

## The Friends of Clyde Muirshiel – FoCM - (DRAFT 1)

### *Legal Form*

The Friends of Clyde Muirshiel was established in 20?? and became a registered charity in *month 20??*. *[I don't see any necessity for The Friends of Clyde Muirshiel to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), though later on that could change].*

### *Mission Statement and Purpose*

The Friends of Clyde Muirshiel seek to act as a catalyst to promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of the area within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park (see attached map), with particular emphasis on recreational quality, public access, cultural heritage, landscape, biodiversity and protection of the area from inappropriate industrial or commercial development.

The purpose of the Friends of Clyde Muirshiel, as set out in the group's constitution, is:-

- To raise funds for specific projects.
- To protect and enhance the natural and cultural heritage and features of public amenity within the area.
- To encourage respect for the quality of life of those that live and work within this area.
- To undertake projects that enhance public access, biodiversity and the landscape / environment .
- To encourage high standards of design in all work undertaken within this area.
- To provide an annual programme of activities to foster the enjoyment and social and cultural history.
- To promote the forming of appropriate planning policies, compatible with these purposes, through the long term development plan process and their effective and consistent implementation.
- To stimulate public interest in these purposes by means of publications, meetings, exhibitions, appeals, website, social media and other forms of publicity.
- To co-operate with other bodies to promote the foregoing purposes.

### *Membership and Governance*

At the end of 20??, number ?? individuals and organisations were members of The Friends of Clyde Muirshiel. It is an all-volunteer organisation. Governance is provided by a committee of 12 Trustees.

There is a fee for membership of The Friends and the organisation maintains a Bank account to control membership fees and any other project money raised.

### *Way of working*

The Friends of Clyde Muirshiel seek to be a catalyst for action for environmental protection and enhancement of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and in particular the hills known as the Renfrew Heights.

Whilst wishing to avoid being overly political, The Friends reserve the right to lobby when it feels necessary, particularly when it feels necessary and particularly in regard to perceived threats.

The organisation co-operates with the Regional Park but recognises that The Friends interests may not always be the same as those of the Regional Park. However, The Friends seek to maintain mutually beneficial relations with the three Local Authority Access Officers (Renfrewshire, Inverclyde & North Ayrshire), CMRPA committee, Park officers and staff, landowners and land managers etc.

### *Objectives*

The Friends of Clyde Muirshiel has both short and long-term objectives

20?? short term objectives include:- ??

Longer term objectives include :- ??

## WEBSITE EXAMPLES

### The Friends of the Pentlands - Links

<https://pentlandfriends.org.uk/>

Objectives - <https://pentlandfriends.org.uk/objectives/>

About Us - <https://pentlandfriends.org.uk/about-us-2/>

Principles - <https://pentlandfriends.org.uk/principles-2/>

OSCR - <https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=SC035514#results>

### Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs - Links

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

About us - <http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk/our-history>

Our aims - <http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk/index.php/our-aims>

Giving scheme - <http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk/our-projects/friends-of-our-park>

Young Friends - <http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk/our-projects/young-friends>

## NOTES

**James Fraser, Chairman of The Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs will attend a CMRP Consultative Forum meeting on a date to be arranged by Renfrewshire CC (Elaine) and will address the meeting regarding Friends of Park groups.**

In 2005, when some of us identified the need for an organisation, in addition to the Park Authority, to fight the industrialisation of CMRP, an approach was made to Charlie Woodward (Park manager) regarding the setting up of a Friends of Clyde Muirshiel group which would be able to support the Authority in so many ways other than the immediate requirement of fighting the proposal at that time for 125 wind turbines on the hillside stretching from Kilbirnie (N Ayrshire) to Lochwinnoch (Renfrewshire). Charlie Woodward clearly didn't have the vision to understand the advantage to CMRP of having a *Friends* group and made it abundantly clear that he didn't want a Friends group set up. This resulted in the ***Save Your Regional Park campaign*** (SYRP) being set up which continued to work actively to save the park from inappropriate industrial and commercial development until the end of the Corlic Hill 2's Public Local Inquiry in 2015 and carried on until 2016. The core members of the committee had devoted most of their time to the cause effectively working full time. In short, we were all getting older and were 'windfarmed out' having fought 15 winfarm proposals all wanting to take chunks out of the park plus the Crematorium approved by N. Ayrshire in the park with no objection from CMRP.

Our core committee members were all people determined that the precious Renfrew Heights must be conserved and not turned into an industrial site. Our team consisted of enthusiasts with experience in school / youth training & needs, law, planning, general management, and representatives from many of the Community Councils around the perimeter of the park. A Friends group is about **far more** than the aims of SYRP and it is a great pity that it was not set up in 2005. SYRP is still a skeleton organisation with a committee as there is a bank account in credit. If FoCM is established and achieves charitable status, we would be prepared to propose to the committee that the remaining funds be reserved for a contribution to FoCM defending any attempted inappropriate industrial or commercial development in the park. SYRP would also contact its membership supporters and encourage them to become members of FoCM.

**Founding The Friends of Clyde Muirshiel (FoCM) -** – To start with, a group of 3 or 4 enthusiasts to be brought together to establish the organisation and they must work closely with the Park





## **The Friends of The Pentlands**

### *Legal Form*

The Friends of the Pentlands was established in 2003 and became a registered Scottish Charity in May 2004. In December 2012, the legal form of The Friends of the Pentlands was changed to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

### *Mission Statement and Purpose*

The mission statement of The Friends of The Pentlands is:

The Friends of the Pentlands seek to act as a catalyst to promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of the Pentland Hills, with particular emphasis on recreational quality, public access, cultural heritage, landscape and biodiversity.

The purpose of Friends of The Pentlands, as set out in the group's constitution, is:

- To protect and enhance the natural and cultural heritage and features of public amenity within this area.
- To encourage respect for the quality of life of those who live and work within this area.
- To carry out environmental projects that enhance public access and biodiversity.
- To encourage high standards of design in all work undertaken within this area.
- To provide an annual programme of activities to foster the enjoyment of healthy exercise, an appreciation of the environment and social and cultural history.
- To promote the forming of appropriate planning policies, compatible with these purposes, through the considered long term development plan process and their effective and consistent implementation.
- To stimulate public interest in these purposes by means of publications, meetings, exhibitions, appeals and other forms of publicity.
- To co-operate with other bodies to promote the foregoing purposes.

### *Membership and Governance*

At the end of 2016, 387 individuals and organisations were members of The Friends of the Pentlands. It is an all-volunteer body. Governance is provided by a Board, which has 12 Trustees.

There is a fee for membership of The Friends group and the group seeks to maintain reserve funds between £7,500 and £15,000.

### *Way of Working*

The Friends of the Pentlands seeks to be a catalyst for action for environmental protection and enhancement of the Pentland Hills. The area of interest includes, but extends beyond, the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

Whilst wishing to avoid being overtly political, The Friends of the Pentlands reserves the right to lobby when it feels necessary, particularly in regard to perceived threats.

The group co-operates with the Regional Park but recognises that the Friends interests may not always be the same as those of the Regional Park. However, the Friends seek to maintain mutually beneficial relationships with Local Authority Access Officers, landowners and land managers etc.

### *Objectives*

The Friends of the Pentlands has both short and long-term objectives.

2016 short term objectives include: a programme of countryside furniture and path inspections; carrying out improvements to path networks and develop new paths; litter picking; maintaining the existing Wild Life Garden and explore opportunities for new wild life gardens; maintain five arboreta; promote the Friends group and provide educational walks and talks; develop disabled access.

Longer term objectives include establishing a path ranger survey service out with Regional Park boundaries and extending the Regional Park to cover the full area of interest of The Friends of the Pentlands.