

Victoria Park Community Group (VPCG)

CONSTITUTION

Suitable for small charities with an annual income under £5,000 that don't own a building or employ people and do not intend to register with the Charity Commission.

1 NAME

The charity's name is **Victoria Park Community Group (VPCG)**

2 THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY ARE:-

2.1) The promotion for the benefit of the public of urban regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and in particular in the area of George Street and Great Knolly's Street in Reading, Berkshire bounded by Reading West trainline (beginning North side of the Oxford Road) and the Inner Distribution Road by all or any of the following means:

- (a) the improvement of housing in the private or public sector or in charitable ownership provided that such power shall not extend to relieving any local authorities or other bodies of a statutory duty to provide or improve housing;
- (b) the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities;
- (c) the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large or those who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities;
- (d) the protection or conservation of the environment;
- (e) the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
- (f) the promotion of public safety and prevention of crime.

2.2 To further or benefit the residents of Victoria Park and the surrounding area in Reading and the neighbourhood (as described below*) without distinction of the protected characteristics in the UK's Equality Act legislation

(<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/part/2/chapter/1>) by associating together the said residents and the local 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 objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents, in any of the following ways, but not limited to such:

- Bringing residents together for activities that conserve, protect or improve the character of the area;
- Bringing residents together for activities that reduce isolation and build community spirit;

* The area of benefit for **Victoria Park Community Group** is the neighbourhood of George Street and Great Knolly's Street in Reading, Berkshire bounded by Reading West trainline (beginning North side of the Oxford Road) and the Inner Distribution Road.

3 TRUSTEES

3.1 The charity shall be managed by a committee of trustees who are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the charity.

4 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the trustees have the power to:

- (1) raise funds, receive grants and donations
- (2) apply funds to carry out the work of the charity
- (3) co-operate with and support other charities with similar purposes
- (4) do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes.

5 MEMBERSHIP

The charity shall have a membership. People who support the work of the charity and are aged 18 or over, can apply to the trustees to become a member. Once accepted by the trustees, membership lasts for 1 year and may be renewed. The trustees will keep an up-to-date membership list.

The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the charity. The member has the right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

6 AMMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

6.1 This Constitution can only be amended at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.

6.2 Any proposals to amend this Constitution must be presented to the Secretary in writing, at least twenty-eight days prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered and circulated to all members at least fourteen days before the meeting.

6.3 Any amendments to this Constitution shall require the approval of two-thirds of those members present at the meeting.

7 SUBSCRIPTION

Members shall pay such subscriptions as the Management Committee may from time to time determine. Subscriptions will be for a nominal/reasonable amount.

8 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGM

8.1 The AGM must be held every year, with 14 days notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.

8.2 There must be at least 3 members or 10% of the membership present at the AGM, whichever is the greater.

8.3 Every member has one vote

8.4 The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts.

8.5 Any member may stand for election as a trustee.

8.6 Members shall elect between 3 and 10 trustees to serve for the next year. They will retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

9 TRUSTEE MEETINGS

9.1 Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the AGM they will elect a chair, treasurer and secretary. Trustees may act by majority decision.

9.2 At least **2 trustees** must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.

9.3 If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.

9.4 During the year, the trustees may appoint up to 2 additional trustees. They will stand down at the next AGM.

9.5 The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

10. DISSOLUTION

10.1 **Victoria Park Community Group** can be dissolved by resolution at its Annual General Meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

10.2 If such a resolution gains the support of two-thirds majority of those present at the meeting, all liabilities shall be discharged. Any monies or assets remaining will be disposed of to other charities with similar purposes as agreed by the meeting.

11 MONEY AND PROPERTY

11.1 Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes.

11.2 Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request.

11.3 Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the charity, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.

11.4 Money must be held in the charity's bank account. All cheques must be signed by **2 trustees.**

12 GENERAL MEETINGS

If the Trustees consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the charity, they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision. Trustees must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request from the majority of members. All members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

12.1 Winding up - any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a charity with similar purposes to this one.

12.2 Changes to the Constitution - can be made at AGMs or General Meetings. No change can be made that would make the organisation no longer a charity.

12.3 General Meeting - called on written request from a majority of members.

12.4 Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership.

13 SETTING UP THE CHARITY

This constitution was adopted on _____ 2022 by the people whose signatures appear below. They are the first members of the charity and will be the trustees until the AGM, which must be held within one year of this date.

Signed

Print name and address

(Chair):

(Secretary):

(Treasurer):
