

Friends of Cotteridge Park Annual Report and Accounts 2017



**Volunteers looking after our park, our
wellbeing and our community**

Contents

Page 2	<i>Trustees Annual Report</i>
Page 6	<i>Independent Examiner's Report</i>
Page 7	<i>Receipts and payments accounts</i>
Page 8	<i>Statement of assets and liabilities</i>

Trustees Annual Report

Reference and administrative details

Friends of Cotteridge Park

c/o 44 Franklin Road, Birmingham B30 2HG

Registered Charity Number 1150091

Trustees

Emma Woolf MBE *Chair*

Andy Stowe *Vice-Chair*

Esther Reeves

Louise Cross – *Secretary*

Martin Holcombe (elected at 2017
AGM)

Declan Vaughan

Peter Plisner

Cathal Lynch

Carola Lange *Treasurer*

Laura Brooks

Sara Burnett (stood down at 2017
AGM)

How we are run

The Friends of Cotteridge Park is a membership organisation for those who enjoy and use Cotteridge Park. FoCP is a registered charity. The elected Trustees represent the members and manage the business of the organisation on their behalf. FoCP holds regular management meetings open to all members, and quarterly Trustee meetings. Trustees serve for one year and elections are held each year at the AGM.

Our objectives

The organisation registered as a Charity on 7 December 2012 and agreed the following objects at the AGM on 29th October 2012, which are contained in its Constitution:

The charity's objects ('the objects') are

For the benefit of the inhabitants of the surrounding area of Cotteridge Park and visitors to the area ("the beneficiaries"), the promotion of the provision of facilities for education, recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object

of improving the conditions of life for the beneficiaries without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions in particular but not exclusively by:

a) The promotion, support and improvement of Cotteridge Park.

b) Organising programmes of physical, educational, creative and other activities in the interests of social welfare, primarily in and around the park.

Achievements - Cotteridge Park 2017

Events and Activities – 2017 was another busy year in Cotteridge Park. From the **Wassail** in January to the new **Camp Fire Carols** in December the local community came together to celebrate in the park. Good weather during the summer meant that the holiday sessions were really well attended and a great **CoCoCamp**.

CoCoMAD 2017 saw the introduction of science to the line-up bringing in new organisations and partners.

Active Parks – Active Parks continued to develop in 2017. More running sessions were added and a led-cycle ride that starts and ends at the park. Cotteridge Park and the volunteers must continue to take credit for continuing to innovate and show what can be achieved using our parks to get the citizens of Birmingham fitter and happier.

Millennium Forest School - The forest school has gone from strength to strength hosting groups from schools and community groups. Funding was raised through the Tesco Bags of Help project to enable there to be more family bushcraft sessions – although the cold and wet Winter of 2017 meant there were a lot of postponed sessions.

The Orchard continues to develop and shows how much you can achieve when a community works together.

Working with Schools and Young People - The work with schools & young people has continued. In particular the Duke of Edinburgh group on Sundays has been doing sterling work – with many of the young people staying on after their DofE commitment is over. We send best wishes to our longest serving DofE volunteers who went off to university this year and we hope to see them in the holidays.

New volunteers have joined the team and their contribution is much appreciated.

Cotteridge School continues with its weekly visits and thanks go to the volunteers & Ranger Dean who regularly turn out to support these sessions.

New Projects

Funding was received from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2017 to enable FoCP to research and share information about the heritage of the park - in particular the geological, arboricultural and oral history of the park. Volunteers have been on archiving and oral history course and several events have been held.

Funding was also received from Sport England that has enabled FoCP to research the feasibility of bringing back the lost Sons of Rest community building. The building would be

used to enable more people to become more physically active to improve their physical and mental health.

Sad News – at the end of 2017 - 21 years after the successful campaign to save the park and the park keeper the latest round of austerity budget cuts saw the loss of our last park keeper. After more than 100 years Cotteridge Park no longer has any on-site staff. Volunteers are stepping in to the breach but we are yet to see what the long term impact will be.

Plans for 2018 – the work on the Heritage Lottery funded project will continue with the replanting and landscaping of the arboretum and the creation of the online and hard copy archive.

The work undertaken on the feasibility of bringing back a community building to the park will also continue. An application for planning permission was made in December 2017 and the result is expected in March 2018. Funding applications have also been made and the results are expected in Spring 2018.

Thanks are due to all the volunteers and trustees. And to Derek who was the last park keeper in Cotteridge Park.

Thanks to all the local businesses and organisations that support FoCP, and CoCoMAD in particular.

Thanks to Birmingham Open Spaces Forum who support our group, Idverde (the grounds maintenance contractors) and all the staff at Birmingham Parks for their support. Special thanks to Sue Amey our Parks Manager and Ranger Dean Paul.

Financial review

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The Friends of Cotteridge Park remains in a healthy financial situation. Un-restricted funds carried forward to next year are £33,245 with restricted fund balances of £15,323 supporting on-going projects.

Reserves

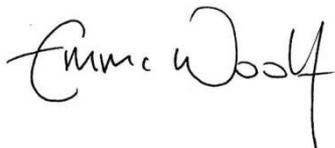
Trustees consider that in the current uncertain climate for the charity sector, and in particular continued reductions in funding for parks and 'softer' social activities, that excluding costs associated with the annual CoCoMAD festival, the charity should aim to hold an unrestricted reserve equivalent to a minimum of 3 months running/delivery costs for park activities and general running costs.

The annual CoCoMAD festival accounts for approximately £17k of expenditure each year creating a 'spike' in spend and trustees consider it prudent to retain a designated reserve of £10k to cover cancellation fees or shortfalls should CoCoMAD be cancelled or fail to achieve expected income.

In addition to the above FoCP is in the process of developing a new community building on the park to support access, activities and engagement with park users. With this in mind trustees have agreed to create and build a designated reserve to support this development for legal fees, fundraising, fitting out or delivery shortfalls as needed. The initial designation is set at £15k and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Current unrestricted funds, including the designations detailed above stand at £33,245 and trustees consider that figure is in line with the above intent.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Signature:	Print name	Date
	Emma Woolf MBE Chair, Friends of Cotteridge Park	14 th May 2018

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Friends of Cotteridge Park on the receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Cotteridge Park ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2017 which are set out on pages 7 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Karen Hanlan, ACA, ACIE
Karen Hanlan Independent Examiner Ltd
Hollyoaks
Lea Marston, B76 0BW

Date: 14 May 2018

**Receipts and payments accounts
Year ended 31 December 2017**

	Un- restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Receipts				
Grants	-	29,850	29,850	5,600
Donations	9,470	-	9,470	1,609
Income from activities	17,613	-	17,613	18,115
Bank Interest	32	-	32	36
Total receipts	27,115	29,850	56,965	25,360
Payments				
CoCoMAD event	17,798	-	17,798	17,858
Forest School Project	825	1,000	1,825	2,419
Park Building Project	-	7,026	7,026	-
Heritage Lottery Project	-	6,501	6,501	-
Spray Art Project	625	-	625	1,200
Other activities	3,650	-	3,650	616
Insurance	715	-	715	575
Independent Examiner's Fee	400	-	400	375
Administrative expenses	1,042	-	1,042	-
Total payments	25,055	14,527	39,582	23,043
Net receipts	2,060	15,323	17,383	2,317
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	31,185	-	31,185	28,868
Cash funds this year end	33,245	15,323	48,568	31,185



Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	Un-restricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 31.12.17	Total funds 31.12.16
	£	£	£	£
B1 Cash Funds				
- Current account	476	-	476	2,053
- Deposit account	32,456	15,323	47,779	28,933
- Petty cash	313	-	313	199
Total	33,245	15,323	48,568	31,185

	Fund balance at 1/1/2017	Receipt	Payments	Fund balance at 31/12/17
	£	£	£	£
B2 Restricted fund balances				
Forest School Project	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Park Building Project	-	10,000	(7,026)	2,974
Heritage Lottery Project	-	18,850	(6,501)	12,349
Total	-	29,850	(14,527)	15,323

A liability of £2,520, in respect of the Park Building project, for Architects fees was settled in March 2018.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Signature:	Print name	Date
	Emma Woolf MBE Chair, Friends of Cotteridge Park	14 th May 2018