



CONSTITUTION

Principal Aim:

The aim of the Friends is to preserve and enhance the quality of the parkland and open spaces of Hampden Park for the enjoyment and benefit of park users.

Definition Of the Park:

The area of the interest shall be defined as all that land and vegetation bounded:

- (1) In the east by the Decoy stream to the west of David Lloyd Sports Club bounded by the Footpath which leads to the Playing Fields.
- (2) In the south by the boundary to Summerdown School, East Sussex College and Eastbourne Sports Park.
- (3) In the west by Kings Drive, the Park Avenue entrance to the Park, and the boundary fence to the properties in Clifton Close, and Regents Place.
- (4) In the north by Decoy Drive and Rosebery Avenue round to the Hampden Park Drive entrance to the park and then along the Decoy Stream past Ham Shaw and Elm Grove field.

Specific Aims

- (1) To influence and raise funding for improvements to the Park.
- (2) To liaise with Eastbourne Borough Council and other government bodies over the management, maintenance and development of the Park.
- (3) To ensure the Friends Group is inclusive and representative of the community.
- (4) To encourage the responsible authorities to make the Park safe and pleasant, now and for the future.
- (5) To see the Park come alive and be treated with respect.
- (6) To enhance and preserve wildlife and conservation, play facilities, heritage and sporting facilities.

Organisation

The Group will consist of paid-up members who agree to help advance the Friends' principal aim. There will not be specific representatives of special interest groups, but all will be welcome to join as individual members keen to support the Friends' causes. Membership shall be on payment of an annual fee to be determined by the Committee and payable on, or before, the date of the Annual General Meeting.

The committee shall consist of:

Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
Website and Social Media Officer

3 other committee members, plus co-opted members as decided by the committee.

Role of Chairperson

Contact and spokesperson for the Group. Should keep meetings fair, unbiased and on time.

Role of Treasurer

The Treasurer will hold the chequebook, keep receipts and a record of all income and expenditure of the Group. They will prepare accounts each year for presentation to the full Annual General Meeting of the members and will arrange for their independent audit.

In accordance with Charity Commission guidelines and standard business practice financial records should be retained for 6 years. Such financial records should be passed on when a different treasurer takes office.

All expenditure of the Group will require the signature of two of the three agreed signatories. These agreed signatories being the Chairperson, the Treasurer and one other.

Role of Secretary

Organising meetings and venues, minute taking and presentation, responding to correspondence. Update and maintain accurate records of current members (paid and life).

Website and Social Media Officer

Maintain the Friends of the Hampden Park website.
Assist in the updating and upkeep of the Friends of the Hampden Park Facebook page.
Electronic circulation of the Group's newsletters.

Activities

The Group proposes to

- 1) Consulting with members for feedback, discussions, updates and ideas.
- 2) Invite and consult relevant special interest groups such as sports groups and wildlife.
- 3) Inform local people, schools, businesses, sports clubs etc. of our activities and liaise with them.
- 4) Hold events to canvass opinion on projects being considered and to raise awareness of them.
- 5) Produce a newsletter of the Group's activities at intervals decided by the committee.

Principles

The Group wishes to adopt the following principles:

- 1) To provide mutual support to those involved.
- 2) To ensure the Group is inclusive and representative of the community and park users.
- 3) To keep everyone informed of meetings and to invite members to work in areas they feel comfortable with.
- 4) To ensure as far as possible, decisions are reached by consensus rather than by voting.
- 5) To be as informal as possible to encourage everyone to contribute.

Committee members shall be elected at the annual general meeting (AGM) of current paid-up members.

Members will be notified of the AGM at least two months in advance.

The nominations of committee to be submitted to the Secretary at least one month prior to the advertised date of the AGM.

Other persons whom the committee considers to be capable of providing much needed additional input may be co-opted during the course of any year. Those co-opted must stand down or seek election at the end of that committee year.

The committee should have a quorum for all major decisions. The quorum will be two-thirds of the committee. Financial Expenditure over £200 should be subject to a committee quorum.

Dissolution

After discharging any liabilities of the Friends, the remaining assets shall be given to some other voluntary organisation having similar objectives to and controlled by similar rules to the Friends.

Original Constitution was drawn up at the inaugural meeting on 11 January 2005 and signed by Chairman on 1 February 2005.
The Constitution amended 2007, 2012 and 2018. Amendments agreed at relevant AGMs by membership and signed by the Chairman.
Constitution amended 2025