



THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

CHARITY NUMBER 1071096

www.brambles-kenilworth.com

INDEX

	Pages
Trustees' Annual Report	1-4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Affairs	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Accounts	8-12

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Reference and administrative information

Thorns Community Trust (TCT) is a registered charity, no. 1071096. TCT trades under the name Brambles Pre-School and Out of School Club (Brambles). Brambles is located on the site of Thorns Community Infant School (Thorns), and continues to maintain close links with the school. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DS.

TCT is overseen by a committee of Trustees. There are three types of trustee:

- Ex-officio - the head teacher of Thorns Community Infant School
- Nominated - Trustees who are appointed by the governing body of Thorns Community Infant School, and
- Co-opted – Trustees who have been appointed by the TCT committee of Trustees as a consequence of their particular professional skills.

TRUSTEES WHO SERVED DURING THE YEAR		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated
Sarah Taubman	Trustee	Nominated
TRUSTEES MANAGING TCT AT THE TIME THIS REPORT IS SIGNED		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated
Sarah Taubman	Trustee	Nominated

Structure, Governance and Management

TCT is governed by a constitution, which was written in January 1998 and supplemented by a further deed of the same year. An amendment to the constitution was made by way of Deed of Variation dated 23rd March 2011.

In 2021-22, the Trustees met as a formal Board on four occasions- on 23 September 2021, 1 December 2021, 17 March 2022 and 14 July 2022. During trust meetings all Trustees had the right to speak and to be heard. Decisions were made by consensus.

The day-to-day management of Brambles is delegated to the manager of Brambles, who is supported by a deputy manager. TCT also contracts a direct employee who is responsible for day to day administration and business management. Operational reports are made by the Brambles manager and the business manager (who is responsible for finance) at most Trustee meetings.

Objectives, activities and performance

The main aim of TCT is to provide high quality child care to young children between the ages of 3 years and eleven years through the provision of a Pre-School, Out of School Club and Holiday Club. The Trustees have now agreed that childcare can be most effectively provided from age 3 years.

In effect, Brambles fulfils the obligation of Thorns Community Infant School by way of its extended hours provision.

Public benefit

Brambles is a pre-school, out of school club and holiday club setting that provides reasonably priced childcare and educational benefits to the local community. The Trustees always seek to bear in mind that TCT is a charity and that they have a responsibility to act in the public interest. At the time of signing this report all serving Trustees had read the guidance published by the Charities Commission on public benefit.

The Trustees believe that the aims and resulting benefits of TCT are clear and that the benefits obtained from TCT's activities are derived from its aims. In addition, the benefits are focused on a section of the public, namely pre-school and primary age children and their parents/carers, and within this range, no section of the public is unreasonably restricted.

Due to its location the children who attend Brambles tend to live within the Thorns' catchment area. The admissions policy does not however exclude children from attending who live outside of this area. The Trustees still consider that the prices are competitive and would not regard the inability to pay fees as a bar to entry.

The setting was improved during the year with a major investment in the outside space to improve the garden area.

Pre-school

During the financial year, the Brambles Pre-School was open for five morning and lunchtime sessions as well as a number of afternoon sessions per week during term time.

Brambles Ofsted registration allows 30 children to attend per session. It is TCT policy to not fill each session so that the educational experience for each child is optimised.

The vast majority of the Pre-School children moved from Brambles Pre-School up to Thorns at the end of their pre-school year.

Out of School Club

During the financial year, the Out of School Club was also only open during term time, with a good number of children registered, split across the three year groups at Thorns. The Out of School Club opened both before school, from 8am, and then again after school, from 3pm to 6pm.

Holiday Club

During the financial year, the Holiday Club was open during a good number of school holidays and offered a variety of sessions, within the timeframe of 8am to 6pm.

The number of children attending Holiday Club varied between holidays. In common with previous years, a good proportion of the children who attended holiday club were pupils at Thorns or Park Hill. These were supplemented by children that attended other schools in Kenilworth.

Risk Review

The Trustees regularly consider the risks to which TCT is exposed at the Trustees' meetings and, where appropriate, measures are taken to ensure existing systems and procedures are strengthened to mitigate these risks as far as possible. During the year, some new policies were approved and other improvements were made. This is necessary to ensure good governance and manage risk so as to maintain the high standards for the setting.

The Trustees are mindful that changes in Government Policy as far as the free provision of childcare for nursery age children could alter the risk profile for the setting.

In order to further mitigate risk, the Trustees have established a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and intend to transfer the undertaking of the Charity to that CIO. The factor that had historically prevented this from happening was an OFSTED reinspection which took place subsequent to this period of financial reporting. A good OFSTED rating was restored, clearing the way for the CIO to be accepted.

Financial Review

For the year ending 31 August 2022, TCT made a surplus of £14,689. This increased the overall level of reserves to £132,579 at the end of the financial year.

The continued challenge faced by TCT is in ensuring that the PreSchool is kept full and that numbers at the Out of School Club are sustained (as the latter largely cross-subsidises the first). The financial performance depends to a large extent on these factors being maintained.

There are no restricted or designated funds held by the Trust. From time to time the Trustees may budget to spend certain monies on certain projects, but these funds remain at all times part of the general accumulated fund of the Trust. However, the Trustees believe that an adequate level of reserves of four to six months' running costs should be maintained at all times to enable TCT to continue operating for a term should all external funding cease.

The Trustees observe that the present cash balance held is materially in excess of the stipulated four to six months' running costs. Given the age of the temporary building and the maintenance liabilities that accrue annually, it remains the stated intention of the Trustees to look to those surplus funds (with the addition of grant monies) to either refurbish or replace the current temporary building.

Future Events

Fees continue to be reviewed annually. The Trustees will continue to keep both fees and expenditure under close review so as to ensure that the Trust continues to generate a surplus and therefore maintain adequate levels of reserves to remain viable into the future.

With the impending transfer to a CIO, this will provide the platform to look at a longer term upgrade to the Building in which the setting is housed. A working group amongst trustees is already looking at this.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the TCT's Trustees:



Jonathan William Emlyn Wright
Chair

28 June 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

I report on the accounts of Thorns Community Trust ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Trust are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.


I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with those records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Michelle Larkin
Chartered Accountant

FILAN Accountants
57 Ely Street
Warwickshire
CV37 6LN

28 June 2023

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

		2022			2021		
	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income from:							
Donation	3	-	-	-	-	310	310
Charitable activities	4	171,530	-	171,530	140,251	-	140,251
Other trading activities	5	-	-	-	36	-	36
Investments	6	25	-	25	9	-	9
Other	7	-	-	-	-	5,699	5,699
Total		171,555	-	171,555	140,296	6,009	146,305
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	8	156,866	-	156,866	140,916	6,009	146,925
Total		156,866	-	156,866	140,916	6,009	146,925
Net (expenditure)/income		14,689	-	14,689	(620)	-	(620)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Funds brought forward		117,890	-	117,890	118,510	-	118,510
Funds carried forward		132,579	-	132,579	117,890	-	117,890

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

		2022		2021	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	11		5,680		6,534
Current assets					
Debtors	12	5,010		1,989	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>124,183</u>		<u>112,477</u>	
		129,193		114,466	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(2,294)</u>		<u>(3,110)</u>	
Net current assets			126,899		111,356
Net assets			<u>132,579</u>		<u>117,890</u>
Represented by:					
Accumulated funds:					
General fund	14		<u>132,579</u>		<u>117,890</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 28 June 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



JWE Wright
Chair

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. Status

Thorns Community Trust is an unincorporated association; it is also a registered charity (registration number 1071096) whose activities are intended to be for the public benefit. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DS.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Going concern

After making enquiries, the trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties that cast doubt on going concern and have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will be able to continue its activities for the foreseeable future, and at least twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts. Accordingly, they have continued to adopt the going concern basis in the financial statements.

Income

Income is recognised as incoming resources to the extent that the charity has provided the services in question.

Expenditure

Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects comprise those costs incurred by the charity as a result of the delivery of its service. Governance costs comprise those costs incurred by the charity in meeting its constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is generally calculated so that the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value are written off over their estimated useful lives. The following depreciation rates apply:

- Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% reducing balance.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 (continued)****3. Donations**

	2022	2021
	Restricted £	Total £
Donations	-	310

A donation of £nil (2021: £310) was received in the year (2021: which was to be used to provide uniform for the staff).

4. Income from charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Out of school club fees	72,512	57,699
Holiday club fees	17,413	14,145
Preschool grant	69,259	49,472
Preschool fees	12,346	18,935
	<u>171,530</u>	<u>140,251</u>

5. Other trading activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fundraising activities	-	36

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	25	25	9

7. Other income

Included in Other income of £nil (2021:£5,699) are the following grants: £nil (2021: £5,699) CJRS grant.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 (continued)

8. Expenditure on charitable activities

	2022			2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	119,792	-	119,792	120,266
Insurance	1,846	-	1,846	1,921
Materials	4,528	484	5,012	3,465
Electricity	1,912	-	1,912	1,620
Training	541	-	541	794
Printing postage and telephone	977	-	977	1,178
Depreciation	1,893	-	1,893	2,178
Rent	4,000	-	4,000	4,358
Rates	278	-	278	46
Repairs	12,189	-	12,189	403
Cleaning	2,593	-	2,593	2,282
Professional fees	629	-	629	3,580
Uniform	91	-	91	359
Nursery IT and software	386	-	386	25
Bank charges	31	-	31	5
Sundry	3,735	-	3,735	3,486
	<u>155,422</u>	<u>484</u>	<u>155,906</u>	<u>145,965</u>
Governance costs:				
Trustees' remuneration and expenses	-	-	-	-
Independent Examiner's fees	960	-	960	960
	<u>156,382</u>	<u>484</u>	<u>156,866</u>	<u>146,925</u>

9. Trustees remuneration and expenses

Mr Jonathan Wright, a trustee, received £nil (2021: £8) for reimbursed expenses during the year.

Ms Michelle Andrews, a trustee, received £90 (2021: £117) for reimbursed expenses during the year.

10. Staff remuneration and numbers

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	118,085	119,235
Employers National Insurance	261	-
Pension contributions	1,446	1,031
	<u>119,792</u>	<u>120,266</u>

The average monthly number of employees paid during the year was 3 full time (2021: 2) and 10 part-time (2020: 12) who worked between 5 and 20 hours per week.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 (continued)**

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	Equipment £	Property Improvements £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1 September 2021	26,537	9,557	2,153	38,247
Additions	-	439	600	1,039
As at 31 August 2022	<u>26,537</u>	<u>9,996</u>	<u>2,753</u>	<u>39,286</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 September 2021	22,279	8,896	538	31,713
Provided in year	1,064	275	554	1,893
As at 31 August 2022	<u>23,343</u>	<u>9,171</u>	<u>1,092</u>	<u>33,606</u>
Net book value				
As at 31 August 2022	<u>3,194</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>1,661</u>	<u>5,680</u>
As at 31 August 2021	<u>4,258</u>	<u>661</u>	<u>1,615</u>	<u>6,534</u>

12. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	3,682	1,333
Prepayments	682	656
Other debtors	646	
	<u>5,010</u>	<u>1,989</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	1,819	532
Taxation and social security	-	1,040
Other creditors and accruals	475	1,538
	<u>2,294</u>	<u>3,110</u>

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 (continued)

14. Movement in funds

Name of fund	Opening	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Closing
	£	£	£	£
Restricted fund: Staff Uniform	-	-	-	-
Restricted fund: JRS Claimed	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted fund:				
General fund	117,890	171,555	(156,866)	132,579
Total of all funds	117,890	171,555	(156,866)	132,579

15. Fees for examination of the accounts

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	960	960
Other fees paid to the independent examiner - payroll costs	862	1,040
	<u>1,822</u>	<u>2,000</u>

FILAN Accountants carried out payroll duties at a cost of £862 (2021:£620) and processed furlough claims at a cost of £nil (2021: £420) in the year. A separate department carried out this work to ensure independence was maintained.