

Friends of Cotteridge Park

Annual Report and Accounts 2018



Volunteers looking after our park, our wellbeing and our community

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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 *Vice-Chair*

Andy Stowe (*Resigned June 2018*)

Esther Reeves

Louise Cross (*Resigned July 2018*)

Martin Holcombe *Chair*

Max Woolf (*Appointed AGM 2018*)

Declan Vaughan (*Resigned May 2018*)

Peter Plisner (*Resigned October 2018*)

Cathal Lynch

Carola Lange *Treasurer*

Laura Brooks *Secretary*

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 2018

Events and Activities – 2018 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.

CoCoMAD 2018 battled hot weather and an England World Cup match and was a great success.

Active Parks – Active Parks continued to provide lots of opportunities for the local community to get fitter in 2018.

Millennium Forest School and The Orchard continue 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 Dof E commitment is over. 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.

Cotteridge Park Heritage

With funding received from the Heritage Lottery Fund, FoCP volunteers have been researching and sharing information about the heritage of the park - in particular the geological, arboricultural and oral history of the park.

Cotteridge Park Community Building

Throughout 2018 work has been continuing on providing a community building for the park. In 2018 planning permission was received, a lease has been signed and most of the funding raised so that building work can begin in mid-2019. The building will be used to enable more people to become more physically active to improve their physical and mental health.

Austerity 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 have stepped in to the breach but it has meant that more time has been spent on basic tasks and there is less time for the extras – the Orchard, in particular, has suffered as a result.

Plans for 2019 – the main task for 2019 will be the construction and operation of the new community building.

In addition in 2019 Friends of Cotteridge Park will finalise the transition of the charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Thanks are due to all the volunteers and trustees for all their hard work.

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

Thanks to Birmingham Open Spaces Forum 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 £26,465 with restricted fund balances of £66,695 to support the construction of a community building in 2019.

Reserves

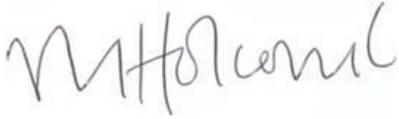
Trustees consider that in the current uncertain climate for the charity sector, and in particular continued reductions in funding for parks and 'softer' social activities, that excluding costs associated with the annual CoCoMAD festival, the charity should aim to hold an unrestricted reserve equivalent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

The annual CoCoMAD festival accounts for approximately £19k 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 £26,465 and trustees consider that figure is in line with the above intent.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Signature:	Print name	Date
	Martin Holcombe Chair, Friends of Cotteridge Park	18 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 2018.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Cotteridge Park ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2018 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: 18 May 2019

**Receipts and payments accounts
Year ended 31 December 2018**

	Un- restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Receipts				
Grants	-	69,050	69,050	29,850
Donations	4,024	-	4,024	9,470
Income from activities	22,372	-	22,372	17,613
Bank Interest	183	-	183	32
Total receipts	26,579	69,050	95,629	56,965
Payments				
CoCoMAD event	19,012	-	19,012	17,798
Forest School Project	-	-	-	1,825
Park Building Project	8,286	5,329	13,615	7,026
Heritage Lottery Project	921	12,349	13,270	6,501
Spray Art Project	1,200	-	1,200	625
Other activities	1,530	-	1,530	3,650
Insurance	701	-	701	715
Independent Examiner's Fee	430	-	430	400
Administrative expenses	1,279	-	1,279	1,042
Total payments	33,359	17,678	51,037	39,582
Net (payments)/receipts	(6,780)	51,372	44,592	17,383
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	33,245	15,323	48,568	31,185
Cash funds this year end	26,465	66,695	93,160	48,568

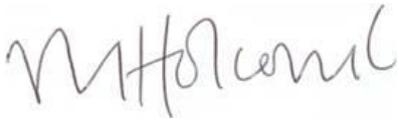


Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	Un-restricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 31.12.18	Total funds 31.12.17
	£	£	£	£
B1 Cash Funds				
- Current account	927	-	927	476
- Deposit account	25,342	66,695	92,037	47,779
- Petty cash	196	-	196	313
Total	26,465	66,695	93,160	48,568

	Fund balance at 1/1/2018	Receipts	Payments	Fund balance at 31/12/18
	£	£	£	£
B2 Restricted fund balances				
Park Building Project	2,974	69,050	(5,329)	66,695
Heritage Lottery Project	12,349	-	(12,349)	-
Total	15,323	69,050	(17,678)	66,695

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Signature:	Print name	Date
	Martin Holcombe Chair, Friends of Cotteridge Park	18 May 2019