

Audit & Governance Committee

Governance of Public Parks

Kate Langdown

Director of Environment

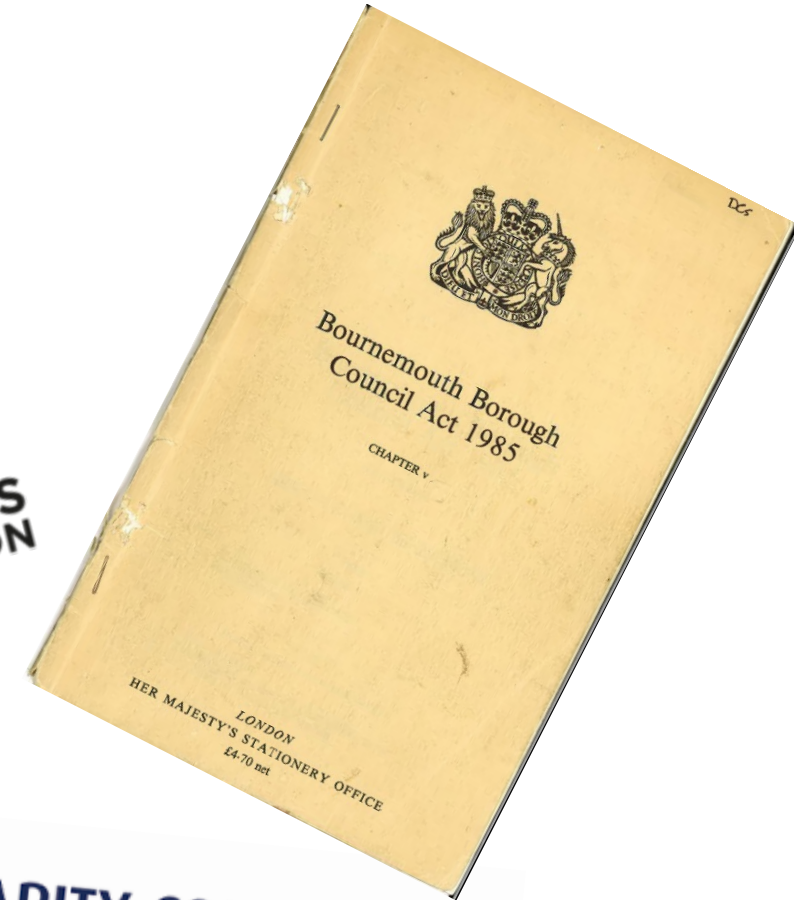
Michael Rowland

Strategic Lead for Greenspace & Conservation



Presentation content

- Introduction to public parks and charitable governance
- The Parks Foundation
- Lower Central Gardens Trust
- Five Parks Trust
- Parish Councils
- Others trusts
- Q&A



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Reasons for charitable governance

- Condition of sale / bequest
- To maintain purpose / use
- Financial reasons e.g. grants, donations, NNDR, Gift Aid
- Transparent governance
- Public perception reasons e.g. volunteering and engagement

Lower Central Gardens Trust

- Charity number 299739
- Park originally on long lease from the Meyrick Estate
- Obtained freehold as part of land swap in 2011
- Land managed as a charitable scheme – ‘open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public’, S29 BBC Act 1985 and charitable scheme dated 13/05/2011
- Includes the Bournemouth Pavilion
- Decisions taken must be in the interests of the furtherance of charitable objects, not the wider interests of the Council

Lower Central Gardens Trust

- Surplus funds to be reinvested into the space
- Governance delegated to Board of Trustees (4 Cllrs and 3 Co-optees)
- Minutes are approved by Cabinet & Full Council – as trustees
- The park has an adopted masterplan (2011) and a management plan, which delegate day to day decision making and approved development to BCP Officers

Five Parks Trust

- Charity number 299740
- These are the former commons of Bournemouth and include large areas of Meyrick Park, Queens Park, Kings Park Redhill Park and Seafield Gardens
- Land managed as a charitable scheme – ‘open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public’, S28 & Schedule II BBC Act 1985
- Upper limit on buildings and parking provision
- Trustees are Members of BCP Council
- Decisions taken must be in the interests of the furtherance of charitable objects, not the wider interests of the Council

Five Parks Trust

- Surplus to be reinvested into the space
- Decisions authorised by Cabinet / CMD acting as a trustee
- Management plans in place for Queens Park, Seafield Gardens and Redhill Park
- Draft masterplan and heritage significance assessment for Kings Park
- Meyrick Park Drive closed to vehicles in 2003, Kings Park Central Drive closed to vehicles in 1989
- Any part of land taken from sites must be replaced with same size from adjoining lands
- Kings Park subject to Attorney General advice on managing access

Other BCP Trusts

| Name | Role | Date of appointment | Other trusteeships | Reporting status of other trusteeships |
|-------------|---------|---------------------|--|--|
| BCP Council | Trustee | | BEAR CROSS ESTATE PLEASURE GROUND | Received: On time |
| | | | RUSSELL-COTES ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM | Received: On time |
| | | | BROADMEADOWS ESTATE PUBLIC WALKS AND PLEASURE GROUND | Received: On time |
| | | | PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OR RECREATION GROUND | Received: On time |
| | | | RECREATION GROUND AT WEST HOWE | Received: On time |
| | | | LOWER CENTRAL GARDENS BOURNEMOUTH | Received: On time |
| | | | RECREATION GROUND | Received: On time |

- We are working to understand which spaces these schemes relate to.

The Parks Foundation

- Established in 2015 - part of national Rethinking Parks Programme with Nesta and Heritage Fund – based on US parks trust / foundation model
- Charity no 1159939
- Two BCP staff on board of nine trustees, to be 1 in 9 in August (articles stipulate that the Council nominate 2 officers)
- Objects - provides and enhances the facilities and equipping of parks and green spaces within Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole for the benefit of the community. The Parks Foundation also aims to advance public education in subjects related to parks and green spaces, and to provide leisure and recreation facilities supporting social welfare.

The Parks Foundation

- Currently employs 10 staff
- Working with BCP on Future Parks Accelerator Project, funded by Heritage Fund, National Trust and MHCLG
- Aim to develop future parks operating model for 2022 and a longer-term partnership agreement
- Does not own land or property, works with BCP through Memorandum of Understanding, alongside draft management and lease agreements.

Parish Councils

- Manage allotments within their parish
- May own and manage parks and open spaces
- May raise a precept to cover the above costs
- BCP currently manage some parish owned spaces under agreement

Fields in Trust

- Many parks across BCP are designated as either King George V or Queen Elizabeth II fields.
- This means the spaces have been voluntarily covenanted (to remain as public open space) by the landowner.
- Fields in Trust (FiT) is a national charity that manage this scheme and hold the covenant.
- The owner does need FiT approval for any significant changes e.g. leases, sales, disposals.

Comparison Table

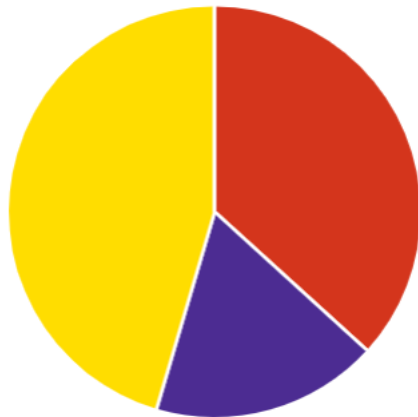
| | Landowner | Leaseholder | Board of Trustees | Officer Reps | Members Reps | Independent | Accounts |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------|
| Lower Central Gardens Trust | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Five Parks Trust | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| The Parks Foundation | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Russell Cotes Museum | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Other Trusts | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Parish Councils | ✓ | ? | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Fields in Trust | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

Lower Central Gardens Trust

Income and expenditure

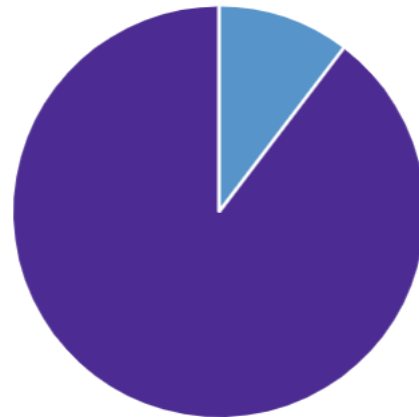
Data for financial year ending 31 March 2020

Total income:
£1,230,512



| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Donations and legacies | £452.36k |
| Charitable activities | £218.99k |
| Other trading activities | £559.16k |

Total expenditure:
£1,230,512



| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Raising funds | £127.28k |
| Charitable activities | £1.10m |
| Other | £0 |

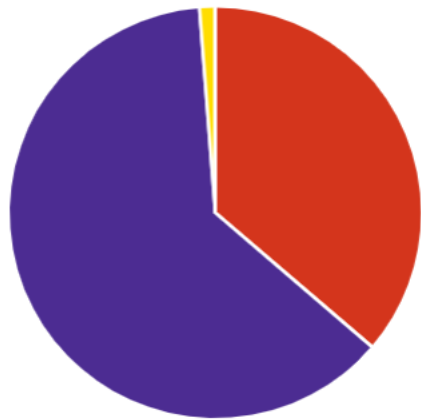
Donations: predominantly funds donated by BCP Council / Bournemouth BID.
 Charitable activities: mainly mini-golf.
 Other trading: cafes/concessions/charges.
 Raising funds: staffing/advertising for mini-golf and free public events.
 Charitable activities: maintaining and running the Gardens and its events.

Five ParksTrust

Income and expenditure

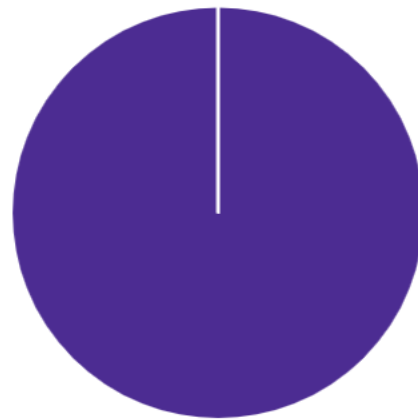
Data for financial year ending 31 March 2020

Total income:
£908,493



| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Donations and legacies | £329.60k |
| Charitable activities | £567.70k |
| Other trading activities | £11.19k |

Total expenditure:
£908,493



| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Raising funds | £0 |
| Charitable activities | £908.49k |
| Other | £0 |

Inc

Donations: 1 grant from BCP Council.

Charitable activities: sport, events, nursery & recreation.

Other trading: cafes/concessions.

Exp

Charitable activities: maintaining and running the Gardens and its events.



2019-20 ANNUAL REVIEW

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

250
Park Yoga

Up-to 250 people attended weekly sessions across two locations

150
Parks in Mind

150 sessions delivered to 112 people

Installed 3 contactless donation units that we prototyped

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Opened a Community Café at Winton Rec

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Delivered our first Environment Festival at Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre

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Grew from 2 to 4 members of staff

Introduced a Wildlife Bus

Funds and grants



£700,300

Awarded a 'Future Parks' grant of **£700,300** alongside BCP Council to explore new ways to manage and fund our parks and open spaces

£2,507

Raised **£2,507** for a new drinking fountain for Fisherman's Walk



£128,214

Fundraised **£128,214** towards re-building Bournemouth's Rescue Aviary

£1,946

Raised **£1,946** for new wildlife cameras at Hengistbury Head



£25,500

Awarded a **£25,500** grant which introduced new toddler play equipment to Knyveton Gardens

£1,664

Raised **£1,664** towards a Climate Change fund from our polar bear contactless unit



Financial information

45%

INCREASE IN **TRADING INCOME**
Generated **£72,104** in trading

138%

INCREASE IN **FUNDRAISING INCOME**
Grew our fundraising income to **£327,983**

Funds of the Charity

£80,631

Unrestricted income

£315,785

Restricted income

20/21 – unconfirmed

Income £945,065

Exp £512,833

BCP related income:

Neighbourhood CIL 151,797

BH Coastal Lottery 1,200

Future Parks Grant 451,199

Trading income 101,859

External Assurance

- Charity accounts & annual reports are submitted annually to the Charity Commission.
- Details of trustees and governance are also stored publicly by the Charity Commission.
- The Lower Gardens Trust and Five Parks Trust annual reports are externally audited.
- Parks Foundation accounts are assessed by an external examiner.

Other Examples of Parks Trusts

- Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation
- Urban Green Newcastle
- Parks Alive – Cleveland & Redcar
- Milton Keynes Park Trust
- Nene Park Trusts
- The Royal Parks
- Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust
- The National Trust
- Lake District Foundation

Q&A