



Ury Riverside Park

Trustees' Annual Report

Period From 1/2/22 to 31/1/23



Charity contact information



Ury Riverside Park SCIO

Scottish Charity Number: SC046919

c/o Garioch Area office

Aberdeenshire Council

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e-mail address: ury.riverside@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.uryriversidepark.com/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/URY-Riverside-Park-SCIO-213704205739901/>

Charity Trustees

Name all of your charity trustees for the period, and the date they left if they were not in post for the whole year

1. Martin Auld
2. Stephen Hargreaves
3. Rod Adams
4. Neil Baillie
5. Ian Talboys
6. Paul Douglas (resigned April 2022)
7. Judy Whyte (appointed November 2022)
8. Sam Payne (Aberdeenshire Council voting trustee appointed June 2022)

Objectives and activities

The organisation's purposes are:

- The advancement and improvement of the area known as Ury Riverside Park, Inverurie
- Develop recreational facilities that are accessible
- Enhance the biodiversity and amenity of the area known as Ury Riverside Park, Inverurie
- To be open and inclusive to appropriate community events
- To do anything else deemed appropriate to meet the aims and objectives of the group.

The Charity's main activities and achievements in the last year has been:

- Installed two large Notice boards
- Continuation land maintenance. Including grass cutting, path edge weed control.
- Undertook regular liaison with Aberdeenshire Council staff and councillors
- Assisting the Aberdeenshire Council in the control of Giant Hogweed around the park including supporting a fencing and sheep grazing eradication programme in the densest area of GHW.
- Installed play equipment in the park. Donated by Barratts Homes Limited
- Coordinated the Inverurie Queens Canopy tree planting in the park and around Inverurie.
- Attended Groupfest (a public promotion of organisations in Inverurie Town Hall)
- Contributed to the NESCO carbon mapping exercise for Aberdeenshire.
- Started to develop a biological monitoring programme for the park with external expert support and advice.
- Submitted biological survey data to NESBReC
- Revised the management plan for the park

- Met with Aberdeenshire Council paths and access team to plot new walking route across the park from the new Portstown bridge across the river Ury into the park.
- Undertook regular monthly litter picking programme
- Put up occasional signs to assist users around issues such as removal of dog mess, care around giant hogweed and care to control dogs during the bird nesting season.
- Volunteers and experts organised park Walks and Talks for interest groups from Inverurie and nearby towns and villages
- Worked on proposal to expand the park and buy another area of land in Inverurie. Contributed to the Inverurie Concept Masterplan covering expansion of land access along the Ury and around Inverurie.
- Met with staff from Paths for All and the Ian Findlay path fund to assess Active Travel routes through the park.
- Joined the Northwoods Rewilding Network
- Managed the planted woodland with the removal of tree guards from well-established trees and replaced dead saplings as required.
- Contributed to the Inverurie place-based development workshop programme (more in the coming years)

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The charity operates under its constitution of Ury Riverside Park SCIO

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Achievements and performance

- Won the Community Initiative category of the RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards 2022
- Achieved Keep Scotland Beautiful, It's Your Neighbourhood Award, Level 5 – Outstanding

The charity has

- Continued development website of the park website: <https://www.uryriversidepark.com> and continues development of social media platforms
- The trustees and interested local people met, generally each month and commenced face-to-face meetings following the Lifting of COVID restrictions. Minutes of meetings are available.
- Communicated with the community through the Ury Riverside Park Facebook page and six-monthly newsletter (online).
- Encouraged the parkrun which has continued with good participation.

Financial review

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The majority of the costs incurred by the SCIO have been provided by reserves held by Aberdeenshire council. At the start of the year there was an opening balance of £3378.52 and the closing balance was £6317.32. This is an increase of £2938.80 by the end of the year due, mainly, to funds transferred by Aberdeenshire council to purchase Maintenance equipment. The charity received several donations through Charity Aid Foundation, Amazon Smile.

There is no current policy for the reserves as yet.

Details of any deficit

There is no deficit

Donated facilities and services

None

Future plans

In the next year the charity intends to:

- Build a granite entrance to the park from Oldmeldrum road subject to the necessary construction funding (the granite has already been acquired).
- Install drainage on the main tarmac path between the entrance and the bridge to prevent a build-up of water next to the path from running across the path.
- Make further efforts to continue the eradication of Giant Hogweed within the park programme with the INNS and Aberdeenshire council.
- Oversee plans for new footbridge bridge and connecting path through the park as part of the Meldrum Megway. Although utilising the park this programme is not managed by the charity, so timing is uncertain.
- Seek further funding for the extension of an all-abilities children's play area.
- Further develop funding for ongoing maintenance of the park.
- Maintain the park vegetation for the benefit of people and wildlife
- Undertake programme of regular on-site litter collection
- Seek to monitor park usage by the local community
- Pursue further opportunities for extensions to the park area
- Seek new trustees and more members from the community.
- Continue to support the very popular Ury Riverside Park run event.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

S. Hargreaves.

Print name

Stephen Hargreaves

Designation

Treasurer

Date

28/04/23