

REDSPEARLANDS FOOTPATH GROUP

Constitution

1: Name The organisation shall be known as the **Redspearlands Footpath Group**, hereafter referred to as 'The Group'.

2: Mission Statement The Group is established to promote the usage, upkeep and preservation of all published public rights of way situated within the Civil Boundary of the Parish of Dalston.

3: Aims and Objectives The object of The Group is to monitor the condition of public rights of way within the parish boundary and to bring to the attention of the Parish Council by way of a written report rights of way that are -

- a) in need of major upkeep or maintenance work
- b) obstructed or in breach of a regulation under such Countryside and Wildlife Act as is in force at the time of discovery

4: Powers In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the Executive Committee may exercise the following powers -

- a) power to open and operate a bank or building society account in The Group's name and to raise funds and invite and receive contributions, provided that in raising funds the Executive Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law
- b) power to buy, lease or exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use
- c) power to cooperate with charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in the furtherance of the objects or of similar purposes and to exchange information and advice with them
- d) power to promote and encourage public access to the said rights of way on foot, horseback or trail bike
- e) power to waymark rights of way and to investigate access or obstruction problems
- f) power to survey rights of way and to report problems to Dalston Parish Council
- g) power to organise escorted walks for children and young people, and to support a programme of health walks for the elderly, the unfit or those undergoing coronary or stroke rehabilitation
- h) power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects

5: Equal Opportunities The Group's membership shall be open to all persons of 16 years of age and above, irrespective of sex, race, sexual orientation, class, religion, caste or culture.

6: Countryside Code The Group's members will observe the Countryside Code, maintain good practice as recommended by rambling, riding or trail bike organisations, and respect at all times the rights of those whose livelihood resides in the countryside.

7: Membership Categories -

- a) **Active** - any person who wishes to be a regular walker and upkeep helper
- b) **Helper** - any person who wishes to walk occasionally and is willing to help with light upkeep projects
- c) **Friend** - any person who supports The Group's aims and objectives but who does not wish to participate actively or regularly
- d) **Equestrian** - persons who are horse or trail bike riders

8: Membership Fees Until otherwise decided, the single membership fee shall be £4.00 per annum or, alternatively, a joint membership fee of £6.00 per annum for two persons residing at the same address. The membership year shall run for twelve months commencing on the first day of February 2005 and ending on the last day of January of the following year, and annually thereafter. Members joining less than six months prior to the end of the membership year shall pay one half of the single or joint fee, whichever is applicable.

9: Donations and Fundraising The Group may collect donations and raise funds to cover its administration and activities costs. Annual accounts shall be published within nine months of the end of the membership year. Annual accounts will be audited as and when levels of income or expenditure reach a level requiring an audit under English law.

10: Legal Status Until and unless The Group applies for and is awarded charitable status, it will be recognised as an "unincorporated association" under English law

11: Officer Holders The Group may appoint office holders annually or otherwise delegate named members to act on its behalf. Office holders shall act as **trustees** of the association and be its **Executive Committee**. The Group shall have the following office holders -

- a) **Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer**, but may appoint other officers as it sees fit
- b) The **Treasurer** will ensure that accounts are kept and presented annually
- c) **Information updates** will be prepared by the **Secretary** and sent to all members disclosing an e-mail address, or posted to those who have not. Updates and reports will also be published in the parish papers of All Saints, Raughton Head and Saint Michael's, Dalston, and will appear on the Dalston website.

12: Meetings Meetings of The Group may be of the following sort -

- a) **Walking** meetings having a planned programme published in advance
- b) **General** meetings for the purpose of holding an **Annual General Meeting**, also to provide lectures, talks, slideshows, etc. for the benefit of members and their guests, or for administrative or social purposes
- c) **Extraordinary** meetings called by a simple majority of officers or by at least 30 ordinary members acting together. Such extraordinary meetings must be notified to all members giving notice of such resolutions as are to be voted upon by postal ballot or at the meeting

13: Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) policy Unless already in possession of CRB clearance, The Group requires any member offering to assist with escorted walks or health walks involving children or vulnerable adults, to complete a self declaration form for forwarding to the authority responsible for CRB clearance.

14: Alterations to the Constitution Subject to the provisions of this clause, The Group's constitution may only be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include a notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.

15: Dissolution If the Executive Committee decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve The Group, it shall call a meeting of all members of which not less than 21 days notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) will be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the officers have power to realise any assets held. Any financial assets remaining after the satisfaction of all proper debts and liabilities shall be distributed amongst the membership by way of a rebate of membership fees paid.