

Newcastle's Parks and Allotments
Governance of the Newcastle Parks Trust
Public Sessions
Public Questions and Answers
July 2018

1. How many Members will be local?

Members will be organisations rather than individuals and most are based in the City – National Trust will be a Member and they have a national presence.

2. Will there be public access to meetings?

Board meetings will not be public. Papers will be published unless sensitive. The Annual General Meetings (AGM) will include CRG representatives but attendance of the general public will be a matter for the Trustees to decide.

3. Nothing in Articles to say how the Trading company will be governed?

The trading company will be wholly owned by the Parks Trust and will operate as a subsidiary company of the Trust. This means that the trading company has to be aligned with the charitable object of the Trust.

4. Nothing in Charitable objectives to say that the park will be free to enter.

The charitable objectives provide that the purpose of the Trust is for the benefit of the public. It will be a provision in the leases of the parks from the Council to the Trust that the parks will remain free to enter.

5. Point about the skills mix of Trustees.

2 or 3 of the Trustees have land management experience.

6. What was the criteria used to pick the Members?

Organisations largely based in Newcastle and aligned to objectives – organisations that have an interest in the well-being of the City.

7. Query about the parks staff.

Staff will be TUPE transferred to the Trust.

8. Concern over National Trust involvement.

National Trust will not have permanent operational or management roles.

9. When will incorporation take place?

The company has already been incorporated and will apply for charitable status later in 2018.

10. Has the Trading arm been set up?

No, the Trust needs to be set up first.

11. Will Friends of Parks be able to continue with fundraising?

Yes, same with allotments.

12. Who can members of the public contact if there is an incident in a park?

Parks staff – as is the case now.

This will also be clarified in the Trust's operational procedures when ready.

13. Music events happen in other cities but what if the residents objects?

Music events already take place in our parks.

Events will be subject to the Council's licensing requirements. Inevitably there will be some tensions which the Trust will have to manage. There will also be scrutiny when relevant by other Council services (e.g. Planning Authority).

14. Query re: position of Duke of Northumberland allotments.

We will write to the Duke and ask his view on the allotments which form part of his estate. The Council does not own this land and therefore cannot guarantee that these allotments will transfer to the Trust / or be managed by them.

15. Will Trustees be involved in appointment of CRG members?

The process has not yet been agreed.