaching 'tricks'.
- The much loved annual Lantern Parade spruced up the feature FOPP lanterns, commissioned new ones, and started up a 'flash' community band with enthusiastic local residents.
- FOPP's activity programme linked into seasonal and national events such as Valentines, Remembrance (dedicated to 100 years of the local Royal British Legion) and Advent; along with the national events such as Great British Spring Clean, and the Big Garden Birdwatch,. The programme featured Park art installations and decorations, building on the crafting skills of a range of people developed as a creative team during the 'Covid years'. Recycling was a key focus in much of the craftwork.
- FOPP supported a number of community events to help raise funds and awareness for local organizations, including a Church Christmas Tree Festival, a Christmas Market and a Charity for Older Citizens.

2. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND ENJOYMENT OF THE AREA AND ITS HERITAGE.

The Park is official classed by Leeds City Council as a natural green space, as well as a community park, so developing the variety of ecological habitats it contains is an important aim. In the 2022/23 financial year, FOPP hosted a variety of groups to either learn about or help manage different habitats. A key project was the start of the development of a Willow Walk in the wetter areas, along with the planting of fruit bearing trees along Jubilee Walk as part of The Queen's Green Canopy by local Girlguiding groups.

- Work continued on developing different areas of the park by various groups eg the orchard, herb planter, and entrance gates. The overgrown Nethercliffe Entrance was a particular focus for working parties of local residents. Disability Charity Open Country was able to attend to areas such as the bog garden more regularly once Covid restrictions were lifted.
- The planned Willow Walk was started with a willow tunnel entrance with money from the Co-op community fund. It was installed by a team of residents working with an expert.
- The Park continued to be used by different groups for an outdoor learning venue, with FOPP hosting schools and uniformed groups for games and park tasks such as wildflower, tree and bulb

planting. The Park was also used for an ecology talk and photography morning by Aireborough Camera Club, and, as their contribution to Green Week, by St Oswald's Church. The Easter Trail was organized by a local Educational Support Company.

- FOPP continue to encourage participation in events that teach about the natural world, such as the Big Garden Birdwatch, spring Blossom Season, and the summer Butterfly count. We again held a successful autumn Apple Juicing Day, which allows people to juice apples that would otherwise go to waste, and to learn more about orchards. Also in autumn, various community groups come to the Park to build up the stock of spring bulbs ready for the following Spring show which lifts so many spirits after the Winter.
- Heritage was the focus of a specially commissioned story, telling the tale of our area through the interaction of people and different varieties of trees. Written by Bradford author Irene Lofthouse, it was performed at the Jubilee Picnic. The story was published in a commemoration booklet for her majesty The Queen and her Green Canopy legacy – it contained a hand-drawn illustration donated by Yorkshire artist Eleanor Tomlinson in return for a FOPP donation to the Princes Trust. Copies of the booklet have been lodged in local libraries, schools and heritage centres.

3. IMPROVE PARK FACILITIES IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER GROUPS. CONTINUE TO ENSURE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY :

We were delighted to be nominated for Fields In Trust's national vote to find the favourite Parks and Green Spaces in the UK. Parkinson's Park achieved 'Local Favourite' status in Yorkshire reflecting the love shown for these parks by their local communities. This is an accolade to all the work that goes into developing quality Park features and tackling different aspects of anti-social behaviour.

- Overcoming the anti-social issues of drug taking, vandalism and dog mess are three ongoing tasks. During the year a new process for disposing of dog waste in poo bags was developed by FOPP – this has been a success.
- Individual activity to maintain a safe park eg litter picking, removing dog waste, was encouraged.
- General park upkeep was resumed in conjunction with Meadfleet, eg grass cutting, hedge trimming, and scrub removal.
- Signs were put up to remind people to shut the gates after the Covid years – this followed damage to gates caused by them blowing around in the wind once they were no longer pegged open.
- FOPP undertook small renovation tasks eg broken gate handles at our own expense.
- A new memorial bench to commemorate a local resident was installed.
- Paths were wood-chipped ready for winter to try and make them safer. FOPP was unsuccessful in obtaining permission for a proposal to upgrade paths to limestone chipping due to the unique way the Park is funded.

4. GENERATE INCOME FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES FOR ORGANIZATIONAL VIABILITY

Resources and income streams for activity came from the following:

- Fund raising events.
- Donations via Local Giving, organizations using the Park, and a donation box in the Park.
- **Co-Op Local Cause scheme** which raised £1,277 and was used to fund the Willow Walk.
- Community grant organizations **Leeds Inspired** and **Local Giving** helped fund the Lantern Parade.
- **Outer North West Leeds Community Committee and Local Giving** funded the Jubilee Story and Storyteller.
- Local Councillor Community 'mice' money supported several small projects that benefit the wider community and enhance facilities.
- Provision of bulbs from Meadfleet and trees from the Woodland Trust.
- Basic general maintenance of the Park is funded by the residents of Edison Fields through Management Company Meadfleet. FOPP do not receive these funds but play a part in outlining an annual maintenance programme.

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.*

FOPP Board – One Board Director retired and a new Board member was welcomed who has legal experience. This gives the Board a diverse range of professional skills and experience from social work to IT, ecology to business analysis, craft skills to finance.

Friends – have been increasingly involved in all the activities of the Park in 2022/23. This has been on both an individual basis and in groups. FOPP has provided the risk and project management.

Local Community Organizations and Representatives – FOPP has been able to provide local organizations with a suitable venue for their learning activities and experiences. External organizations have also supported FOPP's activities in a variety of ways and brought their own ideas to projects. This has enabled the joint achievement of objectives which all adds to community cohesion.

Local Community – have been kept informed and engaged through a variety of media from digital to personal. We have taken part in groups dedicated to supporting community organizations such as ourselves to strengthen the local volunteer network.

Meadfleet (land managers) – Meadfleet have formalised FOPP's relationship with them which we welcome. We now have a more formal process for contact, discussions and approval of Park use for risk management.

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. The Park is now officially recognized in the Leeds Local Plan – Strategic Green Infrastructure, as both a Natural Area and a Community Park. We take part in relevant Local Plan consultations.

(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 November 2023

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