

Friends of Denton Gardens Constitution

1) Name of the Group

Friends of Denton Gardens

2) Aims

- a) To ensure Denton Gardens are preserved and enhanced as an attractive, safe, green space accessible to all for relaxation and exercise as intended by Alderman James Denton in his gift to the town in 1922.
- b) To provide a forum for the local community to discuss improvements and enhancements in keeping with the character of the gardens and associated buildings.

3) Means & Activities

These aims will be achieved by:

- Building an active group membership open to all who are supportive of the aims of the group.
- Partnering with the WBC rangers and parks department to determine maintenance and improvement priorities.
- Involving site users and local people in planning and aspects of management of the gardens and becoming the recognised forum for consultation and decisions relating to the gardens.
- Developing a sustainable vision and an improvement plan for the gardens which preserves and enhances the positive environmental impact and safeguards biodiversity.
- Organising volunteers and community initiatives and “task” days to carry out planting, weeding, litter picking, etc.
- Raising funds, receiving donations, and preparing funding applications.
- Encouraging community use for health, exercise, and recreation---including where appropriate public social activities.
- Linking and exchanging ideas with similar groups to improve green open spaces generally.

4) Membership

- a) Membership is open to everyone interested in helping the group achieve its aims, and willing to observe its rules.
- b) Members have one vote at AGMs.
- c) Members elect a management committee and can put themselves forward for election.
- d) Members may resign from the group or from the Management committee by notifying the secretary one month in advance.
- e) In exceptional circumstances, membership can be refused, or can be terminated by the management committee, where membership is considered to be detrimental to the aims and purposes or activities of the group.
- f) The group supports equality and inclusivity, and is opposed to racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination. Expressions of such prejudice will be challenged at meetings or other activities of the group.

5) Management

- a) Friends of Denton Gardens will be administered by a management committee of not less than three members and not more than ten. The committee and officers are elected at the AGM.
- b) The Officers will include: Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer—and such other roles and sub-committees as may be deemed appropriate from time to time.
- c) The management committee will be responsible for progressing the agreed aims and priorities of the group and for setting rules and procedures.
- d) The committee will meet at least twice a year and a minimum of three committee members are required to be present for a valid meeting to take place.
- e) In the absence of consensus, decisions will be taken by a show of hands with the chair having the casting vote.
- f) Management committee meetings, AGMs and any public meetings will be minuted and minutes circulated to members.

6) Annual General Meetings

The AGM will include the following:

- reports from Officers/subcommittees on the previous year's activities and achievements.
- report from the Treasurer on the group's finances.
- discussion/agreement on the proposed priorities for the coming year.
- review/adapt rules or constitution.
- election/re-election of group officers and management committee.
- AOB

7) Finances

A bank account will be set up in the name of the Friends of Denton Gardens. All money received in the form of donations, grants, subscriptions or any other contributions will be put in the bank account and will only be used to further the aims of the group. The Treasurer and Secretary and 2 other members will be signatories, and the Treasurer and one other signatory will be required to sign for all transactions.

The annual accounts shall be independently verified and made available for inspection on request at the AGM.

8) Powers

The Friends of Denton Gardens has the power to raise funds, to employ or hire such staff or advisors as are necessary, and to enter into any transactions necessary to further its aims. It has the power to manage, licence, lease or buy property and to maintain and equip it for use. It has the power to appoint Trustees and to take out trustee liability insurance cover.

9) Dissolution

If a General meeting, or 10 members wish at any time to dissolve the group, they should give at least 14 days notice of a special general meeting to discuss the matter. Should such a decision be agreed by a simple majority of those members present and voting then the assets will be disposed of to another voluntary

organisation with compatible aims and principles. Such group to be agreed at the meeting.

This Constitution was agreed at the friends of Denton Gardens founding meeting on September 18th 2021.

Signed.....(Secretary)(Chair)