



Friends of
**Victoria Park
Stretford**

Annual Report

2018/2019

1.0 Executive Summary

The Friends of Victoria Park, Stretford formed in 2001 and constituted in March 2002 as a community group. During 2018 we gained registered charity status as a CIO in preparation for running The Tearoom and The Community Building. Our Constitution can be found on our website.

Our charitable aim is as follows: For the benefits of the inhabitants of Stretford, 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 their conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area in particular but not exclusively by the preservation, promotion, support, assistance and improvement of Victoria Park

We formed to save and restore our local park which had become a no-go zone due to it being so neglected by Trafford Council. Over the past 16 years we have worked tirelessly to make improvements and stage wonderful events that bring our community together and raise funds for the improvements.

All the current board [12 members] live in Stretford and have a desire to improve the park for our community. We are lucky that the current Mayor of Trafford is our Secretary and the Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Climate Change for Trafford Council is also one of our board members.

OUR MISSION

[What we do]

To ensure Victoria Park remains as one of the best community hubs and visitor attractions in Stretford / Trafford.

OUR VISION

[What we want to be]

To be a welcoming, vibrant park; the vital green heart of our urban community; offering modern facilities, and yet maintaining elements of its Victorian heritage.

OUR GOALS

[What we must achieve]

- A well-maintained park for all;
- A broad, diverse and socially inclusive set of volunteers;
- An exciting events calendar throughout the year;
- Partnership working with other groups in Stretford / Trafford and Trafford Council;
- A well run and accessible community building / café;
- Harnessing local talent / expertise;
- An educational resource and signposting facility

OUR BEHAVIOURS

[How we will work]

- Integrity;
- Opportunities and Respect for All;
- Families and Friendships
- Inclusivity;
- Responsive to community needs;
- Caring & Supportive;
- Ethical; & Sustainable

2.0 Our Year in review

Victoria Park has suffered from a lack of infrastructure investment from Trafford Council for many years and things are getting progressively worse with Trafford continuing to make budget cuts in this financial year. This has led to a bare minimum of gardening maintenance works being carried out such as mowing and pruning – but no replacement of lost trees or shrubs or planting. Our paths are crumbling, we have gaps and broken fence-lines and no council funding available to fix these.

For the last 2 years we have had skeleton operations as we have been without the building to allow us the facilities to allow our groups to meet. This has led to a decrease in park usage and reduced feeling of community and less community events.

The park still looks well maintained at a very high level as underlying issues are masked by a lot of the volunteer work carried out by us. We know the full extent of the problems though and are looking at ways to improve the situation for the long-term benefit of the park.

events 2018

Easter Saturday saw our ever popular event. The Easter Egg Hunt, craft activities, competition and cable bottle pull were a great success. An inexpensive but fun family day out.

Picnic in the park was a huge event this year. Live music, stalls, street food, activities for children and lovely weather made the event everything we could have wished for.

Halloween saw the annual lantern making and spooky after-dance walk. There was plenty to do before being thrilled by a life size puppet monster. Scary song videos and warming tomato soup went down a treat.

The Christmas event was magical. Children from three local schools performed across and Father Christmas found time to visit the groups. Stalls, activities and walks were very popular. Lots of goodwill.

our part in the community

The park provides an invaluable learning opportunity for local infant children, many of whom live in houses without gardens. Many see their enthusiasm when they discover a beetle, a nest of bumblebees or a queen spider. Truly wonderful.

The gardening club has continued to flourish. It provides exercise and friendship for people who may be feeling vulnerable or who just enjoy being in the fresh air. Links have been established with members of a local autistic support group, whose members spend a day building bird boxes and a green-roofed bug hotel.

The park provided local children with a venue for their sponsored walk. The whole of the nearby infant school took part. There was a picnic lunch to build up stamina and then a five mile walk. Lots of parents came to support, and much needed funds were raised.

The park provided the venue for the local infant school sports day. Egg and spoon and sack races were all part of the fun. There was a chance for grown ups to show off their 'lower no further' in the parents' races.

other matters

Maintenance is ongoing. Two new benches are in place and the display cases have been given a makeover. There is a rolling program of bench painting and new letter boxes have been installed.

Saturday mornings find the Park thronged with the young and not so young playing football on their phones.

In brief. As part of the Network Rail scheme of encouraging volunteering, employees played table tennis in the park. A local teenager working towards her Duke of Edinburgh award has been supported in raising funds to travel to Tanzania.

Work has continued to bring our new community building into being. The lease has now been signed out to celebrate this a new logo has been created. The logo shows the response sculpture the sculpture in place in the park.

FOVPS ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018 / 2019

Protected Income Pot Balances

	Carried Forward Balance 2017/2018	paid in 2018/19	paid out 2018/19	Balance for future spend
Crack Club	£1,033.57	£0.00		£1,033.57
Stretford Club & Glebe	£1,370.00	£1,300.00	£2,023.07	£647.01
Council - building	-£346.80	£135,165.00	£3,820.12	£130,996.08
PIP		£0.00	£4,000.00	
Stretford Regr Project	£1,887.07	£6,565.30	£3,246.27	£5,206.10
Project	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
Bury/Carling	70.00	£1,501.02	£1,501.02	£0.00
Total:			£137,882.76	

Signed by Treasurer:

G Johnston

S. Scintan-Hume, Signed by Chairperson



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	Friends of Victoria Park		
On accounts for the year ended	2018/19	Charity no (if any)	1179731
Set out on pages	1-2		
Responsibilities and basis of report	<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 04/04/2019</p> <p>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").</p> <p>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.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>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.</p>		
Signed:		Date:	10/5/2019
Name:	KIRSTY THOMAS.		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):			
Address:	62 SOUTHGATE, URMSTON, M41 9EG.		

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Oct 2018

Section B Disclosure

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.

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4.0 Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees

Shelly Quinton-Hulme – *Chairperson* – Planning Specialist

Cath Johnston – *Treasurer* – Sustainability Specialist

Tom Ross – *Secretary* – Mayor of Trafford until May 2019

Ita Kirrane – Community Integration Specialist

Heather Jones – Arts & Craft Specialist

Stephen Adshead – Council Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality & Climate Change

Rick Louw – PR / Communications Specialist

Liz Powell – Assistant Treasurer

Jean Napier – Education Specialist

Margaret Longworth – Events Specialist

Christine Barry – Childcare Specialist

Fiona McDonald-Naughton – Mental Health Specialist

Independent Financial Examiner for 2019/20– Kirsty Thomas

The Board of Trustees are responsible for setting the long-term direction of the group and ensuring good governance for the charity is always adhered to. They are also there to further the charity's objects as set out in the governing document. They will also ensure financial probity and be the accountable body for the group. They will report to our community via an annual report and annual accounts and an Annual General Meeting to which the public are invited.

Most of the board's work takes place at our board meetings where trustees will act collectively. We will often concentrate on big issues at these meetings, making key decisions, monitoring activities and then delegating day to day work to others – staff, volunteers, management committees or individual trustees.

The Management Committees will look at the operational aspects of the charity and business as usual. They will bring the management information to the Board of Trustees for decisions to be made regarding spend, budget and asset planning to ensure that the group strategy and good governance is adhered to. The Management Committee's will have a named lead and will consist of volunteers, each lead determines who and how many are in their committee and holds their own meetings. Management Leads will be invited to some of the board meetings to input into strategies.

Management Committee Leads

<u>Community</u>	<u>Lead</u>
Dogs and their Walkers	Cath Johnston
Runners / Walkers / Joggers	Shelly Quinton-Hulme
Gardening / Nature / Wildlife	Sarah Gregory & Gayle Cawson
The Community Building	Shelly Quinton-Hulme
Heritage [eg gates and railings]	Barbara Hart
Arts [including photography, mosaics, sculptures, events, groups]	Heather Jones & Helen Ardley
Group Cohesion / Group Promotion & Awards	Tom Ross
Governance, Policies, & Ethics	Ita Kirrane
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion [families, new mums, minority groups, elderly, lonely etc]	Bernice Garlick
Foodbank / Charities Link	Christine Barry
Stretford Shedders	Sarah Gregory
Schools Link	Jean Napier
Sports / Games [Eg football, basketball, Pokemon Go, geocaching, tennis, rounders, bootcamps, bowls, petanque]	Shelly Quinton-Hulme
Infrastructure [paths, bins, equipment, noticeboards, sculptures]	Shelly Quinton-Hulme
Website / social media accounts	Rick Louw & Claudia De Carlo
Volunteer Management	Ita Kirrane

Currently all roles and work are carried out by volunteers – we have no paid staff. There is an aspiration that we will have a full time, paid member of staff to co-ordinate all groups using the park and community building once the building has been built. This staff member will ensure that maximum use of the facility and park is reached quickly and is sustained.

Volunteer hours should be recorded as accurately as possible and active volunteers should be sought for all our groups.