

**KING GEORGE'S FIELD, MILE END
CHARITY NO 1077859**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For The Year Ended 31 March 2012**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2012. The financial statements are subject to audit, and are shown on pages 6 to 11 of this report.

The legal and financial information set out below forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the constitution, and the Statement of Recommended Practice-Accounting and Reporting by Charities, as published by the Charities Commission in March, 2005, and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 629, 2008).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

King George's Field Mile End is a registered charity. It is referred to throughout this report as the "Charity".

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The sole trustee of the Charity is the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, which delegates its responsibilities to a Committee called the King George's Field Trust Charity Board which directs the affairs of the Charity and acts as the Charity's trustees. The affairs of the Charity are directed by the Board of Trustees. The trustees meet formally quarterly or more frequently, if required. For Mile End Park, the original master plan, directed by the Trustees, is now largely complete. There is a formal agenda for meetings which is agreed in advance with the Chair of the Trustees. The day to day running of Mile End Park is delegated to the Parks Development Officer (Community). For Mile End Park, an Annual Management Plan is produced, which is geared to the annual Green Flag competition, and looks at the park for the period January to December.

The original Trust Deed, and the subsequent variations, which are referred to below, also dealt with the use of other open space and park areas, within what is now the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. These other areas are managed by other Council employees.

The members of the Charity Board were also those Councillors who were the members of the Mayoral Cabinet.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Mile End Park has its own Annual Service Plan that covers, amongst other matters, the major strategic, business and operational risks. The Service Plan covers the period April to March, and is used to inform the overall Communities, Localities & Culture Directorate plan and individual performance targets. In practice, there is an overlap between this and the Annual Management Plan, but the emphasis and content may

vary. In respect of the other park and open space areas, the Council has similar strategies to deal with business and operational risks. The Charity Board is satisfied that systems are in place to monitor and control all areas where there is an identifiable risk with financial, operational, or reputational implications.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITY

The Charity's objectives are set out in the Trust Deed, dated 9th November, 1965, and a Deed of Variation dated 29th January, 1997. They are as follows:

To preserve in perpetuity the covenanted land and to apply the land to such charitable purposes as are set out in the Recreational Charities Act 1958, including the construction of indoor recreational facilities, subject to the approval of the National Playing Fields Association and the Charity Commission in respect of any additional purposes.

Generally, the Charity maintains the area of Mile End Park as a park and open space for the recreation of the general public, including but not limited to the inhabitants of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The other park and open space areas are managed to achieve similar objectives

In detail, the following activities were carried out in Mile End Park during the year ending 31 March 2012, which also include references to the plans for future periods.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MILE END PARK

The year 2011- 2012 witnessed the first new planting on top of the Green Bridge since the bridge was constructed. This was carried out as part of the improvements to High Street 2012.

The bridge was planted with over 17,000 plants with such species as Alder, Birch, English Broome, Black Pine and Ivy with the intention of truly greening the bridge by treating it as a green roof and allowing the tree seedlings to achieve their ultimate height dictated by their ability to obtain water.

In addition to the planting, there are two new areas that have been designed to attract the wildlife and to simultaneously dissuade anti-social behavior which had previously been a problem.

New lighting on the bridge gives another perspective of the bridge, when night falls and also reduces the fear of crime in this area.

Also as part of the High Street 2012 improvements the informal entrance to the park from Mile End Road has been improved with the removal of some of the tree understorey and the railings, revealing enticing views from the road. A low wall acts as an intermittent boundary marker as well as somewhere for older people to sit and children to climb and has vastly improved this entrance into the park.

Once again, the park provided a programme of events including the ever popular sleepovers where local children and their parents get the opportunity to sleep under canvas in the heart of the park, something impossible in an area with few private gardens. Equally popular was the Harry Potter themed Halloween Event. This has

drawn families for 8 years and has become a feature of the area. Also in 2011, the park held a special event to celebrate the royal wedding, which had, in addition to the usual attractions, an opportunity for local children to make their own bejeweled crowns.

In partnership with Youth Services, teenagers saw the Skate Park open a welcome youth cafe and chilling area to complete the work in this area, proving a very popular venue for young people.

Another partnership, this time focusing on older people, has seen the development of a garden designed for older people. This has gone from strength to strength. The garden now boasts a garden shed, raised beds and in 2011 produced a full crop of vegetables thanks to Link Age Plus and their supporters.

New hedgerows have been planted along Kirks Place and Wennington Green, together with new wild flower meadows sown around the area of the Meath Bridge for the visual pleasure of all who visit the park or travel along the canal tow path.

In the Art Park, the harsh concrete edges have been covered in coir matting impregnated with wild flowers that will disguise the lake margins. The gabions that provide the other margins of the art lake have been refilled and topped with limestone chips and dust. These have been planted with suitable plants which will in time disguise the edges in the same way as the coir matting.

The 2011-12 count of beetles recorded in the park now totals 301 species. To put this in perspective, the ecologist believes that Oxleas Wood, an ancient woodland near Welling in South-East London, had a list of only about 420 in 2010, and 301 is almost as many as the whole of Hampstead Heath which recorded 313. So it is likely that Mile End Park will overtake Hampstead Heath during 2012.

To commemorate the life and work of a young resident, who lived next to the parkland and who died tragically young, friends raised money and commissioned an installation of beautifully crafted seats carved from wood, and designed for adults to sit and for children to clamber over. The woman worked extensively with children, so this seems particularly fitting, and the exhortation to children to climb on the wooden furniture neatly sums up the ethos of the park, and the young woman herself.

The park is now 10 years old and some of the original elements are in need of repair or replacement. The climbing wall in the children's Play Park was one such element that had reached the end of its life. Ingeniously, the area has been re-landscaped to incorporate timber as a natural play element. It retains the capability of climbing so that children can continue to test themselves against the equipment using ropes to mountaineer the steep slope.

Continuing the theme of children's play, the latest project for 2011- 12 is the Mile Of Play, a series of play moments along the length of the park. The intention is that children discover discrete areas of play on their journey through the park, allowing parents to have a longer walk and encouraging exercise through play. The play areas are able to hold the child's attention for a few minutes before they are seeking out the

next. Such play moments range from tree stumps and a tree crown to climb, to a set of stepping stones through shallow water.

The continuing economic situation has impacted on the shops that form a significant proportion of the park's rental income budget. However the Board's decision to encourage more blue chip companies has seen significant and positive impact on that budget. However, until all the units are fully occupied with financially stable businesses, paying the full year's rentals, it is likely that there will be a lower level of income, and this is likely to continue until 2013. After this point it should be possible to maintain a stable financial position, with full achievement of the income budget.

In 2011 Mile End Park was awarded its eighth consecutive Green Flag and an additional award for innovation. The park continued to be visited by people from other countries including Mexico, Denmark and South Korea wishing to take examples of good practice back with them to parks in their own countries.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The net incoming resources for the year totalled £896,531, (£923,205 in 2010/2011). This included a contribution from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets of £267,173 (£365,840 in 2010/2011). Incoming resources of £896,531 exceeded resources expended of £821,531 by £75,000, and this amount will be carried forward to offset expenditure in subsequent years.

The Charity continued to rely on a number of sources for its income, in addition to the financial contribution from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Within Mile End Park, these included Commercial Rents from properties located in the Green Bridge shops, and fees and charges from the letting of other facilities in the park, e.g. Connexions, Electric Go-Karts, and the hire of pavilions. The sources of income are shown in more detail in the attached financial report. There are no Restricted Funds or Endowment Funds, as defined within the Statement of Recommended Practice, 2005.

The Charity is grateful to all who provided it with funds to enable it to carry out its work within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The largest items of expenditure continue to be the cost of staff salaries, and the work of maintaining the park areas and buildings within them. Staff salaries accounted for £282,066 in 2011/2012 (34% of total resources expended, compared with £348,465 in 2010/2011 or 38%). The reduction of £69,812 reflects the reorganisation of services, within the Communities, Localities & Culture Directorate. Repairs and maintenance accounted for £287,343 (35% of total resources expended, compared with £333,902 in 2010/2011, or 36%).

Full details of the Charity's revenue income and expenditure are given in the accompanying financial statements. This includes the figures for income and expenditure in the format required for submission to the Charity Commission, and these are shown on Page 7 of the report.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The Charity has no investments.

RESERVES POLICY

Since the sole trustee is the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, which meets in full the Charity's net expenditure, the Charity's funding is secured. In previous years, the Trust Charity Board has therefore not needed to set up any financial reserves to protect against any unforeseen fluctuations in income or expenditure. In 2011/2012, incoming resources of £893,118 exceeded resources expended of £818,118, by £75,000, and this amount will be carried forward to offset expenditure in subsequent years.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trust Charity Board is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity as at the Balance Sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In preparing those financial statements which give a true and fair view, the Board should follow best practice and

- (a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- (b) make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- (c) state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- (d) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Charity will continue on that basis

The Board is responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity, and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the relevant statutory requirements.

The Board is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity, and are hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE CHARITY TRUST BOARD

The board consisted of the Mayoral Cabinet with the following members upto July, 2011

Mayor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Oliur Rahman

Deputy Mayor
Cabinet Member for Resources
Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Cabinet Member for Children's Services

From August 2011, the Mayoral cabinet consisted of the following members:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Deputy Mayor
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Rabina Khan	Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Oliur Rahman	Cabinet member for Jobs and Skills
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor Shahed Ali	Cabinet Member for Culture
Councillor Rania Khan	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Abdul Asad	

However, when they meet as the Board, their key decision-making must, as trustees, be in the best interests of the park and open space areas, within King George's Field.

AUDITORS

The accounts for 2011/2012 are subject to audit. The Charity's auditors will be the Council's External Auditors, which is the Audit Commission.

BANKERS

The Charity's bankers are the bankers for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, which is the Co-operative Bank,

SOLICITORS.

The Charity's solicitors are the Legal Service of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

The principal address of the Charity is the Council's address:
Tower Hamlets Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG