

## **Appendix 1**

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

#### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES For The Year Ended 31 March 2015**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015. The financial statements are subject to audit, and are shown on pages 7 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. 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 Parks Service within Tower Hamlets Council was restructured into the Arts, Parks and Events Service on 1 March 2013. Key responsibility for this service rests with the Head of Arts, Parks and Events. Mile End Park is managed by the Parks Manager and the day to day running of Mile End Park is delegated to the Parks Development Officer (Community); Parks Development Officer (Infrastructure) and Parks Community Involvement Officer (Young People).

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.

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### RISK ASSESSMENT

Tower Hamlets Council's Arts, Parks and Events Annual Service Plan encompasses Mile End Park and covers, amongst other matters, the major strategic, business and operational risks. The Annual 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 addition the Mile End Park Management Plan, which is refreshed annually, deals specifically with Mile End Park and, in addition to setting out aims and objectives, outlines key procedures, and strategic, business and operational risk management. 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 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1965, and a Deed of Variation dated 29<sup>th</sup> 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

### ACTIVITIES REPORT - MILE END PARK

#### General

- The park retained its Green Flag status for 2014/2015.
- The park continued to benefit from a growing corporate volunteer scheme which provides free labour and an income stream to the park. Over 1,500 corporate volunteers carried out horticultural and grounds maintenance based activities throughout the year. Income generated via this scheme was approximately £20k.
- The transformation of the Arts and Ecology Pavilions into venues which can be hired for weddings and similar functions has helped to raise income levels and help the park to get closer to being self-financing.
- The commercial units situated under the Green Bridge continue to generate income to the Trust and this income has been increased with the addition of a smaller unit which has now been rented out.

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- The proposal to introduce paid parking into the car park by the green bridge has been progressed with the scheme going live at the end of this period.

### Events

The service has carried out several community events and children's activities. The play park's annual 'Day by the Sea Side' was a huge success, which attracted over 5000 residents over the day. The service has worked in partnership with various local community groups, including the Friends of Mile End Park, and delivered many events for the locals and marginalized groups attracting thousands on each event. An example is working with a local group called Deafinity an event delivered aiming at deaf locals we attracted over a thousand visitors into the park engaging in various activities.

### Biodiversity Activities and Achievements

As a Metropolitan Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, Mile End Park contains some of the best example of London's habitats with particular rare species or important populations of species that are particularly significant within heavily built-up areas. The park is now amongst a selected number of green spaces in London which is noted for its ability to support a significant proportion of London's wildlife and to provide opportunities for people to have contact with the natural environment. This is reflected in the London Plan and local plans where it is afforded protection.

The following activities have taken place to enhance biodiversity, monitor biodiversity and increase access to nature:

- Spider and beetle monitoring: the latest count is 160 spiders and 351 beetles, with four new spiders recorded, and 26 new beetles. This includes a Nationally Notable spider associated with old grassland (*Centromerus incilium*).
- The flower beds by the Arts Pavilion have been gapped up with a range of perennial plants with value for wildlife and raised beds have been installed in the Ecology Park.
- Habitat enhancement in Kirks Place has taken place by continuing to layer broken bricks crushed into rubble and dust and spreading it across the area. This area is home to the rare Bombardier Beetle discovered here in 2010.
- The planting of a new native hedgerow in Wennington Green where it will grow to provide a screen to the metal fence and create a new habitat for wildlife.
- Increased access to the woodland copses within the park will increase access to nature and provide an improved environment for Forest Schools.
- The creation of more habitat piles across the park should help to increase biodiversity.
- The "central reservation bed" stretching across the entire park has been replanted with various hedging plants as in the original plan for the park

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### Arts and Ecology Pavilion Improvements

- Installation of Wi Fi in the Arts Pavilion
- Internal works, funded by S106 income, were undertaken and completed in the Arts Pavilion. These include the creation of:
  - a storage room to store chairs and tables,
  - a separate registrar's office which can be used as a private, space on non-wedding events,
  - two new catering areas to help cater for large events,
  - A hanging rail systems to offer additional space to arts exhibitors and also to divide sections of the room,
  - a complete renovation of men's, women's and disabled lavatories improvement of internal and external lighting,
  - and installation of external and internal CCTV,
- Purchase of 200 chairs and 20 tables for hirers to use for events, weddings and others uses in the Arts Pavilion.

### Play and Adventure Activities and Achievements

- The growing zone was enhanced with addition planting, compost bins and extra beds .
- Creation of a new enclosed children's garden within the playground.
- A summer programme of activities for schools and children.
- Introduction of a new inclusion session with PATH
- Installation of a new storage container to accommodate additional children's play equipment
- Installation of CCTV cameras linked up to main office at the playground / CCTV control room for improved security.
- Installation of the borough's very first accessible sea saw which can be used by disabled visitors.
- Planting up of the raised bed within the children's playground with a variety of perennial plants.
- Installation of additional picnic benches and tables at the Play Park
- The outdoor adventure activity area has gone from strength to strength with the new BMX facility proving to be very popular.

## FINANCIAL RESULTS

The net position for the trust for the year was a deficit of £19,572. (£20,000 net income resources 2013/2014). This was met from funds carried forward from previous years.

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.

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### **INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE**

The Charity has no investments, since there are no surplus funds.

### **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. The Trust Charity Board therefore does not need to set up any financial reserves to protect against any unforeseen fluctuations in income or expenditure.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES**

The Trust Charity Board are 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.

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### **THE CHARITY TRUST BOARD**

The board consisted of the Mayoral Cabinet with the following members for the financial year, 2014/2015

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Chair
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Vice Chair
Councillor Oliur Rahman	Member
Councillor Shahed Ali	Member
Councillor Abdul Asad	Member
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Member
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Member
Councillor Rabina Khan	Member
Councillor Aminur Khan	Member
Councillor Gulam Robbani	Member

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 2014/2015 are subject to audit.

### **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

**This report and the financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2016, and signed on their behalf by the Mayor of London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Chair of King George's Fields Charity Board.**