

**King George's Fields Trust
Mile End
Six Month Update Report 2021-22**



Appendix 2

King George's Fields Trust Mile End Six-month update report for 2021-2022

1. The King George's Fields Trust is registered with the Charity Commission as King George's Field, Mile End Charity, registered number 1077859.
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.
3. 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:
 - 3.2.1 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
 - 3.2.2 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

Demography of the Borough

ONS estimated the borough's population in 2019 as 324,745. Tower Hamlets has experienced the fastest growing population nationally, with a 2.2% population increase in the past year (from 2018 to 2019). That is the fourth highest after the City of London (11.7%), Camden (3.0%) and Westminster (2.3%). This is an equivalent to 19 additional residents every day in the last year.

In terms of population turnover, Tower Hamlets ranks 11th out of 391 local authority areas in the UK. It is the second most densely populated local authority area in the country with 16, 237 persons per km².

The largest age group is 20-39 years in the borough (46%) in 2019, which is much higher than London (33%) and England (26%), with more male residents (52.1%) than female residents (47.9%).

The 2 largest ethnic groups in the borough are White British (31%) and Bangladeshi (32%). 4 in 10 residents were born outside of the UK. The borough has the highest number of Muslim residents in the country (38%), compared with 5% in England and 13% in London.

The largest driver for population growth for Tower Hamlets has been international migration, contributing more than half the borough's population (ONS mid-year estimates 2018). Italian nationals make up one in five of the borough's economic migrants. The borough has the highest number of Italian registrants in the country (NINO 2017/18).

GLA has projected the borough's population trend will continue, rising to 372,766 in 2030. With the highest % increase amongst the pension age (65 and above) from 2019-2030 (41% increase), followed by the young adults (19-24) with an increase of 18% in the same period.

There were an estimated 129,000 households in the borough in 2017 and this is projected to increase by 30% to 168,000 by 2030.

Charitable objects

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.

4. Activities - how the charity spends its money

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.

5. Service Standards

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.*

6. Design principles for Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces

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

7. Activities taking place that support the Charity Objectives

7.1 Events and activities in Mile End Park (from 1st April to 31st October 2021).

Summer Activities	Whitehorse AP	MEP Activities
Total individuals benefiting/taking part	1,472	597
No events and activities	16	15

October Half-term	Whitehorse AP	MEP Activities
Total individuals benefiting/taking part	559	224
No events and activities	3	3

7.2 Mile End Park Arts and Eco Pavilions

The Art and Ecology Pavilion April 2021 – March 22

From April to September 10th (September 8th in Ecology pavilion) both pavilions played a vital role in the council's response to the pandemic. The pavilions were open and occupied every day as a vaccine centre and a test centre respectively. This saw a 1000+ people a day coming through the pavilions in peak periods.

Although it was an important and necessary function of this meant that bookings had to be cancelled or offered postponements over this period. This is reflected in a loss of income over peak summer season and accommodating those displaced over the summer hire period 2022.

Following the occupation of the NHS in The Art Pavilion, we have had an extensive run of exhibitions programmed in opening the pavilions for public use, giving the opportunity for residents to experience high quality art for free. Many exhibitions offer a free to access programme of events and workshops, which bring additional benefits and opportunities to residents and visitors further enriching the understanding of themes or works on display.

Activity at The Art Pavilion 21/22 - up to October 31st 2021

ART Pavilion 21/22	Number	Days open to the public	Days of occupation
NHS Vaccine Centre	1	162	162
Exhibitions	9	96	119
Private Events	0	0	0
Totals	10	258	281

Activity from September to Mid Nov 2021:

September: Look Again A Solo show by Abhayavajra Newman exhibiting large format Paintings hung beautifully in the space. Included an artist talk evening providing insight into works and process.

October Eco Feminism Festival: Utopia Group Show exploring women and the environment with an accompanying programme of events including practical art workshops, curator tours, manifesto writing (which was taken to COP26) performance and more.

October; Prism Textiles in Search of Possibilities: Group Show of textile art includes sensory table and artist talks and demos.

November; Essential School of Painting: Art Matters : two end of year fine art shows.

Still to come November 2021 to End of March 2022:

November: / December East London Printmakers Annual Festival of Print: Returning for its sixth year Local Group with International reputation ELP exhibit high quality and affordable prints.

December; Five:50 Finale of the boroughs Bangladesh 50 celebrations featuring works by five female Artists.

February: Create-a-borough: A weeklong open access Interactive exhibition where residents and visitors will create a large format map of the borough using recycled bottle tops, designed for all ages to take part. Includes additional half-term activities for families.

March: UEL : Group show of recently graduated students, details to be confirmed.

March: THAT Network. Tower Hamlets Arts Teachers' network show their own work and that of their students from primary and secondary schools across the borough.

Activity at The ECOLOGY Pavilion 21/22 - up to October 31st 2021

Ecology Pavilion	Number of events	Days open to the public	Days of occupation
Test and Trace Centre	1	160	160
Public Events	13	13	19.5
Other Private Events	4	0	4
wedding ceremony	2	0	3
wedding reception	7	0	10
Meeting Conference	11	2	16.5
Totals	38	175	213

Event Highlights Sept 2021 to end of October 2021:

Meetings and Conferences: Hosted QMUL's School of Business, welcome week for new and post grad students; ECO Feminist Futures Conference; two internal Team Away days in Hybrid Format.

Public Events: welcomed back the NHSBT Team, hosted an 'EastEndkids' meet up.

Private events: reinstated wedding receptions and ceremonies, Mehndi's, and memorials.

Still to come November 2021 to End of March 2021:

Public Events : two urban Makers' Christmas Markets weekends and a Small Business' winter market on Small Business Saturday, celebrating local businesses. Also scheduled is the Tower Hamlets' Winter Warmer for older residents, a wedding fair and networking activity (subject to confirmation).

Income Generated 21/22

Pavilion	Committed income	Actual Income * 31 st October 2021	Forecast
Ecology	£ 72,405.88	£ 58,488.82	£ 75,000
Art	£ 50,924.00	£ 49,175.00	£ 53,200
TOTAL	£ 123,329.88	£ 107,663.82	£ 135,924

THE **ART** PAVILION

MILE END PARK

autumn exhibition programme 2021



Look Again // 24 September – 2 October

Paintings by Dharmacari Abhayavajra (AKA Paul Newman) which explore how traditional materials and processes can give rise to new and unexpected meanings.

www.abhayavajraneuman.com

Utopia // 7 – 17 October

Multimedia group show is part of the ECOfeminism festival inspired by the 70s movement exploring the relationship between nature and women.

www.artfromheart.co.uk



In Search of Possibilities // 21 – 31 October

Latest exhibition from the international exhibiting group Prism showcasing a range of quality textile practices with a fine art approach.

www.prismtextiles.co.uk

Art Matters 1 and 2: Essential School of Painting // 6 – 20 November

ESOP presents its annual end of year shows with some brilliant and topical artwork made during extraordinary times.

www.theessentialschoolofpainting.com



ELP Festival of Print 2021 // 26 November – 5 December

East London Printmakers showcase a broad range of contemporary printmaking, ranging from traditional techniques to experimental processes.

www.eastlondonprintmakers.co.uk

Five: 50 // 9 – 16 December

Five artists share their work on the theme of freedom and independence, 50 years after the liberation of Bangladesh.

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/bangladesh50



For full details of all exhibitions and the venue please visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts

The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road E3 4QY

 THevents

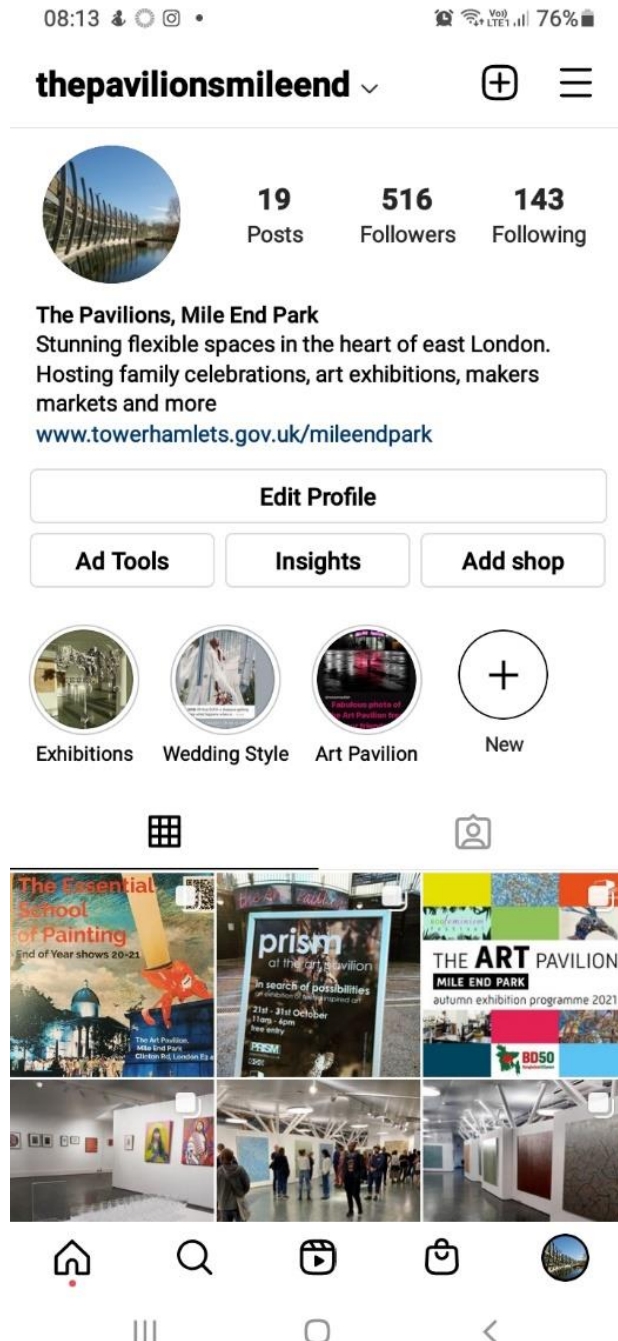
 TowerHamletsEvents

 ThePavilionsMileEnd

Programme may be subject to change.

Instagram

In November 2020 we soft launched the @thepavilionsmileend Instagram account. This has been a great tool to enable direct engagement with our users. Due to the occupation of the pavilions, we were able to keep in contact with customers, and now that they are open, we are seeing social engagements increase. To date there has been one booking that came directly via the Instagram account. We now have 516 followers and expect to see this trend increase.



8. Investments Made/Scheduled

In addition to the usual repairs and maintenance regime monies were invested in the Art and Ecology Pavilions:

- Both pavilions were closed for a short period of time after the hand back from Test and Trace and The NHS vaccine centre respectively where small urgent repairs and deep cleaning were undertaken.
- The Ecology Pavilion was closed for 10 days for urgent upgrade works to the lighting in November.
- Work needs to be undertaken to the Art Pavilion Front doors following an incident whilst under occupation by the NHS. This will be carried out by a Framework Contractor and is being managed by FM and covered by NHS insurers. Dates and quotations for works are yet to be confirmed.
- Annual Repairs and maintenance including painting will take place in early January 2022.

Other investments/upgrades made since April 2021 include:

- Additional litter bins and benches installed.
- New play equipment at Locksley St Playground (Castle).
- Full digital upgrade to the Park CCTV cameras.
- Installation of new play area at The Ecology Pavilion with the aim to lowering CO2 emissions (using only eco-friendly material – 100% recycled post-consumer material from food packing waste).
- Refurbished the existing Outdoor GYM in Mile End Park (with zoned areas such as cardio, calisthenics/cross training, street workout & ball game area) there is warm up area available in each zone and 50% of the new equipment is accessible.
- Refurbished two Multi Use Games Areas at Urban Adventure Base with new Basketball backboards, two tone colour scheme, and new porous asphalt.

The following investment is forecast to be required to meet hirer requirements and generate more income to the Trust:

- Additional equipment required for Hybrid activity.
- Upgrades to furniture, which is eight years old. Banquet chairs and tables are generally in a good condition, but we will need to replace some due to wear and tear. Trestle tables need to be replaced as they are damaged and very worn.

9. Compliance with public benefit requirements

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.

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

9.1 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

10. Finance

The six-month financial forecast is available as **Appendix 1**.

The Trust's accounts are based on a net zero figure at the end of the financial year. The current forecast shows that this will not be achieved in this financial year and a deficit of £118,493 is anticipated. The Trust has been unable to reach its full potential in relation to income generation as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 that has included:

- Reduction in bookings for the pavilions due to COVID-19 restrictions. In addition, both pavilions were out of use until the beginning of September as they were being used as NHS vaccination and test centres.
- We have been unable to carry out corporate volunteer sessions during this period due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- One of the annual fun fair booking cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Repair costs are higher to the number of users in the park during the pandemic.
- Although we have not been able to achieve our full income potential our running cost are still incurred.

Steps are being taken to control costs where possible to try and reduce the deficit.

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. 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 charities accounts to support the public access to good quality sports and leisure facilities.