

Constitution Draft Document Notes

(NB - Elder Farm requires a committee to negotiate terms of lease etc. chose an architect apply for funding and get the building saved – the Committee needs a Constitution which should make understood core aims / beliefs of the group to anyone who reads it - This is only a draft copy to start discussion of what the Constitution should contain and how to make it easy for everyone to understand

As a member of the Elder Farm Community Trust Group, you are invited to add suggestions for editing / policies / rephrasing etc as a comment or to submit another document

End Result

We apparently have not decided what the Building shall be at the end of the day

Some ideas have been raised all within, as we believe, the good intentions of John Ure, and John and Isabella Elder

How to Become a Charity Doc

Should we become a Charity is another issue – as a Charity you can claim back VAT and there may be other perks – including that the Charity Commission is happy to help iron out wrinkles

All we have to do is provide a Trustee Rep Contact, and a Team of Trustees

- who don't have an Unexpired Criminal Record
- who don't have an Unexpired Bankruptcy Agreement
- who are prepared to Deliver a Yearly Faithful Financial Record
- If there should be a member who is still involved with an Unexpired Bankruptcy Agreement they may be able to hold a position of Shadow Trustee
- If there should be a member with an Unexpired Criminal Record then that should be declared to the Commission and may not present a problem depending on the nature of the case.
- One contact is named / chosen as charity contact to deliver information etc, and should name another contact if stepping down for any reason.
- The Charity Commission requires to be notified of new members etc
- Initially, the Charity Commission will data check all proffered member/trustees after which it is up to the Charity itself to check Member Trustees and the Group do not break Relevant Charity Laws
- The document "How to be a Charity" asks questions which may be relevant and decisions to include some of these and write them into the constitution may make this document stronger

Do we meet Conditions of Charity

Considering these questions may strengthen our document. It would seem Good Policy to Write into the Constitution, Core Beliefs and Policies, which should ably explain to the Community and the Council and Potential Investors / Funders who we are, what we support, how we intend to go about getting things done. If we can reassure Charities Commission then surely we will be able to reassure the Community and Potential Funders, so some notes have been added on how we may tick some of those boxes here to assist in the writing of the constitution

a. The prevention or relief of poverty.

The project was started to help relieve poverty by :

- growing free food for the community
- an aim to stimulate an interest in nature and healthy foods
- an aim to provide working space for the unemployed and depressed allowing them to contribute to society and also work for references and learn new skills

We intend to further relieve poverty by offering practical work experience to the unemployed in the upgrade of the building and training in skills which will be directly transferable to the work and home .

b. The advancement of education.

- We encourage our visitors to understand what we are doing in the garden and why.
- We aim to stimulate an interest in how nature flora and fauna communicate and work together

c. The advancement of religion.

- We encourage our members to be unashamed to love God, whatever his or her name, to understand the differences and the common ground most religions and culture have, to be tolerant and accept the universal rule of love
- We aim to encourage various religious groups to participate in our events and use our facilities to join with each other in supporting harmony and tolerance

d. The advancement of health (including the prevention or relief of sickness, disease or human suffering).

- We aim to encourage an interest in healthy foods and grow free organic food

f. The advancement of citizenship or community development

Civic Values :

- We encourage equality; mutual respect and leadership in tasks, but not in overall power, God and the Good Intentions are our inspiration and guide,
- We encourage members to find respite and worth in voluntary work, and to be aware of the variety of skills we each have to share

Regeneration of social infrastructure

In a time of serious unemployment and depreciation of self worth, we aim to provide a safe, relaxing, educational, inspirational space where parents, neighbours, friends and family can meet, communicate, relax, and/or work, share problems and joys, generally enjoy the facility and share a sense of belonging in the community. This will greatly be helped with toilets, theatre space, and community kitchen / café areas

g. The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science.

further advance arts and crafts by :

- we have many art workshops, providing materials and an inspirational space
- We aim to build a small amateur theatre / film studio / fine arts space with outdoor stage
- an active workshop with tools and workbenches, which will also benefit the theatre group in providing scenery and costumes/ film studio and fine arts work space

further advance local heritage by :

- restoring an historic b listed building in sympathy with sustainable values and Scottish traditions

further advance local cultures by :

- engaging in culture shares between the various cultural groups in Govan today through art and cuisine

further advance local understanding of science in the community

- projects to explore recycling, means of transport, energy and natural sciences

h. The advancement of public participation in sport by :

- we aim to provide showers, locker rooms etc for local football teams who meet regularly in the park and who currently don't have access to these conveniences
- we aim to provide facilities to encourage users of Elder Park users, to stay longer and enjoy the outdoors with their families

i. The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life by :

- providing a special educational recreational space, where families – especially those with no gardens, can relax, attend events and hold family / community events ie parties, bar-b-q whenever they choose, as long as they respect the space they are using
- we aim to provide facilities for the community, ie café, arts and crafts workshop, theatre / entertainment centre

j. The advancement of human rights / l. The promotion of equality and diversity. / l. The promotion of equality and diversity.

- We promote equality in a diversity of users to help eliminate discrimination through age, race, religious and other social divides, which are not generally natural in a people unless one group is preventing another group from functioning and disturbing the balance.
- Conflict resolution is a gradual learning process, we think we have got it and new circumstances arise
- We intend Elder Farm to be a neutral zone where groups sometimes formerly divided, may meet and learn to enjoy their differences and diversities

m. The advancement of environmental protection or improvement.

- We promote interest and protection of the natural environment which is beneficial to wildlife in which our very survival depends – we are currently working on nectar rich flora to assist the bees in the Garden in the community (Shearer Bee Garden & are growing plants for a small community bed in Napier Drive