

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- **Why has FEDORA been incorporated?**

There are several advantages. Firstly, as an incorporated entity we have more standing when dealing with external bodies such as Elmbridge Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Surrey Highways, Surrey Police, Members of Parliament, etc. In addition, incorporation provides a formal constitution and gives the Members more control over the management, activities and organisation of FEDORA. Finally, being a limited-liability company provides protection for the Directors.

- **What is a “Community Interest Company”?**

It is a non-profit company that is set-up specifically for the benefit of a defined section of the community – in our case the residents of Oxshott. A CIC does not distribute dividends, and all profits must be used for the specified activities of the company. If the company should be wound-up, any remaining assets can only be transferred to another asset-locked entity such as a registered charity. In the case of FEDORA this has been specified as the Oxshott Trust Fund.

More information can be found online from the [Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies](#).

- **What are the objectives of FEDORA now that it is incorporated?**

Our objectives are detailed on pages 53 to 57 of our incorporation documents (see next question). The key point is that *“the Company’s activities will provide benefit to residents of the village of Oxshott, Surrey.”* The incorporation documents include further details of the specific activities that FEDORA will carry out. The objects of the Company in its Articles of Association are the same, more generally stated.

- **Where can I get a copy of the incorporation documents?**

They can be downloaded from Companies House or we can provide a copy on request by emailing (Secretary@FEDORA.org.uk).

- **How can I influence what FEDORA does and how it is run?**

The way to have influence over FEDORA is to become a Member of the Company. This allows you to vote at general meetings and to nominate new Directors, etc..

- **Who are the initial Directors?**

The 5-person team that has been running FEDORA for the past 18 months is the initial Board of Directors. They are the two co-Chairs, Anthony Wolfe and Carmen Robinson, plus Ian Dilks, Mike Wheeler and Alec Robinson.

- **How long will the Directors serve?**

All Directors are required to retire from office at the end of each Annual General Meeting and then, if they wish, offer themselves for re-election by vote of the Members at the same meeting.

- **Who will control the finances?**

On a day-to-day basis the Directors, who are also the Management, will control the spending of the Company which must be in accordance with the Company's Objectives and Articles. As a registered company, FEDORA must prepare annual financial statements which must be filed at Companies House by a specified date. The financial statements will be available to and reviewed with Members. Plans for future spending will be discussed with Members at General Meetings.

- **Where does the remaining money go if FEDORA is wound-up?**

The Articles of Association state that it will go to the Oxshott Trust Fund, a registered charity.

- **Will FEDORA continue to have Annual General Meetings?**

Yes. The Company must hold an Annual General Meeting each year before the end of November.

- **I am already a member of FEDORA; why do I need to fill out the new form?**

This is a statutory requirement now that FEDORA is a registered company - we need your explicit, signed agreement to the obligations of being a Member (which are solely to pay £1.00 if the Company goes into liquidation) and your permission to inscribe your name and address in the statutory Register of Members that we are required to maintain.

- **Why do I need to pay an Annual Membership Fee?**

The only revenues that FEDORA has are from membership fees, donations from some members, and a small profit from advertising in the twice-yearly magazine. The membership fees are an essential revenue without which we would not be able to be effective. The membership fee has been set at the modest amount of £10.00 per year.

- **What happens if I am late in paying the Annual Membership Fee?**

Membership fees are due on a calendar-year basis. The Directors will send a reminder to any Member whose fee is overdue and allow an appropriate period of time for the fee to be paid. If the fee then remains unpaid the Directors will meet to decide whether the Membership should be terminated and the Member's name removed from the register.

- **Can my Residents' Association also be a Member of FEDORA?**

Yes, as specified in Article 39.5. We encourage all Oxshott Residents' Associations to become Members and benefit from our support. Currently we hold quarterly meetings with member Residents' Associations at which they are updated, we learn of their concerns, and we are able to coordinate with them. Any Residents' Association that would like to join should contact us and we can provide more information.

- **What will be my obligations and liabilities as a Member of FEDORA?**

Your only obligation would be to contribute £1.00 in the unlikely event that the Company were to be wound-up.

- **How can I help FEDORA?**

We need enthusiastic volunteers to help achieve our objectives. If you care about the environment of Oxshott and have time that you could commit, please get in contact with us at Secretary@FEDORA.org.uk.