

## **GREENWICH PARKS FORUM - PROPOSED CHARITABLE STATUS**

As you are aware as part of our grant application for Parksfest 2012 we agreed to seek charitable status for the Forum.

Although at present it is still unclear whether Greenwich Council will provide any funds for next year's events by seeking charitable status this will assist us in raising funds from other providers.

So we can progress this we need the following:

1. Adoption of a new Constitution. The Charity Commission has provided a model constitution that can be found here:

[www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Library/guidance/gd3text.pdf](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Library/guidance/gd3text.pdf)

Firstly we need to agree our Objects (Part 1-3). This is a proposed draft:

- To influence, promote and support the work of the Friends of Park groups and other interested organisations working for the well-being of the parks and green open public spaces in the Royal Borough of Greenwich to include social, recreational, environmental and educational activities involving the local community.
- In co-operation with the Royal Borough of Greenwich to assist in implementing policies and practices to maintain and develop the existing landscapes and nature reserves.
- To raise funds and act as a conduit for funds on behalf of the Friends of Park groups to provide facilities and events in the parks and green open public spaces in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Next we need to fill in any blank spaces in the document.

Part 12 – Quoram:

I suggest for 2 (a) we put in 5 members. Normally the Chair, Secretary and Treasury are present so that only needs two others to attend to complete the quorum.

Part 17 – Officers and trustees and Part 18 – Appointment of trustees:

Here we are asking for volunteers – the number of trustees shall not be less than 3 and shall not be subject to any maximum (17-5). It is not necessary for every member to be a trustee and certainly from an organisational point of view it would complicate matters. We probably only need 5 but those of you already involved in a charity may have a better feel for this.

Before making a decision you will need to look at the guidance issued by the Charity Commission:

[www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Library/guidance/cc3text.pdf](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Library/guidance/cc3text.pdf)

I know all these documents are quite detailed and lengthy but by adopting the model constitution it should speed up our application. Clearly by going down the charitable route there are additional reporting requirements but as these can be done on-line hopefully they will not be too onerous.

If you require paper copies of the two documents please contact me via [greenwichparksforum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:greenwichparksforum@yahoo.co.uk).

Can you let me have your comments by 7 December, including the names of anyone willing to act as a trustee.

Thanks

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