

FRIENDS OF THE NEW MILLS COMMUNITY ORCHARD
Constitution, agreed 4th February 2010

1 Name

- 1.1 The name of the group is 'The Friends of New Mills Community Orchard' ('the Group')

2 Objectives:

The objectives of the Group are:

- 2.1 To sustain a community orchard at Seddon's Fields, adjacent to High Lea Park, New Mills
- 2.2 To respect the local environment in the management of the orchard, including cultivation according to principals of organic farming, and accommodation of wildlife
- 2.3 To improve, develop and manage the orchard for the benefit of the New Mills community
- 2.4 To encourage participation of local people in the development and management of the orchard
- 2.5 To use, develop and increase the skills of local people in the development and management of the orchard
- 2.6 To raise public awareness of the activities and benefits of the orchard and associated sustainable food production

3 Powers

In order to achieve the above objectives, the Group will:

- 3.1 Hold meetings of group members
- 3.2 Raise funds for development and management
- 3.3 Produce publicity material
- 3.4 Work in partnership with local schools and other organisations and groups
- 3.5 Do any other things in order to achieve the objectives

4 Membership

- 4.1 Membership of the Group is open to all New Mills residents and representatives of local organisations who support the aims of the group, provided they have contributed to at least four general meetings or organised activities in the previous 12 months
- 4.2 The Group recognises that everyone has a contribution to make to our society, and a right to equal treatment. The Group aims to ensure that it will not discriminate against anyone on the grounds of: age, class, employment status, physical or mental disability or mental health, race, religion, gender, marital status or caring responsibilities, sexuality.
- 4.3 A list of members and their contact details will be maintained by the Secretary
- 4.4 Only members are entitled to vote at the AGM and General Meetings
- 4.5 A subscription may be charged for membership, at the jurisdiction of the Management Committee
- 4.6 A Special General Meeting may, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, expel any member who does not in its opinion conform to the principles outlined in this constitution provided that at least 28 clear days' notice is given in writing to the member of the intention to expel and the reasons for it, and an opportunity offered for the member's case to be stated.

5 Management Committee

- 5.1 The policy and general management of the affairs of the group will be conducted by the Management Committee ('the Committee')
- 5.2 The Management Committee will consist of a minimum of five; the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and nominated New Mills Town Council elected member. The maximum is up

to seven other members of the Group. These posts will be voluntary, unpaid and only open to members of the Group.

- 5.3 Officers shall be eligible for re-election each year
- 5.4 Four Committee members, including two of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer or Town Council member, must be present for a meeting to be quorate
- 5.5 The Management Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting; the Committee also has the power to co-opt additional members if required
- 5.6 The Secretary will keep a written record of all meetings, making these available to all members of the Group as required, and give adequate notice to all Committee members of forthcoming meetings
- 5.7 The Management Committee will meet as necessary, but at least twice a year

6 General Meetings

- 6.1 The Management Committee shall report to the members of the Group at the Annual General Meeting
- 6.2 Business at the Annual General Meeting will include:
 - Report from the Committee on the work and achievements of the Group
 - Election of the Management Committee
 - Income and expenditure statements to the financial year end will be presented by the Treasurer, and examined by a suitably qualified person (neither currently nor within the previous 12 months a member of the Committee)
- 6.3 Special General Meetings shall be held if
 - So decided by a majority of the Committee; or
 - Requested of the Committee in writing by 20 Group members or 10% of the Group's members (whichever is the greater)
- 6.4 At least seven days' advance notification of the date and agenda of any General Meeting shall be circulated to the Members
- 6.5 Any amendments to the constitution may be considered at a General Meeting, provided the amendment has been circulated to all members at least 21 days beforehand

7 Finances

- 7.1 The Group has a bank / building society account and has adopted appropriate financial procedures
- 7.2 Records and accounts of all transactions shall be kept by the Treasurer and shall be available for inspection by Group members.
- 7.3 Any payment from the account will require the signatures of two of the Management Committee.
- 7.4 All monies raised on behalf of the Group will be applied to further the objectives of the group and for no other cause

8 Dissolution

- 8.1 The Group may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority at a General Meeting, provided at least 21 days notice stating this intention has been sent to all members.
- 8.2 In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets, after debts and liabilities have been discharged, shall be returned to the funder, or to a project or projects carrying out similar work or working to similar objectives, or to New Mills Town Council, as considered appropriate by the Management Committee.