

Trustee Report 2020/21 – Tim Duke (Chair)

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. In particular, giving help and support to the 113 member volunteer groups and 9 individual members who work tirelessly to improve their green space, hold events to raise funds and most importantly bring the local community together.

The final outcome is, again over £1,000,000 in volunteer time improving green spaces and looking after the environment, conservation, education and guidance on working practices, grants, exercise, fresh air, good company and a healthy feeling.

Trustees Report 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020

Structure, governance and management

- Formerly Kirklees Wildlife and Landscape Partnership – Constituted Group
- Changed the name to Natural Kirklees at the AGM 1 December 2016
- Became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members other than its charity trustees on 15 August 2017

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

- Chair asks for volunteers from the groups when the need arises. Trustees are appointed according to their skills and through a democratic process.
- Trustees may co-opt new trustees between meetings as necessary.

Objects

1. To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Kirklees by promoting biological diversity.
2. To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
3. To aid our member groups in their aims regarding Parks and open space regeneration and maintenance to allow better access and educational opportunities for the general public.

(note – for clarification objective 3 is not registered with the Charity Commission as part of our constitution, but has been added to further clarify our role.)

Achievements and performance

- The Charity has continued to operate as the umbrella organisation for “Friends of” groups and green space management groups. We currently have 113 group members and 9 individual members.

- We have continued to provide our free Insurance Scheme to 72 Full Member Groups which still saves £120 per annum on average to each group concerned.
- We have continued to offer our free tool loan scheme to both Full and Associate member groups. We have extended the availability of this scheme to School Groups and Church Groups who by definition do not qualify for full membership.
- We have continued to work in collaboration with another local Charity to continue our Invasive Species Eradication Scheme.
- We have held the first round of our “Small Grants Scheme” and have granted funding to seven groups for projects they have run throughout this year.
- The onset of the Coronavirus pandemic has halted our Quarterly members meetings and to keep in touch with our member groups we have been sending regular Newsletters keeping them up to date with how the trustees are working to keep the charity operational and keeping them abreast of the latest Government and Local Authority guidelines concerning the virus.
- We have remained available to members by e mail and Zoom to answer any queries they may have had.

Covid-19

Whilst the coronavirus has had a significant effect on our day to day activities (as we have had to modify our role as regards site visits and meetings) the financial effect will be minimal as we continue to hold funds for the coming year and do not anticipate any significant fall in funding.

The trustees have reassessed the charity’s ability to continue for at least 12 months from the date that the accounts are approved and conclude that no material uncertainties exist that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Tim Duke
Chair of Natural Kirklees
November 2020