

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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For The Year Ended 31 March 2011**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011. 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 annually or as and when strategic direction is required. For Mile End Park, the original master plan, directed by the Trustees, is in the final stages of implementation. There is a formal agenda for meetings which is agreed in advance between the Chair of the Trustees and the Chair of the Mile End Park Partnership Board that meets quarterly. The day to day running of Mile End Park is delegated to the Director of the Mile End Park. The Mile End Park Partnership comprises two other bodies and the local authority. That board meets quarterly, and examines the progress made in the park. 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.

Prior to October 2010, the members of the King George's Fields Trust Charity Board were also those Councillors who were, for the time being, the Cabinet members of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. From October 2010 onwards, 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. The Service Plan is peer-reviewed triannually, and was initially published on the Council's web-site during 2008/2009. 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 2011, which also include references to the plans for future periods.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MILE END PARK

During the last year Mile End Park won its seventh consecutive Green Flag award, and, in addition, won a commendation for the introduction of a "no-smoking" policy in the Children's Play Park. The Park was also ranked tenth in the People's Park Award voted for by people across the country. Mile End Park also featured strongly in four dissertations in the last academic year looking at various aspects of social engagement between the community and the Park.

The Skateboard Park's two arches have now been converted into a covered area which will house a half pipe and skateboard outlet with a youth café offering an element of supervision and training, including the free loan of skateboards so that everyone can try out skateboarding. This is an inter-departmental partnership with Youth Services.

Many of the regular events held in the Park have now become part of the tradition of the area. Park Life, The Park After Dark and many other favourites show no sign of losing popularity. In the last year, the Park held two sleepovers in the summer, where children living in high-rise flats had the opportunity to camp out in the park.

Volunteers from the Royal Bank of Scotland constructed a Dog Gym, or more accurately a dog agility course, so that dogs and their owners can get fit. Monthly dog training courses now take place.

The Walk A Mile In Mile End Park is the world's first electronic measured mile in a public park. This is a route through the Park where participants can use a swipe card to record their progress and build up their levels of exercise. It is hoped that this will be promoted through the NHS.

An important discovery in the Park was that of the Bombardier Beetle in the Park. This is one of Britain's rarest beetles. The Streaked Bombardier Beetle has been found at only one other site in Britain. It is so rarely seen in the UK that it was only recently confirmed as a native British species, and was predicted to become extinct just a few years ago.

The Art Pavilion has continued to raise its profile with a programme of exhibitions throughout the year. The standard has been consistently high and varied, combining local artists, emerging artists, student shows, and established artists including a one-off appearance by Gavin Turk.

Raising income is going to be a continuing priority in 2011, in order to continue to balance the budget. Developing the Ecology Pavilion into a successful wedding venue, with a new website to advertise the usage to potential customers was a significant change of direction in 2010/2011.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The net incoming resources for the year totalled £923,205, (£846,882 in 2009/2010). This included a contribution from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets of £365,840 (£427,696 in 2009/2010).

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 £348,464 in 2010/2011 (38% of total resources expended, compared with £335,907 in 2009/2010 or 38%). Repairs and maintenance accounted for £333,902 (36% of total resources expended, compared with £258,248 in 2009/2010, or 30%).

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.

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

Upto October, 2010, the Board consisted of the following Councillors who were also members of the Cabinet:

Councillor Helal Abbas (Chair)	Leader of the Council
Councillor Joshua Peck (Vice-Chair)	Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor Shahed Ali	Lead Member, Environment
Councillor David Edgar	Lead Member, Resources
Councillor Marc Francis	Lead Member, Housing, Heritage & Planning

Councillor Sirajul Islam	Lead Member, Regeneration & Employment
Councillor Denise Jones	Lead Member, Culture & Creative Industries
Councillor Shiria Khatun	Lead Member, Childrens Services
Councillor Rachael Saunders	Lead Member, Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Abdal Ullah	Lead Member, Community Safety

From October, 2010 onwards, the board consisted of the Mayoral Cabinet:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Deputy Mayor
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Rabina Khan	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Rania Khan	Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Councillor Oliur Rahman	Cabinet Member for Children's Services

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 2010/2011 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