

**King George's Fields Trust Mile End
Annual Report 2019-20**

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1. Background

- 1.1. The King George's Fields charity is registered with the Charity Commission as King George's Field, Mile End Charity, registered number 1077859.
- 1.2. The Council is the trustee of the charity and the council is the freehold owner of the land which is subject to this report.

2. Core function

- 2.1. The King George's Fields Charity Board (the Board) is established by section of the Council's Constitution, which gives the Board the following functions:
 - To administer the affairs of the King George's Fields Charity and discharge all the duties of the Council a sole trustee of the Charity.
 - To administer the affairs and discharge the duties of trustee of such other charities controlled by the Council as the Cabinet might authorise by resolution

3. Demography of the Borough

- 3.1. According to the Census ONS 2011 mid-year population projection, the borough's population was 304,900 in June 2017, with a projected rise to 364,500 by 2026. The 2016 figure is the first time the area's population has exceeded 300,000 since before the Second World War.
- 3.2. The borough's population is projected to grow more than twice as fast as London and 3 times as fast as England between 2016 and 2026.
- 3.3. Tower Hamlets has seen drastic population change in recent decades, growing faster than any other local authority in the country. Over 30 years, the borough population more than doubled, rising from 144,800 in 1985 to 295,200 in 2015.
- 3.4. Greater London Authority's population projections for the borough predict that Tower Hamlets to be the fastest growing borough in London over the next ten years, reaching a population of 364,500 in 2026.

- 3.5. The borough includes one of the highest Muslim populations in the country and has an established British Bangladeshi and Pakistani business and residential community.

4. Charitable objects

- 4.1. The land within the areas shown edged red on the plan KGF2 attached hereto which has been acquired by the Council or the London County Council shall be preserved in perpetuity as a memorial to his late Majesty King George V under the provision of the Foundation.

5. Activities - how the charity spends its money

- 5.1. The maintenance of Mile End Park, and the other open spaces within King George's Field, Mile End, for the use and enjoyment of the public.

6. Service Standards

- 6.1. The land is managed by Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces whose service priorities are as follows:
- Strives to make all parks and open spaces within Tower Hamlets places where people feel safe, secure, and that visiting such green spaces is an enjoyable experience.
 - Recognises the importance of parks and green spaces as major community assets.
 - Fully recognises the importance and benefits of parks and open spaces as places for recreation, leisure and play for all communities within Tower Hamlets.
 - Recognises the importance of the Borough's parks and open spaces and ensures that all of our wide-ranging communities and partners have equal opportunities to use them.
 - Encourages the historical heritage of many of Tower Hamlets parks and open spaces and works closely with colleagues and partners alike to protect such cultural assets.
 - Manages and maintains the Borough's parks and open spaces on behalf of the communities we serve.

7. Design principles for Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces

7.1. The key landscape design aims for all Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces will inform any future developments in Mile End Park.

- Retain the open, green aspect of the Park
- Retain and enhance the main desire lines but avoid criss-crossing the Park with paths
- Enhance the public’s feelings of security
- Enhance nature conservation and biodiversity
- Enhance and manage boundary and other planting
- Provide public art features that increase the visual interest and identity of the site and involve the community
- Enhance the attractiveness of the Park
- Establish a positive site identity that is clear from within and outside the Park
- Focus formal design and ensure that this sight line remains open for all time
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8. Activities taking place that support the Charity Objectives

8.1. Events and activities in Mile End Park this year.

	Stay and Play	MEP workshop activity	MEP Events
Total individuals benefiting/taking part	6,338	3,043	3,369
No events and activities	130	18	2

9. Mile End Park Arts and Eco Pavilions

9.1. The Pavilions an important part of the parks infrastructure generating income and providing space for community focussed activity.

10. Summary of bookings

	Arts Pavilion (no. of days)	Eco Pavilion (no. of days)
Private	28	100
Exhibition (inc set up)	107	0
Exams (QMU)	39	39

Community	25	27
Closed for works	7	33
Total Occupancy	206	199

1. **Summer of Art Exhibition - Earth to Sky**
10 days of free to access exhibition, featuring workshops and performances. Included community memorial event for Jill Fulbrook, Exhibition Officer.
2. **Depictions of Living and EcoFutures**
2 separate 2 weeklong exhibitions discussing environmental themes.
3. **Essential School Of painting**
Bethnal Green Fine Art School end of year showcase featuring David Mach RA.
4. **Urban Makers east - Makers' fayres**
Very successful Summer and Winter craft Fayres in the Ecology pavilion showcasing local craft makers and their products.
5. **East London Printmakers**
Annual Showcase of the ELP members works.
6. **Tower Hamlets Arts Networking event**
An annual event attended by 100+ Tower Hamlets arts and culture practitioners. Featuring information stalls from 20 organisations including several NPO's.
7. **London in Bloom and Tower Hamlets in Bloom**
Annual Awards ceremony for resident gardeners and the annual London wide award ceremony.
8. **St George's and Xmas tea dances**
Highly Popular tea dances for the Over 50's
9. **Un wedding Show**
2-day event showcasing wedding suppliers for a modern contemporary wedding style.
10. **The Mindful Market**
Very successful vegan and sustainability market hosted by The Vegans of London

11. All Points East Local Business Fair

Engaging local business for All Points East

- 10.1. There is also 9 Blood Donor Sessions, 2 weeks of the Junior Citizens' Programme open to all TH Schools, Highways disability transport showcase day, Eid Market, FOMEPA AGM, TFL recruitment Fair, International day of persons with disabilities day event, The Bike Life Launch and a number of community events hosted by local organisations or internally. Plus 30 wedding receptions including 10 ceremonies.

11. Investments made

In addition to the usual repairs and maintenance regime monies were invested in the following:

- Additional picnic benches
- 3rd phase of planting up gaps in central reservation
- Revision of park web pages
- Installation of CCTV at Urban Adventure Base to help reduce ASB there
- Planting of 40 native trees in Eco area and south of the park
- Commissioning of feasibility study for two new 5 a side artificial pitches in Stepney Green
- Improvements to air conditioning at all three pavilions
- Installation of lighting on walking route in south Mile End Park
- Refresh of aquatic plants at Pavilion ponds
- Refurbished toilet facilities in pavilions

12. Compliance with public benefit requirements

- 12.1. The Trust has maintained the lands within Mile End Park and other KGFT sites to an acceptable standard with ongoing improvements implemented listed in the above investments.

- 12.2. The Parks continue to be well used supporting as they do a number of key facilities:

- Mile End Leisure Centre
- Stepney Green artificial football pitch
- Playgrounds
- Outdoor activities centre including BMX track
- Various water features
- Areas of bio-diversity
- Pavilions with free activity
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Programme of events and workshops

- Variety of spaces for walks and informal sports activity

13. Engagement with the community

- Support the Friends of Mile End Park who organise events and act as a critical friend regarding development of plans and priorities
- Volunteer schemes
- Community Garden schemes
- Tower Hamlets in Bloom- annual Garden competition
- Community arts exhibitions

14. Finance

14.1 The full years accounts are attached to this annual report. The Trust generates income to fund the maintenance of the park and its programme of activities. This income is generated through:

- Rentals of shop/restaurant units plus climbing wall centre. These properties are managed by Council's Asset Management team. They have outsourced the management of the shop units under the green bridge. The external company collect rents and service charges, reviews leases and find tenants for any vacant lots.
- Operation of car parking spaces. These being in Haverfield Road and Lawton Road (by green bridge), These are managed by the councils parking services.
- Corporate volunteer schemes. Managed by the parks team these provide a useful volunteer work force for maintenance of the park and also income from a fee per participant.
- Hire of artificial football pitch at Stepney Green. This facility is managed by the Parks team. The site does generate a small surplus and the majority of the teams using the facility are local to Tower Hamlets and the fees are amongst the cheapest in London.
- Hire of Pavilions for weddings, private parties and exhibitions. Bookings are managed and staffed by parks personnel, including a pool of casual events staff. Facilities management manage the utility bills, cleaning and maintenance.
- Commercial activity such as fairgrounds. These are managed by the Council's Festivals and Events team with the income coming to the Trust.

All income generated within the KGFT lands go to the charity's accounts to support the public access to good quality sports and leisure facilities.