

**KING GEORGE'S FIELD, MILE END  
CHARITY NO 1077859****REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
For The Year Ended 31 March 2013**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013. 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. 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<sup>st</sup> March, 2013. Key responsibility for this service now rests now 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.

## **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 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

In detail, the following activities were carried out in Mile End Park during the year ending 31 March 2013, which also include references to the plans for future periods.

## **THE DEVELOPMENT OF MILE END PARK**

### **Progressive Developments in the Park**

The year 2011-2013 turned out to be quite a year, with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, followed by the Olympic Games, and both events taking place in one of the wettest summers on record.

The usual children's events took place, starting with pancake racing, and finishing with Halloween, which were all well-attended with maximum numbers attending from all across the borough

With all the incredible events of the London Olympic Games, it was perhaps inevitable that the park would celebrate, which is how the Mile End Park Olympark games delivered by the Friends Of The Mile End Park came into being. Alongside the usual hockey, handball and relays, the Olymparks also included an obstacle course to be tackled whilst carrying water, a paint race, and "make your own paper hammer" for the paper hammer throwing event.

The Arts Pavilion saw 2012/13 with the fullest programme yet, with exhibitions being mounted throughout the year right up to Christmas.

The ambition of becoming a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation was finally achieved.

The parks team was once again delighted to receive another award from the Green Flag Team for the innovative “Walk A Mile” scheme, stretching along the course of a mile, and offering various activities for children. In addition the park was awarded its ninth consecutive Green Flag, and an additional award for innovation. The park continued to be visited by people from other countries, wishing to take examples of good practice back with them to parks in their own countries.

### **Review of Park Achievements**

The BMX track was officially opened in October, as it had also been delayed by the Olympics. It is sited in the Adventure Park, and has resolved the conflict in the Skateboard Park between the BMXers and Skateboarders.

The Olympics at one point threatened the involvement of corporate volunteers, because businesses were advised to avoid London during the games, which would have had an impact on the maintenance and upkeep of the park. In the event, the larger businesses largely worked around the games. Numbers were down, but over 1,200 volunteers were recorded.

### **Review of Ecology Achievements**

The extremely wet weather experienced over the summer did much to help establish the newly planted Green Bridge. The birch trees have done particularly well, putting a lot of new growth. There were significant losses to the *Alnus*, but it is not thought that this was due to the soil or maintenance regime. They will be replanted in due course.

The latest beetle count was 320 species, with 155 spiders. This was a very encouraging result, following such a wet year.

Habitat maintenance has proved to be very important. By fencing off an area to protect the habitat of the Striped Bombardier Beetle, the area began to develop into scrub, which is not the correct habitat. The fencing was strengthened, scrub removed, and brick rubble and brick dust imported in small quantities to improve the habitat.

A hedgerow was planted around the base of the art mound that will further add to the biodiversity of the area around the Art Park. In addition, it will service the aesthetic purpose of disguising the metal fence that slightly mars the appearance of an area that is mainly wild in appearance. The hedge will be restricted to the same height as the fence so as not to offer the opportunity for anti-social behavior or to reduce perceptions of safety.

Two areas of the Green Bridge that were previously viewing platforms but were mainly utilized for anti-social behavior have been planted and fenced off from public access to provide a wild life refuge that remains undisturbed other than for maintenance.

### **Future Review Of Pavilions**

The Arts Pavilion has developed well as a gallery space with continued voluntary support from the Arts Forum. It is hoped to improve hanging systems in the Arts Pavilion, and to introduce some hanging into the Ecology Pavilion to make the use of both buildings more flexible and interchangeable. The Arts Strategy for the Park will be reviewed in due course, and one area in particular is developing clearer criteria for community use and subsidised bookings. The pricing structure for gallery usage and other private hire will be reviewed for bookings from 2014 onwards for both pavilions. Registration for weddings for both buildings would lead to a growth in income generation, whilst maintaining community usage of these important assets.

Art seats, which are seats created by a Romanian artist for display during the Olympics, were on show in Trinity Square gardens, and, after the Olympics they were donated to Mile End Park where they will be sited in the Art Pavilion.

### **Review Of Play Achievement**

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in the park as a family fun day event. This was in contrast to the participation in the Jubilee Walk scheme that runs the length of the park and was officially launched in May. The celebration was in the form of a street party held in the park, and brought friends and neighbours together to join in the celebrations.

In the evening of the Jubilee Celebration a beacon was lit on top of the Art Mound, to the cheers of the crowd, who had earlier been entertained by a fire juggler.

In the Children's Play Park, more vegetable plots have been built together with a bird hide, a willow igloo, and an outdoor bread oven, which has allowed children to make their own pizza bases, with toppings of tomatoes and other vegetables grown by them in the Children's Growing Zone.

To complete the Play Mile, two small trees were festooned with bells in celebration of the 1960's children's story "The Singing Ringing Tree". The trees at the end of the Mile Of Play are covered in over 800 bells that ring in the breeze. The trees are also in a place where children visiting the Ragged School Museum can run in the park to let off steam.

The development of additional raised beds in the Children's Garden encourages more outdoor garden activities for children, and there are volunteers to ensure that this takes place.

More joint events in collaboration with local third sector organisations, statutory sectors and Council Services took place in 2012/2013 including successful collaborations with the Ides Stores and the Sports Service, which broadened the range of experience for children visiting the park.

## FINANCIAL RESULTS

The net incoming resources for the year totalled £864,501 (£831,514 in 2011/2012). This included a contribution from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets of £249,670 (£298,236 in 2011/2012). Incoming resources of £864,501 were less than resources expended (£919,929) by £55,428, and this amount was offset by the funds carried forward from 2011/2012.

The figures for 2011/2012 have had to be restated in order to exclude the income and expenditure from the railway arches, at 421, etc Burdett Road, and the adjacent land south of the railway track, since the area of land at the railway arches does not form part of King George's Field- Mile End, although the expenditure and income does form part of the financial activity of Mile End Park, within the Council's accounts.

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, 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 £277,124 in 2012/2013 (30% of total resources expended, compared with £282,065 in 2011/2012 or 37%). Repairs and maintenance accounted for £469,254 (51% of total resources expended, compared with £287,343 in 2011/2012, or 38%).

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 10 of the report.

In October, 2013, after the closure of the Council's accounts, a report was submitted by a firm of valuers in respect of the land, which forms part of King George's Field Mile End, but which has been used to construct the stadium, leisure centre and smaller games pitches at Mile End Leisure Centre. The valuers were asked to provide an appropriate market rent level for the land element only (i.e. assuming it is undeveloped) and assuming it is available for leisure use only. The market rent is as defined by the RICS (Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors) Valuation – Professional Standards. The valuers were of the opinion that the market rent of the land on the basis of these assumptions was £104,000 per year. Proposals have now been submitted to the Board to reflect this position.

## **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 2012/2013, incoming resources of £ 864,501 were less than resources expended of £919,929, by £55,428. This amount was funded by using part of the balance carried forward from 2011/2012 (£75,000). The remaining balance of £19,572 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 for the financial year, 2012/2013

Mayor Lutfur Rahman  
 Councillor Ohid Ahmed  
 Councillor Alibor Choudhury  
 Councillor Rabina Khan  
 Councillor Rofique U Ahmed

Deputy Mayor  
 Cabinet Member for Resources  
 Cabinet Member for Housing  
 Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Councillor Oliur Rahman  
Councillor Shafiqul Haque  
Councillor Shahed Ali  
Councillor Rania Khan  
Councillor Abdul Asad

Cabinet Member for Children's Services  
Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills  
Cabinet Member for Environment  
Cabinet Member for Culture  
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

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 2012/2013 are subject to audit. The Charity's auditors will be the Council's External Auditors, which is KPMG.

### **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