

**Florence Park Community Association (FPCA), Cornwallis Road, Oxford OX4 3NH**

**Registered Charity 1159506**

**Report of the Trustees for 2025**

**Objectives and activities**

The constitutional objects of the FPCA are to:

- promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together the said inhabitants and the statutory authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants;
- establish, or secure the establishment of, a Community Centre and to maintain and manage the same (whether alone or in co-operation with any statutory authority or other person or body) in furtherance of the Objects;
- promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined.

The Charity shall be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion. The area of benefit ("area of benefit") shall be Florence Park estate and the neighbourhood together defined by the area bounded by the Oxford Road, Between Towns Road and Church Cowley Road (including Eleanor Close), Henley Avenue, and the Boundary Brook.

Having regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, the main activities undertaken to fulfil these objectives in 2025 have been: the continued maintenance and management of the Florence Park Community Centre, which is open to all, under our lease with Oxford City Council; the provision of activities including social meals, exercise classes, drama, arts and music, for the social and recreational well-being of residents and the wider public.

Our core activities benefitting the community are:

- A weekly lunch club for the over 60's. Under the management of Group Leader Rachel Lawrence, and with a grant of £4000 from Oxfordshire's Connected Communities fund plus donations from the Oxford Food Hub, the lunch club has provided a hot cooked meal for 30 to 40 people each week. Rachel is supported by two or three regular volunteers in the kitchen, all of whom have welcomed the social opportunity provided by volunteering.
- Weekly baby and toddler groups. Managed by Group Leader Sarah Korting. The baby group has regularly welcomed some 20 parents and carers with their pre-mobile infants. The group focuses on the need of parents and carers for some 'down time' in like-minded company. Volunteers provide refreshments and help to look after the babies. 'Toddle Time' has been less well subscribed than the baby group in 2025 but is appreciated by those who drop in to play with their infants.
- Monthly low-cost community Sunday lunches taken around a communal table. Rachel Lawrence and her volunteers have continued to use food donated by the Oxford Food Hub to provide healthy roasts and vegetarian options. Community lunches have been attended by between 15 and 35 people in 2025. Proceeds have helped to subsidize the Over 60's lunch club twice-yearly outings.

These core activities have been supplemented by occasional events and activities offered by the Association and by members of the Association. Notable events in 2025 included: the January panto 'Aladdin' put on by the Florence Park Players collective and sold out for all performances; 'Florence Park Rocks', an intergenerational all-day celebration of live music rooted in Florence Park from across the last six decades; ArtFlo Oxford's annual show; the winter market and the popular 'Songs of the Season' both held in December. These events have provided opportunities for members and residents to develop their talents and for others to enjoy the results while the community centre benefited from the generous donations raised. The Trustees wish to thank everyone who contributed to these events.

Regular longstanding hirers have also benefitted the community. They include Joe Jennings' low cost acupuncture sessions, Jane Callaway's pilates class, Emily Marshall's Saturday Singers, Matt Hill's Kids Martial Arts and the Oxford Ukeleles.

### **Achievements and performance**

Overall 2025 has been another successful year for the Association with the community centre rarely standing empty during the day, in the evenings or at weekends. Footfall at events in 2025 was 25,000. Key achievements included:

Danny Chivers was elected to succeed Jane Dee as treasurer for the Board of Trustees. As well as keeping 'the books', Danny has succeeded in raising over £34,000 in funds for work to make our building more energy efficient. Projects, including installing solar panels, will start in 2026. Trustees wish to thank the project funders: The National Lottery Community Fund, Energy Solutions Oxfordshire, the Pye Trust and the Community Infrastructure Levy via our local councillors.

We produced three issues of the Florence Park Newsletter in 2025. Members of the community provided the content for these 8-page, full colour productions. Trustees Adam Wielopolski and Jane Littlehales respectively edited and designed the issues which were delivered by community volunteers to 1,400 homes. We are grateful to the University of Oxford for printing the newsletters.

Aiming to encourage and reward membership of the community association, 2025 saw the introduction of three free community meals for members. Thanks to Membership Secretary Stella Bell's culinary skills and the Oxford Food Hub these events have attracted 60 plus people, some of whom have come into the centre for the first time.

### **Financial Review**

A full financial review is included with the annual accounts. It is pleasing that, despite rising energy costs and other overheads the community centre is sustainable, with a small surplus in unrestricted income in 2025. Our employment contracts commit us to endeavouring to pay our Group Leaders at least the Oxford Living Wage and we were able to apply the increase in 2025 and 2026.

We have continued to benefit from our relationship under license with the Florence Park Social Club with whom we held constructive joint committee meetings in 2025.

### **Structure, government and management**

Florence Park Community Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution based on the Charity Commission model. There is no limit to the number of trustees but the minimum required is 3. Trustees are proposed and elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Board of Trustees) is able to co-opt trustees between AGMs subject to their election at the next AGM. There are three formal officerships: the AGM elects the secretary and treasurer while the chair is elected by the Trustees at their following meeting.

**Reference and administrative details: trustees**

The Trustees serving when the report was approved were: Judith Secker, Daniel Chivers, Adam Wielopolski, Jane Littlehales, Stephen Walker, Rebecca Seaborne and Stella Bell.

There are no corporate trustees and no trustee holds the title to property belonging to the charity.