

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity



ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

The Board of Trustees presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance

EcoLocal is a Carshalton based charity which has a strong track record on building community and individual assets since its original establishment in 1987. Our vision is to 'Achieve and sustain strong vibrant communities within a healthy environment'.

The objects of the Charity (the "Objects") are for the public benefit:-

- i. To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
 - a. the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources; and
 - b. the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.
- ii. To advance the education of the public particularly but not exclusively in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment and to promote study and research in such subjects provided that the useful results of such study are disseminated to the public at large. Sustainable development means "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
- iii. To promote for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, particularly but not exclusively by promoting biological diversity.
- iv. To promote health, particularly but not exclusively by providing environmental and conservation orientated activities in the outdoors and natural environments.
- v. To promote for the benefit of the public urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and in particular the London Borough of Sutton) by all or any of the following means:
 - a. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed, underemployed and underskilled people, and providing such people with work experience;
 - b. the provision of financial (whether direct or indirect) assistance, technical assistance or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed, underemployed or underskilled people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help: (i) in setting up their own social enterprise or sustainability related business, or (ii) to existing social enterprises or sustainability related businesses;
 - c. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings, and/or land for use on favourable terms; and
 - d. the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance or of significance for the heritage of the area.
- vi. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of the London Borough of Sutton in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.
- vii. To further or benefit the residents of the London Borough of Sutton, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions 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.
- viii. In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The remit of our organisation is very broad, encompassing all aspects of sustainability; environment, community and economy. We work with very diverse sectors of the community; e.g. voluntary groups, small businesses, people with mental or physical health problems, older people, children, young people, offenders, people with disabilities as well as families and people not defined by any health issue or disability and reflecting local ethnic diversity.

We are a part of the community and we believe that the combined resources of local people are potentially huge. In a typical year we work with over 350 groups/organisations and engage with approximately 20,000 individuals. We usually enable over 200 people to volunteer in a year and contribute over 14,000 hours towards a sustainable community. Participation ranges from one off volunteering of for example 2 hours as a steward at the Carshalton Eco-Fair to several days per week. We provide an environment where people can assist with projects, get involved in planning and delivering activities and use their experience, knowledge, skills capacity and passion.

In accordance with our 'Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy' and the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, the following Trustees' review provides a summary of achievements and the key outcomes of our work over the last 12 months. EcoLocal delivers its objects through a range of activities, subdivided under the following main headings:

1. Transport and Travel

1.1 Inclusive Cycling:

These activities are designed to:

- engage the whole community and help make cycling accessible to new audiences
- encourage people of all abilities to take cycling up both for fun and fitness
- promote cycling as an alternative means of transport
- provide healthy outdoor activities that enable people to socialise, contribute to community life and avoid isolation
- encourage the involvement of volunteers and trackside supporters (peer supporters) at sessions in a variety of roles, providing work experience for unemployed people, and enabling people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills.

During the year these activities were funded as follows:

- Gear-Up: donations from users
- A small grant from the The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund (awarded at the end of the previous year)
- Gift aid donation from Ecolocal Services Limited

In 2022/23 this funding enabled us to;

- engage more volunteers in particular to help with the new covid hygiene systems.
- deliver 127 inclusive cycling sessions at David Weir Leisure Centre, with 995 unique attendees. These are mostly people with disabilities and older people and their relatives/friends who were able to cycle in a safe, supportive environment, generating 6986 individual attendances. We also ran extended sessions in the school holidays to provide inclusive family cycling opportunities.
- run an additional 10 lunchtime club sessions for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 'SEND' school students. This was part funded by Sutton School Sport Partnership. 33 students took part with a total of 151 attendances
- maintain our fleet of over 60 accessible cycles and support our Projects & Maintenance group which comprises of technical / mechanically experienced volunteers working with unemployed and economically disadvantaged people

In survey results from summer 2021; 91% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at cycling sessions as 'good' or 'very good', 91% said they benefited from getting more exercise and 89% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions.

In the next year we will:

- Seek further funding to develop the project
- Engage more track side supporter volunteers
- Seek to work with other audiences not yet reached
- Develop social enterprise opportunities including the delivery of roadshows
- Maintain our fleet of accessible cycles

1.2 Interactive School Travel Experience

We are renovated parts of this equipment for use at the EcoFair to promote walking and cycling to school.

1.3 Bikestreet Project

Remaining funds were transferred to our Inclusive Cycling project to help cover the cost of training volunteers to maintain our fleet of cycles

2. Local Food / wildlife and nature conservation

2.1 Carshalton Community Allotment

We have a long established Community Allotment in Carshalton. The site is approximately 1400m² and is fully cultivated. It includes raised beds accessible for both standing and wheelchair users, demonstration crop rotation, herb gardens, herb spirals and herb wheels, a fruit area, square foot garden, English and Kenyan key hole gardens, container garden, poly-tunnels, storage hut, a classroom and a composting toilet

During 2022/23 we delivered 135 therapeutic gardening sessions at Carshalton Community Allotment engaging 115 participants, generating 1,098 individual attendances. These sessions provided;

- healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enable people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- opportunity for people to benefit by volunteering to take part in their community
- work experience for unemployed people, and enable people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills
- accessible gardening opportunity for people with of all abilities to take part and gain skills in growing organic food
- promotion of local food production as a benefit to environmental sustainability
- promotion of food growing as a means of leading a more healthy lifestyle
- opportunity to grow approx. 0.4 tonnes of food. 14% of this was donated to the Sutton Women's Centre food bank. The remainder was shared among session participants enabling them to take home free, fresh produce that they have helped grow

Feedback from a survey of participants in 2023 showed that 95% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at community allotment sessions as 'good' or 'very good'. 81% said they benefited from getting more exercise at the sessions. 95% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions and benefited from getting outdoors.

During the year these activities were funded as follows;

- £2,000 Arnold Clark funding
- £2,000 Yorkshire Building Society
- £2,500 from The Shanly Foundation for running costs (awarded the previous year)
- £500 from Community Matters, Cheam Waitrose
- donations from sale of plants at markets £2,400
- other donations of £2,800
- ESL Gift Aid £1,000

In the next year we will

- deliver activities at Carshalton Community Allotment
- seek opportunities to apply for further funding to develop this work
- support volunteers to raise funds through sale plants propagated on allotment/walled garden
- seek to improve the infrastructure at the allotment

2.2 Victorian Walled Garden

The Victorian Walled Garden is situated behind the main Lodge building providing a tranquil space hidden away behind the historic walls and buildings. The garden was neglected for many years before we took it on as part of the The Lodge project. During 2022/23 we:

- ran 42 gardening sessions during which 48 volunteers contributed including police cadets aged 14-18 who gained new experiences and skills in gardening
- enabled volunteers to contribute their knowledge and skills to continue clearing the garden of many years of weeds and rubble, and to establish/develop cordon trained currants, fan trained peach, bud-grafted apple trees, Mediterranean herb bed, trained fig tree, new vegetable growing areas, new lawn and paths
- provided healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enabling people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise

In the next year we will:

- Continue renovation of the walled garden, increasing the opportunities to use the garden for the benefit of the community
- Increase the planting in the garden to grow a range of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers
- Continue to provide healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enabling people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- Seek to engage and support more volunteers
- Seek opportunities to raise funds for further renovation works

2.3 Horticultural Training

In 2022/23 we established an increased range of one-day and half-day gardening workshops. We delivered:

- 1 six-week Organic Food Growing Training course
- 8 one-day workshops
- Trained 80 people who gained skills in growing food and horticulture
- Planned a further one-day workshops to start in 2022/23

Courses helped raise funds towards our community gardening projects.

In the next year we will develop our horticulture training opportunities further.

2.4 Greener Schools Network (GSN)

This project provided free support to schools in the London Borough of Sutton and the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic activities were suspended.

The focus was on helping with school grounds development projects by providing design and advice on rejuvenating wildlife and / or sensory gardens, forest areas and quiet 'natural' areas. Help was also provided on how to set up staff and pupil environmental groups, encouraging a team effort to sustain nature areas once they have been set up. Over 139 schools (including Special Schools, Children's Centre's and Nurseries) and 4 community groups were supported by this project across the 2 Boroughs over the past 21 years. The project was volunteer led by Trustee Hazel Gurr.

3. Energy

3.1 Warm Rooms

We continue to hold a small level of funds for this project which will be reviewed again in the coming months.

4. Recycling and Waste

In all our activities we encourage reuse, repair and recycling and we promote this message wherever possible. No specific funds were used against this heading during the year.

5. Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability

5.1 Eco-Fair

EcoLocal organises this event annually with help from over 60 volunteers. Held in the picturesque surrounds of Carshalton Park, the event helps promote pro-environmental behaviours, encourages participation in community projects and enables us to raise funds for our charitable

activities locally. It is one of the borough's largest public events with over 160 organisations participating. Around half of these are community and voluntary sector organisations attending to communicate a variety of messages and engage people in:

- environmental education and awareness raising
- social enterprise and skills development
- community wellbeing activities
- opportunities to take part in shaping their local communities throughout the year.

A significant number of small local craft and environmentally sustainable businesses also attend. Local bands and entertainers performed on three solar powered stages. We provided a free bus service to and from the event. Our social value analysis concludes that the event provides a significant outlet for many of the organisations and groups attending, both in terms of engaging with the public and for fundraising.

Visitors come from a cross section of the local population ranging from people with high levels of knowledge of environmental sustainability to those who have lower levels of understanding. Our survey work indicates that the most typical visitors are people who are not averse to taking an interest in the environment and who, when information is made available to them, respond positively to it. 79% of those surveyed at the fair said that they would take, or would consider taking, further actions to do their bit for the environment as a result of attending the fair.

The 2022 event was a great success, enabling us to raise funds toward our local projects. We plan to run the event again in 2023.

5.2 Frost Fair

This annual event is run in partnership with Friends of Honeywood Museum who are responsible for activities inside the museum.

The event was held in the picturesque setting surrounding Carshalton Ponds and was well attended by the local public. It featured entertainers, choirs and musicians and 39+ organisations of which at least 6 are community and voluntary sector and the rest are local farmers stalls and crafts people. The event helps promote:

- energy conservation
- social enterprise and skills development
- opportunities to take part in local groups and promote the local environment and related activities

and provides over 50 volunteering opportunities

We plan to run this popular event again in 2023.

5.3 Eco-Wellbeing Project ('Garden Tea')

In 2022 we established a new eco-wellbeing project to help people with mental health conditions and older people to reduce social isolation and loneliness and improve mental health and wellbeing. The project comprised a new weekly 'Garden Tea' party meet up at The Lodge combined with a range of ecotherapy activities, and the promotion of existing healthy outdoor activities to target audiences. We engaged two new part time sessional staff to work on this project. The project was seed funded by London Borough of Sutton's Covid Rebuild fund.

In 2022/23 we delivered:

- 46 'Garden Tea' eco-wellbeing sessions at The Lodge attended by 68 unique attendees. 22 people attended more than 5 sessions.
- Activities at Garden Tea included; nature walks, art therapy, meditation, tai chi, 'forest bathing' mindfulness, chair based yoga, lavender activity, plant propagation, various nature based crafts and more
- Feedback from Garden Tea attendees showed that 97% rated the sessions as good/very good opportunity to meet others, 96% enjoyed the activities and 94% rated them as good/very good at improving their mental wellbeing. Typical comments included: "Very calm - really made a difference to how I feel, and I loved learning about trees and how they connect and communicate with one another." "It was very relaxing and peaceful. A great opportunity to meet nice people and enjoy the garden together." "Never done chair yoga

before - but it was an eye opener - I can now do chair yoga at home." "Upbeat - always good to spend time outside - with good people - doing interesting stuff" "Nice to meet new people and make friends. Go home with a smile." "Enjoyed being outside again + in touch with earth. Also enjoyed talking with new people afterwards."

- 54 new people joined at least one community based healthy outdoor activity in 2022/23, 53 people attended at least 5 or more sessions, 32 attended at least 10 times

The project will continue next year due to our success in raising necessary funds.

5.4 Development of The Lodge

The charity secured premises at on a 125 year lease from January 2018 in order to establish a community centre for the benefit of local people and to preserve The Lodge buildings which are of significance for the heritage of the area. Architects, surveyors, solicitors, valuers and accountants were engaged to advise on the development. Trustees carefully addressed the complex issues involved and were satisfied that the benefits to the charity in achieving its objectives are very significant. The initial phase of contracted works were completed last year.

This year we have been working on the planned improvements to community facilities not covered by the initial contracted works. These works, to different parts of the site, will be ongoing for several years. By March 2023 we were close to being able to offer 3 new indoor spaces for community use: The Cicely Conference Room, the Garden Hall and a Small Meeting Room, as well as the further renovation of the Victorian Walled Garden at the rear of the site. This activity has been supported by many skilled and enthusiastic local volunteers as well as a small Grant from Awards for All toward materials costs for the Garden Hall refurbishment.

During the next year we will:

- continue further planned improvement works to community facilities
- increase the number of community organisations and individuals benefitting from use of the facilities
- continue to provide a significant number of volunteer opportunities as part of activities on site
- build on our project activities based at The Lodge

5.5 Volunteer Celebration Event

We received a small grant from the Mayor of London toward the cost of a volunteer celebration event this coming spring.

6. EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL)

EcoLocal Services Ltd is a social enterprise which works closely in conjunction with the EcoLocal charity to deliver activities which require a more commercial approach. Staff PAYE for ESL is handled by the charity (staff working for ESL are sometimes also employed by the charity). ESL provides additional income to the charity by way of gift aid. All profits resulting from ESL activity during the year will be donated to the EcoLocal charity.

ESL activity during the year focused on delivery of the Wallington Farmers' Market. Key activities included:

- running 12 markets and developing the market offer by recruiting new stalls post Covid
- supporting local community groups by offering free stalls
- providing new business start up opportunities
- provide opportunities to promote and raise funds toward the activities of the charity

7. Social Media

We maintained our social media profile and encouraged people to join our free e-mail listing. Our aggregated contacts across all social media platforms including email sits at over 12,000 people. Social media has significantly improved our ability to communicate with the public.

Finance Review

Unrestricted funds carried forward at the end of the year were £896,918 compared with £386,710 the previous year. Restricted funds carried forward at the end of the year were £92,334 compared with £90,795 the previous year.

We received grants and donations of £592,802 during the year. This includes gift aid donations received from our trading subsidiary, Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd, which significantly increased the charity's general unrestricted funds. A transfer has been made from the charity's free unrestricted funds to designated funds to reflect the value of the property which will be used for community purposes (refer notes 2, 14 and 20). Through our charitable activities we raised a further £25,344. We also raised £36,580 from other trading activities. An additional £280 was generated from bank account interest. Total income for the year was £655,006 compared to £100,876 the previous year.

Total expenditure was £143,259 compared to £69,543 the previous year. The loan from Charity Bank plc toward our premises development project was paid off as a result of a loan in lieu of gift aid from ELD. In relation to the premises development project the charity was owed £69,210 from group undertakings at the year end.

Net assets carried forward on the balance sheet at the year end were £989,252 compared with £477,505 the previous year.

The charity successfully managed all funded projects in accord with agreements made with funders.

Overhead costs have been met via a mix of grant contributions, recovery of project costs, contracts, general and gift aid donations.

The soundness of the charity's financial management is ensured by the diligence of its Trustees, staff and volunteers. EcoLocal's principal funding sources were:

- Donations
- EcoLocal Services Ltd and ELD donations by way of gift aid and recovery of project costs
- Grants
- Investment income

Reserves Policy

EcoLocal holds general fund reserves for the following:

- To provide for fluctuations in income.
- To provide for ongoing commitments. The charity has commitments in the form of a lease on premises occupied at The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton and also by way of salary and associated payments for staff. Notice would need to be given and costs incurred if we were obliged to cancel these.
- To fund projects. The charity, from time to time, uses reserves (a) to start projects or pilot schemes whilst awaiting the outcome of funding applications, which may not always be successful, and (b) to provide cash-flow in the case of projects and contracts which are funded in arrears. Additionally restricted fund reserves are held, being the unexpended balances of trust fund and other grants received for specific purposes.

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 3 - 6 months of the overall unrestricted revenue expenditure. The unrestricted general funds at the year end were £114,809.

Pensions

Pensions were provided in accord with our pensions policy (which is based on government policy). Four members of staff continued to take up this option. Provision has been made in next year's budget to cover pension costs, as required.

Investment Policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are set aside toward the Building Acquisition and Development Fund and to underwrite shortfalls in core costs. Having considered the options available the Board of Trustees have previously decided to maintain deposit and reserve accounts with established building societies or banks.

Designated Funds

Building Acquisition and Development Fund.

Following a detailed community consultation and business planning exercise the charity took on a 125 year lease for new premises in January 2018. These premises comprise of offices, a separate community hall, outhouses, workshops, a Victorian walled garden and two separate flats to let as an investment in the charity's activities. A phased development plan has been implemented since 2018 with works to the main building completed in 2021. However, the charity is committed to completing further works to the separate community hall, outhouses, workshops and Victorian walled garden over the short to medium term bringing further benefit to the local community as envisaged, as well as maintaining all the buildings on an ongoing basis. As part of our strategic planning for this project the trustees have had to look beyond the annual operational plan and annual budget to identify risks and capital spending plans that cannot be met from a single year's anticipated future income alone. As such, within Designated Funds the Trustees have set aside a Building Acquisition and Development fund which in future will be used to help finance these further works to the community premises and to cover the risks associated with developing and managing these assets for the local community. These funds are detailed on the movement in funds (refer to note 20) and currently comprise of fixed assets reflecting the value of the property which will be used for community purposes (see also note 19).

Reorganisation Fund

These funds reflect the potential redundancy costs which the charity could face if it were to close down.

2023-2024 Budget

The charity's budget for the coming 2023/24 financial year anticipates recovery of investment costs on the Lodge project as well expenditure on core staff, project costs and overheads. We have included provision for premises costs associated with the new site and for income generation activities. Savings made against staff costs in the past year, partly due to the effect on income resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and partly due to delays to the completion of our premises project, will be maintained until additional funds are generated in the coming year and the position can be re-assessed.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (CEI), now known as EcoLocal, is a company limited by guarantee (incorporated January 2001) and registered as a charity (registered July 2001). Following a strategic review, which included a detailed communications exercise with current beneficiaries of the Charity and the wider local community, the Charity modernised its governance arrangements by adopting new Articles of Association and expanded its charitable activities in June 2015. The new Memorandum and Articles of Association reflect more recent law since the inception of the Charities Act 2006 - now consolidated into the Charities Act 2011. The charity took legal advice and obtained the agreement of the Charity Commission in making these changes.

In the event of the CEI charitable company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Organisational Structure

EcoLocal's Board of Trustees comprises between 3 and 10 members who normally meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. Currently the Board of Trustees has seven members from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Company Secretary/Chief Executive attends Board meetings but has no voting rights. Three sub-committees have been established: Business Planning Sub-Committee; Finance Sub-Committee; Personnel Sub-Committee. Maintenance and development of these committees is ongoing. The Chief Executive is responsible for maintaining and developing the charity's strategic planning, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees and the Business Planning Sub-Committee.

Day to day operational responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Chief Executive whose duties include:

- ensuring the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met
- day to day operational management of the EcoLocal building, ICT and resources
- individual supervision and development of staff in line with good practice
- ensuring financial and budgetary control is maintained, both in the overall running of the charity and within individual projects, in conjunction with the Finance Sub-Committee
- fundraising activities, in conjunction with the Business Planning Sub-Committee
- overseeing PR work
- acting as Company Secretary

The Deputy Chief Executive has day to day operational responsibility for individual projects, fundraising activities and business development and contributes to strategic planning and PR work.

Ensuring Work Delivers the Charity's Aim

EcoLocal's 'Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy' provides guidance on assessment of potential projects and on review of existing projects to ensure that activities fall within the remit of our broader charitable objectives and that these are of benefit to the community. We have also referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning future activities. In this way, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they set.

Recruitment and Appointment of The Board of Trustees

The business of the Charity is managed by the Board of Trustees. The Board consists of not fewer than three and no more than 10 Trustees who are appointed by the Board. All Trustees automatically become members of the Charity and their names are entered into the Charity's register of members.

Trustees are eligible for re-appointment at the third AGM (or Appointment Board Meeting) after their last appointment. A member stops being a member of the Charity if he or she ceases to be a Trustee.

All appointments, retirements or removals of Trustees and the Company Secretary must also be notified to the Registrar of Companies at Companies House.

In the event of particular skills being lost from the Board of Trustees due to retirements, replacement Trustees are sought from the charity's local networks. The Board maintains a broad mix of skills and experience in relation to the diversity of work carried out by the charity as well as to reflect the demography of the communities and organisations served.

Traditional business skills such as finance, staff management and strategic management are represented on the Board of Trustees as well as environmental sustainability knowledge, teaching, social work, journalistic, scientific, youth work, and community representation skills. Currently the Board of Trustees has 8 members: 5 are male and 3 female; 3 describe themselves as having a disability. Trustees receive additional training where a need is identified.

Trustee Induction and Training

Candidates will normally be acquainted with one or more of the activities of EcoLocal. New Trustees are recruited for a specific set of duties or because they have skills which will complement those of existing Board of Trustees members. An initial interview is held with the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees to discuss the candidate's potential role within the organisation. This is followed up with a further meeting with the Chief Executive to define precisely how their induction and training will proceed. New Trustees receive:

- a summary of the main duties and responsibilities of Board of Trustees members
- a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association (and related rules)
- copies of the last two years' audited Annual Report and Accounts
- additional publications from the Charity Commission
- copies of recent Board of Trustees minutes
- key operational documents including agreed policies and procedures

New Trustees are required to attend three introductory training sessions, so as to familiarise themselves with staff, volunteers, current projects, objectives and future plans generally. These meetings are usually held with the Chief Executive, but also involve the Chair of Trustees and other personnel as required. A training plan is agreed with the new trustee and incorporated into the overall training plan. An initial 'work plan' is agreed to establish main duties and routines. After three months, new trustees are invited to give feedback on their induction.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees have considered the major risks facing the charity:

- Covering the cost of Core / Management Funding: a primary risk to the organisation is considered to be loss of funding for management capacity and premises costs. Trustees consider that this risk can be offset by:
 - Diversifying and broadening the charity's funding base and ensuring that adequate levels of management capacity and accommodation costs are included in grant applications
 - Developing a 'social enterprise' culture within the organisation so that relevant projects work toward self-funding / income generation in the medium term. An unconnected social enterprise, EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL), which gift aids profits to the EcoLocal charity, has previously been established by a Trustee and two members of staff and this makes annual contributions
 - Maximising income generation from our new premises
 - Tendering for contracts issued by public authorities and ensuring that these tenders are written on a full cost recovery basis
 - Ensuring that funding bodies are aware of the organisation's success in delivering required outcomes at good value for money
- Accommodation: we have invested in improved premises with a long-term lease. The main building and two separate flats for rental have been refurbished and converted as a part of our mixed use development of the site. Ongoing improvements are being made as envisaged, to other areas of the site. The premises need to be managed and maintained and consideration of this has been made in setting aside Designated funds.
- Recognition of our work: our 'working name' (EcoLocal) and branding is regularly used alongside our website, mail-chimp email system, social network sites such as twitter, instagram and facebook to help communicate the charity's activities efficiently
- Data Privacy: we have created new policies and procedures to ensure that we are compliant with GDPR legislation

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TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name:	The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (known as EcoLocal)
Charity Number:	1087782
Company Number:	4137305
Registered and operational address:	Ecolocal, The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3NX.

Contact details:	
Telephone	020 8404 1522
E-mail	trevor@ecolocal.org.uk
Main Website	www.ecolocal.org.uk

Board of Trustees:

Tom Brake	
Jim Bush	(Treasurer)
Alistair Cruickshank	(Chair until Sept 2022)
Hazel Gurr	
Tony Pattison	(Chair from Sept 2022)
Maureen Peglar	
Peter Struik	(joined March 2023)
Liz Udall	(Deputy Chair)

Company Secretary/Chief Executive:

Trevor Lancefield

Auditor:

Myrus Smith, Chartered Accountants, Norman House, 8 Burnell Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4BW

Bankers:

Unity Trust Bank Plc, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also directors of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

AUDITORS

A resolution to reappoint the auditors, Myrus Smith, and authorise the Trustees to fix their remuneration will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

EXEMPTION STATEMENT

The Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and signed on behalf of the trustees.



.....
Tony Pattison
(Chair of Trustees)



.....
Jim Bush
(Trustee)

Date: 27/12/23

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF:

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)

EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flow and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF:

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)

EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 11, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF:

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)

EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:


- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


Stephen Jones FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Norman House, 8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

27 December 2023

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Total Unrestricted funds £	Total Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2	508,531	84,271	592,802	45,310
Charitable activities	3	340	25,004	25,344	41,029
Other trading activities	4	36,580	-	36,580	14,310
Investments	5	280	-	280	227
Total		<u>545,731</u>	<u>109,275</u>	<u>655,006</u>	<u>100,876</u>
Expenditure					
Raising funds	6	414	-	414	427
Charitable activities	7	35,083	107,762	142,845	69,116
Total		<u>35,497</u>	<u>107,762</u>	<u>143,259</u>	<u>69,543</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	11	510,234	1,513	511,747	31,333
Transfers between funds	20	(26)	26	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>510,208</u>	<u>1,539</u>	<u>511,747</u>	<u>31,333</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Fund balances brought forward	20	386,710	90,795	477,505	446,172
Fund balances carried forward	20	<u>£896,918</u>	<u>£92,334</u>	<u>£989,252</u>	<u>£477,505</u>

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	759,693	736,114
Investments	15	1	1
		<u>759,694</u>	<u>736,115</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	16	71,881	69,656
Cash at bank and in hand		190,895	208,874
		<u>262,776</u>	<u>278,530</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	17	18,688	518,264
NET CURRENT ASSETS/ (LIABILITIES)/		<u>244,088</u>	<u>(239,734)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,003,782	496,381
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	14,530	18,876
NET ASSETS	19	<u>£989,252</u>	<u>£477,505</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds - General funds	20	114,809	103,713
Designated funds	20	782,109	282,997
		<u>896,918</u>	<u>386,710</u>
Restricted funds	20	92,334	90,795
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>£989,252</u>	<u>£477,505</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on ~~27 December~~ 2023 and signed on their behalf by


Tony Pattison
Trustee


Jim Bush
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movement in funds per statement of financial activities		511,747	31,333
Adjustments for:			
Interest receivable	5	(280)	(227)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(2,225)	1,034
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(503,922)	49,401
<i>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</i>		5,320	81,541
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received	5	280	227
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	14	(23,579)	(22,879)
<i>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</i>		(17,979)	58,889
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		208,874	149,985
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		£190,895	£208,874

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information and basis of preparation

The Centre for Environmental Initiatives is a registered charity (no. 1087782) and private company limited by guarantee (no. 4137305) registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is given in the reference and administrative information on page 11.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Income recognition

Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Contract income is recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration through the performance of its services.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds are those funds which are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life. Depreciation is provided on plant and machinery on a straight line basis at 20% per annum.

Assets costing less than £350 are not capitalised.

The assets under construction additions represent costs incurred in the course of development and construction of the property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey and so no depreciation is required to be charged at this stage.

Assets under construction includes its purchase price, including legal fees, design and other direct costs attributable to the development including borrowing costs.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES.../Cont'd

Leases

Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairments are recognised in expenditure.

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Government Grants

Grants received under Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Bounce Back Loan interest is accounted for on the performance model.

Investments

Investments in subsidiaries are measured at cost less impairment.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Gift aid donation from Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd (Note 21)	508,433	-	508,433	-
Grants and donations	98	84,271	84,369	£45,310
	<u>£508,531</u>	<u>£84,271</u>	<u>£592,802</u>	<u>£45,310</u>

Of the £45,310 recognised in 2022, £12,136 was unrestricted funds and £33,174 was restricted funds.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Grants and contracts	<u>£340</u>	<u>£25,004</u>	<u>£25,344</u>	<u>£41,029</u>

Of the £41,029 recognised in 2022, £566 related to the Government grant for Bounce Back Loan interest which was allocated to unrestricted funds. Of the remaining £40,463 recognised in 2022, £956 related to unrestricted funds and £39,507 related to restricted funds.

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Rental income	<u>£36,580</u>	<u>£Nil</u>	<u>£36,580</u>	<u>£14,310</u>

All of the £14,310 recognised in 2022 related to unrestricted funds.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Bank interest	<u>£280</u>	<u>£Nil</u>	<u>£280</u>	<u>£227</u>

All of the £227 recognised in 2022 related to unrestricted funds.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

6. COST OF RAISING FUNDS

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
Fundraising activities	£Nil	£414	£414	£427

All costs for raising funds were unrestricted for the current and prior years.

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Transport and Travel	30,230	9,465	39,695	30,742
Growing and Greening	15,695	7,159	22,854	18,621
Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability	64,935	15,361	80,296	19,753
	<u>£110,860</u>	<u>£31,985</u>	<u>£142,845</u>	<u>£69,116</u>

Of the £142,845 expenditure recognised in 2023 (2022: £69,116), £35,083 (2022 : £30,012) was charged to unrestricted funds and £107,762 (2022 : £39,104) was charged to restricted funds.

8. ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wages, social security and other staff related costs	-	45,937	45,937	30,789
Project costs	-	32,221	32,221	11,062
Volunteer expenses	-	1,290	1,290	148
Printing, design and exhibitions	-	3,619	3,619	-
Training	-	576	576	260
Equipment and material purchases	-	27,217	27,217	3,037
	<u>£Nil</u>	<u>£110,860</u>	<u>£110,860</u>	<u>£45,296</u>

9. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities (inc.Governance) £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wages and salaries	324	-	324	400
Provision of premises	-	14,982	14,982	14,836
Office administration	90	5,210	5,300	3,233
Insurance, professional and bank costs	-	8,861	8,861	2,183
Governance (Note 10)	-	2,932	2,932	3,595
	<u>£414</u>	<u>£31,985</u>	<u>£32,399</u>	<u>£24,247</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	324	400
Auditor's remuneration	1,860	1,824
Provision of premises	658	1,344
Office administration	90	27
	<u>£2,932</u>	<u>£3,595</u>

11. NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME

Net (expenditure)/income for the year is stated after charging:	2023	2022
Auditor's remuneration - Audit Services	£1,860	£1,824
- Non-audit services	£984	£984
	<u>£2,844</u>	<u>£2,808</u>

12. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2022: £Nil). No expenses were reimbursed to any trustees during the year (2022 : £Nil).

13. STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	64,742	51,071
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs	1,053	755
	<u>£65,795</u>	<u>£51,826</u>

Out of the total staff costs of £65,795 (2022: £51,826), £3,169 (2022: £4,721) was recharged to EcoLocal Services Ltd and £16,041 (2022: £15,516) was charged to Assets under construction (Note14). Therefore, the net costs charged to statement of financial activities was £46,585 (2022: £31,589).

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 in either year.

The average number of employees, calculated on a full-time equivalent basis, analysed by function was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Direct charitable activities	3	3
Management and administration	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel was £30,013 (2022: £25,785). Under FRS 102, employee benefits include gross salaries, employer's national insurance, employer's pension costs and benefits in kind.

	2023	2022
Average number of employees	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Assets under Construction £	Plant and Machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	736,114	80,597	816,711
Additions	23,579	-	23,579
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	759,693	80,597	840,290
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022 and at 31 March 2023	-	80,597	80,597
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	£759,693	£Nil	£759,693
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2022	£736,114	£Nil	£736,114
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The leasehold additions represents costs incurred in the course of development and construction of part of the property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey for use by the charity for community activities.

15. Investments

Cost

As at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023	£1
	<hr/>

Subsidiary Undertaking

The company's investment in its subsidiary company represents the cost of acquisition of the whole of the ordinary share capital of EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd which was set up to participate in the development of a property. The aggregate capital and reserves at 31 March 2023 was £506,077 (2022 : £350,567). The company reported a profit for the year of £155,510 (2022 : £371,181) and has subsequently made a distribution under Gift Aid rules to the charity.

16. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayment	2,225	-
Other debtors	446	446
Amounts owed from group undertaking	69,210	69,210
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£71,881	£69,656
	<hr/>	<hr/>

17. CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Taxation and social security	285	-
Accrued expenses	4,767	4,704
Other creditors	9,106	8,890
Bounce back loan	4,530	3,775
Bank loan	-	500,895
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£18,688	£518,264
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The bank loan from The Charity Bank Ltd is secured on the company's leasehold property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey. The loan bears interest at a rate of 4% above the base rate of the Bank of England and the final repayment was made in July 2022.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

18. CREDITORS – Amounts falling due after more than one year

The following secured debts are included within creditors:

	2023 £	2022 £
Bounce back loan	14,530	18,876
Bank loan	-	-
	<u>£14,530</u>	<u>£18,876</u>

A Bounce Back loan of £22,651 was received in the previous year in connection with COVID disruptions. The loan is repayable over 6 years with no repayment during the first 12 months. The loan is guaranteed by the UK Government. Interest rate is 2.5% per annum fixed for the duration of the loan with first 12 months, the UK Government paid the interest due to Bank.

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2023	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Fixed assets	759,694	-	759,694
Current assets	170,442	92,334	262,776
Current liabilities	(18,688)	-	(18,688)
Long-term liabilities	(14,530)	-	(14,530)
As at 31 March 2023	<u>£896,918</u>	<u>£92,334</u>	<u>£989,252</u>

Comparative information for the analysis of net assets between funds in the previous year is as follows:

2022	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets	736,115	-	736,115
Current assets	187,735	90,795	278,530
Current liabilities	(518,264)	-	(518,264)
Long-term liabilities	(18,876)	-	(18,876)
As at 31 March 2022	<u>£386,710</u>	<u>£90,795</u>	<u>£477,505</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	At 1 April				At 31 March
2023	2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds:					
Travel:					
Interactive School Travel Experience (TfL via LBS)	1,604	-	1,630	26	-
Bikestreet Project	839	-	-	(839)	-
Inclusive Cycling / Gear-Up	23,074	25,068	27,540	839	21,441
Local Food/Wildlife and Nature					
Conservation:					
Local Food	10,582	10,879	9,310	-	12,151
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	-	27
Walled Garden	959	173	471	-	661
Food Growing Training	1,728	4,325	2,548	-	3,505
Eco-tea	-	6,939	-	-	6,939
Volunteer Celebration Event	-	720	-	-	720
Energy:					
Warm Rooms/ LBS	1,611	-	-	-	1,611
Cross-cutting Environmental:					
Community Hall (Awards for All)	8,276	-	8,285	-	(9)
Eco-Wellbeing	22,141	-	18,302	-	3,839
Schools	940	-	940	-	-
Environmental Fair	15,424	53,965	31,918	-	37,471
Frost Fair	3,590	7,206	6,818	-	3,978
Total Restricted Funds	90,795	109,275	107,762	26	92,334
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	103,713	545,731	35,497	(499,138)	114,809
Designated Funds:					
Building Acquisition and Development Fund	260,581	-	-	499,112	759,693
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Total Designated Funds	282,997	-	-	499,112	782,109
Total Unrestricted Funds	386,710	545,731	35,497	(26)	896,918
Total Funds	£477,505	£655,006	£143,259	£Nil	£989,252

A transfer has been made from the charity's free unrestricted funds to designated funds to reflect the value of the property which will be used for community purposes.

Details of the restricted funds and designated funds can be found within the Trustees' Report.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS.../Cont'd

Comparative information for the movement in funds in the previous year is as follows

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
2022					
Restricted Funds:					
Travel:					
Interactive School Travel Experience (TfL via LBS)	1,604	-	-	-	1,604
Bikestreet Project	839	-	-	-	839
Inclusive Cycling / Gear-Up	11,961	32,852	21,739	-	23,074
Local Food/Wildlife and Nature					
Conservation:					
Local Food	12,904	7,127	9,449	-	10,582
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	-	27
Walled Garden	936	191	168	-	959
Food Growing Training	-	1,728	-	-	1,728
Energy:					
Warm Rooms/ LBS	1,611	-	-	-	1,611
Cross-cutting Environmental:					
Community Hall (Awards for All)	-	8,642	366	-	8,276
Eco-Wellbeing	-	22,141	-	-	22,141
Schools	940	-	-	-	940
Environmental Fair	18,231	-	2,807	-	15,424
Frost Fair	3,835	-	245	-	3,590
COVID fund	4,330	-	4,330	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	57,218	72,681	39,104	-	90,795
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	105,957	28,195	30,439	-	103,713
Designated Funds:					
Building Acquisition and Development Fund	260,581	-	-	-	260,581
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Total Unrestricted Funds	388,954	28,195	30,439	-	386,710
Total Funds	£446,172	£100,876	£69,543	£Nil	£477,505

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

Related Party	Relationship	Details	Amount	Balance
2023				
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£69,210	£69,210
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Gift aid donations	£508,433	£Nil
EcoLocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£8,389	£Nil

Comparative information for related party transactions in the previous year is as follows:

2022				
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£69,210	£69,210
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Gift aid donations	£Nil	£Nil
EcoLocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£2,000	£Nil

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	General Fund £	Building Acquisition Fund £	Reorganisation Fund £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Income				
Donations and Legacies	508,531	-	-	508,531
Charitable activities	340	-	-	340
Other trading activities	36,580	-	-	36,580
Investments	280	-	-	280
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	545,731	-	-	545,731
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure				
Raising funds	414	-	-	414
Charitable activities	35,083	-	-	35,083
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	35,497	-	-	35,497
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income	510,234	-	-	510,234
Transfers between funds	(499,138)	499,112	-	(26)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in funds	11,096	499,112	-	510,208
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reconciliation of funds				
Fund balances brought forward	103,713	260,581	22,416	386,710
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund balances carried forward	<u><u>£114,809</u></u>	<u><u>£759,693</u></u>	<u><u>£22,416</u></u>	<u><u>£896,918</u></u>