

Appendix 2

Epping Forest Field Studies Council

The Epping Forest Field Studies Council currently receives £53,000 per annum in direct grants and additional estimated £77,200 of in-kind support through the provision of accommodation.

According to their 2014 end of year report¹, the centre reached over 21,000 learners from a diverse range of backgrounds. The FSC charge for their educational programmes and also undertake commercial room hire.

About the FSC (from their website)

“Field Studies Council, FSC, is an environmental education charity providing informative and enjoyable opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover, explore, and understand the environment.

FSC is an independent charity receiving no core revenue funding from statutory sources and we therefore rely on fees paid by our visitors and on the generosity of donors, trust funds and grant bodies to finance our activities.

What we believe

FSC believes that the more we understand about and take inspiration from the world around us the more we can appreciate its needs and protect its diversity and beauty for future generations.

In all we do, we are committed to:

- **Delivering first hand experiences.** FSC uses the environment to inspire. Taking in its sights, sounds and smells has the ability to motivate, deepen knowledge and broaden horizons.
- **Providing opportunities for everyone.** FSC strives to provide opportunities for everyone regardless of age, ability or background. Some of our proudest moments have arrived when trying to help those that would not otherwise benefit from an FSC experience.
- **Sustainability for the future.** A commitment to the environment is at the heart of everything FSC does: how we run the charity, what people learn on our courses and through our publications.
- **A caring attitude.** From the way we treat our customers, our staff, the environments we work in and the feel of our locations, FSC demonstrates a personal approach with great care taken in everything we do.

What we do

Each year over 140,000 people experience FSC, many through our UK wide network of locations.

- Learning outside the classroom experiences with their school, college or university.
- Professional training courses for environmental professionals and teachers.
- Natural history courses.

¹ <http://www.field-studies-council.org/media/1776585/effc-end-of-year-report-2014.pdf>

- Identification guides and free resources.
- Funded projects both in the UK and abroad.
- Art courses.
- Family holidays.
- Campaigns for the right to outdoor learning and fieldwork”²

Lower Mole Countryside Management Project

The Lower Mole Countryside Management Project currently receives a £15,000 annual grant. This grant has been provided to reflect the importance of the management of the wider countryside around City Commons. The partnership also undertakes practical work which supports the maintenance of the City Commons.

The Partnership partners include:

- Surrey County Council
- Elmbridge Borough Council
- Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
- Mole Valley District Council
- City of London
- Natural England

The Lower Mole Project was set up in 1983 and now covers an area of 264 square kilometres. The aim of the Project is to carry out countryside improvements for the benefit of people and wildlife, by:

- Improving public access to the countryside for informal recreation.
- Conserving landscape features and enhancing the natural beauty of the countryside.
- Increasing public knowledge and understanding of the countryside.
- Encouraging greater community involvement in the countryside

The Partnership has built up a large and enthusiastic volunteer group which carries out a wide range of tasks to implement improvements to the local countryside, 4 days a week, including weekends, throughout the year.

The Partnership has a high standard and broad spread of skills for tackling specialist countryside management work including landscape enhancements, woodland management and pond restoration as well as access initiatives such as the Thames Down Link footpath.

Our practical work is carried out by hard-working volunteers, supervised by the Partnership. In addition to practical work the Partnership gives advice to private and public landowners.³

² <http://www.field-studies-council.org/about.aspx>

³ <http://new.surreycc.gov.uk/environment-housing-and-planning/countryside/looking-after-the-countryside/countryside-management-projects/lower-mole-partnership>

Downlands Countryside Management Project

The Downlands Countryside Management Project currently receives a £15,000 annual grant. This grant has been provided to reflect the importance of the management of the wider countryside around City Commons. The partnership also undertakes practical work which supports the maintenance of the City Commons.

The Downlands Partnership is hosted by Surrey County Council, one of the core funding partners.

The other core funding partners are:

- Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
- Tandridge District Council
- Croydon Council
- The City of London Corporation
- The London Borough of Sutton

Our other main partners are:

- Downlands Trust
- Natural England (through our Agri-Environmental Schemes - Higher Level Stewardship agreements)

Now in its 27th year, the Downlands Partnership provides a quality urban fringe countryside management service, enhancing the environment for people and wildlife. Its area of operation covers greenbelt countryside in north-east Surrey and adjoining parts of south London. The rolling chalk hills and associated valleys give rise to stunning scenery. Sheep (breeds: Herdwick, Beulah Speckled Face & Jacob), feral goats, Sussex cattle and Dartmoor ponies successfully graze the chalk downland as part of a long-term management regime.

The aims of the Partnership encompass the whole range of countryside management activities relating to access, landscape, biodiversity, sustainability, information and community involvement. The Partnership area contains a variety of habitats and features, but is dominated by the important and threatened chalk downland habitat found on the scarp and dip slopes of the North Downs.

The Partnership has been extremely successful in achieving a wide range of countryside improvements and generating support and involvement in practical conservation from local communities.

A dedicated, enthusiastic group of countryside volunteers help support the work of the Partnership and new volunteers are always very welcome. Volunteering in the glorious local countryside is great for happiness, health and habitat.⁴

⁴ <http://new.surreycc.gov.uk/environment-housing-and-planning/countryside/looking-after-the-countryside/countryside-management-projects/downlands-partnership>

Parliament Hill Bowls Club

The Parliament Hill Bowls Club is currently provided with an annual grant of £4,500. This grant supplements the club's income of approximately £2,500 per annum. The club also receives benefit in kind of peppercorn rent and equipment maintenance. The Bowls Club and Croquet Club jointly have some 60 members.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath has been working with the clubs to increase membership, and has introduced a number of KPIs to support this.

TCV - The Conservation Volunteers

The TCV focus on the "every day green places" such as playing fields, allotments and local parks, which they are concerned that are vulnerable without the special protection afforded to national parks, nature reserves and historic gardens. They believe that poor quality green spaces are damaging to communities. They therefore assist their volunteers to reclaim and transform local green spaces. They support these initiatives through a community network and trained project leaders.

TCV has six strategic goals:

1. Work together with people and communities to transform their health, prospects and outdoor places for the long term
2. Be a resilient organisation
3. Be a great place to work
4. Be a great place to volunteer
5. Have customers who love us
6. Be better known and supported for the value we deliver

<http://www.tcv.org.uk/>

Kenley Airfield Friends Group

The Kenley Airfield Friends Group (formally the Friends of Kenley Airfield) lists their objects and activities as:

Objects:

1. To work as a single body, representative of the population local to Kenley Airfield (predominantly in postcode areas CR3, CR5, CR6 & CR8) and of those having historic and/or sentimental ties to the airfield and its surroundings, to their benefit and best advantage.
2. To act as the public interface with those authorities that have governance over the airfield and its surroundings. These are in particular but not exclusively:
 - a. The Ministry of Defence
 - b. The City of London Corporation
 - c. The London Borough of Croydon
 - d. Tandridge District Council
3. To protect preserve and stimulate public interest in Kenley Airfield and the publicly accessible areas around it.

4. To advance the education and interest of the public in the history of Kenley Airfield and in particular:
 - a. The establishment and support of a living museum and interpretative centre.
 - b. The preservation of relevant historical details, records and artefacts.
 - c. The maintenance of memorials and monuments within and surrounding the site.
5. To secure the preservation, conservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic or public interest in the area.
6. To further such other related and charitable objects as the Officers and Committee determine from time to time.

Activities:

KAFG shall through its Officers and Committee

1. Negotiate with the relevant authorities on matters concerning the membership and to disseminate to its members information forthcoming from such negotiations.
2. Raise funds and spend funds in order to further KAFG's objectives.
3. Buy, lease, exchange, hire or otherwise acquire property and to maintain and equip it for use.
4. Sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of, all or part of any property acquired.

<http://www.kafg.org.uk/>

Insurance payments

Friends of Stoke Common - <http://www.friendsofstokecommon.org.uk/>

Friends of Swains Green - <http://www.swainesgreen.org.uk/>

WREN Group - <https://www.facebook.com/WrenOrg>

Epping Forest Conservation Group Volunteers - <http://www.efcv.co.uk/index.php>

Bushwood Conservation Group - <http://www.fobw.net/>

The Lake House Project

All of these groups currently undertake volunteering work on sites managed by the open spaces charities. For small voluntary organisations, the cost of insurance can be prohibitively expensive and so historically grants have been provided.