

Friends of Rhyddings Park

Members Code of Conduct

1. Introduction

As a member of the Friends of Rhyddings Park (“the organisation”) you play an important role. You are vital to the successful devolution of Rhyddings Park to local people. You will also help to:

- Improve the quality of life for local people
- Join up and improve service delivery in the area
- Listen to and take fully into account the views of residents in the area
- Promote the Park

With this important role comes various responsibilities. This document aims to set out a framework for operating as effective members. This will ensure that the organisation works well together and that all members are ambassadors for the Park.

It is assumed that members will adhere to the standards set out in this document, as they are reasonable, common sense standards. Thus, in the unlikely event that a member behaves in a way that is of concern to other members there is a framework available to address the situation.

2. Working Together

a. Collective Decisions

Members will inevitably have differences of opinion on issues being debated. This is healthy. After full discussion, when the members have made a decision, all members must uphold this decision. Speaking against any collective decision in public will undermine the organisation. Hence each member has a responsibility to stand by collective decisions of the organisation and to present a unified stance.

b. Respect

Members must respect each other and each other’s opinions. Differences of opinion are welcomed yet debate must not become vicious or personalised. In meetings members must listen to each other and respond to each other politely. All contributions at meetings must go through the Chairman.

c. Diversity

We are all different. Members will respect and welcome this diversity.

In all the organisation's work, members will treat other members and those affected by the work of the organisation fairly. This means not:

- making assumptions about a person or group of people
- making judgements about a person or group of people
- discriminating against any person or group of people on the basis of their ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability or age.

The organisation will ensure that all the community within the township of Oswaldtwistle can participate and benefit equally from the park.

d. Mutual Support

Members are carrying out a challenging role and it is important that they support each other in this task. This will involve sharing information and knowledge and learning from each other.

e. Involvement and Commitment

Members are expected to attend meetings and involve themselves in the work of the organisation. Regular attendance at meetings is important and it is expected that members will attend as many meetings as possible with allowance being made for exceptional circumstances.

3. Representing Friends of Rhyddings Park

Members should not make public statements on behalf of the organisation unless they have been authorised to do so by the Chairman, who will normally make all public statements and be the spokesperson.

4. Confidentiality

In general, information that members are party to will be publicly available. There may however, be instances where sensitive or confidential information is under discussion. A clear statement will be made if information provided in a report is of a confidential nature. Members must respect confidentiality and therefore not disclose such information to any other person.

5. Conflicts of interest

Members may potentially have a range of involvement in other community, commercial or voluntary groups and political organisations. Where this is the case it is important that the member states any conflict of interest and does not vote where there is any conflict.

6. Decision Making

In order for a decision to be made there must be a minimum of 8 members present, to include at least three members of the committee.

7. Election of Officers

The committee will serve a 12 month term and will be drawn from the members as outlined in the constitution. Nominations from members for the appointment to the committee will be invited each year.