

WICKSTEED

Charitable Trust

Caring for Wicksteed Park

Trustee Role

“We all know that pleasurable exercise is good for the mind and for the body. I have good reason to believe that the park I have formed in Kettering has changed lives for the better.”

Charles Wicksteed

Introduction

Wicksteed Park opened in 1921, making it the oldest theme park on the UK mainland. Its founder, Charles Wicksteed purchased the land in 1913. His initial goal was to create a model village for the local community, however following World War One and housing reforms, Charles looked to develop a park for people to spend their leisure time. He set up a charitable trust in 1916 and went on to build a number of prefabricated houses – some of which still exist and are within the park grounds.

A century ago, Charles Wicksteed put into practice his deep-held belief that all children, no matter how rich or poor, should have somewhere safe and fun to play outdoors. Public parks in Charles’ own youth had been very formal places where you walked sedately along the paths, keeping off the grass. He was determined to provide something different and here at Wicksteed he did just that, using his engineering skills to provide a new and exciting element to public open spaces.

Swings, slides and roundabouts, parks and playgrounds are the background to many of our freest and most joyful childhood memories. They are something that we all share, generations of us, from all over Britain, but this is where it all started. Wicksteed Park is truly somewhere amazing and very special.

It is good to see this story of Kettering’s contribution to our nation’s health and happiness and to remember that Wicksteed is a place with an incredible heritage and an exciting future. Wicksteed Park is much more than an amusement park and continues to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to play and explore in its beautiful grounds.

Still delivering its core heritage but focusing on the connections with Kettering and wider communities, Wicksteed Charitable Trust has an opportunity to grow and transform, ensuring we are contributing to our communities’ wellbeing for the next century. It is thanks to the value, care, generosity, determination of our amazing volunteers that ensures the park has continued to deliver over some challenging years for the park.

We are now looking to expand our Trustee Board and are looking for people from a range of backgrounds who understand our community, the challenges that modern families face and have the drive and determination to deliver strategic objectives to build on our links and our regional presence.

We would also like to hear from people who can bring professional expertise especially in areas including Law, Finance, Leisure and Tourism and Land Management.

As a Trustee at Wicksteed Park you will join a small team of existing Trustees. We are looking for individuals who will bring their own experience to complement our collaborative approach. You will be asked to speak out, offer opinion and be a critical friend, enabler and constructive challenge to the team.

We hope we have inspired you to read on and find out more.

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About Us

Charles Wicksteed's dream was to provide free play for all. Today The Wicksteed Charitable Trust's main objective is to provide a safe environment for people of all ages to relax and play and to provide a focus for community activity. Wicksteed Park comprises 147 acres of land listed Grade II on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens with a further 134 acres of green space including a scheduled monument.

We play an important role in Kettering contributing to our community's health and happiness. Our aim is to grow and develop our offering to regional and national communities promoting what Wicksteed Park has to offer.



The Role

Trustees are responsible for making sure the charity stays true to its mission and vision. Being a Trustee of an historic, community-based charity, means making decisions that will impact on the communities we serve across Kettering and the wider county, enriching lives and providing a focus for community activity.

Trustees, led by a Chair, have independent control over, and legal responsibility for, the charity's management and administration. They act as the ultimate decision makers of the organisation, protecting the interests of the members and the public. They agree the strategy and hold the executives to account for the management of the organisation.

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Responsibilities

Governance

- Integrity and openness. Understand the charity's purposes as set out in its governing document and ensure compliance to law and other relevant regulations.
- Ensure the charity has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and is focused on achieving these in partnership with other Trustees.
- Ensure the sustainability of the charity and sound risk management.
- Oversee what the charity does and what it needs to achieve.
- Be responsible for the performance of the charity and for its 'corporate' behaviour.
- Act as a guardian of the charity's assets, both tangible and intangible, taking all due care over their security, deployment, and proper application.
- Ensure the charity's governance is of the highest possible standard.

Leadership

- Contribute to the development of the charity's long term strategy.
- Raise public profile and promote the reputation of the organisation.

Financial Management

- Ensure the charity's assets are only used to support or carry out its purposes.
- Evaluate risks to the assets or reputation.
- Monitor and assess the organisation's results in relation to the agreed strategy, budget and implementation plan.

In addition to the above duties, each Trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board of Trustees reach sound decisions.

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This may involve leading sub committees, leading discussions, identifying key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, and evaluating or offering advice on other areas in which the Trustee has particular expertise.

The Board of Trustees collectively needs skills and experience in the following areas:

Person Specification

Essential

- Ability to commit to essential Board and Sub Committee meetings and participate on any further critical meetings or email discussions as appropriate.
- Good communication skills across all levels.
- Excellent planning and organisational ability with long term focus.
- Genuine passion and interest in the charity's work.
- Integrity and openness.
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of Trusteeship.

Desirable

- Understanding of charity governance, legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities.
- Understanding the voluntary sector



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Terms of Appointment

Length of Appointment

Our Trustees are appointed for an initial three-year term, and can be re-appointed for up to two more three-year terms.

Time Commitment

The estimated Trustee time commitment is a minimum of 6 half day full trust meetings each year (held every other month), plus reading and preparation time. Board meetings will be held at Wicksteed Park in Kettering. Additional commitment to any sub-committee or ad-hoc duties may be reasonably required. Sub-committee meetings may be held online and it is expected these will be held quarterly.

Remuneration

The Trustee appointment is voluntary but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed in line with the expenses policy.

Location

Wicksteed Park, Kettering, NN15 6NJ.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Wicksteed Charitable Trust follows the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion and seeks a diverse Trust Board to meet the needs of the organisation.

