WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1092754

Details

Other names	WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04214547
Registered	2002-07-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Pavilion 101 Lightwoods Hill Smethwick West Midlands B67 5ED
Phone	01214201061
Email	admin@warleywoods.org.uk
Website	www.warleywoods.org.uk

Activities

Objects: A) TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL, NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREA KNOWN AS WARLEY WOODS.B)THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE OR THOSE WHO BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, POVERTY OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE.C) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR STUDYING THE HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND HORTICULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF THE AREA KNOWN AS WARLEY WOODS.

Activities: To ensure the long-term restoration and sustainability of Warley Woods Park, and to develop its facilities and events as a central focus for the local community, thus encouraging greater numbers and diversity of people to enjoy this unique environment.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1092754

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Birmingham City
- Sandwell

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£668,125	£519,297	£597,896	13
2024-03-31	£489,680	£482,275	-	-
2023-03-31	£442,603	£467,844	-	-
2022-03-31	£470,703	£384,832	-	-
2021-03-31	£468,420	£303,675	-	-

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1092754

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
STEVEN CHARLES ELING	Chair	
ALAN DAVID REYNOLDS		
ARTHUR ROBERT WARD		
Christopher Neil Ashford		2015-10-10
DAVID JOHN READ		2015-10-10
Debra Howls		2025-10-18
Dr Emma Louise Login		2023-10-14
ELIZABETH COLEMAN		
John Paul Newman		2020-10-17
KATHERINE MARY SLADE		
Lynda Tracy Wagstaff		2021-10-16
Michael James Talbot		2019-10-26

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1092754

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1092754

Accounts

Registered number: 04214547
Charity number: 1092754

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Chair's statement	2
Trustees' report	3 - 23
Independent examiner's report	24
Statement of financial activities	25
Balance sheet	26
Statement of cash flows	27
Notes to the financial statements	28 - 44

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees	Steven Eling, Chair Katherine Slade Alan Reynolds Elizabeth Coleman Arthur Ward Barbara Platts Christopher Ashford David Read Michael Talbot Lisa Burrows (Resigned 25 June 2024) John Newman Lynda Wagstaff Clive Heywood (Resigned 4 February 2025) Tom Keir Grosvenor (Resigned 3 January 2025) Dr Emma Louise Login
Company registered number	04214547
Charity registered number	1092754
Registered office	The Pavilion Lightwoods Hill Smethwick West Midlands B67 5ED
Company secretary	Michael Talbot
Trust Manager	Vivienne Cole
Accountants	Crowe U.K. LLP Chartered Accountants Black Country House Rounds Green Road Oldbury West Midlands B69 2DG
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Birmingham B1 2HB

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The chair presents his statement for the year.

2024/25 marked 20 years of the Trust taking over the full responsibility of running the park. Incredibly, we are still the only park of anything like this size being run by a community organisation. This is a testament to the foresight and determination of the members at the beginning, and the dedication to make it a success over the long term. I would say, we go from strength to strength. I was pleased that we were able to chart the progress over the 20 years in a new book, still available at just £15. We also got to celebrate receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Service towards the end of the year. Special recognition indeed for the many ways volunteers serve their local community at Warley Woods and over such a long time frame.

We have faced many challenges over the years, and this year, just when it all seemed to be going so well, along came the storms. A changed wind direction brought massive damage, trees lost, railings destroyed and paths blocked and we had to cancel Santa coming through the woods. With thanks from our members and the broader community, a fantastic sum was raised to repair the damage. We were also lucky with our tree contractors being on site very quickly to start the job of clearing the debris. Thank you everyone who helped us through that difficult time.

The Board and subgroups covering site, communities, communications, environment and resources have continued to meet on a monthly basis. The Board also held its annual business planning day to update our five year management plan and work through our budget. The Trustees and members of the subgroups continue to all be volunteers, giving their time for the Woods.

We have had a bit of a win with HMRC too over our status with VAT. This will help us with our future plans; especially with affording major renewals and working towards our much needed new building.

Events and regular activity bring the park to life. The golf course is always busy, with people commenting on the quality compared to other places. The addition of the Artisan Market has been a hit with traders and customers. Having a Trust stall there has helped us make further contact with the community too.

Three trustees have resigned from the board during the year, Lisa Burrows, Clive Heywood and Tom Grosvenor. I would like to thank them for their service as trustees and ongoing support for the Trust.

As ever, the work of our dedicated staff and volunteers has kept Warley Woods as one of the best parks in the country with our continued "Green Flag" status and voted in the top ten parks.

Finally, I must express my appreciation and thanks to everyone who has helped with Warley Woods over the year with special thanks for generosity of every one who contributed following the storms.

Chair
Date: 19/8/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

Objectives and activities

Policies and objectives
The charitable objectives of the Trust are as follows:

To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical, natural and historic environment of the area known as Warley Woods.

Vision
The vision of Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is: -

To ensure the long-term restoration and sustainability of Warley Woods Park and to develop its facilities and events as a central focus for the local community, thus encouraging greater numbers and diversity of people to enjoy this unique environment.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The rest of this report demonstrates the many works delivered by Warley Woods Community Trust for the public benefit. Warley Woods is free to enter, open to all, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

One of the key objectives of the Trust is to achieve Green Flag Award each year. This award covers so many aspects of green space management that working on performance to this standard and being judged to have reached it is an important measure of success. While less directly under the Trust’s control, achieving a high ranking in the UK’s Top Ten Parks award gives reassurance the park users themselves are happy with the standard of care.

One of the Trust’s key long term goals is to replace the Trust’s current aging and limited Pavilion building with an iconic new building in a central location in the parkland – able to serve both park and golf visitors better serve the local community with services and which will provide additional income to the Trust to ensure long term economic sustainability.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

It has been another busy year at Warley Woods Community Trust. Many of the Trust's activities fall under the responsibility of one of the subgroups, whose reports follow, but there are some things which are solely undertaken by the Trust's staff teams and these first reports share some aspects of this work in 2024-25.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Report from the Trust Manager

The office takes care of a lot of the communications and marketing of the Trust. This includes updating and creating material for our website. We look after the official Facebook groups and page, and now Instagram and Twitter/X– these latter two were new to us this year, and had previously been managed by volunteers. We create posters for all of our events, activities and our fundraising initiatives.

We manage the fundraising and membership administration, which thanks to our supporters generosity is very time-consuming. Thank you for keeping us so busy. We keep gift aid records and submit claims. This particular year was a year of many appeals and individual fundraising efforts. Our appeals were a High Standards Appeal, Buy a Bluebell, Repair Abbie Bear, Picnic Stars and Storm Darragh. We were blessed with Greg Lynch taking on the Birmingham 10K, John Finnegan walking the South West Coastal Path and I completed a Half Iron Triathlon distance; all activities were fundraisers for the Trust and we promoted them. Alongside the fundraising for Storm Darragh repairs there was a lot of media work, dealing with organising repair and tree work and public engagement around information, new Community Oaks plantings and memento woodcarvings.

We submit funding applications and run appeals for support and we write reports to funders on the work that has been achieved with their grants. This wasn't a year of great success with this kind of fundraising with the majority of our grants coming from long term supporters when we asked again. In particular the Turner Trust and a second grant from the Severn Trent Community Fund. Some applications done in the year have paid dividends in the new financial year which is a good place to be. I undertook some special training around engaging with Major Donors which is likely to be a key success route to fund the new Pavilion.

It is amazing to realise that Mae Eastwood has already been with us two years and she has continued to amaze us with her efficiency, productivity and can-do attitude. Delivering many ideas entirely on her own, she has also freed up my time, to enable me to focus on new developments and ideas of my own too.

With this year being our 20th anniversary of managing Warley Woods this was the theme behind many of the things the staff team were involved in. There were some special awards at the annual Volunteer Thank you Night, along with press launches, media interviews, including a special long form piece for ITVX, the production of badges and a new history book and working with a volunteer to take specific aerial photographs to record the changes in the landscape under the Trust's care.

We made and maintained new partnerships, by following up offers of help from community groups and organisations and individuals who want to use the park for their own events. These have become increasingly important to the Trust to increase what is on offer in Warley Woods without increasing our need to directly create and manage things. They do need liaison and comms which we are able to do. We have many meetings with local groups, partners and potential partners – some of which come to nothing and some of which lead to long term partnerships. In the last year this has been with Women and Theatre, Bayliss Garages, several schools and charities, with the Probation Service, the CBSO, Rainbow Pooch Pride, about a poetry trail and munzies trail (something between geocaching and pokemon).

We do a lot of the background, but essential work. We sort out insurance, refuse, dog bin emptying service level agreements, card processing contracts and negotiate energy contracts. We open and manage bank accounts. We are our own IT department and this year we had to set up and network three replacement computers.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Alongside the general financial management we had two major tasks this year. One was a significant proposed change to our VAT regime which required looking at again, with our accountants, at the past four years of accounts in microscopic detail. The eventual outcome was a significant rebate from HMRC and then the need to institute the new regime for our future accounting processes. A lot of work, but a high value piece of work for the long term. We also had dealings with HMRC on another matter, when we discovered we had overclaimed gift aid for the last five years, due to a faulty report, written by a third party supplier. We declared this, future proofed the report and repaid the sum to HMRC which they accepted as an honest error and did not impose any penalties.

We deal with many of the health and safety issues and with complaints – which are often about the behaviour of third parties. We had the support of local people and the council's ASB (antisocial behaviour) team and the police to deal with a problematic dog owner, whose daily walks were not positive experiences for the others they met. Sadly, the police were not able to help us when we had to deal with some particularly belligerent golfers who refused to pay to play. I've challenged many people over the years and most are at least embarrassed when caught. These were different and completely brazen and insulting. Happily we have not seen them since.

Staff are often the people to work on the creation or review of policies and this year we altered our Safeguarding Policy on two occasions. The first was a full-scale review and update, including external support. Safeguarding is an area where best practice is constantly changing and experts easily adapt practice, while those organisations for whom it is only a very minor part of their responsibilities are often playing catch up. Mae and I undertook formal in person training to refresh our knowledge. Towards the end of the year, we made smaller changes to the policy but they reflected a larger change in practice as we recognised the specific risks around the popularity of volunteering for the Trust as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. It had been over a decade since it was appropriate or legal to undertake DBS checks on staff or volunteers because of the low incidence of young people volunteering without family members. It was agreed to undertake these again, on a limited number of individuals who have a particular role with Sunday volunteering sessions. Our policy was amended to acknowledge this and a number of guidance leaflets for volunteers and parents of volunteers were produced.

Ongoing work has been more project management role for the new Pavilion project and in particular the finances for this. An approach to a major potential funder took significant time and was ultimately unsuccessful, but this has only focused efforts on other potential routes to funding the work. We have engaged with professional specialists in this field and we also commissioned a report into the vat implications of the build – how vat is involved can make the cost of the project 20% more expensive (or cheaper).

We have had more success in our relationship with Sandwell MBC this year – with a true new sense of partnership with a number of key officers, including at Director and Chief Executive level. This has been most welcome in terms of positiveness and the reduction in organisational stress. Our grant has stabilised, although there are no promises about the long term future. Because of these previous issues though, we have been looking at our long term tenure of the site and we engaged solicitors to look at our potential options. They have reported back to the Board and in the new financial year, I will hopefully be working through their decisions with staff at Sandwell MBC.

I am sure others will also have mentioned the Kings Award for Voluntary Service and there were genuine celebrations at this recognition. I will just say that dealing with royal connections is quite admin heavy.

We helped moved forward two new projects this year which needed planning, engaging volunteers and ongoing support to ensure momentum. These were our time lapse photography project which Mae is now taking care of, and our History Research group which falls to me. It feels great to know that, largely thanks to Mae's super efficiency, we have the capacity to take on new work and feel we will be able to sustain the ventures.

Viv Cole, Trust Manager

Golf Reports

The golf course is not managed separately to the rest of the site and is mentioned throughout the rest of the report, but with the golf course being a significant part of our operation we feel it should have a special focus in our annual report. We have asked the Golf Course and Park Manager and Retail and Golf Development Manager to share some of their last year with you. Like all staff, they work on both park and golf aspects of our work, but in this section, they will just cover golf related work in 2024-25

Working on The Golf Course

Greens
The planned drainage works on the 3rd green had to be cancelled last winter owing to the amount of fallen trees on the park due to storm Darragh and storm Eowyn. A large majority of our time was spent cutting and removing the fallen trees, repairing fences, and repairing park furniture. This has been replanned for winter 2025.

We over seeded twice this year, once in the spring and once in the autumn, with fescue seed as this is cheaper than bent grass seed. They were aerated every 3-4 weeks which helps getting water and air to the roots – happy roots happy greens. We only fertilise twice a year to give them a kick start in the spring then once the greens are growing. I keep them healthy with seaweed, iron and then wetting agents to stop the greens from getting dry patches.

We carry out major greens maintenance twice a year to remove as much thatch as possible with a tractor mounted scarifier. Thatch is a barrier between the grass and the soil which can stop air and moisture getting to the roots, leading to an unlevel playing surface. The pin positions on the greens are moved once a week to spread the wear and give golfers variety.

Forty tons of sand are applied to the greens each year to improve drainage and trueness. Greens are mowed daily during the growing season at 4mm and up to 7mm in wetter conditions.

Bunkers
These are edged, strimmed and weeded once a month during the growing season. They are raked four times a week unless it's raining heavily on those days and stones removed. The bunkers will often have a lot of paw prints in them from dog walkers and continues to be a problem. They are topped up using 10-20 tons of sand each year.

Fairways
These are mowed once a week during the growing season at 17mm. We would like to mow them twice a week but fuel costs, environment (diesel emissions) and staff time are all factors. We use a slitter once a year to improve the drainage.

Tees and collars
We mow the collars twice a week as these can grow very fast during the growing season as they get overspray from the maintenance of the greens. Tees are mowed twice a week during the growing season at 12mm – 15mm and are mowed with a pedestrian mower during the wetter months as they become too boggy for a ride-on mower.

Tee markers are painted twice a year and are moved twice a week to spread the wear across the tee. We use a slitter 3-4 times a year to improve the drainage.

Rough
Mowed once a week during the growing season at 70mm unless there is a drought.

Irrigation
The system is primed up in-house in the spring and drained down in the autumn. Small repairs are also carried out by me. These are often the irrigation heads on the greens. We have bought 36 brand new irrigation heads (4 per green) and replacing these is ongoing.

One part of the system that is still not working is the 7th green which does not come on automatically and must be switched on manually which can be a pain on some days. The putting green outside of the Pavilion does not have irrigation heads so this also must be done manually. During a drought we have to water around all the greens with a hose pipe and water the dry areas on the greens as we don't get 100% coverage from the irrigation.

Trees
We prune the lower branches so golfers can play their shots from under trees and a mower can safely mow around the tree without causing harm to ourselves. Around the base of the tree, we spray weed killer once a year to kill the grass, so this does save us a lot of time during the year and it does stop any damage to the bark from the strimmer. It also saves us fuel and the emissions that come out of the strimmer.

Fallen trees and branches are cleared by staff. We have a tree safety survey every few years and any large work is contracted out to Midland Forestry. In the autumn most of our time is taken up by leaf blowing and clearance.

Future improvements
- Install drains on the 3rd green.
- Make some of the bunkers deeper so they are harder to play out of and will retain the sand better in dry and windy conditions.
- More thatch removal from greens will help drainage, and trueness, will decrease pests and diseases.
- Repair the 7th irrigation and install heads on the putting green.
- Expand the path on the first tee.

Alan Merricks, Head Greenkeeper and Park Manager

Inside the Shop at The Pavilion

Following on from the success of last year 2024/25 did not disappoint. We reported a record number of rounds played, in excess of 28,000 rounds, many compliments were received due the quality of the course, especially the greens which is thanks to Alan and the groundstaff team. We know that the customers would not be so keen to return if the course wasn't in the condition it is kept in.

Each of the shop staff play their part to welcome and serve these customers each day and the team remains the same as last year but we were sorry to lose Nick Burrows at the end of March 2025.
In February 2024, I presented the Board a proposal following a review of the green fees for the annual planning day. The Board agreed a 4% increase to take effect from 1st April. As an incentive for players considering an unlimited golf subscription, a "Beat the Increase Offer" was advertised. The offer was for golfers signing up before 7th April could benefit from a price freeze. This was a successful incentive which attracted 5 Season Tickets sold and 23 Pay Monthly subscribers.

Through the year a total of 58 golfers purchased the Annual Season Ticket and 278 Pay Monthly Direct Debits collected. The number of subscribers peaked in July with 35 players subscribing and reduced to 11 players in December when fewer play as frequently and cancel their direct debits for the winter.

The relationship with the Golf Club continues to develop with membership growth thanks to staff attracting new members and members making them welcome. Warley Day 2024 was a day of mixed weather conditions with heavy rain at times but the day was enjoyed by members and guests who took part. A few changes to the club committee took place through the year but new members have joined the committee at the AGM in January 2025 and fresh ideas will help the Club to prosper and grow.

Greg Lynch continues to offer group and individual coaching alongside coaching in local Sandwell and Birmingham schools providing an excellent pathway to golf for local juniors where the aim is to get them playing on the golf course and entering the Luke Reid Foundation fixtures run in conjunction with the Golf Club and sponsored by Nic and Maureen Reid in memory of their son Luke.

The Shop at the Pavilion acts as reception for the Trust and for golfers arriving to play and pay green fees. There are a range of snacks and hot and cold drinks and ice-creams. As we head to the summer we are planning on introducing a Doggy Ice-cream for our many furry friends. For a small area the shop offers many items for gifts or treats and frequently gets compliments for the range on display.

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary we had a range of limited edition items to sell as mementos with a new Anniversary logo. A Facebook poll chose the photo to be used on the Anniversary Mug, and 4 of the poll entrants were used to create open gift cards. A special edition pin badge and an Anniversary Bear also featured on the shelves. Alan Reynolds led a group of volunteers to create a book covering the history of the site including a special focus on the last 20 years. Copies of the book are on sale in the shop and on the Trust stall at the monthly Artisan Market.

Sharon Simpson, Retail and Golf Development Manager

Site Subgroup
The Site Subgroup members are staff, trustees and volunteers: Diane Douglas, Alan Merricks, Mick Guy, John Reeves and Arthur Ward (Chair).

The group supports the Trust in meeting its strategic objectives, one of which is the attainment of Green Flag status, by the active management of the Trust's physical resources. The Subgroup met monthly to discuss the management of the park, woodland, and golf course areas. The group supports and plans significant projects together with other subgroups and the Trust Manager.

Very sadly Steve Cemm one of our founding Trustees passed away in November. He had been an active member of the Site Subgroup since its inception. He is very much missed.
The Site group would like to express their great appreciation to all those who supported the Community Trust to care for the site over the last year and in particular all those who donated to the Storm Darragh appeal. Storm Darragh occurred in December and was the most destructive storm to hit the woods in the Trust's history felling many trees across the site and doing considerable damage to infrastructure including the tree nursery, fencing and gym equipment. The planned Christmas Santa event had to be partially cancelled as a result.

1. Pavilion and Car Park: We continued to replace worn out Pavilion light fittings with LED alternatives. We undertook many routine repairs around the building such as adjustments to guttering, lock repairs and external boarding. We considered options for resurfacing the car park because of its deteriorating condition but given the considerable expense (£45K) and the possibility of our new building in the not too distant, future we decided to continue patching up the potholes as needed.

2. Woodland Management: Our biennial tree safety inspection occurred this year with Chris Shortis reporting back in September. Its highlights included: 73 trees needing attention (height and limb reductions, braces, crown lifts etc). Nine trees to be felled with 25% of the work due to squirrel damage. He noted that our six young adopted trees in the beech circle in the Winter Garden have been severely damaged by squirrels stripping the bark from large areas of the trunks and branches. This level of damage to young trees is often fatal or severely stunts their growth such that they will never grow into the large mature trees we and their adopters were hoping for. We are monitoring them and considering possible replacements.

Storm Darragh struck the woods on the weekend of the 7/8th of December forcing us to severely restrict our Santa event and doing considerable damage to the site. We lost many significant trees along the main drive, winter garden, ice house paths and meadow. Two large trees fell into our tree nursery doing considerable damage to the fencing and water collection system. Our groundstaff team and Midland Forestry were exceptional in their response to this crisis and we are very grateful to them for responding so quickly and efficiently. Within a week we were able to reopen the main drive but it took a further four months to clear most of the fallen timber and undertake the repairs to fencing and the tree nursery. Storm Darragh completely disrupted the groundstaff winter works program which had to be significantly adjusted.

For safety reasons all areas and trees adjacent to the fallen trees were reinspected by Chris Shortis in January as the storm damaged trees had often fallen into their neighbours. As a result of this second inspection fourteen more trees had to be felled and many more required remedial works. This year has been a very expensive year for planned and unplanned tree work across the site.

As the storm damage was being registered on 8th December many members of the public asked us if there would be an appeal to help with the cost of the clear up and repair. This was launched within an hour and over the next two weeks raised over £24K to support the Trust in the clear up and repair. This allowed us to undertake the remedial work with confidence and was so very much appreciated by the staff and Trustees.

A very big thank you to all who gave. You truly are a remarkably supportive community without whom we could not care for Warley Woods as we do.

Fifteen large container grown trees (beech oak lime and sweet-chestnut), adopted by supporters and members of the public, were planted out on site in late January mostly along the skyline path. This event continues to grow in popularity and significance.
Two “community” oak trees were ceremoniously planted in the meadow to acknowledge the loss, during the storm, of one of our oldest and much loved oak trees that had stood next to its partner in the meadow for hundreds of years.

The improved ecology of the site continues to be a significant area of volunteer and staff directed work. Laying dead hedges, removing invasive and non-natural species and replanting with woodland flora such as bluebells and wild garlic. Meadow creation and management in various areas of the site continues.

3. Tree Nursery: Thirty Scots pine and Larch whips were added to the nursery and volunteers continued the programme of watering and potting up. The nursery suffered severe damage due to Storm Darragh – see 2 above. Fortunately, we only lost two small trees with the fence and rainwater roof taking the brunt of the damage from the tree falls. By the end of the financial year most of the repair work was complete thanks to groundstaff and volunteers. Hedge whips were again planted this year along the golf course edge.

4. Golf Course: The planned drainage work on the golf course had to be postponed this year because of storm Darragh. However, the groundstaff continued with their planned maintenance and care of the greens and fairways. We receive many compliments about the condition of the course which is a credit to the groundstaff care.

5. Park: Twenty tons of gravel were added to the perimeter path at the top of the golf course to fill in some very worn areas that become particularly muddy in the winter. Part of the gulley along the main drive was infilled with crushed brick and stone to slow its erosion by run off from the woodland and reduce the hazard. The adopted trees along the skyline path were positioned partly to help redefine the path which had become much wider after Covid-19. Litter and dog bins were repaired as needed.

6. Wilderness: Management of The Wilderness continues with the support of volunteers. Cutting back of brambles and buddleia and planting natural species continues. The pond continues to attract water dependant wildlife. The boardwalk is showing its age and will be considered for replacement over the next couple of years.

7. Health and Safety and Staffing: There have been a small number of minor H&S issues this year. We continued with our fourth, part time, member of staff this year which enabled the groundstaff team to respond so well to Storm Darragh as well as accomplish so many other tasks on site. This post was made permanent and full time at the Board planning day this year.

8. Compound and Equipment: The compound was regravelled this year. The team continue with all machine maintenance in house which significantly reduces downtime and saves a significant amount of money.

9. Play Area and Gym Equipment: The play area is inspected by staff daily and annually by an external company. All the recommended repairs are undertaken. The fence to the play area is often subject to vandalism and needs frequent repairs by the team.

10. Volunteers: As in previous years volunteers have been extremely active in helping to care for the site. The usual Sunday and Monday groups have met regularly and larger corporate groups have offered a significant number of all day sessions throughout the year. We regularly support young people undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award in their volunteering element who join us on our Sunday sessions. Tasks have been very varied ranging from hedge planting to litter picking, bluebell planting to cutting back overgrown vegetation to tidying our many entrances to the site.

We are extremely grateful to all our volunteers who make such a big contribution to the care of Warley Woods.

Arthur Ward

Communications Subgroup

Members of the Group: Viv Cole; Katy Holmes; Debra Howls; Sue Maguire (resigned March 2025); Kate Slade; Jane Taylor;
The group remained stable throughout the year but sadly Sue left the area in March 2025 and is no longer able to play an active part in the Trust. We'd like to thank her for her commitment to the Trust and particularly her work on the application for the Kings Award.

The ongoing activities of the group include
- Production of the quarterly Leaflet newsletter
- Scrutiny of publications
- Website, Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram and notice boards
- AGM
- Annual Report
- Recruitment of Members and Volunteers

The priorities for the year 2024-2025 included the following:

1. Increase both membership and volunteer numbers
The group devised a postcard to be dropped to all the houses nearest Warley Woods where the occupiers were not members. It was difficult to know who joined as a result of this because it coincided with Storm Darragh appeal but there was some indication of a rise in membership in those streets after the drop.

Both membership and volunteering opportunities were flagged up regularly on social media, usually in response to a question or comment raised by a member of the public, and this constant reminder we hope pays off in the long run.

2. Encourage one-off fundraising initiatives
This largely fell to Viv to do and included the Buy A Bluebell appeal, Repair Abbie Bear, Storm Darragh appeal and individual fundraising by John Finegan, Greg Lynch and Viv. Music groups (Ceilidh band, the Big Band and Dynamix) have also put on performances and raised money for the Trust.

3. Undertake the biennial visitor survey
This was done in September and October by a group of volunteers and the results analysed by Community First Partnership. It is an observational survey and count. It indicated a change in activities undertaken with slightly more people walking without a dog than those walking with a dog, which is a change from two years ago; more women than men were using the park, but more men playing golf; the site was busier during the weekdays than at weekends; approximately 10% of the visitors appeared to be of Asian origin; the amount of golfing activity had increased from the last survey.

4. Reviewing the Website
This is an ongoing piece of work by the group, mainly checking for accuracy, updates and broken links but also considering whether a section should be amended more broadly. This work continues and will probably just become circular.

5. Broadening audiences
This is being done in conjunction with the Communities Subgroup and is aiming to try and ensure that particular groups from within the community feel welcome on the site and free to participate if they wish to do so. The Trust has offered support to the Borough of Sanctuary initiative and has met with users at The Bearwood Hub to encourage their users to come and visit.

6. Promotion of the 20th Anniversary of the Trust running the site

This took place at different times throughout the year by way of promotional items for sale in the shop, special activities added to one event each quarter. The production of a new book about the last 20 years was also completed and went on sale in November 2024. Jane Taylor created a series of centrespread retrospectives for our LEAFlet newsletter; each of which showcased the highlights of news from each quarter decade.

Other activities

Other work undertaken has included consideration of revising the History Trail, both by adding QR codes to the signs already there, adding to/changing where the current signs are and amending the information on the website to link to the QR codes. This was not taken forward during the year but will be worked on in the future. The establishment of the History Research Group will hopefully provide new information which can be included in any future leaflets, blogs, publications etc.

Also, the group along with the Communities Subgroup, has been monitoring the Trust presence at the monthly Artisan Market. Although at first we had not thought a regular presence was needed it has become obvious what an important communications tool the stall provides and how much it has provided opportunities to tell visitors about our work and to encourage membership and volunteering in the wider community.

We reviewed our social media activity. Facebook is by far the most used (and for the Trust the most useful) social media. We have not actively promoted Twitter/X and considered whether we should join Bluesky, but for the moment have decided to leave things as they are.

It was during this year that the Trust heard that it had been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service. Although all the work on the application was done in the previous year it was a long wait to hear if we had been successful and it was gratifying to see that the work of all the Trust volunteers had been recognised on a wider platform.

Kate Slade

Resources Subgroup

Members: David Read (Chair), Steve Eling, Mike Talbot, Arthur Ward, Viv Cole. Resources is a subgroup which meets as and when to discuss organisational and financial matters. It met eight times during the financial year 2024/2025.

We keep a keen eye on our revenue accounts, reporting back and advising Board so that all Trustees are fully aware of the situation on a month by month basis.

Throughout the financial year, we have, after the resignation of an officer at Sandwell MBC, been able to start re-building our relationship with the Council. We hosted a visit from the Council and had a walk around the site with the Chief Executive and several officers. There was an opening of minds and those who attended were advised of the problems we face and the way that we are addressing these. We are discussing with them the current lease and are requesting changes to enable us to operate more efficiently. We are also looking for the Council to approach Birmingham City Council with a view to the lease or freehold to be transferred to either SMBC or ourselves. We also commissioned a solicitor's report to help us understand these alternatives and to enable us to speak more confidently about these items. We were also notified that SMBC were appointing external advisers to look at the provision of grant aid across the Borough. There have been some proposals and we await Council decisions to see how this may affect the Community Trust. We have continued to have contact with our officer at the Council and reports have been sent.

Within the year we reviewed several policies, recommended changes to the Board and carried these forward as revised policies. The policies were – Safeguarding; Lettings; Sickness and Harassment. Our new funding agreement with SMBC also requires us to have a Whistle-blower Policy and this was formulated and agreed by the Board.

When our long-serving cleaner retired, we realised that we did not do enough to recognise long service. When the Trust was formed, service was naturally short and we felt that we should formulate a process to honour long service. We felt that financial awards were not appropriate and recommended to the Board that our policy should be to award 1 extra day holiday for each 5 years of service and that, at 20 years' service, a tree would be planted in recognition of this milestone. To ensure fairness, the Board also agreed to make this policy retrospective.

We requested a report from our external accountants on VAT implications on the new building and there are several different possibilities from full VAT to partial or even exempt VAT. As there is so much uncertainty about where the project sits, it was agreed to base fund-raising to include for VAT in full. Further to this, it is obvious that we will need help in the process of obtaining grants and large donations to further the new build and we agreed to request Board approval to appoint Capital Appeals to assist. They will create a fundraising brochure, investigate and map major donors and research corporate business donors. Viv will receive additional training and support in the process and this would cover a period of 12 months. The Board agreed this expenditure.

Discussions were held around the draft budget for 2025/6 and changes incorporated before presenting to Board at the Annual Planning Day. A significant increase in costs was both the increase in the level of the minimum wage and the knock-on effect for staff over this level and the effect of the increase in the level of National Insurance to be paid by the Trust. The agenda for Planning Day was discussed and agreed.

The Contracts for Wild Lives, Happy Coffee Man and Pepe's Ice Cream were all due for renewal and these were discussed and small increases in the cost of the respective licences were made. All were renewed with the contractors.

Many other items were discussed including DBS checks; Manual Handling courses and the new Smethwick Town Fund and how we might be able to access this, resolved and submitted to Board over the year with all meetings being fully reported to Board at the next monthly Board Meeting.

As always, a close watch was kept on finances on a monthly basis and significant variances highlighted to Board.

David J Read

Communities Subgroup

Communities Subgroup Members: Kate Slade, Liz Coleman (Chair), Barbara Platts, Chris Ashford, Pat Marsh, Lynda Wagstaff, Mae Eastwood.

The key focuses of the group are:
1. Planning and Organising events including vetting external requests
2. Schools Liaison
3. Community Engagement

The Trust offered a varied programme of events throughout 2024-2025. Mae Eastwood, Trust Administrator, is now well established in her role after 2 years in post. She works closely with the Communities Subgroup, attending Subgroup meetings as well as planning and coordinating events.

Easter Monday saw the return of the Easter Egg Roll and Trail which was well-attended, providing a fun activity for families. Liz Coleman led a Dawn Chorus Walk on International Dawn Chorus Day 5th May with support from two volunteers from the Breeding Bird Survey group. This was followed by the volunteer-led Bring-and-Buy Plant Sale on May 18th. Thanks to the generosity of donors and purchasers this event once again raised over £2,000 for the Trust.

The Trust's flagship event Picnic in the Park took place on 7th July with a record number of 85 stallholders and a new sponsor, Bayliss Garages. Chris Ashford once again booked and compered a talented programme of music and dance, providing local acts the opportunity to perform on the solar-powered stage. A heavy downpour later in the afternoon was enlivened by a high-energy performance from Bhangra Smash-Up which kept the party going and got people dancing in the rain. Thousands of visitors experienced free live music, a range of craft and food stalls, games, children's activities, Forest School activities and, of course, the Dog Show, delivered by Pawmasters and Linella Dog Grooming.

Folksy Theatre provided the live theatre with a musical twist on the Shakespeare classic As You Like It on 31st July. This was Folksy Theatre's first show at Warley Woods, enjoyed by an audience of over 200. Chris Sherlock from Brum Bats led the ever-popular Bat Walk in mid-August. The Communities Subgroup, Trust staff and volunteers support with the planning of these events and staffing on the day.

October saw the return of the ever-popular Halloween Spooky Trail. Children and adults alike, dressed up in fantastic Halloween costumes and braved the Woods at night, meeting a host of gruesome and ghoulish characters offering hands-on activities. Volunteers from Sandwell Lions as well the Trust, played the roles enthusiastically. St Hilda's Church Hall was the venue for the volunteer-led Fundraising Quiz in November. Both events help to generate income for the Trust.

Storm Darragh caused devastation in the woods, which has been reported elsewhere. With very high winds and trees coming down Santa In the Woods and Christmas Artisan Market/Craft Fair were cancelled for safety reasons. However, children were able to enjoy the magic of meeting Santa in his fabulous grotto in the Pavilion on 7th December.

Starting us off in January the annual Big Garden Bird Walk was led by Doug with support from Alan Reynolds and we welcomed back Birmingham Astronomical Society on 7th February for an evening of stargazing, talks and telescopes. Despite cloudy skies, the event was well-received by society experts and novices alike.

Warley Woods Artisan Markets are going from strength to strength. This has now become a regular monthly event with local traders offering quality products including handmade jewellery, gifts, crafts, garden products, dog accessories, decorative art and a wide range of delicious food and, of course, the Happy Coffee Man, Morris dancers and occasional buskers. The Artisan Markets are held on the first Sunday of every month March – December. There is always a Trust Stall at the Artisan Market which helps raise awareness of the Trust's role in managing Warley Woods as well as gaining new members, volunteers and supporters. November's market was filmed by Lucy Kapasi and shown on ITV.

2. Schools Liaison
Ongoing liaison has continued with local schools many of which the Trust has close relationships with. Members of the Communities Subgroup have communicated with different local schools about events, information and opportunities to be involved in, competitions, Wild Warley information and volunteering. Doug and Viv also offer a short Q&A session to schools on request.

3. Community Engagement
The Communities Subgroup were pleased to be able to work once again with two local music groups this year who generously offered to run fundraising gigs for the Trust. Bearwood Ceilidh Band organised a New Year's Eve Dance which was a sell-out and much enjoyed. Warley Woods Patron, author and broadcaster, Stuart Maconie, hosted a popular Fundraising Quiz at Thousand Trades to raise money for Warley Woods.

Trust Manager Viv Cole, together with Liz Coleman, visited Bearwood Community Hub and Sandwell Borough of Sanctuary events to deepen connections and learn more about possible opportunities for working together.

Conservation Manager, Doug Barber, has continued to deliver training in wildlife surveying, tree ID and runs regular group practical habitat management sessions. The Communities Subgroup has worked closely with him to provide support and promote further community engagement.

Warley Woods continues to benefit from working with over 50 other groups in the community including community and voluntary groups and local businesses, sports and cultural organisations.
Liz Coleman

Environment Subgroup

Members: Liz Coleman (Chair), Alan Reynolds, Lynda Wagstaff, Emma Login, Jo James, Annie Brighton and Doug Barber.
.
Kate Slade, Lise Burrows and Clive Heywood stepped down from the Environment Group during 2024-2025. We thank them for their time and contributions over the last few years. We welcomed Annie Brighton as a new member; Annie has volunteered for the Trust for several years and has an interest in wildlife. It is also good to have someone under 30 as part of the team. Doug Barber, Conservation and Wildlife Engagement Manager at The Trust, works closely with the Environment Group, attending monthly meetings to report on his work and plan future activities.

The Environmental Subgroup was formed in 2020 to carry out an overview of the Trust's environmental policies and procedures following the guidance in the Green Flag Handbook. The group meets monthly with a focus on biodiversity the environmental impact of projects, reducing energy and chemical use and promoting good management of waste.

In 2024-5 the group continued to seek ways to reduce waste and single-use plastic. Sharon Simpson, Golf Development and Retail Manager, ensures that the Trust Shop stocks a range of sustainable products such as wooden golf tees, compostable cups and bamboo products. Plastic packaging is kept to a minimum. The Trust Shop also stocks locally produced items from small independent businesses. The Trust staff have also reduced paper-usage by moving towards more online communications.

Members of the group worked closely with the Communities Subgroup to audit current practice at Trust events and to find ways to reduce their environmental impact. Emma, Lynda and Liz carried out a thorough Environmental Impact Audit (EIA) for The Picnic. Positives were the use of solar-powered stage, range of locally produced products and sustainable packaging, 97% of the 88 stallholders were local, travelling from within 10 miles. Stallholders had been given information about legal requirements to avoid single-use plastics and recycle waste as part of the booking process. The impact of this was evident in the 2024 survey, with almost all stalls using alternatives to plastic bags. When the same EIA was carried out in 2023, there were no stalls from environmental organisations. In 2024 we were pleased to welcome the RSPB and Sandnats. Volunteer litter-pickers separated waste for recycling on site but this continues to be challenging, as members of the public did not separate waste when putting their own rubbish in the bins. At all events volunteers collected waste or encouraged attendees to take it home to recycle.

The Environment Subgroup worked with the Trust Manager and Communications Subgroup to continue to share information about biodiversity and conservation issues. This ranged from photos about wildlife sighting to important messages about issues such as the unprecedented tree loss caused by Storm Darragh, protecting areas of wildlife and the impact of squirrel damage. The Trust is actively collaborating with a specialist advisor to identify areas and projects for Biodiversity Net-Gain. Doug has produced plans for possible projects in the Woods and shared these with trustees as part of the annual Board planning day.

Doug ‘Wild Warley’ Barber organised regular walks and talks about the flora and fauna of Warley Woods, throughout the year. This included Moth Nights, Fungi Walk and Winter Tree Identification Walk. He also delivered talks on conservation issues and their impact on Warley Woods.

Doug organises a team of conservation volunteers who carry out work across the site. This has included planting projects, cutting back invasive species, creating beetle habitats and managing meadow areas. Funding from Severn Trent was used to train volunteers in hedge-laying. They then carried out hedge-laying work and planting around The Wilderness.

Management of Warley Woods for biodiversity and climate change benefits has also been part of the group’s discussion and planning. Last year’s decision to fence in the pond, to reduce disturbance to the eco-system from dogs, had a positive impact. The pond now has more plants, insects and invertebrates, and provides a source of water for birds and mammals. A survey by Melissa Norton from the Environment Agency in June 2024 found newts, iris sawfly and crane-fly larvae amongst many other species.

The second ‘Buy a Bluebell Appeal’ was a great success, with sufficient funds donated to enable the Trust to plant 3,000 bluebells and other woodland species including ransomes, wood anemone and sweet woodruff. Dead-hedging and signs have been put in place to protect newly planted species. Areas designated for meadow creations have been managed to allow grass and native flowers to grow. This has some success and further monitoring and trials of this approach are part of future plans.

It is important for the Trust to have up-to-date information on the flora and fauna of Warley Woods. Volunteers carried out a Breeding Bird Survey during March to June. Doug analysed the data, noting trends such as fewer Parakeets and reduction in numbers of Nuthatch. New species observed were Red Kite and Mallard (walking towards the pond). The bat survey confirmed that there were Soprano Pipistrelles on site as well as Common Pipistrelles. It was a disappointing year for moths, with only 15 species recorded on the Moth Night, compared with 40 in 2023. This was partly due to a cold and wet spring and in line with trends observed locally. Data from the 2024 tree survey indicated a number of trees needed work due to visible damage from squirrels. It costs the Trust around £4,000 to remedy this. The Trust continues to monitor squirrel damage and seek solutions to this problem.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Members of the Environment Subgroup carried out a visual survey of informal paths in the woodland area adjacent to Barclay Road. The number of such paths has increased, meaning that there is more disturbance to the flora and fauna in the woodland areas. Too much disturbance can have a negative impact on numbers of plants, insects, mammals and birds. Our findings were shared with Site Subgroup and ground staff resulting in an active management plan using fallen trees, dead-hedging and tree-planting to define paths and protect woodland areas.

The Environment Subgroup continues to work with other subgroups and staff teams to oversee progress on environmental issues. We continue to liaise with the Golf Course and Park Manager on sustainable practices for golf course management. Environment Champions in each of the sub-groups have been effective in ensuring environmental considerations are a part of continued best practice.

Liz Coleman

New Building Group (NBG)

Members: Arthur Ward (Chair), Emma Login. Tom Grosvenor, Ron Williams, Alan Reynolds, John Newman and Viv Cole. The NBG is made up of trustees, volunteers, and staff. The group met frequently throughout the year and reported to Board regularly.

The NBG produced and submitted a pre planning application to SMBC in May and received a broadly positive response subject to consultation with the Gardens Trust, the statutory consultative body for historically listed sites. The Gardens Trust response when it arrived was limited and further consultation will need to be had.

A quantity surveyor was appointed to cost our proposals for the new building, compound, car parking and other infrastructure costs whilst the group worked on our expression of interest to the NHLF and project management risks. Other costs for the project included a project manager, fund raiser, site and ecological surveys, rewilding, golf course changes and security. The final sum exceeded £8 million.

Our submission of interest was put to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and Viv and Arthur met with them via Teams in December. We decided after considerable discussion that we would not be able to meet their criteria and given the cost of the project we would be in a national competition with many other projects taking precedence. NLHF much prefers restoration projects not new builds.

We have begun work on reducing the overall value of the project from £8 to around £5 million. Scaling back our aspirations is prudent in the current economic climate.
Other funding options are now being explored such as the Smethwick Town Fund and a fundraising consultancy company has been appointed to work with us on fundraising feasibility.

We also began work on changes to our lease because any new building will require approvals from Birmingham and Sandwell and this is a complex legal area. We hired specialist solicitors who presented an options paper and attended a Board Meeting. The broad outcome is that we are hoping to negotiate the freehold transfer of the leased part of the site to the Trust as our first preference and a transfer of Trusteeship of the charity land. This is the simplest way to remove any obstacles going forward.

Viv and Trust officers met with Sandwell's Chief Executive Shokat Lal, Assistant Director Ben Percival, and Sunish Patel, Green Spaces Project Manager from Sandwell MBC in January. They were very positive about their visit including a walk across the site and were keen to reset Sandwell's relationship with the Trust. The Chief Executive offered to help with director-to-director contact regarding our lease to speed things up with Birmingham when needed. They were very positive about our need for a new building and they understand our funding difficulties and are keen to help.

The group completed a benefits mapping exercise that will be required by potential funders and link to their funding criteria. It is designed to show funders the outcomes our new building will deliver against their funding objectives. This may need the Trust to review and possibly adjust its charitable objectives as need be.

Arthur Ward

Wild Warley and Conservation Work

The Wilderness
The floristically diverse grasslands within the Wilderness were cut and the arisings removed at the end of the summer. These areas have been responding well to the cutting regime and further improvements to the diversity are expected as the nutrient levels drop.
Of note, the brambly bank at the back edge of the area has seen a big reduction in the vigour of the brambles after the winter cut, this allowed it (without the risk of disturbing nesting birds) to be cut at the end of the summer with the other finer portions of the grassland. Bramble is still present on the bank, but grasses and other flowering plants are starting to colonise due to the extra available light and their resistance to the annual cut. It is hoped that it can be returned to a flower rich condition and the mix of knapweed, oxeye daisy, yarrow, yellow rattle etc. that is behind the pond will extend along the whole back edge.

This year work started to reduce the coverage of field horsetail within the Wilderness. This plant is a lover of damp grasslands. Whilst it is native it is also a bit of a bully and in some areas makes up 80% of the ground coverage leading to a significant loss of diversity. Our options for managing the plant are limited, and without the use of chemicals the only viable option for the most part is hand-pulling which over successive years should weaken the plant. It should be noted that total eradication is not the end goal (nor is it feasible), but reduction of prevalence is a desirable outcome. Several sessions were spent pulling the plant up and removing it from The Wilderness. Next year we plan to use it as a Corporate Volunteering task as many hands will make this job more manageable.

The annual reduction/coppicing of portions of the scrub within The Wilderness has been carried out over the 2024/2025 Winter, including clearing off the bank behind the pond. This reduces shading and also leaf-drop which would lead to premature silting up and the addition of unwanted nutrients to the waters. It also will allow more light to wildflower mix (mentioned above) on the bank behind the pond. This year the winter works included opening more of the banks to the edge of the path. The previous area that had this treatment responded well with cinquefoil and speedwells making use of the lack of competition.

Thanks to funding from the Severn Trent Community Fund, we were able to deliver the ‘Healthy Hedges’ project in February 2025. The project allowed us to buy the necessary tools and plants to allow us to diversify the hedgerow. The money also allowed us to bring in a professional and accredited hedgelayer, Julian, to train 10 of our volunteers in the craft of hedgelaying. During the training and the subsequent sessions after we managed to make a good start laying The Wilderness hedge before the onset of bird nesting season, managing to get the first 40m laid.

The laid section was the ‘gapped-up’ planting tree species used by moth and butterflies as a larval foodplant such as wych elm (white-letter hairstreak), wild privet (privet hawk moth), alder buckthorn (brimstone), spindle and climbers such as honeysuckle (white admiral). Hops were planted outside the palisade fencing of the irrigation pumphouse as a climber is it hoped it will mask the ugly fencing whilst also again being a foodplant of butterflies such as Comma, Peacock and Red Admiral.
It should be noted that the volunteers took to hedgelaying like ducks to water, performing to a level you would not have expected from people new to the craft. Work on the remaining portion of The Wilderness hedge will be the priority for the 2025/2026 winter works.

Woodland Thinning in Glades
Sadly, since the last report some of the previously thinned glade areas in W4-A (by the school) and W4-B (Upper St. Marys entrance) suffered from extensive squirrel damage (often leading to mortality) to the diligently thinned areas around beech and oak trees. It was an especially bad year for squirrel damage which has prompted much discussion around the issue of urban grey squirrel populations within Warley Woods. On a more positive note, the ground flora has taken advantage of the reduction in bramble cover and extra light from reduction in tree cover with foxgloves, wood avens and cleavers coming in their stead.

Over the 2024/2025 winter the Wild Warley Conservation Volunteers (WWCV) thinned an area of woodland in a glade within W4-B. Normal thinning protocol was followed removing dominant, sick or invasive trees in preference and using the cut material to create a dead hedge marking the perimeter. Future canopy trees (in this case mainly lime) were thinned around giving them space to grow. As we had the Healthy Hedges project coming up, we also coppiced several hazel stools, which provided us with over 100 hedging stakes. This illustrates that with careful management conservation activities need not incur cost as one practice (coppicing) can then provide the materials for another (hedgelaying). This newly thinned location, free from bluebells (hybrid or otherwise) was deemed a good spot to be recipient of the 2024/2025 Buy a Bluebell (BaB) plants.

Buy a Bluebell (BaB)
After the success in its inaugural year, we set the target for this year's Buy a Bluebell (BaB) campaign a bit higher, aiming for £1,000 this year £200 more than in 2024. In total we managed to raise £1,085 (£1,338 with gift aid) once again surpassing our set target.
The BaB campaign was highlighted not only through our usual means (email, facebook & website) but also in the Wild Warley Wildlife Corner (in the café). This display allowed us to show off what we achieved the previous year as well as delivering the important message that goes with the campaign about the effect of trampling and disturbance on woodland plants.

Reassuringly during the community planting day members of the public seemed to know what we were doing and why. It is useful to get this feedback from the community, seeing that the understanding behind the process is starting to percolate into the general community. This initial groundwork will hopefully mean that the public will be on board if in the future we do fence off carefully selected portions of the woods, making them 'out of bounds' to allow trample free environments, ones free from the disturbance of both people and dogs.

Doug Barber, Conservation and Engagement Manager

Financial review /reserves policy

The Trustees have undertaken an analysis of future needs, opportunities and contingencies or risks, which could not be met out of income when and if they arise. It has also taken account of forecasts for income levels in future years, on the basis of planned activity and the reliability of various income streams, and made forecasts of future expenditure. Accordingly the management committee has developed a policy on reserves for the following reasons:-

• To respond to changes or loss of generated income or grants.
• To invest in advance in potential new areas of work such as training or other new sources of income.
• To enable the community trust to honour its contractual obligations to staff, contractors, suppliers and funders.

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves that it needs in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the organisation and the work that it delivers. The Trustees are aware of the large liability of a site open for public use 24 hours a day and the potential expense which might arise through vandalism. It also has many aspirations for future investment. The charity's current reserves are considered adequate for the sustainability and operation of the organisation, but the Trust would like to increase these to provide a stronger financial buffer for the organisation. Each year the Trust plans a budget to ensure reserves are not needed for general expenditure and with the hope that with prudent financial management reserve levels can be increased slightly. Reserves are only drawn upon to meet an emergency, unforeseen need which goes beyond any contingency in the budget, or to make an investment in equipment or facilities for which grant funding could not be secured.

In order to plan responsibly for future needs, since 2022-23 some of the unrestricted cash reserves are now being held in designated funds, beyond the levels needed to ensure the general financial viability of the organisation. One fund has been allocated to support the long term aspiration of the Trust to replace its aging building and to allow for development work to take those plans forwards. This will be added to and drawn from within a two year timescale. A second fund has been created to allow for the uninsurable risks of property within the site which could be damaged by third parties/natural disasters and allow for timely replacement without the need for delays through needing to specifically fundraise. This fund also includes savings towards replacing the fleet of vehicles (mowers, utility vehicles and specialist golf and woodland management equipment) which need replacing on a 4-6 yearly basis. A third fund has been created to hold any funds left as legacies to the Trust to ensure that they are used, as mentioned by the Trust in its legacy promotions materials, towards improvement works on site and kept separately from general expenditure. It is the Trust’s intention to use these as match funding, whenever possible, for grant funding bids, to maximise the gifts that have been given. The Trustees feel that the use of these three designated funds is the right course of action for a small charity with potential heavy liabilities and a mission to be custodians of Warley Woods for the long term.

The current funds stand at £597,896 (2024: £449,068) of which £1,115 (2024: £90) is restricted, £176,617 (2024: £112,901) is designated and £420,164 (2024: £336,077) is general unrestricted funds.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association.

Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Under those rules, the Board has a membership of between 10 and 15. Members are appointed for a three year term and can restand again at the end of this term. Up to 4 members can be co-opted.

Trustees are asked to submit a resumé of their interests and abilities in support of their election, and on appointment are supported through induction to help them become fully effective. Trustees are encouraged to attend seminars and training events to update their skills and knowledge.

All Trustees participate in monthly business meetings, and an annual planning and team building day, to agree the strategy and priorities for the forthcoming year. Trustees also take part in sub-groups described elsewhere in this report, and from time to time the board will hold additional meetings for planning and training.

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The role of the Board is to give direction and guidance to paid staff and volunteers and to take strategic and resource decisions to ensure the Trust is effective.

The Board takes responsibility for all strategic management issues and operates through sub-groups who carry out the implementation of strategy and report back to the Board on progress and make recommendations to inform future decisions. Day to day operational management of the Trust falls to the Trust Manager overall and to the Golf Development and Retail Manager for the operation of the shop and the Head Greenkeeper and Park Manager for the operation of the site team. The remuneration of these key staff was initially worked to local government pay grades but roles and responsibilities have evolved as the Trust has evolved and the Trust has looked to the market to ensure staff pay recognises any new levels of responsibility. Should there be a vacancy in one of these roles, it would be market tested.

For specific projects, including the Picnic in The Park, working or task groups are convened to manage and monitor the progress of the specified project. At least one member of the Board is involved in these groups and reports regularly to the full Board.

Some Board Members take on particular roles which can give a level of responsibility outside of the subgroup structure. These are the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Company Secretary, Health and Safety Manager. One Trustee is nominated by the Chair as the line manager for the Trust Manager.

Future Plans

The Board of Trustees met in February 2025 to agree the detail of the year ahead. This gives guidance to staff and to subgroups. Some of the key areas of work planned are:

- Achieving Green Flag Award
- A full programme of events
- Continuing to progress our plans for a new building, ensuring value for money and beginning in earnest the plan to raise the funds needed
- Celebratory Tree Planting, including using our own trees from our tree nursery
- Investing in improvement on the golf course over the winter period including drains on the 3rd green.
- Continuing our conservation work and making improvements for humans and wildlife and approve project areas for offering Biodiversity Net Gain credits.
- Plan ahead to raise funds to replace the Wilderness Board Walk and tarmac the paths in the Winter Garden
- Develop our historical research group and rework the History Trail
- Establish the routine of our new photography time lapse project
- Continue incremental environmental improvements to events and operations
- Keep refreshing the Artisan Market and its local provenance
- Proactively invite more partners to the Picnic in the Park and work on recycling at the event
- Pilot Q&A schools visits supplements on history and wildlife
- Build on the positive reboot of our partnership-relationship with Sandwell MBC
- Begin negotiations for changes to our lease and explore freehold possibilities
- Work on all aspects of income generation to ensure funding to replace council grant cut is in place
- Become a Living Wage Employer

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Eling
Chair
Date: 19/8/2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Warley Woods Community Trust Limited ('the charity')
I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report
As the Trustees of the charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Helen Blundell

Signed: Dated: 22 August 2025

Helen Blundell LLB FCA FCIE DChA

Crowe U.K. LLP
Chartered Accountants
Black Country House
Rounds Green Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2DG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**188,034**	**31,258**	**219,292**	*208,531*
Charitable activities	4	**260,995**	**-**	**260,995**	*209,598*
Other trading activities		**64,611**	**-**	**64,611**	*54,697*
Investments		**16,406**	**-**	**16,406**	*16,854*
Other income	5	**106,821**	**-**	**106,821**	*-*
Total income		**636,867**	**31,258**	**668,125**	*489,680*
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		**10,427**	**-**	**10,427**	*12,580*
Charitable activities	6	**478,727**	**30,143**	**508,870**	*469,694*
Total expenditure		**489,154**	**30,143**	**519,297**	*482,274*
Net income		**147,713**	**1,115**	**148,828**	*7,406*
Transfers between funds	14	**90**	**(90)**	**-**	*-*
Net movement in funds		**147,803**	**1,025**	**148,828**	*7,406*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**448,978**	**90**	**449,068**	*441,662*
Net movement in funds		**147,803**	**1,025**	**148,828**	*7,406*
Total funds carried forward		**596,781**	**1,115**	**597,896**	*449,068*

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

The notes on pages 28 to 44 form part of these financial statements.

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04214547

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	*2024 £*
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	**37,600**	*35,735*
Current assets			
Stocks	11	**15,532**	*8,621*
Debtors	12	**77,402**	*52,009*
Cash at bank and in hand		**514,624**	*392,665*
		607,558	*453,295*
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	**(47,262)**	*(39,962)*
Net current assets		**560,296**	*413,333*
Total net assets		**597,896**	*449,068*
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	14	**1,115**	*90*
Unrestricted funds	14	**596,781**	*448,978*
Total funds		**597,896**	*449,068*

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Steven Eling
Chair

Date: 19/8/2025

The notes on pages 28 to 44 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	*2024* *£*
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	**135,940**	*6,579*
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(13,981)**	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	**(13,981)**	**-**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**121,959**	**6,579**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	**392,665**	*386,086*
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**514,624**	*392,665*

The notes on pages 28 to 44 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. General information

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the Charity's operations is to restore and sustain Warley Woods Park and develop its facilities and events for the use of the local community in the interests of social welfare and to promote education.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are presented in British pound sterling and rounded to the nearest £.

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.
Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Expenditure (continued)

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives as shown below .

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery	-	25%	Reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	-	33%	Straight line
Other fixed assets	-	10%	Straight line

2.6 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs.

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

2.10 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.11 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Grants			
Sandwell MBC	68,864	-	**68,864**
Other	8,225	2,059	**10,284**
Subtotal	77,089	2,059	**79,148**
Donations	110,945	29,199	**140,144**
Total 2025	188,034	31,258	**219,292**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Restricted funds 2024 £*	*Total funds 2024 £*
Grants			
Sandwell MBC	*72,488*	*-*	*72,488*
Other	*16,725*	*-*	*16,725*
Subtotal	*89,213*	*-*	*89,213*
Donations	*115,318*	*4,000*	*119,318*
Total 2024	*204,531*	*4,000*	*208,531*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Golf and green fee income	260,995	**260,995**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Golf and green fee income	*209,598*	*209,598*

There has been a general increase in golf income in 24-25 but the value has been materially increased by the new arrangements where vat is no longer payable on our income from green fees which would create a year on year increase of 20%, if the rate of play had been static.

5. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
VAT refund from historic claims	106,821	**106,821**	-

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Charitable Activities	478,727	30,143	**508,870**

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities (continued)

Summary by fund type (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Restricted funds 2024 £*	*Total 2024 £*
Charitable Activities	*458,444*	*11,250*	*469,694*

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	**Support costs 2025 £**	**Total funds 2025 £**
Charitable Activities	414,269	94,601	**508,870**

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	*Support costs 2024 £*	*Total funds 2024 £*
Charitable Activities	*407,309*	*62,385*	*469,694*

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Staff costs	**273,401**	*260,730*
Property and accomodation	**9,904**	*10,217*
Shop stock	**13,465**	*3,890*
Site maintenance and upkeep	**100,863**	*108,594*
Other projects	**9,834**	*16,150*
Direct support costs	**6,802**	*7,728*
	414,269	*407,309*

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Depreciation	**12,116**	*11,603*
Recruitment and training	**415**	*1,662*
Insurance	**9,711**	*9,110*
Finance	**30,232**	*6,110*
Office costs	**25,570**	*28,556*
Independent examination	**4,017**	*4,575*
Volunteer expenses	**1,530**	*769*
Irrecoverable VAT	**11,010**	*-*
	94,601	*62,385*

Included within Finance costs are one off professional fees related to VAT and building project/lease advice.

8. Staff costs

	2025 £	*2024* *£*
Wages and salaries	**248,007**	*238,285*
Social security costs	**15,361**	*11,685*
Pension costs	**10,033**	*10,760*
	273,401	*260,730*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2025 No.	*2024* *No.*
Employees	**13**	*13*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The aggregate cost to the charity of Key management personnel in the year (being inclusive of employer national insurance and employer pension) was £132,823 (2024: £134,634). Key management personnel are considered to be the trust, retail and golf and park management.

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2024 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 31 March 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred *(2024 - £NIL)*.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2024	**172,806**	**42,696**	**91,443**	**306,945**
Additions	**12,846**	**1,135**	**-**	**13,981**
At 31 March 2025	**185,652**	**43,831**	**91,443**	**320,926**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	**153,647**	**37,525**	**80,038**	**271,210**
Charge for the year	**6,712**	**3,091**	**2,313**	**12,116**
At 31 March 2025	**160,359**	**40,616**	**82,351**	**283,326**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	**25,293**	**3,215**	**9,092**	**37,600**
At 31 March 2024	*19,159*	*5,171*	*11,405*	*35,735*

11. Stocks

	2025 £	*2024 £*
Finished goods and goods for resale	**15,532**	*8,621*

12. Debtors

	2025 £	*2024* *£*
Due within one year		
Other debtors	**64,849**	*41,405*
Prepayments and accrued income	**12,553**	*10,604*
	77,402	*52,009*

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	*2024* *£*
Trade creditors	**9,394**	*15,554*
Other taxation and social security	**4,603**	*9,290*
Other creditors	**11,962**	*10,046*
Accruals and deferred income	**21,303**	*5,072*
	47,262	*39,962*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
New building development	**22,901**	**-**	**(11,034)**	**80,000**	**91,867**
Uninsured risks/capital equipment replacement	**90,000**	**-**	**-**	**(5,250)**	**84,750**
	112,901	**-**	**(11,034)**	**74,750**	**176,617**
General funds					
General Funds	**336,077**	**636,867**	**(478,120)**	**(74,660)**	**420,164**
Total Unrestricted funds	**448,978**	**636,867**	**(489,154)**	**90**	**596,781**
Restricted funds					
Golf	**90**	**-**	**-**	**(90)**	**-**
Community projects - Healthy hedges	**-**	**2,059**	**(2,059)**	**-**	**-**
Specific fundraising appeals	**-**	**29,199**	**(28,084)**	**-**	**1,115**
	90	**31,258**	**(30,143)**	**(90)**	**1,115**
Total of funds	**449,068**	**668,125**	**(519,297)**	**-**	**597,896**

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated funds have the following purposes:

NEW BUILDING DEVELOPMENT
There is a long term aspiration to replace the current aging building. This fund, which is expected to be drawn on over the next two years, is to allow for development work to be undertaken to take those plans forward.

UNINSURED RISKS/ CAPITAL EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT
This fund is to ensure that uninsured risks of damage to the site caused by third parties or natural disasters can be rectified on a timely basis. It is also includes funds towards the replacement of major plant and equipment which generally has to be replaced every 4-6 years.

Restricted funds have the following purposes:

SPECIFIC FUNDRAISING APPEALS
Specific fundraising appeals represents funds raised in response to specific appeals. In 2024/25 this included funds raised in response to Storm Darragh and the bluebell appeal.

GOLF
Golf camps delivery - none in current year, transferred to unrestricted funds per Trustee discussion.

There were the following transfers in the year:

£90 was transferred to unrestricted funds from the Golf fund following a discussion with the trustees.

£5,250 was transferred to unrestricted funds from the uninsured risks/capital equipment replacement fund as a road sweeper was purchased and capitalised using restricted funds.

£80,000 was transferred to the new building development fund as the Board decided to allocate the VAT repayment into long term value.

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Balance at 31 March 2024* £
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds				
New building development	*26,102*	*-*	*(3,201)*	*22,901*
Uninsured risks/capital equipment replacement	*90,000*	*-*	*-*	*90,000*
Park development	*33,000*	*-*	*(33,000)*	*-*
	149,102	*-*	*(36,201)*	*112,901*
General funds				
General Funds	*285,220*	*485,681*	*(434,824)*	*336,077*
Total Unrestricted funds	*434,322*	*485,681*	*(471,025)*	*448,978*
Restricted funds				
Golf	*90*	*-*	*-*	*90*
Community developments	*7,250*	*4,000*	*(11,250)*	*-*
	7,340	*4,000*	*(11,250)*	*90*
Total of funds	*441,662*	*489,681*	*(482,275)*	*449,068*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Designated funds	**112,901**	**-**	**(11,034)**	**74,750**	**176,617**
General funds	**336,077**	**636,867**	**(478,120)**	**(74,660)**	**420,164**
Restricted funds	**90**	**31,258**	**(30,143)**	**(90)**	**1,115**
	449,068	**668,125**	**(519,297)**	**-**	**597,896**

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Balance at 31 March 2024 £*
Designated funds	*149,102*	*-*	*(36,201)*	*112,901*
General funds	*285,220*	*485,681*	*(434,824)*	*336,077*
Restricted funds	*7,340*	*4,000*	*(11,250)*	*90*
	441,662	*489,681*	*(482,275)*	*449,068*

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	37,600	-	**37,600**
Current assets	606,443	1,115	**607,558**
Creditors due within one year	(47,262)	-	**(47,262)**
Total	596,781	1,115	**597,896**

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Restricted funds 2024 £*	*Total funds 2024 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*35,735*	*-*	*35,735*
Current assets	*453,205*	*90*	*453,295*
Creditors due within one year	*(39,962)*	*-*	*(39,962)*
Total	*448,978*	*90*	*449,068*

17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	*2024* *£*
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**148,828**	*7,406*
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**12,116**	*11,603*
(Increase) in stocks	**(6,911)**	*(4,412)*
Decrease/ (increase) in debtors	**1,703**	*(18,529)*
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**(19,796)**	*10,511*
Net cash provided by operating activities	**135,940**	*6,579*

18. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	*2024* *£*
Cash in hand	**514,624**	*392,665*
Total cash and cash equivalents	**514,624**	*392,665*

19. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**392,665**	**121,959**	**514,624**
	392,665	**121,959**	**514,624**

20. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contributions workplace pension scheme through The People's Pension. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £5,908 (2024: £6,841). Employer contributions to staff personal pensions were £4,125 (2024: £3,919). Contributions totalling £Nil (2024: £957) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

21. Related party transactions

No Trustees were paid during the year. (2024: One Trustee was paid £7,590 for architect services)

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	**2025**	2024	2024
	£	**£**	£	£
Income				
Grant received	**79,148**		89,213	
Donations received	**122,582**		97,000	
Gift aid - tax recoverable	**17,563**		22,318	
Fundraising activities	**64,610**		54,697	
Golf income	**260,995**		209,598	
Bank interest	**16,406**		16,854	
VAT refunds due to irrecoverable VAT	**106,821**		-	
Gross income in the reporting period		**668,125**		489,680
Less: Expenditure				
Staff costs	**273,401**		260,730	
Recruitment and training	**415**		1,662	
Park improvements	**3,261**		48,025	
Park maintenance (incl essential safety tree works)	**43,559**		14,600	
Golf course materials & maintenance	**13,408**		17,459	
Golf shop supplies	**13,231**		3,125	
Events	**6,802**		7,728	
Golf buggies	**234**		764	
Community projects	**2,059**		1,469	
New Building projects	**5,784**		12,982	
IT support & projects	**7,982**		11,974	
Wild Warley	**879**		-	
Fundraising supplies	**10,427**		12,581	
Volunteer expenses	**1,530**		769	
Insurance	**9,711**		9,110	
Water rates	**1,774**		2,685	
Light/heat	**8,130**		7,532	
Refuse	**10,484**		9,824	

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	**2025**	2024	2024
	£	**£**	£	£
Repairs and renewals	**30,599**		19,427	
Telephone	**1,859**		1,703	
Advertising/promotion	**3,001**		3,187	
Postage and stationery	**3,990**		4,251	
Health and safety	**883**		987	
Sundry	**1,757**		1,292	
Depreciation	**12,116**		11,603	
Independent examination	**4,017**		4,575	
Accountancy	**4,262**		3,289	
Legal and professional fees	**23,882**		424	
Bank charges and interest	**6,350**		5,686	
Partial exemption VAT disallowed	**2,500**		2,831	
Irrecoverable VAT expense	**11,010**		-	
		519,297		482,274
Total expenditure		**519,297**		482,274
Net income for the reporting period		**148,828**		7,406
Surplus/deficit for the reporting period		**148,828**		7,406
Funds brought forward at 1 April		**449,068**		441,662
Funds carried forward at 31 March		**597,896**		449,068

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1092754

Accounts

Registered number: 04214547
Charity number: 1092754

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Chair's statement	2 - 3
Trustees' report	4 - 20
Independent examiner's report	21
Statement of financial activities	22
Balance sheet	23
Notes to the financial statements	24 - 37

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees	Steven Eling, Chair Katherine Slade Alan Reynolds Elizabeth Coleman Arthur Ward Barbara Platts Christopher Ashford David Read Patricia Marsh (Resigned 14 October 2023) Michael Talbot Lisa Burrows John Newman Lynda Wagstaff Clive Heywood Tom Keir Grosvenor (appointed 14 October 2023) Dr Emma Louise Login (appointed 14 October 2023)
Company registered number	04214547
Charity registered number	1092754
Registered office	The Pavilion Lightwoods Hill Smethwick West Midlands B67 5ED
Company secretary	Michael Talbot
Accountants	Crowe U.K. LLP Chartered Accountants Black Country House Rounds Green Road Oldbury West Midlands B69 2DG
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Birmingham B1 2HB

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The chair presents his statement for the year.

The 2023/24 year has been one of overall success for the Trust and Warley Woods. Our membership remains strong at over 1,500 with volunteer support for the park and events involving more than 300 people. All this helps to keep Warley Woods looking great, providing the best for its users and being rooted in the community.

The year has seen some significant investment to improve conditions and facilities. Many of improvements and renewals have been carried out by our own staff. These included more drainage improvements on the golf course greens, renewed litter bins and a new trip rail along the Barclay Road boundary to replace the rotten wooden bollards. Our staff have also had to repair damage including vandalism to the bears in the children's playground. Biodiversity in the Wilderness continues to increase. The establishment of the pond since it has been fenced is now attracting ducks with ducklings, newts and diverse insect species; all good for the woods.

Planned improvements included renewing the driveway from the Grove Road entrance, which was an expensive job and made possible by two legacies. Patching works were also done to the car park (sadly, the car park is going to need some further repairs).

Golf has continued to be very popular. The course has been busy throughout the year despite the extensive levels of rainfall, especially through the winter. New golfers continue to come to Warley Woods and visiting golfers playing against Warley Woods Golf Club in competitions have been very complimentary about the course. We have to thank our staff for their dedication to keeping things in the best condition.

We ran the full range of events over the year, which were as popular as ever. Many events which require booking, like guided walks sell out. We have also seen the start of the Artisan Market on the first Sunday of the month. They began in October and are now a fixture March to December. They certainly seem to be popular and provide an outlet for local traders and crafts people and are an opportunity for the Trust to raise awareness of what it does.

We reported in the last Annual Report about issues with the Council's grant funding contribution and funding agreement with a proposed review and intention to totally cut funding support within two years. This major problem rumbled on for the whole of 2023/24. At the high point of bad relations in September I formally complained to the Commissioners then running the Council about the professional conduct of their officers. The relationship has since been on an improving trajectory following a change of council staff. However, the funding agreement was not concluded by the end of the year in time for 2024/25 and there is still a funding reduction for 2024/25 and 2025/26. To give balance, at the time of writing this report, the grant funding agreement has since been concluded. However, other commitments that were given to the Trust about a review and removal of some restrictions in the Trust's lease of the park have not yet been delivered on. We will need to continue to pursue these issues. Hopefully, we can go forward with a positive relationship with the Council again and hopefully never have a repeat of the frustrating issues that took staff time and effort away from what are the priorities for Warley Woods.

A major development we have been working on for some time is a new building to replace the Pavilion. I have written before about the Pavilion being erected as a temporary building in 1957. It really is now existing on borrowed time. A new building cannot just provide better facilities, but must also be environmentally friendly, which the Pavilion certainly isn't. Planning work got underway in earnest during the year with some designs produced and initial public consultations. A subgroup of the Board is driving the project, which will be a multi-year task of design, approvals and fundraising.

CHAIR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Board of Trustees continues to meet each month to receive reports from our staff including finance and park users' feedback. The Board's subgroups of Resources, Site, Communications, Communities, Environment, and New Building meet each month and report to the Board with any recommendations for decisions. The Board has continued to hold its annual planning day in February to set the main priorities for the coming year and run through the budget in detail. In February 2024, the Board reviewed and agreed a new five year Management Plan. All of this happens behind the scenes, but is essential to the Trust being a well-run and viable organisation.

Board membership in the year saw Pat Marsh retire and Emma Login and Tom Grosvenor join. We are pleased that Pat and her family continue to be strong supporters of the Trust and are seen volunteering at many events. It's important to remember whilst we have paid staff, all the Board and subgroup members, along with many people doing jobs in the park and at events, are volunteers.

The work of everyone was recognised again in 2023 with the award of Green Flag status for the 15th year running. We also made the top ten again in the vote for Britain's favourite parks.
Finally, the year involved planning for celebrating 20 years of the Trust running Warley Woods. We are unique and despite all those who said it wouldn't work, we are still here. We will be reporting all of that in our forthcoming celebratory book and in next year's annual report.

Chair

Date: 19/9/2024

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

Objectives and activities

Policies and objectives
The charitable objectives of the Trust are as follows:

To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical, natural and historic environment of the area known as Warley Woods.

Vision
The vision of Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is: -

To ensure the long-term restoration and sustainability of Warley Woods Park and to develop its facilities and events as a central focus for the local community, thus encouraging greater numbers and diversity of people to enjoy this unique environment.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The rest of this report demonstrates the many works delivered by Warley Woods Community Trust for the public benefit. Warley Woods is free to enter, open to all, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

It has been another busy year at Warley Woods Community Trust. Many of the Trust's activities fall under the responsibility of one of the subgroups, whose reports follow, but there are some things which are solely undertaken by the Trust's staff teams and these first reports share some aspects of this work in 2023-24.

Report from the Trust Manager

The office takes care of a lot of the communications and marketing of the Trust. This includes updating and creating material for our website. It is amazing how quickly things become out of date. We added information on Wilder Warley and our sustainability work. We lead the charge on promoting the UK's Favourite Park vote and sending out the news emails. We look after the official facebook groups and page. We create posters for all of our events, activities and our fundraising initiatives.

We manage the fundraising and membership administration, which thanks to our supporters generosity is very time-consuming. Thank you for keeping us so busy. We keep gift aid records and submit claims. We introduce new ideas for fundraising which last year involved our first lottery. After years of receiving grants from the National Lottery it is quite interesting to receive funds directly from our own involvement in a scheme. It has attracted completely new supporters to us with monthly contributions. It raised £3,700 from just half of the year. Doug also created his first appeal for funds to buy bluebells and this was incredibly popular.

We submit funding applications and appeals for support and we write reports to funders on the work that has been achieved with their grants. Many have been supporting us for many years now. We had a fantastic visit to The Turner Trust in Arley to learn about what they do. They may have grant monies to give out, but they are also, like us, a small organisation managing a green space involving members and volunteers. We always have to apply to all potential supporters on each occassion. We don't have any guaranteed grant funding year on year – other than our support from Sandwell Council.

The new year saw a new force in the office – that of our new Administrator, Mae Eastwood. She is a gentle but powerful addition to our team and has had a great impact already. Taking on and learning all of our systems and events, including the massive undertaking that is the Picnic, and our many quirks, she was soon finessing and creating in her own right. As just three examples she has significantly reduced our use of paper, introduced a new way for us to deliver our User Survey (without any charges either) and she has created a whole world of loveliness and potential in the Artisan Market. This started as a trial in the Autumn, but has already established itself as a fixture – enabling us to give space to local traders, something interesting in the calendar, a new income stream and the opportunity for the Trust to meet park visitors who never stray up to the Pavilion end of the site. Just fantastic from every angle and we look forward to seeing what she comes up with next.

We organise the Volunteer Thank You night each year which was again held at the Pavilion and is, we hope, a lovely evening for everyone who chooses to come. We also stepped in to organise the unexpected visit from the BBC to record Gardeners Question Time – you never know what is going to come your way. We also co-ordinated the visit of a Deputy Lord Lieutenant who came to assess us for Kings Award for Volunteering.

We made and maintained new partnerships, by following up offers of help from community groups and organisations and also individuals who want to use the park for their own events. These have become increasingly important to the Trust to increase what is on offer in Warley Woods without increasing our need to directly create and manage things. They do need liaison and comms which we are able to do.

We support the site staff by dealing with some issues to keep them free to focus on the practical side of things whenever possible. We look after things such as dealing with quotes for repairs, ordering trees and park furniture, tree inspections, health and safety and waste management issues. One of the loveliest aspects is being a cog in the wheel of the celebratory tree adoptions. It only happens once a year, but is very special for everyone involved. Mae also took on getting the Padgham Room (meeting room) refreshed. Sometimes you don't always see how shabby something has become and fresh eyes help.

We do a lot of the background, but essential work. We sort out insurance, refuse, dog bin emptying service level agreements and negotiate energy contracts. We open and manage bank accounts. We started work with a new accounting company, following our long term Accountant Helen Blundell to a new firm. This has proved a great move already and we have been working with their VAT specialists on a new approach to VAT which could result in a big change and a legitimate rebate from HMRC. This work will continue into 24-25. We also had a big change moving all of our telephone systems onto digital services. This was greatly helped by a friend of the Trust and while we have kept our three different phone numbers we are much better able to provide support between teams at busy times and when the office is not staffed.

We deal with many of the health and safety issues and this year it involved dealing with a significant accident on site and its aftermath. Of course it was a great shock to know someone had been badly hurt in a space we manage and we are very pleased to know that the injured person has been able to return to the Woods once again. We thank everyone for their kindness, sensitively and true partnership through this situation.

A large task in the Autumn was creating our next five year Management Plan. The plan is a big document which covers so many aspects of how we manage the site and our organisation and it need a complete rewrite – as well as involving and co-ordinating the contributions of others who are invested in how our operation works and moves forward. This was agreed by the Board in February 2024 and gives us the basis for our future work but with scope for new innovations as the time goes forward.

Another major piece of work for me has been taking on more of a project management role for the new building work. The time has come when this needs more staff focus to give it some momentum and to ensure there is a fundraising plan in place.

Sadly, as Steve has mentioned, we continued to have difficulties with the local authority, and this involved the submission of formal complaints but we are starting to rebuild that relationship now. We accepted the recognition of a need for a cut in our grant but were extremely heartened by quickly our amazing supporters helped plug that financial gap, ready for the new financial year. We do not know if we can repeat that in 25-26 when the larger compounded cut takes effect, but it is encouraging.

It was a good year of positive change with a new Administrator, a stable staff team in all areas, new accountants and new Trustees. We continue to love being the supportive backbone of the day to day world of Warley Woods and whatever it needs from us. We did work on planning for our Anniversary celebrations and we look forward to delivering on those plans.

Viv Cole, Trust Manager

Golf Reports

The golf course is not managed separately to the rest of the site and is mentioned throughout the rest of the report, but with the golf course being a significant part of our operation we feel it should have a special focus in our annual report. We have asked the Golf Course and Park Manager and the Retail and Golf Development Manager to share some of their last year with you. Like all staff, they work on both park and golf aspects of our work, but in this section they will just cover golf related work in 23-24

Working on The Golf Course

A golf course's reputation often rests on the quality of its greens. We carry out major greens maintenance twice a year to remove as much thatch as possible with a tractor mounted scarifier – thatch is a barrier between the grass and the soil which can stop air and moisture getting to the roots leading to a unlevel playing surface. We over seeded twice; once in the spring and once in the autumn with fescue seed as this is cheaper than bent grass seed. The greens were aerated every 3-4 weeks which helps to get water and air to the roots – happy roots happy greens.

We only fertilise twice a year to give them a kick start in the spring then once the greens are growing, I keep them healthy with seaweed, iron and then wetting agents to stop the greens from getting dry patches. 40 tons of sand are applied to the greens each year to improve drainage and trueness.

Greens are mowed daily during the growing season at 4mm and up to 7mm in wetter conditions. The pin (flag) positions are moved once a week to spread the wear and give golfers variety.

At the start of 2024 we installed 50 metres of drains to the 7th green. We removed the turf then dug to a depth of 1.5 metres installing 160mm pipe and back filling the drain with 10mm gravel, 20cm of topsoil. We re-laid the turf that was removed at the start of the process. We also installed drainage sumps to the front left of the 8th green as the rest of the green is very good and most likely not needing the more heavy duty drains that we have installed on the other greens.

Bunkers are edged, strimmed and weeded once a month during the growing season.
Raked 4 times a week unless it's raining heavily and stones removed. They are topped up with 10-20 tons of sand each year. The bunkers will often have a lot of paw prints in them from dogs and this continues to be a problem.

Fairways are mowed once a week during the growing season at 17mm. We would like to mow them twice a week but fuel costs, environment (diesel emissions), and staff time are all factors. We use a slitter once a year to improve the drainage.

Tees and collars can grow very fast during the growing season as they get overspray from the maintenance of the nearby green. Tees are mowed twice a week during the growing season at 12mm – 15mm and are mowed with a pedestrian mower during the wetter months as they become too boggy for a ride-on mower.

Tee markers are painted twice a year and are moved twice a week to spread the wear across the tee. We use a slitter 3-4 times a year to improve the drainage.

Trees We prune the lower branches so that golfers can play their shots from under them and so that a mower can be manoeuvred around the tree without causing harm to staff. We spray weedkiller around the base of trees once a year. This is a considered decision which helps save a lot of time for staff and does prevent any damage to the bark from strimming and saves fuel and emissions. Fallen trees and branches will be cleared by staff. Every two years trees are surveyed for safety and any large work is contracted out. With such a beautiful tree lined site it is inevitable that in the autumn staff are fully occupied blowing and clearing leaves.

Irrigation we have a watering system which is primed up in the spring and drained down in the autumn. This used to be done by an outside company but is now done by staff, as are small repairs which are often replacing irrigation heads on the greens. We have bought 36 brand new irrigation heads in the last year (4 per green) and replacing these is ongoing.

One part of the system that is still not working is the 7th green irrigation which does not come on automatically and must be switched on manually which can be a pain on some days.

The putting green outside the Pavilion does not have irrigation heads so this also must be done manually. During a drought we have to go around all the greens with a hose pipe and water the dry areas on the greens as we don't get 100% coverage from the irrigation.

Staff
I joined Warley Woods in February 2014 and was promoted to the golf course and park manager in January 2015. I have over 20 years green keeping experience. Daryl Jones joined the team in December 2019 and was promoted to deputy course manager in 2023 and has over 12 years green keeping experience. Guiseppe Sannio joined the team in April 2023 and is learning on the job. Gary Parker joined in January 2024 on a temporary basis which we are hoping will become permanent should finance over the next financial year allow.

Alan Merricks, Head Greenkeeper and Park Manager

Inside the Shop at The Pavilion

During this year golfers have played over 25,000 rounds of golf on the course and after welcoming 1,800 new golfers we currently have in excess of 14,000 golfers on our records. Many are regular golfers on the course and as a result the golf club has also seen an increase in their membership numbers.

From 1st April the shop team was strengthened by welcoming Lynn Richardson and Linda McLeod to the team, along with Don Gribben, Nicolas Burrows, Nicola Clark and myself we cover the 77 hours a week during the summer.

During the annual review of the green fees we make every effort to remain competitive compared to other local courses and offer a range of deals, including Free Birthday Round, Twilight Discount after 4pm and Free Junior with an adult after 12pm on weekends and school holidays. The popularity of our Annual Season Ticket and Pay Monthly Direct Debit schemes continue to grow with 54 Annual Passes purchased this year and in the summer of 2023 the Pay Monthly peaked at 21 players in July.

Highlights through the summer season included an additional bank holiday in May for the King's Coronation, June saw the annual Warley Day competition hosted by the golf club and in September the Ryder Cup took place with Europe winning and golfers were offered a Ryder Cup discount, £1 off their round on Friday 29th September.

The golf club held an EGM in November to share details of a new club membership format. Members voted in favour of the change from an annual membership to a yearly rolling membership meaning players can join the club at any time through the year.

In December golfers were offered a Santa Special Season Ticket: 14 months for the price of 12 if purchased over the weekend that Santa visited Warley Woods. 13 golfers took advantage of this great deal.

Overall a good year for golf with the total income of £193,430 exceeding the target of £175,000. Apart from Golf Hire which finished short of target by £137 (£6,400 - £6,253) all other income streams managed by the shop exceeded their targets: Golf Accessories £6000 - £8,904 and Trust Stock £24,000 - £26,501.

In addition to the Trust stock we offer a rent a shelf space for local crafters and income from the commission raised from these sales was £1,041.

In March I liaised with the officers of the golf club to review and update the Memorandum of Understanding between Warley Woods Community Trust and Warley Woods Golf Club. The final draft was agreed and signed off and will be reviewed again in March 2026.

Popular Warley Woods non golf stock items are our range of open gift cards, Christmas cards and a calendar. The images are captured by local supporters who are always happy support us in our fundraising efforts. We are looking forward to introducing some new limited edition items to celebrate 20th Anniversary in 2024.

Sharon Simpson, Retail and Golf Development Manager

Site Subgroup
The Site Subgroup members are staff, trustees and volunteers: Steve Cemm, Diane Douglas, Clive Heywood, Alan Merricks, Mick Guy, John Reeves and Arthur Ward (Chair).

It supports the Community Trust in meeting its strategic objectives, one of which is the attainment of Green Flag status, by the active management of the Trust's physical resources. The subgroup met monthly on Zoom to discuss the management of the park, woodland and golf course areas. The group supports and plans significant projects together with other subgroups and the Trust Manager, particularly in the creation of our next five-year Management Plan.

The Site Subgroup would like to express their great appreciation to all those who supported the Community Trust to care for the site over the last year.

1. Pavilion and Car Park: We continued our incremental environmental improvements to the Pavilion by replacing more fluorescent light fittings with LED alternatives. As fluorescent light fittings are no longer available this process may accelerate in the future. Minor felt roof repairs were undertaken and gutters and UPVC facias cleaned. The Padgham room was redecorated.

2. Woodland Management: Fifteen large container grown trees (beech, oak, lime and sweet-chestnut), sponsored by supporters and members of the public, were planted out on site in late January. The locations within the woodland followed our woodland management plan advice. This is becoming a very significant event in our calendar supported by the combined efforts of our admin and ground-staff teams together with volunteers. Standing deadwood safety issues were discussed with our arboriculturist. Our biannual tree safety inspection was commissioned and will be undertaken early in the next financial year. The improved ecology of the site continues to be a significant area of volunteer and staff directed work. Laying dead hedges, removing invasive and non- natural species and replanting with woodland flora such as blue bells and wild garlic. Meadow creation and management in various areas of the site continues.

3. Tree Nursery: Thirty small leaved lime whips were added to our tree nursery this year and forty sweet chestnut seeds were potted up. Volunteers continued to maintain the nursery and water the trees over the growing seasons. The site's legionella risk assessment was reviewed and expanded to include the water tanks in the tree nursery. Two hundred hedge whips were purchased and planted out on site by volunteers to beef up our previously installed hedges.

4. Golf Course: The ground-staff installed fifty metres of new drainage to the seventh green this year, continuing our rolling programme of irrigation improvements to our greens. The expert care of our greens and their almost continuous playability throughout the whole year is a credit to our staff and we receive many compliments throughout the year from our golfers. Sadly, as in other years, we have suffered some vandalism to the greens when they are ridden over with motor bikes. The staff team deal with these incidents quickly and they are reported to the police

5. Park and Meadow: A significant section of the back drive was resurfaced this year at a cost of £43K. This section of the back drive was becoming very worn and difficult for buggies and wheelchairs to use. Ten tons of gravel was purchased to repair storm damage to the winter garden paths.

Damage to the perimeter fence was repaired. New replacement rubbish bins were installed at Abbey Road gate and the Upper St Mary's Road entrance. A new galvanised trip rail was installed along a section of Barclay Road to replace rotten wooden perimeter bollards. Replacing the wooden bollards like for like would have been three times as expensive and their life expectancy is much shorter..

6. Wilderness: Improvements to The Wilderness this year included installing a farm style fence around the pond to keep people and dogs out of the water. This has proved very successful and significant wildlife has been attracted to the water. The pond has held sufficient water over the summer for aquatic species to thrive. The bank behind the pond has been seeded by volunteers. A second information board was installed at the bottom of The Wilderness steps. Grass in The Wilderness is being cut and removed to impoverish the area ready for wild meadow plants to be introduced. Significant repairs to the boardwalk were undertaken this year.

7. Health and Safety and Staffing: There have been a small number of minor H&S issues this year and one serious incident that was reported to RIDDOR and our insurers. The latter was a branch falling and injuring a worker who required hospitalisation. The area was immediately reassessed and the location of the group using this space was moved. After an investigation no further action was required of us. Two new members of the ground-staff team joined us this year Pepe and Gary. First aid and refresher courses were undertaken by all ground staff this year.

8. Compound and Equipment: A new covered area and robust work bench were created in the compound this year to provide dry conditions for staff working on machinery during servicing and repairs. The compound has been resurfaced with ten tons of new gravel. All of the servicing of our machine fleet is now carried out in house with the exception of mower blade sharpening which requires specialist equipment.

9. Play Area and Gym Equipment: Significant repairs to the play area fence were undertaken this year after a bout of vandalism and rotting of a number of posts. Corporate volunteers painted the whole fence during the summer. All ground-staff completed a play and gym equipment inspection course this year. A small number of minor repairs were undertaken to the gym equipment as recommended by our annual external inspection.

10. Volunteers: As in previous years volunteers have been extremely active in helping to care for the site. We have several regular litter pickers who between them keep the site largely litter free. The well established Sunday and Monday groups have met regularly and larger corporate groups have offered a significant number of all day sessions throughout the year. We regularly support young people undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh award in their volunteering element who join us on our Sunday sessions. Tasks have been very varied ranging from hedge planting to litter picking, bluebell planting to cutting back overgrown vegetation, to tidying our many entrances to the site. We are extremely grateful to all our volunteers young and old who make such a big contribution to the care of Warley Woods.

Arthur Ward

Communications Subgroup

Members of the group: Viv Cole; Katy Holmes, Debra Howls, Sue Maguire, Kate Slade (Chair), Jane Taylor, Sarah Wagstaff. The group remained stable throughout the year but Sarah has now resigned due to work commitments. We'd like to thank her for managing the Trust's Twitter (X) and Instagram accounts for the last 2 years – sometimes a thankless task!

The ongoing activities of the group include:

- Production of the quarterly LEAFlet newsletter
- Scrutiny of publications:
- Website, Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram and notice board management
- AGM
- Annual Report
- Recruitment of Members and Volunteers
- Apart from the above activities there were two main areas of work which took up much of the group's time this year:- Planning for the 20th Anniversary of the Trust running the site, and preparing the submission for the Award for Volunteering.
- The plan for the Anniversary was agreed and was to focus on four Trust events throughout the year as well as new merchandise and additional publicity. We decided that the events concerned would be the Easter Egg Roll, The Picnic, Volunteer Thankyou night and the launch of a new book. Ideas about merchandise and a special logo were also discussed and agreed – mugs, badges and the new history book being the main offerings.
- The application for the King's Award was discussed and refined. Sue Maguire did a lot of the work in preparing this, and special thanks go to her. The application was submitted by Kate Organ, a former trustee who has moved away from the area, and letters of support were provided by Sally Taylor from the Bearwood Hub and Stuart Maconie one of our patrons. We will not hear the result of this until November 2024.
- The bi-annual User Survey was undertaken in the autumn of 2023. The previous survey questions were reviewed and some changes made. This was an online survey for anyone who uses the site and there were 413 responses. Some of the main findings included the importance of the site being run by local people; the top priorities for funding being the woodland and a new building; and nature, fresh air and trees being major reasons for visiting the site. We added a question asking if visitors felt safe on the site so that we could understand if there were particular measures that we needed to take to address safety. What surprised us was that half of the respondents had felt unsafe but this was mainly to do with dogs, not other people or risky conditions and was often related to a single incident over a considerable period of time. The full findings are available on the website User Survey Results 2023 | Warley Woods Community Trust.
- In 2018 we applied to be hosts for Gardeners' Question Time on Radio 4 in the year of the bi-centenary of Repton's death. We heard nothing until July 2023 when they contacted us to ask if we were still interested! We said we were and two programmes were recorded at Abbey Junior School and broadcast towards the end of 2023. Although it is difficult to know the impact of this it did tell another audience about the Trust and Warley Woods.
- A recent addition, coming towards the end of the year was the establishment of a monthly Artisan Market on the site. The Trust has had a stall at this and we have been pleased with the number of people interested in the work we do, and still not being aware that the site is managed by the Trust and not the local Council. It has provided a new opening to talk to visitors and encourage them to become members and/or get involved with the Trust activities.
- Finally, we have produced a new welcome entrance sign at the main gates on Lightwoods Hill. We hope that this is more informative and attractive than the previous one.

Kate Slade

Resources Subgroup

Members: David Read (Chair), Steve Eling, Mike Talbot, Arthur Ward, Viv Cole. Resources is a subgroup which meets as and when to discuss organisational and financial matters. It met nine times during the financial year 2023/2024.

We keep a keen eye on our revenue accounts, reporting back and advising the Board so that all trustees are fully aware of the situation on a month by month basis with significant variances highlighted to the Board.

Throughout the financial year, we have been in discussions with Sandwell MBC regarding both the incorrect report which was commissioned by the lead officer at Sandwell and the proposed grant reduction. Members of Resources met with the lead officer on several occasions but without progress. At the end of the financial year we were still in discussion with the same officer, but they have now left the local authority and the relationship shows signs of improving.

We investigated further revenue streams to both help to compensate for the reduction on Council grant but also to fund further the development of Warley Woods and its infrastructure. We considered the introduction of a dog wash station and while we believed it might be of benefit to some visitors the financial cost and logistical changes needed would far outweigh any income so this was not proceeded with. However, we did instigate the Unity Lottery which is known as 'our lottery' and this is proving to be a good financial move with a regular income and a different way of attracting supporters.

The new building project was also always within our sight as the New Building Group started to firm-up initial costings for work to be done prior to moving on to raising bids for funding for the next stages. We also requested the Board for costs related to the submission of planning advice and planning permission.

We looked at the Articles of the Association and noted that we will need to bring some revisions to an AGM to allow us to set up a trading company to run the new building.

The Park Manager had requested additional labour for the winter months. The reasoning behind this was discussed and following this, a proposal was made to the Board for additional funding to cover a temporary post.

It was noted that our Conservation Manager, Doug, was on a temporary contract until 2024 but that he had become a very important member of staff and, following detailed discussion, we proposed to the Board that Doug become a permanent member of staff and a full contract be issued.

We examined the accounts provided for the Café concession and agreed an increase in rent which was accepted and a new contract agreed.

Discussions were held around the draft Budget for 2024/5 and changes incorporated before presenting to the Board at the Annual Panning Day. A significant increase in costs was the increase in the level of the minimum wage and the knock-on effect for staff over this level. The agenda for Planning Day was discussed and agreed.

A new Memorandum of Understanding with the Golf Club had been drawn up and we reviewed this and agreed for this to be submitted to the Golf Club for agreement.

Many other smaller items were discussed including preliminary work on Biodiversity Net Gain, were resolved and submitted to the Board over the year with all meetings being fully reported to the Board at the next monthly Board Meeting.

A revised policy on Safeguarding was worked on and is ongoing at accounts date.

David J Read

Communities Subgroup

Communities Subgroup Members: Kate Slade, Liz Coleman (Chair), Barbara Platts, Chris Ashford, Pat Marsh, Lynda Wagstaff. We welcomed new Trust Administrator, Mae Eastwood, to the group in April 2023.

The key focuses of the group are:
1. Planning and Organising events including vetting external requests
2. Schools Liaison
3. Community Engagement

The Trust offered a varied programme of events throughout 2023-2024. The Trust appointed a new Trust Administrator, Mae Eastwood, in April 2023, following the retirement of Kathy Hodgkinson. Mae has brought her energy, organisational skills and local connections to her work with the Trust and works closely with the Communities Subgroup, attending subgroup meetings as well as planning and coordinating events.

Easter Monday saw the return of the Easter Egg Roll and Trail which was well-attended, providing a fun activity for families. Liz Coleman and Doug Barber led a Dawn Chorus Walk on International Dawn Chorus Day 7th May. This was followed by the volunteer-led bring-and-buy Plant Sale on May 20th. Thanks to the generosity of donors and purchasers this event raised over £2,000 for the Trust.

The Trust's flagship event Picnic in the Park took place in July, once again we were blessed with excellent weather. This was Mae Eastwood's first Picnic and she worked brilliantly with the Picnic Group and many Trust volunteers to plan and organise the event. Chris Ashford once again booked and compered a talented programme of musicians, all of whom gave their time for free. Thousands of visitors experienced live music, a range of craft and food stalls, games and children's activities.

Heartbreak Theatre Company returned in August, staging an excellent open-air theatre production of Sense and Sensibility. Experts from Brum Bats led the ever-popular Bat Walk later in the month. The Communities Subgroup, Trust staff and volunteers support the planning of these events and staffing on the day.

Mae worked with local businesses to trial Warley Woods Artisan Markets. This has now become a regular monthly event with local traders offering quality products including handmade jewellery, gifts, crafts, garden products and a wide range of delicious food. The Artisan Markets are held on the first Sunday of every month March – December. The Trust regularly has a stall at the Artisan Market which helps raise awareness of the Trust's role in managing Warley Woods as well as gaining new members and supporters.

The Trust's Halloween event in 2023 was The Grey Lady Spooky Trail where visitors encountered a host of gruesome and ghoulish characters in the Woods. Volunteers from Sandwell Lions as well from the Trust played the roles enthusiastically. This continues to be a popular event with families. St Hilda's Church Hall was the venue for the volunteer-led Fundraising Quiz in November. Both events help to generate income for the Trust.
Santa In the Woods was back in December and proved very popular with families once again. The Christmas Craft Fair went ahead despite the rain, but visitor numbers were lower due to the weather. The weather was colder, but kinder, for the Annual Big Garden Bird Walk in January 2024.

2. Schools Liaison - Ongoing liaison has continued with local schools many of which the Trust has close relationships with. Members of the Communities Subgroup have communicated with different local schools about events, information and opportunities to be involved in, competitions, Wild Warley information and volunteering.

3. Community Engagement:
The Communities Group were pleased to be able to work once again with two local music groups this year who generously offered to run fundraising gigs for the Trust. Bearwood Ceilidh Band organised a New Year's Eve Dance which was a sell-out and much enjoyed. Dynamix, close harmony group, are long-time supporters of the Trust and held a benefit concert for Warley Woods in October, as well as performing at the Santa Event.

Wild Warley Project Manager, Doug Barber, has continued to deliver training in wildlife surveying, tree ID and runs regular group practical habitat management sessions. The Communities Subgroup has worked closely with him to provide support and promote further community engagement.

Warley Woods continues to benefit from working with over 50 other groups in the community including community and voluntary groups, local businesses, sports and cultural organisations.

Environment Subgroup

Members: Liz Coleman (Chair), Lise Burrows, Alan Reynolds, Kate Slade, Lynda Wagstaff, Emma Login (from April 2023), Clive Heywood, Jo James (from October 2023) and Doug Barber.

The Environmental Task Group was formed in 2020 to carry out an overview of the Trust's Environmental policies and procedures following the guidance in the Green Flag Handbook. As a result of this the Environmental Policy and Management Group has become a subgroup of Warley Woods Community Trust, contributing to the Trust's Five Year Management Plan. The Environment Group meets monthly to consider the environmental impact of projects, reducing energy and chemical use and promoting good management of waste.

Doug Barber, Conservation Manager attends the monthly meetings and reports on the work he and the Wild Warley Conservation Volunteers carried out to maintain and improve the biodiversity of Warley Woods. We also welcomed new members, Emma Login and Jo James during 2023-2024 who bring their knowledge and experience to the group.

In 2023-24 the group continued to seek ways to reduce waste and single-use plastic. This included working with Sharon Simpson, Golf Course and Retail Manager, to reduce plastic packaging in the Trust Shop and to stock sustainable alternatives such as wooden golf tees, compostable cups and bamboo products. The Trust staff also committed to reducing paper-usage and printing with a move towards more online communications.

Members of the group worked closely with the Communities Group to audit current practice at Trust events and to find ways to reduce their environmental impact. Emma, Lynda and Liz carried out a thorough environmental impact audit for The Picnic. Positives were the use of solar-powered stage, range of locally produced products and sustainable packaging, 99% of the 46 stallholders were local, travelling from within 10 miles. There were some areas for improvement in the future identified. Although there was a good range of stalls there were none from environmental organisations. Volunteers had planned to separate waste for recycling on site but industrial action by local authority refuse collectors meant that this was not possible. As with other events, volunteers collected waste or encouraged attendees to take it home to recycle. 33% stalls used single-use plastics, including one stall giving away free plastic carrier bags. We also ran a survey to find out how people travelled to The Picnic, but this was a self-identified survey and the number of participants was relatively low (206); 66% of respondents walked, 23.3% came by car, 5.85 by bus and 2.9% cycled.

The Environment Group worked with the Trust Manager and Communications Group to ensure that the Trust's Environment Policy and key environmental messages were more easily accessible on the Trust's website.

Doug 'Wild Warley' Barber organised regular walks and talks about the flora and fauna of Warley Woods, throughout the year. These continue to be popular with locals and people from further afield.

Management of Warley Woods for biodiversity and climate change benefits has also been part of the group's discussion and planning. It was decided to fence in the pond to reduce disturbance to the eco-system from dogs. The impact of this measure will be seen within the next year. The 'Buy a Bluebell Appeal' was a great success, with more than £2,000 donated. This enabled the Trust to plant 3,000 bluebells and other woodland species including cuckoopint, guelder rose and sweet woodruff. Dead-hedging and signs have been put in place to protect newly-planted species. In addition, grass was allowed to grow in areas identified for meadow creation and seeding and native flower seeds were sown at the right time of year. This has some success and further monitoring and trials of this approached are planned for 2024-25.

It is important for the Trust to have up-to-date information on the flora and fauna of Warley Woods. Volunteers carried out a Breeding Bird Survey March to June. Doug had analysed the data, noting trends such as the increase in Greenfinches and Parakeets and reduction in numbers of Woodpigeons. These trends are in line with national data. The bat survey confirmed that there were Soprano Pipistrelles on site as well as Common Pipistrelles. Bio-Blitz Challenge in July and the August moth survey identified several additional invertebrate species including Lattice Heath and Blue Underwing and Orange Sallow moths. This information helps to guide the Trust's management of the park for nature. Data from the 2023 tree survey indicated that 25% of the trees surveyed had sustained visible damage from squirrels. The Trust continues to monitor squirrel damage and seek solutions to this problem.

The Environment Subgroup continues to work with other subgroups and staff teams to oversee progress on environmental issues. We are working with the Golf Course and Park Manager on sustainable practices for golf course management. Environment Champions in each of the subgroups have been effective in ensuring environmental considerations are a part of continued best practice. The Trust is also starting to look at opportunities through Biodiversity Net-Gain with a specialist advisor.

Liz Coleman

New Building Group (NBG)

Members: Arthur Ward (Chair), Emma Login. Tom Grosvenor, Ron Williams, Alan Reynolds, John Newman and Viv Cole. The NBG is made up of trustees, volunteers, and staff. The group met frequently throughout the year and reported to Board regularly.

The Community Trust, almost from its inception, has wanted to replace its current premises which were constructed as a temporary replacement for the Abbey which was demolished in 1957, that once was the centre of our historic landscape.

The current Pavilion is long past its use by date despite our many attempts to improve its carbon footprint and keep it looking presentable. It is no longer fit for purpose and is seriously limiting the Trust's activity and ability to generate funds to maintain and improve the site.

We have become increasingly aware that our current building simply cannot sustain and support the site into the 2030s. The costs of maintaining and improving the whole site for the local community, into the next century requires a building that reflects our desire to be a proper resource centre for the whole community and significantly increase our ability to generate the sort of income that this beautiful site will need into the future, especially when external funders become less reliable.

The NBG group recommended to Board a little while ago that the Trust needed to invest some of our own money (£33K) in this planning process to demonstrate our seriousness to other possible funders. We therefore decided to fund the whole cost of the project to RIBA stage 2 in the planning process. The plan then would be to use this work and detailed information gained, to submit funding applications for resources to take us to the next stage for a full planning application or even further.

In May 2022 John Newman architect was appointed to help us draw up possible building and landscape plans for pre planning application to be formally submitted to SMBC planning department.

Over the last year the NBG and John have updated the Board regularly and helped them confirm many decisions such as the exact location of the new building, compound, and car park and how these elements might sit in the landscape adjacent to the Abbey Road gate and next to a newly created play area overlooking the meadow. The Board also approved the essential community consultation exercises that took place in September and October 2023 when we offered four events intended to engage and seek the opinions of our major stakeholders, our members, our Golf Club, our staff, our volunteers, and our supporters as well as the public. These events were supported by detailed large scale plans showing various options around our proposals and how they would sit in and be part of the landscape. Feedback from these stakeholder meetings was broadly very positive and we received useful feedback about what was liked and what was of concern. We will, where possible address these concerns as we move forward.

In early April the NBG produced the first draft for the pre planning application to be put to SMBC planning department in May 2024. The group also started work on developing a costings and risks profile for the whole project including rewilding of the current site, biodiversity net gain and ecological considerations such as bat and tree protection. A quantity surveyor has been appointed to help us understand the building and other related costs. These interconnecting issues are complex and sensitive and will require additional expert staffing resources such as a project manager to ensure we get this right. Work has also started on the changes needed to other aspects of the site for example the layout of the golf course.

Recent update: Our pre application submission to SMBC planning department was broadly well received with good feedback and guidance for the submission of a full planning application. We are moving forward steadily with our plans.

Arthur Ward

Wild Warley and Conservation Work

The Wilderness
The Wilderness hedgerows are ready to be re-laid in a process that stimulates the rejuvenation of the hedge from the base. Preparatory works were undertaken in the Winter of 23/24, removing overhanging branches (crown lifting) from the thin band of willow-dominated woodland bordering the hedge line. The Wild Warley Conservation Volunteers also thinned within the woodland strip with the aim to eventually reduce the height of the willows. These will be managed on a short rotation to improve the vigour of the hedge creating a more effective barrier around The Wilderness perimeter. This has an additional benefit as it allows extra light into the flower rich grasslands contained within.

The annual task of removing bramble and tree scrub from The Wilderness interior was also carried out, keeping the mosaic of habitats found within open and biologically diverse areas. The back bank which was dominated with brambles was cut outside of bird nesting season with an aim to return this bank to wildflower rich grassland.

In the late summer parts of the established grassland were cut and the material removed reducing the nutrients in the soil giving more space for floral diversity.

Woodland Thinning in Glades
Part of the Wild Warley Conservation Volunteers Winter programme of works involved thinning out woodland glades which had previously been created in the canopy under advice from Chris Shortis. After around 15 years the glades were due thinning and were enveloped in bramble. Brambles were cut back allowing access and volunteers thinned out glades giving preference to future canopy trees such as beech and oak and removing non-native or short-lived species such as sycamore and goat willow. The cut materials were used to create dead hedges around the edge of the woodland glade to try and reduce ingress of people into the area. These areas were underplanted with native broadleaved trees to increase both the stand age and species diversity. These areas were also receptor sites for our Buy a Bluebell campaign.

Buy a Bluebell
The Buy a Bluebell campaign was launched in January 2024 aiming to raise £800 to purchase English bluebells to start the large task of restoring our woodland to their former glory. For its inaugural year the campaign surpassed all expectations, raising to date £2,568 (with gift aid).

Buy a Bluebell has three facets hoping to maximise the effectiveness of our woodland restoration: Funding, Education and Community Involvement. In truth one of the largest barriers to success is trampling damage, educating our site users to what we are trying to achieve and how they can help is possibly more important than the money the campaign raised. All donors were invited to a community planting day, where they could plant out some of the bluebells they bought.

Doug Barber, Conservation and Engagement Manager

Financial review /reserves policy

The Trustees have undertaken an analysis of future needs, opportunities and contingencies or risks, which could not be met out of income when and if they arise. It has also taken account of forecasts for income levels in future years, on the basis of planned activity and the reliability of various income streams, and made forecasts of future expenditure. Accordingly the management committee has developed a policy on reserves for the following reasons:-

- To respond to changes or loss of generated income or grants.
- To invest in advance in potential new areas of work such as training or other new sources of income.
- To enable the community trust to honour its contractual obligations to staff, contractors, suppliers and funders.

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves that it needs in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the organisation and the work that it delivers. The Trustees are aware of the large liability of a site open for public use 24 hours a day and the potential expense which might arise through vandalism. It also has many aspirations for future investment. The charity's current reserves are considered adequate for the sustainability and operation of the organisation, but the Trust would like to increase these to provide a stronger financial buffer for the organisation. Each year the Trust plans a budget to ensure reserves are not needed for general expenditure and with the hope that with prudent financial management reserve levels can be increased slightly. Reserves are only drawn upon to meet an emergency, unforeseen need which goes beyond any contingency in the budget, or to make an investment in equipment or facilities for which grant funding could not be secured.

In order to plan responsibly for future needs, since 2022-23 some of the unrestricted cash reserves are now being held in designated funds, beyond the levels needed to ensure the general financial viability of the organisation. One fund has been allocated to support the long term aspiration of the Trust to replace its aging building and to allow for development work to take those plans forwards. This will be added to and drawn from within a two year timescale. A second fund has been created to allow for the uninsurable risks of property within the site which could be damaged by third parties/natural disasters and allow for timely replacement without the need for delays through needing to specifically fundraise. This fund also includes savings towards replacing the fleet of vehicles (mowers, utility vehicles and specialist golf and woodland management equipment) which need replacing on a 4-6 yearly basis. A third fund has been created to hold any funds left as legacies to the Trust to ensure that they are used, as mentioned by the Trust in its legacy promotions materials, towards improvement works on site and kept separately from general expenditure. It is the Trust's intention to use these as match funding, whenever possible, for grant funding bids, to maximise the gifts that have been given. The Trustees feel that the use of these three designated funds is the right course of action for a small charity with potential heavy liabilities and a mission to be custodians of Warley Woods for the long term.

The current funds stand at £449,068 (2023: £441,662) of which £90 (2023: £7,340) is restricted, £112,901 (2023: 149,102) is designated and £336,077 (2023: £285,220) is general unrestricted funds.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association.

Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Under those rules, the Board has a membership of between 10 and 15. Members are appointed for a three year term and can restand again at the end of this term. Up to 4 members can be co-opted.

Trustees are asked to submit a resumé of their interests and abilities in support of their election, and on appointment are supported through induction to help them become fully effective. Trustees are encouraged to attend seminars and training events to update their skills and knowledge.

All Trustees participate in monthly business meetings, and an annual planning and team building day, to agree the strategy and priorities for the forthcoming year. Trustees also take part in sub-groups described elsewhere in this report, and from time to time the board will hold additional meetings for planning and training.

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The role of the Board is to give direction and guidance to paid staff and volunteers and to take strategic and resource decisions to ensure the Trust is effective.

The Board takes responsibility for all strategic management issues and operates through sub-groups who carry out the implementation of strategy and report back to the Board on progress and make recommendations to inform future decisions.

For specific projects, including the Picnic in The Park, working or task groups are convened to manage and monitor the progress of the specified project. At least one member of the Board is involved in these groups and reports regularly to the full Board.

Some Board Members take on particular roles which can give a level of responsibility outside of the subgroup structure. These are the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Company Secretary, Health and Safety Manager. One Trustee is nominated by the Chair as the line manager for the Trust Manager.

Future Plans

The Board of Trustees met in February 2024 to agree the next five year Management Plan and the detail of the year ahead. This gives guidance to staff and to subgroups. Some of the key areas of work planned are:

- Achieving Green Flag Award
- A full programme of events
- Celebrating our 20th Anniversary with publicity, events, special products and a new history book.
- Continuing to progress our plans for a new building and to submit for planning advice and initial funding bids
- Celebratory Tree Planting
- Investing in improvements on the golf course over the winter period including drains for the 3rd green.
- Continuing our conservation work and making improvements for humans and wildlife and developing plans for offering Biodiversity Net Gain credits.
- Rework and rebrand citizen science initiative as Naturally Curious
- Form a historical research group
- Continue incremental environmental improvements to events and operations
- Build on the pilot of the Artisan Market
- Proactively invite more partners to the Picnic in the Park
- Pilot Q&A schools visits supplements on history and wildlife
- Rebuild a positive partnership-relationship with Sandwell MBC
- Begin negotiations for changes to our lease
- Work on all aspects of income generation to ensure funding to replace council grant cut is in place

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Eling
Chair
Date: 19/9/2024

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Warley Woods Community Trust Limited ('the charity')
I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report
As the Trustees of the charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Helen Blundell

Signed: Dated: 23 September 2024

Helen Blundell LLB FCA FCIE DChA

Crowe U.K. LLP
Chartered Accountants
Black Country House
Rounds Green Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2DG

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**204,531**	**4,000**	**208,531**	*206,256*
Charitable activities	4	**209,598**	**-**	**209,598**	*186,419*
Other trading activities		**54,697**	**-**	**54,697**	*44,630*
Investments		**16,854**	**-**	**16,854**	*5,298*
Total income		**485,680**	**4,000**	**489,680**	*442,603*
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		**12,580**	**-**	**12,580**	*21,065*
Charitable activities	5	**458,445**	**11,250**	**469,695**	*446,779*
Total expenditure		**471,025**	**11,250**	**482,275**	*467,844*
Net movement in funds		**14,655**	**(7,250)**	**7,405**	*(25,241)*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**434,322**	**7,340**	**441,662**	*466,903*
Net movement in funds		**14,655**	**(7,250)**	**7,405**	*(25,241)*
Total funds carried forward		**448,977**	**90**	**449,067**	*441,662*

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

The notes on pages 24 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	**35,735**	*47,338*
Current assets			
Stocks	10	**8,621**	*4,209*
Debtors	11	**51,210**	*32,681*
Cash at bank and in hand		**392,665**	*386,086*
		452,496	*422,976*
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(39,163)**	*(28,652)*
Net current assets		**413,333**	*394,324*
Total net assets		**449,068**	*441,662*
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	13	**90**	*7,340*
Unrestricted funds	13	**448,978**	*434,322*
Total funds		**449,068**	*441,662*

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Steven Eling
Chair

Date: 19/9/2024

The notes on pages 24 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

1. General information

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the Charity's operations is to restore and sustain Warley Woods Park and develop its facilities and events for the use of the local community in the interests of social welfare and to promote education.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are presented in British pound sterling and rounded to the nearest £.

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the charity, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives as shown below .

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery	-	25%	Reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	-	33%	Straight line
Other fixed assets	-	10%	Straight line

2.6 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs.

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

2.10 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Grants			
Sandwell MBC	72,488	-	**72,488**
Other	16,725	-	**16,725**
Subtotal	89,213	-	**89,213**
Donations	115,318	4,000	**119,318**
Total 2024	204,531	4,000	**208,531**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	*Restricted funds 2023 £*	*Total funds 2023 £*
Grants			
Sandwell MBC	*72,488*	-	*72,488*
Other	*32,272*	*3,005*	*35,277*
Subtotal	*104,760*	*3,005*	*107,765*
Donations	*88,470*	-	*88,470*
Legacies	*10,021*	-	*10,021*
Total 2023	*196,001*	*10,255*	*206,256*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Golf and green fee income	209,598	**209,598**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Golf and green fee income	*186,419*	*186,419*

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Charitable Activities	458,445	11,250	**469,695**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	*Restricted funds 2023 £*	*Total 2023 £*
Charitable Activities	*402,392*	*44,387*	*446,779*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Charitable Activities	407,309	62,386	**469,695**

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	*Support costs 2023 £*	*Total funds 2023 £*
Charitable Activities	*385,094*	*61,685*	*446,779*

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Staff costs	**260,730**	*230,368*
Property and accomodation	**10,217**	*9,708*
Shop stock	**3,890**	*5,143*
Site maintenance and upkeep	**108,594**	*111,326*
Other projects	**16,150**	*22,562*
Direct support costs	**7,728**	*5,987*
	407,309	*385,094*

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Depreciation	**11,603**	*10,688*
Recruitment and training	**1,662**	*1,371*
Insurance	**9,110**	*7,689*
Finance	**6,110**	*5,267*
Office costs	**28,557**	*31,476*
Independent examination	**4,575**	*4,186*
Volunteer expenses	**769**	*1,008*
	62,386	*61,685*

7. Staff costs

	2024 £	*2023 £*
Wages and salaries	**238,285**	*210,035*
Social security costs	**11,685**	*11,338*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**10,760**	*8,995*
	260,730	*230,368*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	*2023 No.*
Employees	**13**	*14*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The aggregate cost to the charity of Key management personnel in the year (being inclusive of employer national insurance and employer pension) was £130,715 (2023: £118,223). Key management personnel are considered to be the trust, retail and golf and park management.

8. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2023 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 31 March 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred *(2023 - £NIL)*.

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2023	**172,806**	**42,696**	**91,443**	**306,945**
At 31 March 2024	**172,806**	**42,696**	**91,443**	**306,945**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2023	**147,260**	**34,621**	**77,726**	**259,607**
Charge for the year	**6,387**	**2,904**	**2,312**	**11,603**
At 31 March 2024	**153,647**	**37,525**	**80,038**	**271,210**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2024	**19,159**	**5,171**	**11,405**	**35,735**
At 31 March 2023	*25,546*	*8,075*	*13,717*	*47,338*

10. Stocks

	2024 £	*2023 £*
Finished goods and goods for resale	**8,621**	*4,209*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. Debtors

	2024 £	*2023 £*
Due within one year		
Other debtors	**40,606**	*22,545*
Prepayments and accrued income	**10,604**	*10,136*
	51,210	*32,681*

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	*2023 £*
Trade creditors	**15,554**	*9,863*
Other taxation and social security	**8,491**	*4,879*
Other creditors	**10,046**	*9,300*
Accruals and deferred income	**5,072**	*4,610*
	39,163	*28,652*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds				
New building development	26,102	-	(3,201)	22,901
Uninsured risks/capital equipment replacement	90,000	-	-	90,000
Park development	33,000	-	(33,000)	-
	149,102	-	(36,201)	112,901
General funds				
General Funds	285,220	485,681	(434,824)	336,077
Total Unrestricted funds	434,322	485,681	(471,025)	448,978
Restricted funds				
Golf	90	-	-	90
Community developments	7,250	4,000	(11,250)	-
	7,340	4,000	(11,250)	90
Total of funds	441,662	489,681	(482,275)	449,068

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated funds have the following purposes:

NEW BUILDING DEVELOPMENT
There is a long term aspiration to replace the current aging building. This fund, which is expected to be drawn on over the next two years, is to allow for development work to be undertaken to take those plans forward.

UNINSURED RISKS/ CAPITAL EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT
This fund is to ensure that uninsured risks of damage to the site caused by third parties or natural disasters can be rectified on a timely basis. It is also includes funds towards the replacement of major plant and equipment which generally has to be replaced every 4-6 years.

PARK DEVELOPMENT
This fund is to hold legacies left to the Trust to be used towards improvement works on site. The funds will be used, whenever possible, as match funding for grant bids in order to maximise the gifts given.

Restricted funds have the following purposes:

GOLF
Golf camps delivery - none in current year, surplus to be used on small golf projects in the coming year.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS
New Building - Grant given to be used against the development work to be undertaken on the new building development.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13. **Statement of funds (continued)**

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Transfers in/out* £	*Balance at 31 March 2023* £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
New building development	*35,000*	-	*(1,898)*	*(7,000)*	*26,102*
Uninsured risks/capital equipment replacement	*100,000*	-	-	*(10,000)*	*90,000*
Park development	*23,000*	*10,000*	-	-	*33,000*
	158,000	*10,000*	*(1,898)*	*(17,000)*	*149,102*
General funds					
General Funds	*267,431*	*422,348*	*(421,559)*	*17,000*	*285,220*
Total Unrestricted funds	*425,431*	*432,348*	*(423,457)*	-	*434,322*
Restricted funds					
Golf	*90*	-	-	-	*90*
Community projects	*570*	-	*(570)*	-	-
Wild Warley	*40,812*	*3,005*	*(43,817)*	-	-
Community developments	-	*7,250*	-	-	*7,250*
	41,472	*10,255*	*(44,387)*	-	*7,340*
Total of funds	*466,903*	*442,603*	*(467,844)*	-	*441,662*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Designated funds	149,102	-	(36,201)	112,901
General funds	285,220	485,681	(434,824)	336,077
Restricted funds	7,340	4,000	(11,250)	90
	441,662	489,681	(482,275)	449,068

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Balance at 31 March 2023 £*
Designated funds	*158,000*	*10,000*	*(1,898)*	*(17,000)*	*149,102*
General funds	*267,431*	*422,348*	*(421,559)*	*17,000*	*285,220*
Restricted funds	*41,472*	*10,255*	*(44,387)*	-	*7,340*
	466,903	*442,603*	*(467,844)*	-	*441,662*

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	35,735	-	**35,735**
Current assets	452,406	90	**452,496**
Creditors due within one year	(39,163)	-	**(39,163)**
Total	448,978	90	**449,068**

15. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	*Restricted funds 2023* £	*Total funds 2023* £
Tangible fixed assets	*47,338*	-	*47,338*
Current assets	*415,636*	*7,340*	*422,976*
Creditors due within one year	*(28,652)*	-	*(28,652)*
Total	*434,322*	*7,340*	*441,662*

16. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contributions workplace pension scheme through The People's Pension. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £6,074 (2023: £5,660). Contributions totalling £957 (2023: £957) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

17. Related party transactions

One Trustee was paid £7,590 (2023: £1,898) for architect services during the year.

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1092754

Accounts

Registered number: 04214547
Charity number: 1092754

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Chairman's statement	2 - 3
Trustees' report	4 - 20
Independent examiner's report	21
Statement of financial activities	22
Balance sheet	23
Notes to the financial statements	24 - 37

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustees	Steven Eling, Chair Katherine Slade Alan Reynolds Elizabeth Coleman Arthur Ward Barbara Platts Christopher Ashford David Read Patricia Marsh Michael Talbot Lisa Burrows John Newman Lynda Wagstaff Clive Heywood (appointed 15 October 2022)
Company registered number	04214547
Charity registered number	1092754
Registered office	The Pavilion Lightwoods Hill Smethwick West Midlands B67 5ED
Company secretary	Michael Talbot
Accountants	Crowe U.K. LLP Chartered Accountants Black Country House Rounds Green Road Oldbury West Midlands B69 2DG
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Birmingham B1 2HB

CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The chair presents his statement for the year.

2022/23 saw the Trust and activities in the park get fully back to normal after the Covid19 pandemic impacts. This included the return of our premier event, Picnic in the Park, after a two year break. All events have attracted good attendances including near sell-out for Theatre in the Woods.

Golf at Warley Woods continues to be popular and attracts many positive comments and feedback from both regular and visiting golfers. Alan, our Golf Course and Park Manager, often informs me that our golf course gets the same Google rating as the Belfry! We believe that this is down to the care and maintenance and the programme of improved drainage works on the greens over the past three years. One thing for sure, and people do comment on this, having dedicated staff who only work at Warley Woods, provides an extra level of commitment and care that is reflected in all that we do.

Our finances have continued to be robust with income from golf, trading and securing grants holding up well. We have continued to receive grant funding from Sandwell Council, albeit that we had not received a new three year grant agreement when the previous one expired. However, we cannot be complacent about income that is critical to managing and maintaining a 100 acre site like Warley Woods, especially to the standard we aspire to. It was a surprise in late 2022 to receive a communication from the Council stating that we had been subjected to a review resulting in a 30% cut to our funding for 2023/24 and a total cut in funding thereafter. I covered this in more detail in the LEAFlet at that time, but suffice to say we successfully challenged the position through the Council's complaints process, winning through on every point we made. I have to say, with the Trust providing an open access public service that in other parks is part of the Council's core budget, and taking account of the fact that part of Warley Woods is held in charitable trust and their legal responsibility, I think its wholly reasonable to expect a contribution from the public purse towards the service we provide.

We have been able to continue essential investment in the park over the year. Tree works were a major factor following the two-yearly tree survey. Tree safety is paramount to us and often the work required needs to be undertaken by specialist contractors. 2022/23 saw tree works at over £40,000. Other major maintenance and renewals have included new adult swings and repairs to the car park. We also provided in our budgeting for renewal of the back drive from the Grove Road entrance, with a commitment of over £40,000, using funds left to us as legacies in 2022. Our promise to anyone who leaves a gift in their will, is that it will be invested back into the fabric of the site – to ensure it will be in excellent condition for future generations to visit.

Community engagement and volunteering remains strong with individual and corporate volunteers helping to keep the site in good order. It's been particularly pleasing to see ongoing engagement for Wild Warley initiatives after the formal funding for the project ended. This helps to provide a continuing focus for biodiversity and engagement for people interested in being involved in that work.

We have continued to maintain our "Green Flag" status and again be voted in the top ten favourite Green Flag parks. We have also had recognition through the Royal Forestry Society Silver Excellence Award. In this, the judges said "This is an exceptional, high achieving, and extremely well run and managed urban woodland. It is the model that others should aspire to and emulate." We were also presented with a tree pot from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree sculpture, which now takes pride of place in the Pavilion by the Repton bust.

CHAIR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Board of Trustees has continued to meet every month and has held its usual annual planning day with progress review and update of the five year management plan. Subgroups continue to support the work of the Trust including groups for Site, Communities, Communications, Resources, Environment, Picnic, and New Building. All are made up of volunteers with support from Trust staff. These are all the behind the scenes activities that help to make Warley Woods the great, community loved place it is.

Finally, my thanks go to all our members, supporters, volunteers and staff. Warley Woods is a special place and it is all those involved who make it that way.

Chair
Date: 19 September 2023

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

Objectives and activities

Policies and objectives
The charitable objectives of the Trust are as follows:

To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical, natural and historic environment of the area known as Warley Woods.

Vision
The vision of Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is: -

To ensure the long-term restoration and sustainability of Warley Woods Park and to develop its facilities and events as a central focus for the local community, thus encouraging greater numbers and diversity of people to enjoy this unique environment.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The rest of this report demonstrates the many works delivered by Warley Woods Community Trust for the public benefit. Warley Woods is free to enter, open to all, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

It has been another busy year at Warley Woods Community Trust. Many of the Trust's activities fall under the responsibility of one of the subgroups, whose reports follow, but there are some things which are solely undertaken by the Trust's staff teams and these first reports share some aspects of this work in 2022-23.

Report from the Trust Manager

The office takes care of a lot of the communications and marketing of the Trust. This includes updating and creating material for our website. We lead the charge on promoting the UK's Favourite Park vote and sending out the news emails. We look after the official facebook groups and page. We create posters for some of the events, and for all of our fundraising initiatives.

We manage the fundraising and membership administration, which thanks to the public's generosity is very time-consuming. Thank you for keeping us so busy! So busy we now have a new office volunteer, Elaine O'Leary – our first in 15 years - and she has proved a real blessing. We launched a new membership campaign in this year called #MyWarleyWoods and we hope this will continue to bring us new members for many years to come.

We keep gift aid records and submit claims. We introduce new ideas for donors – such as the new old foreign coin collection tubes – which came at a timely point when AmazonSmile closed its operations.

We submit funding applications and run appeals for support and we write reports to funders on the work that has been achieved with their grants. This year that included a very large piece of work reporting back on the Wild Warley project to the Heritage Fund. As the years go on, we build relationships with Trusts and Foundations – like the Roger and Douglas Turner Trust, the John Feeney Trust and the Grimmitt Trust to name just a few, and those relationships are handled through the office.

Applications were submitted for funding to support the continuation of the Wild Warley Project and for funds to enable us to work with professionals to develop our aspirations for a new building. Sometimes we are called upon to do a little off the job description type activity and I was really pleased to be able to do a "Cycle to Work" fundraiser for the Trust, cycling further than I had ever done in a day before, and delivering a day's work in between journeys. It was really lovely to be greeted on my arrival by a group of Trustees. Such a special place to work! We also ran an appeal to find Picnic Star supporters.

A lot of the detail of our events is co-ordinated by our Administrator Kathy Hodgkinson and she, along with the shop staff, deal with event bookings. This turned out to be Kathy's last series of events, as she handed in her retirement notice in December and finished at Warley Woods on the last day of March when we gave her, we hope, the send off that she deserved after 16 years of valiant work at Warley Woods – seeing us through every development and her creativity, particularly with events, will have a long legacy. We try to secure sponsors for our large events and keep friendly those valuable relationships, like those with Victorian Carriages, who provide Santa's carriage ever year.

We organise the Volunteer Thank You night each year which we brought back to the Pavilion in 2022. It may be a smaller space than Lightwoods, but it is our home.

We made and maintained new partnerships, by following up offers of help from community groups and organisations and individuals who want to use the park for their own events. Cross Country events have become a main stay of our year, with four or five competitions each winter – all needing liaison and then comms with the public.

Some of these fledgling ideas, like Wild Lives Forest Play, very quickly become part of our establishment and our permanent offering and it is lovely to be part of that -seeing things develop and facilitating wherever we can. We always learn from new partnerships and we have to amend our procedures and policies to take them into account. We continue to be very busy with this kind of thing, because a desire to put on activities in the open air seems to be a permanent feature of the world, post pandemic restrictions. This year we were brought two new projects by local arts group, We Forest Folk and Woodland Tribe: Build your own arts centre. We managed the liaison with these organisations, who brought very special activities to the Woods, which we would not have conceived of, and it really enriched what we had to offer this year. We are also able to deal with mini partnerships and projects for example in this year Birmingham University used our Pavilion roof to record bird migration.

We support the site staff by dealing with some issues to keep them free to focus on the practical side of things whenever possible. We look after things such as dealing with quotes for repairs, ordering trees and park furniture, tree inspections, health and safety and waste management issues. One of the loveliest aspects is being a cog in the wheel of the celebratory tree adoptions. It only happens once a year, but is very special for everyone involved.

We do a lot of the background, but essential work. We sort out insurance, refuse, dog bin emptying service level agreements. We open and manage bank accounts. This year we introduced what we hope is a new VAT strategy which took some embedding. We negotiate our utility bill contracts and were extremely pleased this year to find ourselves within long term fixed contracts. We order signage – both to replace vandalised ones and for new developments. We take care of the Pavilion and buy the handtowels and loo rolls (amongst many other things).

We had our new large format Walk in the Woods board game created, thanks to the support of Unum and launched it at The Picnic in the Park. We liaised with local councillors and Council departments on local issues through the monthly Neighbourhood Partnership Meetings. We attended networking meetings and conferences with other parks professionals – keeping us up to date with ideas and initiatives in the wider parks world.

Towards the end of the calendar year we had a big project as we replaced our server, and without dedicated IT staff this was quite a project to manage, on the edge of our comfort zone. There was a lot of co-ordination needed between two companies who had distinct parts to play, and we still needed the services of our IT guru volunteer, Andy Williams, when at times, neither company seemed able to find solutions to issues. Towards the end of the financial year, we started work on the next project which was to bring together our different telephone contracts and future proof ourselves against the upcoming analogue switch off.

Sadly also in the last quarter we had to deal with the difficulties caused by the Council's initial decision to end its financial support for the Trust. This took a lot of energy out of the end of the year, trying to understand what had happened and what we could do, to encourage them to revisit their decision. We have secured a temporary financial partnership agreement after three months of uncertainty and we go into the new financial year, wondering what will happen next.

While largely it was lovely to have more of a "normal" year, but as it came to a close, we knew it would be anything but normal with the departure of Kathy, but we were looking forward to the arrival of Mae Eastwood, her replacement and forming a new administration partnership for our next office era.

Viv Cole, Trust Manager

Golf Reports

The golf course is not managed separately to the rest of the site and is mentioned throughout the rest of the report, but with the golf course being a significant part of our operation we feel it should have a special focus in our annual report. We have asked the Golf Course and Park Manager and Retail and Golf Development Manager to share some of their last year with you. Like all staff, they work on both park and golf aspects of our work, but in this section they will just cover golf related work in 22-23

Working on The Golf Course

The maintenance of a course's greens is key to how customers view the quality of the course and so this area receives a large focus of time. Ours were fertilised twice in the year and then in between kept healthy with seaweed, iron and wetting agents. Greens maintenance, such as aeration takes place every 3-4 weeks to get water and air to the roots – happy roots, happy greens. 40 tons of sand is applied to the greens each year to improve drainage and trueness and they are mowed daily during the growing season.

At the beginning of 2023 we installed 50 meters of drains to the 5th green. We removed the turf then dug to a depth of 1.5 meters then installed 160mm pipe and back filled the drain with 10mm gravel, 8 inches of topsoil and relaid the turf that was removed at the start of the process. This was repeating the process we have undertaken on greens in previous years and we plan to keep working on a single green each winter. This work takes the green out of play for several months to recover and as a nine hole course, played twice for 18 holes, working on two greens at the same time, would mean four temporary greens in play for many months, spoiling competition arrangements.

Bunkers add to the difficulty of a golf course and their presentation makes a real difference to the look of a course. We now have 24 bunkers as we filled in one bunker on the 5th hole where walkers and dogs used to walk across it rendering it unplayable. Our bunkers are edged, strimmed and weeded once a month and raked four times a week. They are topped up with 10-20 tonnes of sand each year. Our bunkers do often have a lot of paw prints in them, as we continue to have a problem with some regular dog walkers refusing to respect the course, or seeing that walking over it is a problem. We think that this is far less than it used to be, but we struggle to convince everyone of the benefits to all, if the golf course looks good for paying customers.

We mow fairways once a week during the growing season. We would like to mow them twice a week but fuel costs, environmental issues (diesel emissions) and staff time are all factors we have to balance. We use a slitter once a year to improve the drainage.

We mow the collars (edges) twice a week as these can grow very fast during the growing season as they get overspray from the maintenance of the green. Tees are mowed twice a week during the growing season and are mowed with a pedestrian mower during the wetter months as they become too boggy for a ride-on mower. Tee markers are painted twice a year and are moved twice a week to spread the wear across the tee. We use a slitter 3-4 times a year to improve the drainage.

The golf course rough is mown once a week during the growing season at 70mm unless there is a drought.

Trees: We prune the lower branches so that golfers can play their shots from under trees and a mower can safely work around the tree without causing harm to staff. We spray weedkiller around the base of trees once a year to reduce the grass growth. This does save us a lot of time during the year and saves fuel and emissions from the strimmer – it is all a balancing act of pros and cons to different activities. We clear our own fallen trees and branches whenever needed, but we also have a major safety tree survey done every two years and contract out the work from this that is advised. In the autumn most of our time is taken up by blowing and leaf clearance.

We have an irrigation system for the greens which is primed up in the spring and drained down in the autumn. We carry out small repairs on this system whenever needed. Greens are watered automatically in the middle of the night (in dry weather) apart from the 7th green where the auto system doesn't work and so this has to be turned on manually by staff. The putting greens have to be watered by hand, and additional watering by hand in needed on the greens during droughts because the irrigation doesn't give 100% coverage.

As a very small team of three that has to cover seven days a week across the golf course and park, we are very proud of our high standard of care and the compliments we get for the quality of the course are very heartening.

Alan Merricks, Head Greenkeeper and Park Manager

Inside the Shop at The Pavilion

Golf Green Fees
Overall it was a good year for golf with the income exceeding the budgeted green fees of £160,000 at £174,294. This included the subscriptions for the yearly Season Ticket which was subscribed to by 54 players through the year and the popular new Pay Monthly Golf Pass continues to grow with a peak of 18 subscribers at one time through the year.

The weather through the seasons always affects the number of rounds played, the wet winter months resulted in buggy restrictions which resulted in some of our regular golfers not able to play. Then February with its warmer weather resulted in the monthly target exceeded by over £5000. Then March had snowfall causing the Pavilion and golf course to close for 3 days!

National events came to us in this year. The Commonwealth Games took place June to August at venues around Birmingham and the baton travelled up Lightwoods Hill prior to the start of the games meaning our car park was out of reach to visitors. We also closed the course on Saturday 19th September for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

The midweek Twilight evenings continued to grow in popularity between 5pm-7pm and for 2023/24 we plan to extend the Twilight Offer to start at 4pm to increase the capacity to welcome more players in the lighter summer evenings.

Membership of Warley Woods Golf Club holds steady at around 120. The club committee regularly arrange matches and social events. Warley Day 2022 was attended by 65 members and guests and ended with a presentation and fish and chip supper.

Greg Lynch continues to deliver coaching to groups or individually. The Junior Academy goes from strength to strength with juniors recruited from school sessions that Greg coaches at. Golf Camps at each school break are popular and Greg is now assisted by 2 previous juniors who help him to deliver fun and engaging sessions. Greg's beginners' sessions run through the summer evening and are regularly fully subscribed.

Shop staff
In July Christine Bloomer left the team with Luke Jones covering the Saturdays until he resigned from his position in December. Evie Trinham returned from her university course and provided extra support to cover staff holidays. Following a recruitment period Grace Adams joined the team for 2 months and we then welcomed Lynn Richardson and Linda McLeod. Both bought a wealth of experience from their previous careers and with Lynn being a golfer herself she is regularly seen on the course when not working in the shop.
Karen James, the weekend cleaner, also left employment with us and we found a local cleaning agency who provide a member of their team to clean the Pavilion over the weekend and they also cover cleaning staff holidays.

Our shop staff provide the daily face of the Trust for all park visitors, not just the golf course, taking enquires, lost property, taking donations and serving drinks and ice creams. We believe they provide a warm friendly atmosphere for anyone who wants to connect with the Trust and something special that you would not find in most green spaces.

Environmentally Friendly Stock
Through the year stock items have been selected with the focus on reducing the volume of single use plastics. Small changes have gradually been made to some of our regular lines. The initial changes introduced were heavy duty paper bags for our weighed bird seed, nuts and fat balls. The product label was updated asking for the bag to be returned for re-use or recycled which we are pleased to see does happen frequently.

We started the clearance of plastic golf tees and introduced a range of wooden tees which are packaged in paper with a composting/recycling instruction.

We also added Eco dog poo bags to our range and changed to Smart water, these bottles are made from 100% recycled plastics. The cups the shop use for hot takeaway drinks are now recyclable and biodegradable.

The shop fridge had an open front and had struggled through the warmer summer weather. The board agreed the request to replace the fridge with a new fridge with a door. This is quieter and more economical. The old fridge was sold to another local retail business.

We were introduced to Green Earth Learning and placed an order of children's games/activities made from log slices. The games encourage imagination and storytelling with no plastic in the product or packaging.

In October marketing was done on social media to call out for local crafters who would be interested in shelf rental and tables at craft fayres in the run up to Christmas. Six dates through November and December were fully subscribed, raising £360. The events were deemed popular by visitors and crafters alike. A weekend event was booked for 11th & 12th March and again well attended.

Several new crafters were introduced to the shop shelves too and 20% of every sale is donated to Warley Woods. This makes the shop space a bright and beautiful place to shop with changing stock lines.

The wreaths sold in the run up to Christmas were made by a local florist and 20% of the sales of wreaths, table decorations and festive plants was donated.

Christmas Cards, Gift Cards and the 2023 Calendar were designed and delivered ready for October Half Term and the busy run up to Christmas. Many thanks to the volunteers who allow us to use their images to create these unique products. We are continually on the lookout for snowy and popular scenes from around the woods for our next editions.

The shop held a Christmas Raffle with prizes donated by supporters with the income from all ticket sales coming to Warley Woods Community Trust.

Sharon Simpson, Retail and Golf Development Manager

Site Subgroup
The Site Subgroup members are staff, trustees and volunteers: Steve Cemm, Diane Douglas, Alan Merricks, Mick Guy, John Reeves, and Arthur Ward (Chair). Clive Heywood joined in October 2022.

The Site Subgroup supports the Trust in meeting its strategic objectives, one of which is the attainment of Green Flag status, by the active management of the Trust's physical resources. The subgroup met monthly via Zoom to discuss the management of the park, woodland and golf course areas. The group supports and plans significant projects together with other subgroups and the Trust Manager.

The Site group would like to express their great appreciation to all those who supported the Community Trust to care for the site over the last year.

The Pavilion: Pot holes in the car park, due to wear and tear, were repaired this year. Further drainage to the car park was installed to try to reduce the build-up of large puddles of water after heavy rain. More LED lights were installed to replace old fluorescent light fittings in the Pavilion as part of our rolling program to reduce electricity consumption as part of our environmental efforts. The gravel soakaway adjacent to the café was increased in size to help prevent flooding during excessive rainfall. All the facia boards to the pavilion were cleaned by volunteers this year.

A shelf and perspex case were created in the Padgham room to house one of the late Queens Platinum Jubilee "tree of trees" pots (previously installed outside Buckingham Palace) that was presented to the Trust by the Deputy Lieutenant Gurpreet Bhatia and the Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Richard Jones in November.

Woodland Management: After receiving the tree safety report, which had been delayed because of the covid pandemic, the recommended remedial work was undertaken involving 80 trees with 30 having to be felled. This report can be viewed on our website. A proportion of the felled trees were left in situ as dead wood to support our ecology strategy. The work was adjusted wherever possible to take into account the nesting season and any immediate safety issues.

Eight large container grown, peat free, trees adopted by members of the public were planted on the east side of the meadow in the hanging groups and near the occasional stream in the middle of the meadow. This has become a much loved annual community event used to remember and celebrate loved ones.

The Tree Nursery: Thirty lime tree whips were added to the nursery this year as well as a small number of other whips. Volunteers continued to care for the trees throughout the year.

The Golf Course: New golf practice nets and base were installed at the rear of the first tee. The old ones facing the main entrance were past their best and the location was not ideal. Major greens drainage work continued this year with work on the 5th green being completed over the winter. A new greens mower was purchased this year with a wider and more efficient cut. The old mower was sold to offset some of the costs.

Park Maintenance: Mowing intervals on site were increased this year to reduce fuel use in order to save money (because of the economic crisis) and reduce the environmental impact. This has worked well on the larger areas such as the meadow.

The Wilderness and Wild Warley: Work on The Wilderness continued with a new gate and fence installed at the bottom the steps near the former rose garden. Dogs on lead notices for this area were attached to the gates at both entrances to the Wilderness. After taking hydrological advice the pond liner was removed and the pond planted up with a variety of water and marginal plants. The water level in the pond will naturally fluctuate and will be monitored over the summer 2023. Bramble clearing by hand is an unpleasant and time consuming task for volunteers so a new piece of equipment that shreds brambles was purchased and used very effectively to clear large overgrown bramble areas ready for woodland planting as part of our Wild Warley project.

The wild meadow areas along Barclay and Abbey Roads are developing as part of the Wild Warley project. Doug continued his walks and talks which are very popular and many volunteers have supported him with other Wild Warley projects such as understory woodland planting and hedging.

Health and Safety: A small number of minor accidents were reported this year mostly slips and trips out on site. All are recorded.

Compound and Equipment: Old or unused equipment is being sold whenever possible. The batteries on our electric truck were replaced and the old ones recycled. Machinery servicing in house continued. Half a dozen larger fire extinguishers were purchased to help deal with fires on site. The construction of a covered area in the compound was begun to provide shelter when working on machines.

A new storage container was purchased to replace the old leaking trust container situated in the compound. This has greatly improved and increased the storage environment for event equipment.

The Play area: After our full annual external inspection of the play area and gym equipment and further discussions with the contractor, the wooden adult swings situated in the woodland near Abbey Road gate were replaced with ones made from stainless steel and minor repairs made to other equipment. The wooden swings have served us well but had become uneconomical to continue repairing. The stainless steel version of these swings has a much better life expectancy. New drainage was laid in the children's play area similar to that use on the golf course to try to overcome the very boggy conditions in wet weather. The play area is inspected, first thing, every day.

Volunteer tasks: Volunteers have again been very active on site supporting the Trust in the physical care of our environment. It is heart-warming to have so many individuals, families and corporate groups who will help us with the day to day maintenance of the site. Volunteer tasks included planting, cutting back (all over the site), creosoting wooden site furniture, edging paths, litter picking and general maintenance. Indeed anything to support the upkeep of the site.

Arthur Ward

Communications Subgroup

Members of the group: Viv Cole; Katy Holmes, Debra Howls, Sue Maguire, Kate Slade (Chair), Jane Taylor, Sarah Wagstaff. The group has remained stable throughout the year although due to work commitments Sarah has had to limit her participation and is not able to attend meetings at the moment.

This has been a quiet year for the group with no major projects taking place. However, that does not mean that we have not been busy!

We spent some time revising the basic leaflet about Warley Woods which has been in print for many years now. We are running short of copies and decided to give the content a full refresh to reflect the current circumstances. The work has been done and the new content will be used when the new supply is needed.

We also spent much time working with Doug Barber on the leaflets he was devising as part of the Wild Warley Project. These – The Birdlife of Warley Woods, Invertebrates of Warley Woods and The Wilderness (updated from an earlier leaflet) – were scrutinised and revised over a period of many weeks to try and get both the tone and the content as user friendly and useful as possible. This can be a painstaking process, but the group worked together with Doug to produce three very helpful and informative leaflets, all of which are available on the website or as a paper copy (free) from the Pavilion.

Work on the Welcome poster started last year was completed, and this is now up on all the noticeboards round the site. They offer a welcome phrase in 18 languages to our visitors.

A recruitment campaign entitled This is my Warley Woods has been running throughout the year. We selected images of different people and the activities they were undertaking in the Woods to try and encourage visitors to identify with the reasons why they come to the site. This campaign has shown some evidence of people joining the Trust as a result of seeing the posters, and will be continuing throughout the coming year.

The production of the LEAFlet on a quarterly basis has continued and we have had enough material to keep it as a 12 page production. However, we get very little feedback from the members who receive it and would value the views of its readers as to what they might like to see in future editions.

We have continued to use the various social media channels, with Facebook being the main means of communications. This does from time to time raise issues for the staff and volunteers who act as admins for the group. At times we have had to delete posts or stop people from adding further comments either because the comments were repetitive, insulting or unhelpful to the discussion, or because similar posts had been aired many times before and added nothing to the debate. These have mainly been about dogs, dog owners and their behaviour and we are looking at ways of preventing this happening in the future.

Doug Barber has used Instagram to post lots of pictures of, and information about, wildlife in the Woods and this has led to a substantial increase in others posting their pictures and involving themselves in discussions about the various birds, animals, invertebrates and flora on the site. It is lovely to see social media being used as a learning and sharing tool.

The group worked with the Environment group to produce a page on the website outlining the work that the Trust is doing to be a sustainable and eco- friendly organisation and to make the site more environmentally sustainable. This has now gone live on the website, showing how our work on sustainability issues connects across the site and the Trust.

Kate Slade

Resources Subgroup

Members: David Read (Chair), Steve Eling, Mike Talbot, Viv Cole. Resources is a subgroup which meets as and when to discuss organisational and financial matters. It met seven times during the financial year 2022/2023.

We keep a keen eye on our revenue accounts, reporting back and advising Board so that all Trustees are fully aware of the financial situation on a month by month basis.

Our biggest headache in this Financial Year was problems around the future of the grant from Sandwell MBC. Whilst we had appreciated the possibility of reductions, a letter came out of the blue in December advising a huge reduction for 22/23 and then no grant going forwards. These reductions were made on the basis of a desk top review of physical accounts by a Council officer with no input from ourselves as to what was represented within the accounts such as funds which had already been allocated and ring-fenced for specific projects. Following meetings arranged with the Council, the 2023/4 grant was agreed to continue at the same level as 2022/3 and a proper formal review would take place during 2023 with proposals for future grant aid. As the original review was flawed, an official complaint was made and again the complaint was resolved without any contact with WWCT. An escalation of the complaint was made and conducted correctly with apologies received from the Council and the original review report being removed from our record.

Our IT server was nearing the end of life and quotations were obtained for replacement with the final contract being awarded to Wemtech of Dudley who performed very well. They have been appointed as our IT support company.

Following on from this work, the telephones were considered to be close to end of life and quotations received for a digital replacement with far greater facilities. The Board accepted the quotation and work is scheduled for June/ July 2023.

A specific provision was requested from the Board to enable external help with formulating planning for the new building project.

The safeguards in place for the prevention of fraud were reviewed and found to be adequate with both the Trust Manager and the Treasurer having access to invoices and credit card statements to ensure that items were for Trust use.

Revised contracts for Coffee,; Ice-cream and Wild Forest Play were discussed, finalised and offered to the contractors and agreed by them.

Discussions were held around the draft Budget for 2023/4 and changes incorporated before presenting to the Board at the Annual Planning Day. The agenda for the Planning Day was discussed and agreed.

With our Administrator retiring we discussed the possibility of revising this position to a full-time role, allowing Viv extra time to fundraise and work on other projects around the new building but, given the uncertainty over the council grant, it was agreed to offer the role as part time with a possibility to change to full time.

Many other smaller items were discussed, resolved and submitted to the Board over the year with all meetings being fully reported to the Board at the next monthly Board Meeting

David J Read

Communities Subgroup

Communities Subgroup Members: Kate Slade, Liz Coleman (Chair), Barbara Platts, Kathy Hodgkinson, Sukhi Ajula, Chris Ashford, Pat Marsh, Lynda Wagstaff

The key focuses of the group are:
1. Planning and Organising events including vetting external requests
2. Schools Liaison
3. Community Engagement

After the restrictions of the last two years, it was wonderful to be able to offer a full programme of events in 2022-2023. Easter Monday saw the return of the Easter Egg Roll and Trail which was well-attended, providing a fun activity for families. A local family also volunteered to run a cake stall on the day, raising further funds for the Trust.

The volunteer-led bring-and-buy Plant Sale in May was well-supported, raising over £2,000 for the Trust, thanks to the generosity of donors.

The Picnic in the Park took place in July sunshine. Thousands of visitors experienced live music, a range of craft and food stalls, games and children's activities. This is the Trust's flagship event, involving many volunteers as well as trustees and staff. The Picnic is coordinated by the Trust's Administrator, Kathy Hodgkinson, and the Picnic group.

August saw the return of Heartbreak Theatre Company for an open-air theatre production of Jane Eyre and the Bat Walk led by Brum Bats. The Communities Subgroup, Trust staff and volunteers support with the planning of these events and staffing on the day.

The Communities Subgroup, Trust staff and volunteers worked hard to put on the Halloween Spooky Trail. This year hot drinks and snacks were available. Once again, the Halloween event proved popular with families. The Halloween event does require a lot of volunteers and the Trust were pleased to have continued support from Bristnall Hall Police Cadets and Sandwell Lions, as well as several new volunteers.

November saw the return of the volunteer-led Fundraising Quiz, held at St Hilda's Church Hall which brought the community together, as well as raising funds for the Trust.

Santa In the Woods was back in December and proved so popular that bookings to see Santa in his grotto were sold out within 48 hours. The Christmas Craft Fair was also a great success, with music provided by local groups.

The first event of 2023 was the January Bird Walk. This event is planned to coincide with the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. Participants have a guided walk of the woods and record bird species seen. Several trustees led this event in 2023.

Schools Liaison: Ongoing liaison has continued with local schools many of which the Trust has close relationships with. Members of the Communities Subgroup have communicated with different local schools about events, information and opportunities to be involved in, competitions, Wild Warley information and volunteering.

Community Engagement: The Communities Subgroup were pleased to be able to work of two local music groups this year who generously offered to run fundraising gigs for the Trust. Bearwood Ceilidh Band organised a New Year's Eve Dance and Out of the Blue big band gave a concert evening in March. Both events took place at The Bear Tavern, were well attended and enjoyed by all.

Wild Warley Project Manager, Doug Barber, has continued to deliver training in wildlife surveying, tree ID and runs regular group practical conservation management sessions. The Communities Subgroup have worked closely with him to provide support and promote further community engagement.

During summer 2022, Warley Woods hosted "Woodland Tribe – Build your own Arts Centre". This involved sessions with local schools and families to create a temporary art installation from natural materials. There was also a project in the early autumn brought to us by another partnership, "We Forest Folk"; this added even more diversity to the arts activities available to the community on site.

The Community Trust was also a partner in the Growing Up Green festival in September 2022, hosting events for families which promoted engagement with nature. Warley Woods continues to benefit from working with other groups in the community including Wild Lives Forest School, Warley Woods Pacers and Sandwell Stride.

The Communities Subgroup would like to take this opportunity to thank Trust Administrator, Kathy Hodgkinson, who retired in March 2023. Kathy has been at the heart of developing and organising our events programme during her many years at Warley Woods. Her contribution has been immeasurable and she leaves a lasting legacy of events and engagement with the community.

Liz Coleman

Environmental Policy And Management Subgroup

Members: Liz Coleman (Chair), Lisa Burrows, Alan Reynolds, Kate Slade, Lynda Wagstaff, Vanessa Whittaker (resigned September 2022), Clive Heywood (from October 2022) and Doug Barber (from September 2022)

The Environmental Task Group was formed in 2020 to carry out a review of the Trust's environmental policies and procedures following the guidance in the Green Flag Handbook. As a result of this, the Environmental Policy and Management Group has become a subgroup of Warley Woods Community Trust, contributing to the Trust's Five Year Plan. The Environment Subgroup meets monthly to consider the environmental impact of projects, reducing energy and chemical use and promoting good management of waste.

Doug Barber, Wild Warley Project Manager, officially joined the Environment Subgroup in September 2022. He attended the meetings and reported on the work he and the Wild Warley Conservation Volunteers carried out to maintain and improve the biodiversity of Warley Woods. Management of Warley Woods for biodiversity and climate change has also been part of the group's discussion and planning. During 2022-2023 much time and effort was given to creating a wildlife pond in The Wilderness. Despite various setbacks, the pond was created and work continued to plant and manage it, creating a valuable water source for wildlife in Warley Woods. Wild Warley volunteers also continued work near the main drive to manage invasive species and plant native wildflowers and shrubs such as wild garlic and Hazel. In addition, areas were identified for meadow creation, grass was allowed to grow until seeding and native flower seeds were sown at the right time of year. This has some success and further monitoring and trials of this approach are planned for 2023-2024.

Doug also organised regular walks and talks about the flora and fauna of Warley Woods, throughout the year. These continue to be popular with locals and people from further afield.

Members of the group worked closely with the Communities Subgroup to find ways to reduce the use of single-use plastics at events by using re-usable resources, compostable cups and other biodegradable materials. For the first time, the stage at The Picnic used solar power for sound and lighting. Volunteers at events encouraged attendees to separate waste for recycling on site or take it home to recycle.

It is important for the Trust to have up-to-date information on the flora and fauna of Warley Woods. Volunteers continued to survey birds, butterflies and moths and Doug has analysed the data. This information has helped the Trust identify trends and inform the Trust's management of the park for nature. Doug updated information leaflets about the flora and fauna of Warley Woods using information from the surveys. The new leaflets on Birds, Invertebrates and The Wilderness were published and distributed.

The Subgroup considered how best to communicate the Trust's achievements and aims in this area and so worked with the Trust Manager and Communications Subgroup to summarise the Trust's environment policy and make the aims and achievements easily accessible on the Trust's website.

The Environment Subgroup continues to work with other subgroups and staff teams to oversee progress on environmental issues. Environment Champions in each of the subgroups have been effective in ensuring environmental considerations are a part of continued best practice.

Liz Coleman

Wild Warley

Wild Warley March 2022-2023
Most notably, the pond in The Wilderness was completed in August 2022. The unsuccessful liner was removed (and retained) after consultation with a hydrologist. The aquatic soil was redistributed over the excavated area and was subsequently planted with aquatic/riparian species. The pond has more recently been fenced off as the water was never settling due to disturbance by dogs. The fencing has been a great success and the pond is now developing nicely with birds and invertebrates using it (we have had broad-bodied chaser dragonflies laying eggs). The water level this year has not been too much cause for concern, so it does appear to be holding water well without the liner. This is something that will need monitoring especially with our changing climate.

As the Wild Warley project ended all money had to spent by the start of October 2022. This led to the purchase of an invaluable bit of legacy machinery which will help massively with our conservation efforts going forward, a BCS Pedestrian Tractor with flail and Alan scythe attachments. The BCS has opened many new opportunities for Wilder Warley, allowing access into new areas of dense bramble beds using the flail, along with providing the correct tool for meadow management in the Alan scythe.

Since the official end of the Wild Warley project conservation activities have continued (in part thanks to funding from the John Feeney Trust) under the established Wild Warley name ('Wilder Warley'). Over the 2022/2023 winter three new areas within our main woodland were opened using the BCS flail to reduce bramble density, these areas were subsequently thinned out (when applicable), preserving future canopy trees, before being planted with native broadleaved trees increasing both stand (age) and species diversity. Woodland ground-flora was also introduced to these areas to increase the number of flowering springtime plants on site. These areas will require ongoing maintenance to ensure the brambles do not regrow and swamp the young trees until they in turn start to shade out the brambles.

Wildlife Conservation was only one aim of Wild Warley. Engagement and training were the two other main aims and often these two veins overlapped. General wildlife engagement events have been an excellent way to increase knowledge and enthusiasm for wildlife within our community without being overly formal or requiring any commitment from attendees. Between March 2022 and 2023 the most notable and well received events were:

A Summer's Night Spent Mothing (08/07/2022) - with 27 attendees and 43 species of moth recorded, with numerous new site records. This event was featured in the LEAFlet newsletter. Tree I.D. Walk (11/06/2022) - with 50 attendees split over two sessions on the same day, people learnt how to identify some of our common trees using their leaves.

Spring Bird Walk (18/03/2022) - with 18 attendees. Bird walks prove to be ever popular with the Trust having several over the course of a year including Liz Coleman's Dawn Chorus Walk. Twig Identification Walk (26/02/2023) - 15 attendees learnt how to identify our trees by buds, bark, and form alone. This was backed up by Wild Warley identification resources.

The Wild Warley project's biggest (formal) training success was our breeding bird surveyors. To date 22 individuals have been trained in how to conduct these surveys on site and 2022 marked its third full year where volunteers conducted 12 surveys between April and June. This data is useful to see bird population changes on site and has even been able to detect a change in population witnessed on a national scale (for example a decline in wood pigeon numbers).

Over the course of 2022-2023 there were also numerous wildlife themed posts on our media channels (Facebook, Instagram and our website). These posts often took the form of sharing conservation progress, wildlife sightings, or the natural histories of our wildlife. The website had several resource pages created as part of Wild Warley ranging from tree identification, wildlife reporting systems, tree aging resources, and information about our site such as the Journey of the Wilderness. The end of the Wild Warley Project also brought with it the creation of two new leaflets, a reworking of an old one and a new interpretation board:

- The Invertebrates of Warley Woods
- The Birdlife of Warley Woods
- The Wilderness - reworked with a new interpretation board.

These leaflets will act as a long-term resource for the Trust, directing traffic to our website using QR codes and promoting the work of both The Trust and its volunteers.

Doug Barber, Conservation and Engagement Manager

Financial review /reserves policy

The management committee has undertaken an analysis of future needs, opportunities and contingencies or risks, which could not be met out of income when and if they arise. It has also taken account of forecasts for income levels in future years, on the basis of planned activity and the reliability of various income streams, and made forecasts of future expenditure. Accordingly the management committee has developed a policy on reserves for the following reasons:-

- To respond to changes or loss of generated income or grants.
- To invest in advance in potential new areas of work such as training or other new sources of income.
- To enable the community trust to honour its contractual obligations to staff, contractors, suppliers and funders.

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves that it needs in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the organisation and the work that it delivers. The Trustees are aware of the large liability of a site open for public use 24 hours a day and the potential expense which might arise through vandalism. It also has many aspirations for future investment. The charity's current reserves are considered adequate for the sustainability and operation of the organisation, but the Trust would like to increase these to provide a stronger financial buffer for the organisation. Each year the Trust plans a budget to ensure reserves are not needed for general expenditure and with the hope that with prudent financial management reserve levels can be increased slightly. Reserves are only drawn upon to meet an emergency, unforeseen need which goes beyond any contingency in the budget, or to make an investment in equipment or facilities for which grant funding could not be secured.

IIn order to plan responsibly for future needs, since 2022-23 some of the unrestricted cash reserves are now being held in designated funds, beyond the levels needed to ensure the general financial viability of the organisation. One fund has been allocated to support the long term aspiration of the Trust to replace its aging building and to allow for development work to take those plans forwards. This will be added to and drawn from within a two year timescale. A second fund has been created to allow for the uninsurable risks of property within the site which could be damaged by third parties/natural disasters and allow for timely replacement without the need for delays through needing to specifically fundraise. This fund also includes savings towards replacing the fleet of vehicles (mowers, utility vehicles and specialist golf and woodland management equipment) which need replacing on a 4-6 yearly basis. A third fund has been created to hold any funds left as legacies to the Trust to ensure that they are used, as mentioned by the Trust in its legacy promotions materials, towards improvement works on site and kept separately from general expenditure. It is the Trust's intention to use these as match funding, whenever possible, for grant funding bids, to maximise the gifts that have been given. The Trustees feel that the use of these three designated funds is the right course of action for a small charity with potential heavy liabilities and a mission to be custodians of Warley Woods for the long term.

The current funds stand at £441,662 (2022: £466,903) of which £7,340 (2022: £41,472) is restricted, £149,102 (2022: 158,000) is designated and £285,220 (2022: £267,431) is general unrestricted funds.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association.

Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Under those rules, the Board has a membership of between 10 and 15. Members are appointed for a three year term and can restand again at the end of this term. Up to 4 members can be co-opted.

Trustees are asked to submit a resumé of their interests and abilities in support of their election, and on appointment are supported through induction to help them become fully effective. Trustees are encouraged to attend seminars and training events to update their skills and knowledge.

All Trustees participate in monthly business meetings, and an annual planning and team building day, to agree the strategy and priorities for the forthcoming year. Trustees also take part in sub-groups described elsewhere in this report, and from time to time the board will hold additional meetings for planning and training.

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The role of the Board is to give direction and guidance to paid staff and volunteers and to take strategic and resource decisions to ensure the Trust is effective.

The Board takes responsibility for all strategic management issues and operates through sub-groups who carry out the implementation of strategy and report back to the Board on progress and make recommendations to inform future decisions.

For specific projects, including the Picnic in The Park, working or task groups are convened to manage and monitor the progress of the specified project. At least one member of the Board is involved in these groups and reports regularly to the full Board.

Some Board Members take on particular roles which can give a level of responsibility outside of the subgroup structure. These are the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Company Secretary, Health and Safety Manager. One Trustee is nominated by the Chair as the line manager for the Trust Manager.

Future Plans

The Board of Trustees met in February 2023 to plan the detail of the year ahead and give guidance to staff and subgroups. Some of the key areas of work planned for attention are:

- Achieving the Green Flag Award
- Submitting an application for the King's Award for Volunteering
- A full programme of events
- Continuing our project to create a new building and submit for outline planning permission
- Resurfacing of the back drive
- Installing a new telephone system
- Celebratory Tree Planting
- Ensuring all our staff teams are at full establishment
- New entrance signage
- Continuing to ensure the golf course maintenance is at a high standard and make modest improvements to greens drainage and putting greens.
- Continuing the work started in Wild Warley: both conservation management and engagement activities and make plans for long term improvement projects

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Eling
Chair
Date: 19 September 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Warley Woods Community Trust Limited ('the charity')
I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report
As the Trustees of the charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: Helen Blundell Dated: 19 September 2023

Helen Blundell LLB FCA FCIE DChA

Crowe U.K. LLP
Chartered Accountants
Black Country House
Rounds Green Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2DG

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**196,001**	**10,255**	**206,256**	*212,442*
Charitable activities	4	**186,419**	**-**	**186,419**	*214,455*
Other trading activities		**44,630**	**-**	**44,630**	*42,632*
Investments		**5,298**	**-**	**5,298**	*1,174*
Total income		**432,348**	**10,255**	**442,603**	*470,703*
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		**21,065**	**-**	**21,065**	*16,125*
Charitable activities	5	**402,392**	**44,387**	**446,779**	*368,707*
Total expenditure		**423,457**	**44,387**	**467,844**	*384,832*
Net movement in funds		**8,891**	**(34,132)**	**(25,241)**	*85,871*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**425,431**	**41,472**	**466,903**	*381,032*
Net movement in funds		**8,891**	**(34,132)**	**(25,241)**	*85,871*
Total funds carried forward		**434,322**	**7,340**	**441,662**	*466,903*

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

The notes on pages 24 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04214547

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note		2023 £		*2022 £*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		**47,338**		*37,842*
Current assets					
Stocks	10	**4,209**		*7,749*	
Debtors	11	**32,681**		*61,101*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**386,086**		*393,497*	
		422,976		*462,347*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(28,652)**		*(33,286)*	
Net current assets			**394,324**		*429,061*
Total net assets			**441,662**		*466,903*
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	13		**7,340**		*41,472*
Unrestricted funds	13		**434,322**		*425,431*
Total funds			**441,662**		*466,903*

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Eling
Chair
Date: 19 September 2023

The notes on pages 24 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

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

1. General information

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the Charity's operations is to restore and sustain Warley Woods Park and develop its facilities and events for the use of the local community in the interests of social welfare and to promote education.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are presented in British pound sterling and rounded to the nearest £.

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the charity, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives as shown below .

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery	-	25%	Reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	-	33%	Straight line
Other fixed assets	-	10%	Straight line

2.6 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs.

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

2.10 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants			
Sandwell MBC	72,488	-	**72,488**
Other	32,272	3,005	**35,277**
Subtotal	104,760	3,005	**107,765**
Donations	88,470	-	**88,470**
Legacies	10,021	-	**10,021**
Total 2023	196,001	10,255	**206,256**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	*Restricted funds 2022 £*	*Total funds 2022 £*
Grants			
Sandwell MBC	*72,488*	-	*72,488*
Other	*11,316*	*16,840*	*28,156*
COVID-19 grants			
Business Grant	*597*	-	*597*
Subtotal	*84,401*	*16,840*	*101,241*
Donations	*87,201*	-	*87,201*
Legacies	*24,000*	-	*24,000*
Total 2022	*195,602*	*16,840*	*212,442*

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Golf and green fee income	186,419	**186,419**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Golf and green fee income	*214,455*	*214,455*

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Charitable Activities	402,392	44,387	**446,779**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	*Restricted funds 2022 £*	*Total 2022 £*
Charitable Activities	*306,158*	*62,549*	*368,707*

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Charitable Activities	385,094	61,685	**446,779**

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	*Support costs 2022 £*	*Total funds 2022 £*
Charitable Activities	*318,872*	*49,835*	*368,707*

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Staff costs	**230,368**	*215,979*
Property and accomodation	**9,708**	*6,712*
Shop stock	**5,143**	*3,695*
Site maintenance and upkeep	**111,326**	*59,527*
Other projects	**22,562**	*31,291*
Direct support costs	**5,987**	*1,668*
	385,094	*318,872*

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Depreciation	**10,688**	*8,768*
Recruitment and training	**1,371**	*423*
Insurance	**7,689**	*6,930*
Finance	**5,267**	*6,824*
Office costs	**31,476**	*21,362*
Independent examination	**4,186**	*4,056*
Volunteer expenses	**1,008**	*1,472*
	61,685	*49,835*

7. Staff costs

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Wages and salaries	**210,035**	*197,946*
Social security costs	**11,338**	*9,764*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**8,995**	*8,269*
	230,368	*215,979*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	*2022 No.*
Employees	**14**	*15*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The aggregate cost to the charity of Key management personnel in the year (being inclusive of employer national insurance and employer pension) was £118,223 (2022: £108,877). Key management personnel are considered to be the trust, retail and golf and park management.

8. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2022 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 31 March 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred *(2022 - £NIL)*.

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2022	**161,423**	**33,895**	**91,443**	**286,761**
Additions	**11,383**	**8,801**	**-**	**20,184**
At 31 March 2023	**172,806**	**42,696**	**91,443**	**306,945**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2022	**139,610**	**33,895**	**75,414**	**248,919**
Charge for the year	**7,650**	**726**	**2,312**	**10,688**
At 31 March 2023	**147,260**	**34,621**	**77,726**	**259,607**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2023	**25,546**	**8,075**	**13,717**	**47,338**
At 31 March 2022	*21,813*	*-*	*16,029*	*37,842*

10. Stocks

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Finished goods and goods for resale	**4,209**	*7,749*

11. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Other debtors	**22,545**	*17,481*
Prepayments and accrued income	**10,136**	*43,620*
	32,681	*61,101*

Included within accrued income are grants awarded but not yet received from the Heritage Lottery totalling £Nil (2022: £9,760) in relation to the Wild Warley Project.

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	**9,863**	*13,552*
Other taxation and social security	**4,879**	*7,425*
Other creditors	**9,300**	*8,058*
Accruals and deferred income	**4,610**	*4,251*
	28,652	*33,286*

13. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
New building development	35,000	-	(1,898)	(7,000)	26,102
Uninsured risks/capital equipment replacement	100,000	-	-	(10,000)	90,000
Park development	23,000	10,000	-	-	33,000
	158,000	10,000	(1,898)	(17,000)	149,102
General funds					
General Funds	267,431	422,348	(421,559)	17,000	285,220
Total Unrestricted funds	425,431	432,348	(423,457)	-	434,322
Restricted funds					
Golf	90	-	-	-	90
Community projects	570	-	(570)	-	-
Wild Warley	40,812	3,005	(43,817)	-	-
Community developments	-	7,250	-	-	7,250
	41,472	10,255	(44,387)	-	7,340
Total of funds	466,903	442,603	(467,844)	-	441,662

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated funds have the following purposes:

NEW BUILDING DEVELOPMENT
There is a long term aspiration to replace the current aging building. This fund, which is expected to be drawn on over the next two years, is to allow for development work to be undertaken to take those plans forward.

UNINSURED RISKS/ CAPITAL EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT
This fund is to ensure that uninsured risks of damage to the site caused by third parties or natural disasters can be rectified on a timely basis. It is also includes funds towards the replacement of major plant and equipment which generally has to be replaced every 4-6 years.

PARK DEVELOPMENT
This fund is to hold legacies left to the Trust to be used towards improvement works on site. The funds will be used, whenever possible, as match funding for grant bids in order to maximise the gifts given.

Due to the high volume of restricted grants, some have been pooled together under the headings of Park Improvements, Community Projects and Golf. Where grants have been pooled the use of the individual restricted grants have been included below.

GOLF
Sandwell Council - Delivery of a golf camp

PARK IMPROVEMENTS
Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust/ Severn Trent Community Fund - Funds towards the nursery project
John Feeney Trust - Funds for the purchase of equipment

COMMUNITY PROJECTS
Town team grant/ Creative Black Country - Funds towards an arts project.
SVCO - Funds towards an 'Outdoor Room' project
Arts Council / Unum - Funds towards an outdoor game

WILD WARLEY
Heritage lottery - Funds for the Wild Warley project to be spent across 2019/20 and 2020/21 originally although with an agreed extension due to covid
Ibstock Enovert - Funds for the installation of a water area in the Wild Warley project

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Transfers in/out* £	*Balance at 31 March 2022* £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
New building development	-	-	-	*35,000*	*35,000*
Uninsured risks/capital equipment replacement	-	-	-	*100,000*	*100,000*
Park development	-	-	-	*23,000*	*23,000*
	-	-	-	*158,000*	*158,000*
General funds					
General Funds	*294,435*	*453,863*	*(322,867)*	*(158,000)*	*267,431*
Total Unrestricted funds	*294,435*	*453,863*	*(322,867)*	-	*425,431*
Restricted funds					
Golf	*90*	-	-	-	*90*
Community projects	*6,133*	*16,840*	*(22,403)*	-	*570*
Park improvements	*8,739*	-	*(8,739)*	-	-
Wild Warley	*71,635*	-	*(30,823)*	-	*40,812*
	86,597	*16,840*	*(61,965)*	-	*41,472*
Total of funds	*381,032*	*470,703*	*(384,832)*	-	*466,903*

14. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Designated funds	**158,000**	**10,000**	**(1,898)**	**(17,000)**	**149,102**
General funds	**267,431**	**422,348**	**(421,559)**	**17,000**	**285,220**
Restricted funds	**41,472**	**10,255**	**(44,387)**	**-**	**7,340**
	466,903	**442,603**	**(467,844)**	**-**	**441,662**

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Balance at 31 March 2022 £*
Designated funds	*-*	*-*	*-*	*158,000*	*158,000*
General funds	*294,435*	*453,863*	*(322,867)*	*(158,000)*	*267,431*
Restricted funds	*86,597*	*16,840*	*(61,965)*	*-*	*41,472*
	381,032	*470,703*	*(384,832)*	*-*	*466,903*

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	47,338	-	**47,338**
Current assets	415,636	7,340	**422,976**
Creditors due within one year	(28,652)	-	**(28,652)**
Total	434,322	7,340	**441,662**

15. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	*Restricted funds 2022* £	*Total funds 2022* £
Tangible fixed assets	*37,842*	-	*37,842*
Current assets	*420,875*	*41,472*	*462,347*
Creditors due within one year	*(33,286)*	-	*(33,286)*
Total	*425,431*	*41,472*	*466,903*

16. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contributions workplace pension scheme through The People's Pension. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £5,660 (2022: £7,542). Contributions totalling £957 (2022: £957) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

17. Related party transactions

One Trustee was paid £1,898 for architect services during the year. No such transactions were entered into or paid during the prior year.

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Income				
Grant received	**107,765**		100,644	
Donations received	**69,146**		71,362	
Gift aid - tax recoverable	**19,324**		15,839	
Miscellaneous income	**978**		420	
Fundraising activities	**43,652**		42,212	
Golf income	**186,419**		214,455	
Bank interest	**5,297**		1,174	
Coronavirus government support	**-**		597	
Lottery grant coronavirus support	**-**		-	
Legacy	**10,022**		24,000	
Gross income in the reporting period		442,603		470,703
Less: Expenditure				
Staff costs	**230,368**		215,979	
Recruitment and training	**1,371**		423	
Park improvements	**11,860**		16,634	
Park maintenance (incl essential safety tree works)	**56,355**		5,478	
Golf course materials	**10,240**		9,482	
Golf shop supplies	**4,593**		3,400	
Events	**5,987**		1,680	
Golf buggies	**550**		295	
Golf course maintenance	**7,102**		2,675	
Community projects	**2,214**		17,720	
Golf projects	**-**		-	
Outdoor room projects	**-**		57	
New Building projects	**1,898**		1,375	
CRM support	**5,352**		4,042	
Wild Warley	**16,797**		11,560	
Fundraising supplies	**21,009**		16,519	
Website support	**6,127**		2,772	
Volunteer expenses	**1,008**		1,472	
Security charges	**-**		390	
Insurance	**7,689**		6,930	
Water rates	**2,651**		1,523	
Light/heat	**7,057**		4,799	

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Repairs and renewals	**25,769**		25,258	
Telephone	**1,222**		1,146	
Advertising/promotion	**2,094**		2,103	
Postage and stationery	**2,902**		3,920	
Health and safety	**1,010**		669	
Sundry	**2,033**		1,745	
Depreciation	**10,688**		8,768	
Independent examination	**4,186**		4,056	
Accountancy	**3,802**		2,554	
IT support	**-**		-	
Legal and professional fees	**424**		1,268	
Bank charges and interest	**4,843**		5,556	
Partial exemption VAT disallowed	**8,643**		4,544	
Profit on sale of fixed asset	**-**		(1,960)	
		467,844		384,832
Total expenditure		**467,844**		384,832
Net income for the reporting period		**(25,241)**		85,871
Surplus/deficit for the reporting period		**(25,241)**		85,871
Funds brought forward at 1 April		**466,903**		381,032
Funds carried forward at 31 March		**441,662**		466,903

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1092754

Accounts

Registered number: 04214547
Charity number: 1092754

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Warley Woods Community Trust

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Chair's statement	2
Trustees' report	3 - 17
Independent examiner's report	18
Statement of financial activities	19
Balance sheet	20
Notes to the financial statements	21 - 34

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Trustees	Steven Eling, Chair Katherine Slade Alan Reynolds Stephen Cemm (resigned 16 October 2021) Elizabeth Coleman Arthur Ward Barbara Platts Christopher Ashford David Read Andrew Williams (resigned 16 October 2021) David Coffin (resigned 16 October 2021) Patricia Marsh Michael Talbot Lisa Burrows John Newman Lynda Wagstaff (appointed 16 October 2021)
Company registered number	04214547
Charity registered number	1092754
Registered office	The Pavilion Lightwoods Hill Smethwick West Midlands B67 5ED
Company secretary	Michael Talbot
Accountants	MHA MacIntyre Hudson Chartered Accountants Rutland House 148 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2FD
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Birmingham B1 2HB

CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The chair presents his statement for the year.

The year 2021/22 has been a transition year from the impacts of the Covid pandemic with closures of our facilities and cancellation of events, to getting back to something like normal. The year has also seen great ongoing support from the Trust's members and other park users. The Trust's membership remains strong at nearly 1,500 members. Golf has continued to be popular following the increase in people playing since the Covid lockdowns were lifted. The popularity of Warley Woods has remained high with the ongoing award of Green Flag status and once again being voted as one of the top ten parks in the country.

Our financial position has remained healthy through a number of income streams. We are grateful for the ongoing generosity of the many people who make donations to Warley Woods, many of whom make regular monthly donations by direct debit, and all the people who give through our donation posts or boxes in local shops. Grant support from the local authority and many other businesses and charitable trusts also enable us to maintain and develop Warley Woods for the benefit of all. To complete the picture, our other income through golf and shop sales has held up well.

It has been good to see so much activity getting back to normal. This includes the part of the Wild Warley project in The Wilderness which was been seriously affected by lockdown. Whilst the project had not fully concluded at the end of the year, and the grant extended by Heritage Lottery there are still issues to be resolved and more activities to come.

We were able to start up events during the course of the year, although it wasn't possible to hold our main event, Picnic In The Park. It was good to see so many people turning out to the events and for us to be able to plan a full programme for 2022.

We have kept up our investments in the park, especially with our tree nursery. This investment will improve our ability to grow our own tree stock for planting out on site, ensuring that we can replace lost trees each year and improve what we have.

The Board has continued to meet monthly, supported by the work of the subgroups. These cover Site, Communities, Communications and Resources. We also have subgroups working on Environment and The Picnic. A seventh subgroup is working on the longer-term project of a new building to replace The Pavilion. The Board held its annual planning day in February as usual. This is when we give detailed consideration to our management plan and work through the budget for the coming year. All of our meetings, including the AGM, have been held by Zoom during the pandemic. We have since moved back to normal meetings at The Pavilion.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who helps to make Warley Woods such a great place. The commitment of so many people to give their time in many different ways is fantastic. All Board and subgroup members are volunteers along with around 300 volunteers that work physically on site, help in the office, organise events, and many other tasks. Our staff do an incredible job too managing and maintaining the park as well as working in the shop. Warley Woods continues to be a community run park that is an example to all.

Chair
Date:

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

Objectives and activities

- **Policies and objectives**

The charitable objectives of the Trust are as follows:

To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical, natural and historic environment of the area known as Warley Woods.

Vision

The vision of Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is:-

To ensure the long-term restoration and sustainability of Warley Woods Park and to develop its facilities and events as a central focus for the local community, thus encouraging greater numbers and diversity of people to enjoy this unique environment.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The rest of this report demonstrates the many works delivered by Warley Woods Community Trust for the public benefit. Warley Woods is free to enter, open to all, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Achievements and performance

● Review of activities

It has been another busy year at Warley Woods Community Trust. Many of the Trust's activities fall under the responsibility of one of the subgroups, whose reports follow, but there are some things which are solely undertaken by the Trust's staff teams and these first reports share some aspects of this work last year.

Report from the Trust Manager
After a year of turmoil in 2020, 2021 was much more a holding of breath year – waiting for potential lockdowns which in the end never came. It was not a year of innovation or change, but a strong year of doing what needed to be done and could be done and hoping for the best, but being aware of the impact of the worst. In 2020 our staff had been largely Covid free, but in 2021 we had a series of absences with everyone thankfully returning in full health.

The office takes care of a lot of the communications and marketing of the Trust. This includes updating and creating material for our website. We lead the charge on promoting the UK's Favourite Park and sending out the news emails. We look after the official facebook groups and page. We organised the repeat of the observational visitor survey and assisted with the creation of the Golf Centenary Leaflet.

We manage the fundraising and membership administration, which thanks to the public's generosity is very time-consuming. We were particularly grateful to our two local NISAs who made donations and to our local Co-ops who adopted us for 12 months. We submit funding applications and run appeals for support and we write reports to funders on the work that has been done with their grants.

A lot of the detail of our events is co-ordinated by our Administrator Kathy and she, along with the shop staff, deal with event bookings. This included an online history talk and our AGM which were held on zoom. Our in person events were all over subscribed and some sold out in record time which caused many flurries of activity to cope with turning those bookings around. While volunteers managed the arts project this year, staff were also involved on the periphery of this, with comms, site and health and safety expertise.

We organise the Volunteer Thank You night each year, which was held at Lightwoods House in 2021 to give us more space and a big thank you to Jonathan's who donated the lovely food. That night we gave away the first ever John McBride Awards, in memory of our former Trustee and Golf Club President.

We made and maintained new partnerships, by following up offers of help from community groups and organisations and individuals who want to use the park for their own events, activities or businesses – organisations like Wild Lives Forest School who bring a new offering to visitors to the Woods. This was an incredibly large part of our work load in 2021-22 as so many people wanted to offer activities outdoors who previously would have booked a room somewhere! We deal with the admin and co-ordination of all the visiting corporate groups.

We support the site staff by dealing with some issues to keep them free to focus on the practical side of things whenever possible. We look after things such as dealing with the paperwork for break ins, car insurance claims when they hit our fence, dealing with the autogate, tree inspections, health and safety and waste management issues. One of the loveliest aspects is being a cog in the wheel of the celebratory tree adoptions. It only happens once a year, but is very special for everyone involved.

While there were no office staff projects this year, it was fun to be part of the board game project, A Walk in the Woods, enabling it to come to life through ideas and finding funding partners. Wild Warley has been ongoing throughout the year with both Kathy and myself supporting Doug Barber in his delivery of the lottery funded work.

As the year came to an end, we could see the way things were going to begin to look as the world returned to "normal" but a changed normal – with more people wanting to be outside and offer outdoor activities and more

Achievements and performance (continued)

people aware of the Woods and appreciative of how special this way of managing a site makes it. It's a pleasure to be the Trust's public face in dealing with that support and kindness.

Viv Cole, Trust Manager

Golf Reports
The golf course is not managed separately to the rest of the site and is mentioned throughout the rest of the report, but with the golf course being a significant part of our operation we feel it should have a special focus in our annual report. We have asked the Golf Course and Park Manager and Retail and Golf Development Manager to share some of their last year with you. Like all staff, they work on both park and golf aspects of our work, but in this section they will just cover golf related work in 21-22.

The Golf Course
There are three site staff at Warley Woods, working on both golf course and park; me, Daryl Jones and Andy Hewitt who joined us in November 2021. Between us we have 33 years of green keeping experience.

The greens are the most important aspect of the golf course and during the winter of 2021-22 we installed 60 meters of drain to the 4th green which has always drained badly. We hope this will keep it in play for more of the year, even in wet weather. Sadly over the winter we experienced vandalism to 7 out of the 9 greens with the 4th and 5th greens being worst affected. We took steps involving the community and media to try and prevent further damage which seemed to have some effect and work was done to ensure the greens could be in play again as soon as the weather warmed. The greens are given regular maintenance including overseeding twice a year, aerated every 3-4 weeks and major thatch removed twice a year. Fertiliser is applied twice a year and in between kept healthy with seaweed, iron and wetting agents. 30-40 tons of sand are applied each year to improve drainage and trueness and they are mowed daily during the growing season.

Bunkers are maintained through edging and weeding, topping up with sand and raking four times a week. We have reduced 30 bunkers to 25 to reduce maintenance without reducing the playablity of the course. Sadly our bunkers do suffer frequently from pawprints in them. We are sure members of the public are now fully aware they should not be on the golf course as we have raised the issue with all individuals we see, but for some old habits are hard to break and we have been unable to convince them of the harm they do or the danger they are in.

Our fairways, tees and collars are mown once or twice a week and we use slitters to improve drainage. In summer 2021 we employed a contractor to scarify the fairways which was the first time this had been done in many years.

Thanks to having mechanical maintenance training, I am able to keep on top of all the machinery we use, avoiding downtime and keeping costs reasonable. I also look out for second hand options for our machinery and this year managed to swap two tees mowers at cost getting us a better quality machine for our money. We also replaced a tractor-mounted blower for an eBay bargain

We maintain most of the golf course trees ourselves, as well as deal with the irrigation system. Over the winter we moved the practice nets which were on the driveway onto a practice green which had been hard to maintain due to tree cover.

Alan Merricks, Head Greenkeeper and Park Manager

Achievements and performance (continued)

Inside the Shop at The Pavilion

The year started with minimal restrictions on the golf course after an unsettled previous year. The course was still busy with new players continuing to register when booking to play for the first time. During 2021/22 we registered a total of 2896 new players. We have more than 11,000 golf customers registered.

During April we invited players to take up a new Pay Monthly Golf Pass. This was tested with six players who signed up to pay £48 a month by direct debit for unlimited golf through the month. One benefit for the holder was being able to cancel their direct debit if they wish due to holidays, illness or other commitments and re-start the payments once their available time allowed. This was offered as an alternative to the Annual Season Ticket which is payable as a one-off payment. Through the first year the number of Pay Monthly sign ups has been 19 with 8 currently active. This number is expected to rise again as the spring progresses

The Centenary of the opening of the golf course was celebrated in May with a raffle with the main prize being a100 day unlimited golf pass. We also had a special green fee offer of £7 for 9 holes. The Golf Club hosted several competitions during the month including a Texas Scramble with players in full 1920s outfits and hickory shaft golf clubs. The Express & Star covered the story with a nice piece about the history of the Club and golf course. A free leaflet was also published about the 100-year history.

We welcomed three new members to the shop staff team. Christine Bloomer joined in April and when long-standing member of staff, Sarah Wagstaff, resigned we were joined by Nicola Clark and Luke Jones. Sarah had been a valuable member of the team while studying and we wished Sarah well in her new career. Evie Trinham returned from university for the summer to support the team covering holidays when needed.

The Golf Club hosted its annual Warley Day under the heading of the John McBride Memorial Day. Friends and business contacts of John supported the Club with sponsorship for the event and some travelled some distance to join in on the day. John is sorely missed by the Club committee and members and the day was a great dedication to him and his love of golf. James Bustin, the newly elected President of the Club, delivered a moving speech during the presentation on the day.

The golf course continued to receive many compliments and the hard work of the site team didn't go unnoticed.

Greg Lynch continued his coaching at the course with his junior academy meeting on Saturday mornings, the mixed and girls only groups continue to thrive. The beginner group sessions were a popular choice again with a skill taught and practiced each week until the final session ended with a round on the course. Groups like these continue to create lasting friendships with golf as the common interest. During the summer holidays Greg hosted a golf camp in the park, this year the sessions were payable as the funding requirements couldn't be met. Golf Camps held during all school holidays continue to be popular and the start of many juniors love of golf.

Euro football matches fortunately didn't affect the number of rounds played this year due to the timing of the matches. Edgbaston cricket ground hosted the ladies cricket tournament during the summer and we were able to accommodate the visiting team players in-between matches. We re-introduced the hire of golf clubs around this time too.

In September we began the task of sifting through the hundreds of photographs taken in the woods for the new range of gift and Christmas cards and a Warley Woods Calendar. An assortment of scenic and nature photos were selected and the owners willingly gave permission for the pictures to be used. They were all happy to be supporting the Trust with the sale of the products. The Trust merchandise was all featured on a centrespread of The LEAFlet and the Christmas cards sold out by mid-December. To boost the stock of Trust and gift items the shop also welcomes local crafters to supply goods for sale with a commission donated to the Trust from sales. Through the year £420 in commission was earned this way through these sales.

Achievements and performance (continued)

During the Black Friday weekend in November we offered an extended Season Ticket, 14 months for the price of 12 (£495). Five players took advantage of the deal.

From early December a group of volunteers started the task of sourcing materials for the wreaths to be handmade and sold from the shop in the run up to Christmas. 37 wreaths were made and sold with the addition of festive bulbs planted in pots, a great amount of skill and time from the talented group raising over £650.

The golf course suffered from very wet conditions during the winter period which was made much worse by the damage caused by a motorbike entering the golf course in the early hours. This vandalism continued through the month of January and despite the efforts of Alan and his team the damage took time to repair due to the low ground temperatures. Golfers were very understanding and showed concern and care for the course, awareness was raised in the community following posts on social media and in the press. By May the ground temperatures had risen and the damage repaired.

As plans for the 2022/23 financial year were underway a review of the green fees was carried out and a proposal of an average 3% increase was agreed by the Board. Using round data and other local course green fees we felt this kept the course affordable and would help the Trust balance the increasing costs in running the golf course.

Sharon Simpson, Retail and Golf Development Manager

Site Subgroup
The Site Subgroup members are staff, trustees and volunteers: Steve Cemm, Diane Douglas, Alan Merricks, Mick Guy, John Reeves, and Arthur Ward (Chair).

It supports the Trust in meeting its strategic objectives, one of which is the attainment of Green Flag status, by the active management of the Trust's physical resources. The subgroup continued to meet monthly via Zoom to discuss the management of the park, woodland and golf course areas. The group supports and plans significant projects together with other subgroups and the Trust Manager.

As in the previous year we had to make many adjustments to work schedules and volunteer sessions in order to keep everyone safe and within the law to accommodate those who were off sick or in contact with Covid. The Site group would like to express their great appreciation to all those who supported the Community Trust to care for the site over another difficult year. Thank you.

The group's responsibilities for the year were:

1 The Pavilion and car park
2 Woodland/Parkland management.
3 Tree nursery
4 Golf course management and improvement.
5 Park maintenance
6 Wild Warley and Wilderness management.
7 Health and Safety.
8 Compound management.
9 Play area
10 Volunteer tasks.

Achievements and performance (continued)

1. The Pavilion and car park: A number of tasks were completed over the course of the year including replacing the automatic gate at our main entrance and our Green Flag flagpole was replaced moving it from The Pavilion roof to the main entrance at Lightwoods Hill. Soakaway drains were installed to stop water ingress into the café which has been an intermittent problem. We are currently monitoring this issue trying to balance the expense of further remediation with the nuisance caused. Minor repairs to The Pavilion such as gutters, decorating and light replacements (with LEDs) are ongoing. Work is progressing to repair minor potholes in the car park with the aim to complete this work before autumn 2022.

2. Woodland Management: Our tree safety report was commissioned and started and stopped several times during the year because of the pandemic. The work and report were finally completed just before the end of the financial year and its recommendations will be implemented in early 2022-3. Budget had been set aside over the last two years to cushion the Trust against this expected large bill. The work will be re-inspected once completed as an additional safety check.

Two hundred small oak whips were accepted and planted out on site as part of a national rescue plan to save ¾ of a million whips from being destroyed due to a cancelled government order. We also accepted tree whips from the Woodland Trust and OVO energy again this year for the park and nursery. Nine large container grown, peat free, trees adopted by members of the public were planted on the east side of the meadow in the hanging groups.

3. The Tree Nursery: It was decided to locate the new tree nursery to a flatter area nearer the Wilderness and our site watering systems. The old nursery will be allowed to re wild pending any further considerations. During the year staff and volunteers cleared the area of vegetation and erected palisade fencing and gates to secure the area. A rainwater collection system and tanks were installed, together with leaf mould and soil bins. The area was then gravelled and bays for the whips created to support them during their early years. The costs of this project exceeded the budget because of significant increases in materials after the pandemic. We had a very positive visit from our project funder, Seven Trent Community Fund, once the nursery was completed. Volunteers transferred and moved to larger containers over 560 whips. They will now be watered and cared for by volunteers until they are ready to be planted out on site.

4 Golf Course: A new greens scarifier was purchased this year and made a big difference to greens maintenance. A golf course's reputation is predicated on its greens. We suffered significant vandalism to two greens early in the year and then again later in the winter, motor bikes being repeatedly driven over them. ITV interviewed staff and produced an article on this that helped raise awareness. On occasions dog walkers have been a nuisance on the course.

Plans were drawn up and begun to move the golf practice nets from the main entrance to the rear of the first tee. The new base and frame were installed before the end of the year. Major drainage work was undertaken on the 4th and 5th greens during the winter months.

5 Park Maintenance: During the pandemic the park and woodland were extremely popular for the local community to exercise and visitor numbers were vastly increased. This significant increase led to the considerable widening of many paths and the creation of many more informal paths across the site. Whilst we understood the need for the site to be used in this way at this time we were concerned about the level of damage this was creating and the effect on biodiversity and safety. We are optimistic the site will repair naturally as we return to normal.

A dog bin survey was undertaken by volunteers this year and a report to board produced. A rolling programme of replacements with a new style dog bin was proposed and accepted by the Board.

Achievements and performance (continued)

We have suffered damage at two locations to our perimeter fence this year due to vehicles crashes, both of which have been repaired through insurance claims against the drivers. The paths in the rose garden continue to suffer when we have heavy rain. We are considering this area and possible grants for upgrading once they are finalised.

6 Wild Warley & The Wilderness: We have made much progress in The Wilderness particularly with the new pond but also suffered a setback that wasn't predictable. Having installed our new liner we may now have to remove it because of a much lower water table causing problems. We are taking a hydrologist's advice. We have also decided to make the Wilderness a recommended "dogs on lead area". This will necessitate the installation of a gate and fence at the bottom of the steps next year. The annual cut of willow and buddleia by volunteers eventually took place after Covid delays and many of the stumps were treated to try to prevent regrowth. Some of the willow stems were woven into a wicker fence separating the pond from the boardwalk. Hedge planting also took place around the perimeter.

7 Health & Safety: Plans were put in place to ensure a Covid safe workplace for all staff. After a minor incident with a golf buggy in a "no go" area all notices and course plans for buggies were refreshed and new hirers particularly informed. Golfers not waiting before playing through caused a few problems for groundstaff and this was addressed through the shop. New concrete weights were created to secure our marquees especially at the Santa event when they cannot be pegged down.

8 Compound Management: Replacement tools for volunteers were purchased this year as well as a replacement electric motor for our electric truck. A new diesel tank was purchased and installed which should help to keep fuel costs down by buying in bulk. The compound was again the subject of vandalism and the exterior lights had to be repaired.

Funding was agreed to purchase a more modern second hand "TR3" mower with a wider cut as well as a shaft driven leaf blower. These have both proved very successful in reducing the time to complete these tasks and improving the efficiency of the team. The old machines were sold to offset the costs.

9 Play Area: The play area has remained open all year and been inspected by staff daily. Minor repairs such as fencing and creosoting were undertaken by corporate volunteers. The annual external inspection of the play area was eventually completed after Covid delays. All of the equipment was rated low risk or very low risk. There were a number of minor recommendations that were actioned by ground staff. The play area can become very muddy in the winter months and further drainage work is being considered for the 2022 winter work programme.

10. Volunteers: Have been very active on site when the law around Covid has allowed. Many individuals or families have litter picked on site over the last year without any organising. They have been a great help to the Trust and local community keeping the site beautiful for everyone. Other volunteer tasks included planting, cutting back (all over the site), creosoting litter bins, edging paths, clearing the tree nursery site and planting up whips in the tree nursery. Indeed anything to support the upkeep of the site. Volunteers have also supported the Wild Warley project helping with the pond, management of invasive plans and other conservation work.

Arthur Ward

Achievements and performance (continued)

Communications Subgroup
Members of the group: Martin Bottoms (resigned October 2021); Andrew Bull (resigned October 2021); Viv Cole; Katy Holmes; Debra Howells (joined March 2022); Sue Maguire (joined November 2021); Kate Slade; Jane Taylor; David Viney (resigned October 2021); Sarah Wagstaff (joined October 2021)

As can be seen there has been some changes in the group membership over the year. Both David and Martin have moved away from the area and we would like to thank them for their contributions to the work both of the group and their commitment to the Trust. Andrew set up and established the Trust's Twitter account and we would like to thank him for all the work involved in this and in reaching 2000 followers by the time he resigned from the group. We have been pleased to welcome Sue, Sarah and Debra to the group during the course of the year.

- One of the first tasks of the year was the promotion of the Golf Course Centenary in May 2021. This was done through social media and The LEAFlet. Working with the Golf Club we produced a special leaflet about the history of the course which was made available free to anyone who was interested (and is still available). The Club also had a programme of special golf events which resulted in articles in the local press.
- The group reviewed and revised the general leaflet about volunteering for the Trust and this was produced during the year. It is one of the leaflets that are available to the public and is given to new members when they join the Trust.
- Viv was able to secure funding from Unum for the production of the Warley Woods board game "A Walk in the Woods" and this was produced in time for the Christmas sales. We have also been able to have a large scale copy produced which can be used at outdoor events. The value of the game is to inform people about the history, ecology etc of the site and to raise awareness of the Trust and its activities. An important communication tool. Within the budget it was agreed that some copies should be given to local community groups and this process has started.
- The new signs on the golf course, which had been planned the previous year, were erected. There have been no particular comments about them so we are not sure whether that means they are doing their job or nobody has noticed them!
- A second visitor number survey was undertaken in October. This was a repeat of one done two years previously and we wanted to see if there had been an increase in numbers since the pandemic. The volunteers who had undertaken the count the first time were joined by some additional helpers and the results were then analysed for us by CFP. The results showed a 15% increase in numbers from 2019 with changes showing a larger percentage of younger children than previously. The results and the report, which are available to anyone who would like to see them, were looked at at the Trustees' planning day in February when considering the priorities for the coming year.
- The group has worked with the Environment group to produce posters encouraging visitors to take home their recyclable rubbish. This is an ongoing project.
- Following the presentation by Chris Shortis at the AGM in October the idea of taking regular photos of particular places on the site to provide an historical record was discussed and it is hoped that this project might start in the coming year. Some work has already been done looking at possible sites for the photos but more needs to be done and volunteers recruited.
- Central ITV news did a feature about the Woods. Publicity like this always brings a spate of activity on social media and lots of positive comments about the park and the Trust.
- The Board made a decision at the planning day to continue to have The LEAFlet printed rather than photocopied in the future. They felt that the improved quality and ability to use photos more effectively were worth the extra costs. We are asked from time to time why we still produce a paper copy rather than just an email. Members can choose to have the LEAFlet emailed to them, and some do, but overall we still think that a paper copy is seen by more people in the household and is looked at more than an email sent to one member at the address. Also there are some of our members who do not have access to the internet. Against this we consider the environmental cost of producing a paper copy – an issue

Achievements and performance (continued)

currently high on the Trust's agenda – and these debates will continue over time and may change our actions in the future.

- We are pleased that Sarah Wagstaff has offered to take on the management of the Trust's Twitter account from Andrew and also to build up the Instagram account as well. This is an area of interest for Sarah and we are glad to have her helping in this way.
- The group has been looking at the production of 'Welcome' posters on the noticeboards in a variety of languages. These will hopefully be produced and on the boards shortly. It has led to discussions about how we communicate with people for whom English is not their first language and will be part of ongoing discussions to ensure our communications are as accessible as possible to as many people as possible, within the time and resource constraints of the Trust.

Kate Slade

Resources Subgroup
Members: David Read (Chair), Steve Eling, Andrew Williams (until October 2022), Mike Talbot, Viv Cole. Resources is a subgroup which meets as and when to discuss organisational and financial matters. It met four times during the financial year 2021/2022.

We keep a keen eye on our revenue accounts, reporting back and advising Board so that all Trustees are fully aware of the situation on a month by month basis.

Our Reserves Policy was re-visited and the particular risks associated with Covid and the management of the risks inherent therein were discussed. It was agreed to ask the Board to authorise a specific reserve (from reserves) of £100K to cover any associated risks from Covid. Once we feel that this risk affecting our accounts has passed this would become a specific reserve for capital investment. This would also help with future grant requests as this could be shown to be cash that is held for a specific purpose rather than cash available for general expenses.

Two areas of staffing issues were worked through and passed to the Board for agreement to the resolutions proposed.

A specific provision was requested from the Board to enable external help with formulating planning for the new building project.

The safeguards in place for the prevention of fraud were reviewed and found to be adequate with both the Trust Manager and the Treasurer having access to invoices and credit card statements to ensure that items were for Trust use.

A revised contract for the café was discussed, finalised and offered to the contractor

The group makes all the preparations for the annual Planning Day. This year it was held on Zoom again, as Covid numbers were rising. The Board was still able to consider a full agenda of issues to review the past year and plan for activities and finances ahead. Draft budgets were considered and amended to pass to Board for discussion on Planning Day and then for approval after any final amendments at the March Board meeting.

All in all a very busy year for the Subgroup doing essential work and ensuring that finance was kept under review at all times – not the most exciting work at the Trust but very essential!

David J Read

Achievements and performance (continued)

Communities Sub Group
Communities Subgroup Members: Kate Slade, Liz Coleman (Chair), Barbara Platts, Kathy Hodgkinson, Sukhi Ajula, Chris Ashford, Charlotte Trinham, Pat Marsh, Paula Trinham, Lynda Wagstaff

The key focuses of the group are
1. Planning and Organising Events including vetting external requests
2. Schools Liaison
3. Community Engagement

1. Events in 2020-2021 had been severely impacted by the Covid pandemic. 2021-2022 saw some of the restrictions eased and Warley Woods Community Trust were pleased to be able to offer a range of virtual and in-person events in Warley Woods once again. We also welcomed Sukhi Ajula and Lynda Wagstaff to the Communities Subgroup.

Instead of an Easter Egg Roll, we offered a self-guided Family Easter Trail, promoted via schools and websites. The first in-person event was a small-scale Dawn Chorus Walk led by Doug 'Wild Warley' Barber. Volunteers organised the popular outdoor Plant Sale in May which brought the community together, as well as raising funds for The Trust. We were delighted to welcome Heartbreak Theatre Company back in the summer for the ever-popular open-air theatre production. Local Historian, the wonderful Mary Bodfish, gave a fascinating online History Talk about Warley Woods and the people involved in making it The People's Park.

The Communities Subgroup, Trust staff and volunteers worked hard to put on the Halloween Spooky Trail and the Santa Events. Halloween was fully booked and enjoyed by many families. We were pleased to have the support of several new volunteers including Bristnall Hall Police Cadets. Sandwell Lions continue to be invaluable supporters at Halloween and always look fantastic in their costumes. Santa was back in the Woods on 5th December and proved so popular that bookings were sold out within 48 hours.

The first event of 2022 was the January Bird Walk. This also proved to be very popular and again, we had the support of two new young volunteers. It has been good to be able to meet back in person in 2022 and plan for the return of a regular events programme. We look forward to planning and delivering more events for the community throughout the remainder of the year.

2. Schools Liaison - Ongoing liaison has continued with local schools many of which the Trust has close relationships with. Members of the Communities Subgroup have communicated with different local schools about events, information and opportunities to be involved in, competitions, Wild Warley information and volunteering. Many local schools have visited Warley Woods in the last year for a range of activities.

3. Community Engagement: Wild Warley Project Manager, Doug Barber, has continued to deliver training in wildlife surveying, tree ID and runs regular group practical habitat management sessions. The Communities Subgroup has worked closely with him to provide support and promote further community engagement.

During summer 2021, we were proud to be one of the key partners in an exciting new community arts project 'Woodland Tales' which featured collaborative workshops with Brandhall School, local families and community venues. The Trust secured funding from Sandwell Council Town Grants and Arts Council England for this innovative pilot project. Woodland Tales concluded with a story-telling event and parade through Warley Woods. The whole project received very positive responses and will give us confidence to plan future collaborations in the future.

Warley Woods were also a partner in Growing Up Green festival in September 2021, hosting events for families promoting engagement with nature. Warley Woods continues to benefit from working with other groups in the community including Wild Lives Forest School, Warley Woods Pacers and Sandwell Stride.

Achievements and performance (continued)

A repeat of the Visitor Survey (observation) was carried out in October 2021 and analysis of data collected, indicates an increase in diversity in age and ethnicity of the visitors to Warley Woods since the last survey was carried out. The Communities Subgroup considered the results of the Visitor Survey and continue to explore ways of encouraging new engagement from the diverse communities in the surrounding area. Connections have been made with other local interest groups.

Liz Coleman

Environmental Policy And Management Group
Members: Liz Coleman (Chair), Lise Burrows, Alan Reynolds, Kate Slade, Lynda Wagstaff, Vanessa Whittaker

The Environmental Task Group was formed in 2020 to carry out an overview of the Trust's Environmental policies and procedures following the guidance in the Green Flag Handbook. As a result of this the Environmental Policy and Management Group has become a subgroup of Warley Woods Community Trust, contributing to the Trust's Five Year Plan. The Environment Subgroup meets monthly to consider the environmental of impact of projects, reducing energy and chemical use and promoting good management of waste. In 2021-2022 the group began working with Golf Development and Retail Manager, Sharon Simpson to review the products sold in the Shop at The Pavilion, looking at the sustainability of materials and seeking to reduce single-use plastic. Sharon and the shop staff have increased the offer of locally produced and sustainably sourced products including wooden golf tees, reusable coffee cups and wooden toys. We have had some positive responses and will continue to work with Sharon to monitor and review progress.

Management of Warley Woods for biodiversity and climate change benefits has also been part of the group's discussion and planning. Doug Barber, Wild Warley Project Manager has attended some meetings and explained the work he and the Wild Warley Conservation Volunteers are carrying out to maintain and improve the biodiversity of Warley Woods. This includes work near the main drive to cut back invasive Cherry Laurel and allow more light for native wildflowers and plants such as Bluebells and Wild Garlic. Areas have also been identified for meadow creation; this grass will not be cut and native flower seed will be sown at the right time of year. It is important for the Trust to have up-to-date information on the flora and fauna of Warley Woods. Doug has trained volunteers to survey birds, butterflies and moths and he has analysed the data. This information will help the Trust better plan and manage the park for nature. The Environment Subgroup continues to work with other subgroups and staff teams to oversee progress on environmental issues. Environment Champions have been identified for each subgroup.

Liz Coleman

Financial review

- **Reserves policy**

The management committee has undertaken an analysis of future needs, opportunities and contingencies or risks, which could not be met out of income when and if they arise. It has also taken account of forecasts for income levels in future years, on the basis of planned activity and the reliability of various income streams, and made forecasts of future expenditure. Accordingly the management committee has developed a policy on reserves for the following reasons:-

- To respond to changes or loss of generated income or grants.
- To invest in advance in potential new areas of work such as training or other new sources of income.
- To enable the community trust to honour its contractual obligations to staff, contractors, suppliers and funders.

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves that it needs in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the organisation and the work that it delivers. The Trustees are aware of the large liability of a site open for public use 24 hours a day and the potential expense which might arise through vandalism. It also has many aspirations for future investment. The charity's current reserves are considered adequate for the sustainability and operation of the organisation, but the Trust would like to increase these to provide a stronger financial buffer for the organisation. Each year the Trust plans a budget to ensure reserves are not needed for general expenditure and with the hope that with prudent financial management reserve levels can be increased slightly. Reserves are only drawn upon to meet an emergency, unforeseen need which goes beyond any contingency in the budget, or to make an investment in equipment or facilities for which grant funding could not be secured.

Historically the Trust has not had significant surpluses on a year by year basis (when excluding any grants received in advance of expenditure) but when the pandemic began the Trustees restricted expenditure to all but essential expenditure due to the uncertainties. At the same time the Government grant initiatives and those of some of the grant funders to support charities during those uncertainties has meant that reserves are higher than usual.

The Trustees have considered this and some of the unrestricted cash reserves are now being held in designated funds, beyond the levels needed to ensure the general financial viability of the organisation. One fund is have been allocated to support the long term aspiration of the Trust to replace its aging building and to allow for development work to take those plans forwards. This will be added to and drawn from within a two year timescale. A second fund has been created to allow for the uninsurable risks of property within the site which could be damaged by third parties/natural disasters and allow for timely replacement without the need for delays through needing to specifically fundraise. This fund also includes savings towards replacing the fleet of vehicles (mowers, utility vehicles and specialist golf and woodland management equipment) which need replacing on 4-6 yearly basis. A third fund has been created to hold any funds left as legacies to the Trust to ensure they are used, as mentioned by the Trust in its legacy promotions materials, towards improvement works on site and kept separately from general expenditure. It is the Trust’s intention to use these as match funding, whenever possible, for grant funding bids, to maximise the gifts that have been given. The Trustees feel that the use of these three designated funds is the right course of action for a small charity with potential heavy liabilities and a mission to be custodians of Warley Woods for the long term.

The current fund stands at £425,431 (2021: £381,032) of which £41,472 (2021: £86,957) is restricted, £158,000 (2021: £nil) is designated and £267,431 (2021: £294,075) is general unrestricted funds.

Structure, governance and management

- **Constitution**

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association.

- **Methods of appointment or election of Trustees**

The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Under those rules, the Board has a membership of between 10 and 15. Members are appointed for a three year term and can restand again at the end of this term. Up to 4 members can be co-opted.

Trustees are asked to submit a resumé of their interests and abilities in support of their election, and on appointment are supported through induction to help them become fully effective. Trustees are encouraged to attend seminars and training events to update their skills and knowledge.

All Trustees participate in monthly business meetings, and an annual planning and team building day, to agree the strategy and priorities for the forthcoming year. Trustees also take part in sub-groups described elsewhere in this report, and from time to time the board will hold additional meetings for planning and training

- **Organisational structure and decision-making policies**

The role of the Board is to give direction and guidance to paid staff and volunteers and to take strategic and resource decisions to ensure the Trust is effective.

The Board takes responsibility for all strategic management issues and operates through sub-groups who carry out the implementation of strategy and report back to the Board on progress and make recommendations to inform future decisions.

For specific projects, including the Picnic in The Park, working or task groups are convened to manage and monitor the progress of the specified project. At least one member of the Board is involved in these groups and reports regularly to the full Board.

Some Board Members take on particular roles which can give a level of responsibility outside of the subgroup structure. These are the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Company Secretary, Health and Safety Manager. One Trustee is nominated by the Chair as the line manager for the Trust Manager.

Plans for future periods

We aim to continue our work taking care of Warley Woods and maintaining it to a high standard.

We will make improvements to the golf course, with new drainage on three greens and improvement to bunkers. We will improve our compound and storage capacity. Our renewal of dog waste bins will begin using the newly chosen style. We look forward to our annual tree planting of both Celebratory Trees and take advantage of any reputable donations of free trees. We plan to replace our tees mower

We look forward to a full programme of events in 2022-23 and a year of working with partners, other local organisations and businesses who make requests to use the site to keep extending the range of offerings and activities available in the park/woodland. We will continue to support corporate volunteer groups and continue our thinking and work on ensuring what we offer appeals to every cultural and ethnic group who visit, or who could visit the site.

We will complete the lottery funded Wild Warley project and then extending its legacy into new project work and fundraise to be able to deliver future biodiversity improvements and engagement work.

We are looking to develop a time lapse photography project which would form both a site management tool but also be an important community engagement opportunity with a different volunteering opportunity.

We will rework and reprint the Warley Woods general promotion leaflet. We will continue our marketing of the golf course in general and include more on the monthly direct debit offer which has moved from a pilot to be a permanent offering. We will renew our volunteer recruitment materials and approach and continue membership promotion, specific fundraising appeals and low-key promotion of regular giving to the charity through direct debit.

We will be planning for the long term future including work on the former rose garden/winter garden to increase the quality of the space and we will make a step change forward on our building replacement project by engaging professional help to take us towards formal planning and fundraising stages.

Achieving Green Flag Award remains key to all of our aims as it demonstrates not just our commitment to and delivery of a high standard of site maintenance, but because of its equally important criteria of engaging the community, strong marketing and environmental and historical custodianship.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' 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 charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 Companies Act 2006. 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.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Eling
Chair
Date:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Warley Woods Community Trust Limited ('the charity')
I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the Trustees of the charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: Dated:

Helen Blundell LLB FCA FCIE DChA

MHA MacIntyre Hudson
Chartered Accountants
Rutland House
148 Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2FD

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**195,602**	**16,840**	**212,442**	*314,648*
Charitable activities	4	**214,455**	**-**	**214,455**	*148,703*
Other trading activities		**42,632**	**-**	**42,632**	*20,194*
Investments		**1,174**	**-**	**1,174**	*882*
Total income		**453,863**	**16,840**	**470,703**	*484,427*
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		**15,334**	**791**	**16,125**	*6,125*
Charitable activities	5	**307,533**	**61,174**	**368,707**	*323,415*
Total expenditure		**322,867**	**61,965**	**384,832**	*329,540*
Net movement in funds		**130,996**	**(45,125)**	**85,871**	*154,887*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**294,435**	**86,597**	**381,032**	*226,145*
Net movement in funds		**130,996**	**(45,125)**	**85,871**	*154,887*
Total funds carried forward		**425,431**	**41,472**	**466,903**	*381,032*

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 21 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04214547

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note		2022 £		*2021 £*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		**37,842**		*28,513*
Current assets					
Stocks	10	**7,749**		*7,534*	
Debtors	11	**61,101**		*113,802*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**393,497**		*252,830*	
		462,347		*374,166*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(33,286)**		*(21,647)*	
Net current assets			**429,061**		*352,519*
Total assets less current liabilities			**466,903**		*381,032*
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	13		**41,472**		*86,597*
Unrestricted funds	13		**425,431**		*294,435*
Total funds			**466,903**		*381,032*

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Eling
Chair
Date:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. General information

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the Charity's operations is to restore and sustain Warley Woods Park and develop its facilities and events for the use of the local community in the interests of social welfare and to promote education.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are presented in British pound sterling and rounded to the nearest £.

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the charity, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, .

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery	-	25%	Reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	-	33%	Straight line
Other fixed assets	-	10%	Straight line

2.6 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs.

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

2.10 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Grants			
Sandwell MBC	72,488	-	**72,488**
Other	11,316	16,840	**28,156**
COVID-19 Grants			
Business Grant	597	-	**597**
	84,401	16,840	**101,241**
Donations	87,201	-	**87,201**
Legacies	24,000	-	**24,000**
	195,602	16,840	**212,442**

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	*Restricted funds 2021 £*	*Total funds 2021 £*
Grants			
Sandwell MBC	*72,488*	-	*72,488*
Other	*16,900*	*16,007*	*32,907*
COVID-19 Grants			
Job Retention Scheme	*33,264*	-	*33,264*
Business Grant	*25,000*	-	*25,000*
Closure Compensation	*15,500*	-	*15,500*
National Lottery Heritage Fund	*24,300*	-	*24,300*
	187,452	*16,007*	*203,459*
Donations	*111,189*	-	*111,189*
	298,641	*16,007*	*314,648*

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Golf and green fee income	214,455	**214,455**

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Golf and green fee income	*148,703*	*148,703*

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Charitable Activities	307,533	61,174	**368,707**

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	*Restricted funds 2021 £*	*Total funds 2021 £*
Charitable activities	*297,550*	*25,865*	*323,415*

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Charitable Activities	318,872	49,835	**368,707**

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	*Support costs 2021 £*	*Total funds 2021 £*
Charitable Activities	*279,408*	*44,006*	*323,414*

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Staff costs	**215,979**	*203,799*
Property and accomodation	**6,712**	*5,486*
Shop stock	**3,695**	*2,626*
Site maintenance and upkeep	**59,527**	*55,126*
Other projects	**31,291**	*11,871*
Direct support costs	**1,668**	*500*
	318,872	*279,408*

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Depreciation	**8,768**	*8,321*
Recruitment and training	**423**	*325*
Insurance	**6,930**	*4,686*
Finance	**6,824**	*7,089*
Office costs	**21,362**	*20,764*
Independent examination	**4,056**	*2,821*
Volunteer expenses	**1,472**	-
	49,835	*44,006*

7. Staff costs

	2022 £	*2021* *£*
Wages and salaries	**197,946**	*186,179*
Social security costs	**9,764**	*9,333*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**8,269**	*8,287*
	215,979	*203,799*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	*2021* *No.*
	15	*13*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The aggregate cost to the charity of Key management personnel in the year (being inclusive of employer national insurance and employer pension) was £108,877 (2021: £101,686). Key management personnel are considered to be the trust, retail and golf and park management.

8. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2021 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 31 March 2022, no Trustee expenses have been incurred *(2021 - £NIL)*.

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2021	**166,462**	**33,895**	**84,350**	**284,707**
Additions	**11,961**	**-**	**7,093**	**19,054**
Disposals	**(17,000)**	**-**	**-**	**(17,000)**
At 31 March 2022	**161,423**	**33,895**	**91,443**	**286,761**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2021	**149,198**	**33,895**	**73,101**	**256,194**
Charge for the year	**6,455**	**-**	**2,313**	**8,768**
On disposals	**(16,043)**	**-**	**-**	**(16,043)**
At 31 March 2022	**139,610**	**33,895**	**75,414**	**248,919**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2022	**21,813**	**-**	**16,029**	**37,842**
At 31 March 2021	*17,264*	*-*	*11,249*	*28,513*

10. Stocks

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Finished goods and goods for resale	**7,749**	*7,534*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

11. Debtors

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Due within one year		
Other debtors	**17,481**	*28,333*
Prepayments and accrued income	**43,620**	*85,469*
	61,101	*113,802*

Included within accrued income are grants awarded but not yet received from the Heritage Lottery totalling £9,760 (2021: £63,800) in relation to the Wild Warley Project.

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Trade creditors	**13,552**	*7,539*
Other taxation and social security	**7,425**	*3,354*
Other creditors	**8,058**	*7,505*
Accruals and deferred income	**4,251**	*3,249*
	33,286	*21,647*

13. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
New building development	-	-	-	35,000	35,000
Uninsured risks / capital equipment replacement	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Park development	-	-	-	23,000	23,000
	-	-	-	158,000	158,000
General funds					
General Funds	294,435	453,863	(322,867)	(158,000)	267,431
Total Unrestricted funds	294,435	453,863	(322,867)	-	425,431
Restricted funds					
Golf	90	-	-	-	90
Community projects	6,133	16,840	(22,403)	-	570
Park improvements	8,739	-	(8,739)	-	-
Wild Warley	71,635	-	(30,823)	-	40,812
	86,597	16,840	(61,965)	-	41,472
Total of funds	381,032	470,703	(384,832)	-	466,903

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated funds have the following purposes:

NEW BUILDING DEVELOPMENT
There is a long term aspiration to replace the current aging building. This fund, which is expected to be drawn on over the next two years, is to allow for development work to be undertaken to take those plans forward.

UNINSURED RISKS / CAPITAL EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT
This fund is to ensure that uninsured risks of damage to the site caused by third parties or natural disasters can be rectified on a timely basis. It is also includes funds towards the replacement of major plant and equipment which generally has to be replaced every 4-6 years.

PARK DEVELOPMENT
This fund is to hold legacies left to the Trust to be used towards improvement works on site. The funds will be used, whenever possible, as match funding for grant bids in order to maximise the gifts given.

Due to the high volume of restricted grants, some have been pooled together under the headings of Park Improvements, Community Projects and Golf. Where grants have been pooled the use of the individual restricted grants have been included below.

GOLF
Sandwell Council - Delivery of a golf camp

PARK IMPROVEMENTS
Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust / Severn Trent Community Fund - Funds towards the nursery project
Rowlands Trust - Funds for the purchase of a truck
John Feeney Trust - Funds for the purchase of equipment
Lady Tangye Trust - Funds for the purchase of whacker plate

COMMUNITY PROJECTS
Town team grant/ Creative Black Country - Funds towards an arts project.
SVCO - Funds towards an 'Outdoor Room' project
Arts Council / Unum - Funds towards an outdoor game

WILD WARLEY
Heritage lottery - Funds for the Wild Warley project to be spent across 2019/20 and 2020/21 originally although with an agreed extension due to covid
Ibstock Enovert - Funds for the installation of a water area in the Wild Warley project

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Transfers in/out* £	*Balance at 31 March 2021* £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	*125,910*	*468,420*	*(303,675)*	*3,780*	*294,435*
Restricted funds					
Golf	*-*	*3,330*	*(3,240)*	*-*	*90*
Community projects	*1,999*	*5,500*	*(1,366)*	*-*	*6,133*
Park improvements	*5,850*	*7,177*	*(508)*	*(3,780)*	*8,739*
Wild Warley	*92,386*	*-*	*(20,751)*	*-*	*71,635*
	100,235	*16,007*	*(25,865)*	*(3,780)*	*86,597*
Total of funds	*226,145*	*484,427*	*(329,540)*	*-*	*381,032*

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	**Restricted funds 2022** £	**Total funds 2022** £
Tangible fixed assets	37,842	-	**37,842**
Current assets	420,875	41,472	**462,347**
Creditors due within one year	(33,286)	-	**(33,286)**
Total	425,431	41,472	**466,903**

14. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	*Restricted funds 2021* £	*Total funds 2021* £
Tangible fixed assets	*28,513*	-	*28,513*
Current assets	*287,569*	*86,597*	*374,166*
Creditors due within one year	*(21,647)*	-	*(21,647)*
Total	*294,435*	*86,597*	*381,032*

15. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contributions workplace pension scheme through The People's Pension. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £7,542 (2021: £8,287). Contributions totalling £957 (2021: £883) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

16. Related party transactions

In the period there were no related party transactions (2021: £ Nil).

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1092754

Accounts

Registered number: 04214547
Charity number: 1092754

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Chairman's statement	2
Trustees' report	3 - 19
Independent examiner's report	20
Statement of financial activities	21
Balance sheet	22
Notes to the financial statements	23 - 35

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees	Steven Eling Katherine Slade Alan Reynolds Stephen Cemm Elizabeth Coleman Arthur Ward Barbara Platts Christopher Ashford David Read Andrew Williams David Coffin Patricia Marsh Michael Talbot Lisa Burrows John Newman (appointed 17 October 2020)
Company registered number	04214547
Charity registered number	1092754
Registered office	The Pavilion Lightwoods Hill Smethwick West Midlands B67 5ED
Company secretary	Michael Talbot
Accountants	MHA MacIntyre Hudson Chartered Accountants Rutland House 148 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2FD
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Birmingham B1 2HB

CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The chair presents his statement for the year.

Well, where to start? 2020/21 has certainly been the most incredible year for the Trust, as it has for everything impacted by the COVID pandemic. Whilst the park has been open all the way through and has provided a highly valued green space, the golf course and Pavilion spent half the year closed.

The uncertainties of lockdown closures, reopening under restrictions and more lockdown created major management and financial challenges. That we survived is down to the level of dedication and support for the Woods and the Trust. Our appeals resulted in a greater public profile and many new members. I am particularly grateful for the support from our patron Dame Julie Walters, which gave us national television coverage and the feature of a Radio 4 programme, Open Country. The grant support from the Council along with several COVID grant streams from the Government have all been essential to keeping the Trust viable. In fact, in many ways the Trust's position may be more robust now than it was before the pandemic, but the challenges are not yet over.

On the plus side, when we have been able to be open, golf has seen a rise in popularity and participation.

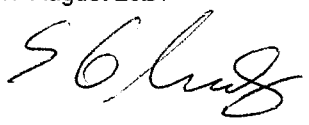
Sadly, our events had to be cancelled but we look forward to having a full calendar again as soon as we can. The Wild Warley project has continued but without the same level of community engagement. We have also been able to progress planned work around the site including improvements to drainage on the golf course and works to improve the tree nursery, crucial to growing our own tree stock.

The Board and sub-groups covering site, communities, communications and resources have continued to meet on a monthly basis by Zoom. We are looking forward to getting back to normal meetings as soon as we can. We also have groups meeting to look at environmental issues and progress the long term project of replacing the Pavilion with a new building. The Board also held its annual business planning day to update our five year management plan and work through our budget. This has kept the Trust on top of all the business, managing the challenges from the pandemic, keeping our park maintenance and services running in a COVID safe way. The Trustees and members of the sub-groups are all still volunteers, giving their time for the Woods.

As ever, the work of our dedicated staff and volunteers has kept Warley Woods as one of the best parks in the country with continued "Green Flag" status and voted in the top ten parks.

Finally, I must express my appreciation and thanks to everyone who has helped to bring Warley Woods through the most incredible and challenging times we have ever known. Our staff have done a magnificent job through the most difficult times of uncertainty, keeping the Trust going and maintaining the park as safe to use and in good condition. This has made a real difference I'm sure everyone will want to express their appreciation for the dedication that our staff have shown.

Chairman
Date: 17 August 2021



TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

Objectives and activities

- **Policies and objectives**

The charitable objectives of the Trust are as follows:

To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical, natural and historic environment of the area known as Warley Woods.

Vision

The vision of Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is:-

To ensure the long-term restoration and sustainability of Warley Woods Park and to develop its facilities and events as a central focus for the local community, thus encouraging greater numbers and diversity of people to enjoy this unique environment.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The rest of this report demonstrates the many works delivered by Warley Woods Community Trust for the public benefit. Warley Woods is free to enter, open to all, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Achievements and performance

- **Review of activities**

It has been another busy year at Warley Woods Community Trust. Most of the Trust's activities fall under the responsibility of one of the subgroups, whose reports follow, but there are some things which are solely undertaken by the Trust's office-based staff team.

Report from the Trust Manager
As everyone will know 20-21 was a year where there was no business as usual of any kind. My normal year would follow such a seasonal pattern connected with upcoming events, grant cycles, and financial year structures. All of these disappeared and the year became one of almost living in the moment, and looking as far ahead as we dared, problem solving, responding to opportunities that appeared and to changes to guidance and laws relating to coronavirus.

In retrospect, we spent half of the year closed: April, May, November, January, February and March. The other months we were open but under restrictions which are still largely current as I type this report. While we were closed, most of our staff were furloughed and at times this left me the only member of staff at work and working from home, at other times we had staff on part furlough to keep essential or improvement activities ticking forward.

When we closed our doors on 24th March, my role became to ensure our survival as an organisation. Without help we had just a few months before we would need to start closure processes. We are all now aware of government grants and the furlough scheme, but at the very beginning this kind of help hadn't been created. When it was we had to learn about it and how to access it. The schemes changed throughout the year as well, so we had to keep relearning and relooking for new deadlines.

My normal fundraising activities are about grant applications for future projects and steady appeals to the public who use the park to become members and supporters. There became little point applying for long term projects when you can't see further into the future than the next few weeks and instead I applied for emergency funds – from the government and from Heritage Lottery. I did appeals to grant making trusts, but not as usual in May, but in October of the year, as that was the first time, I was able to write applications where I could describe how things might be by the time they made their decisions – some trusts closed down grant giving, as the volunteers who act as their trustees dealt with the impact on their own lives and the fact the face to face meetings were impossible. We are very grateful for to those Trusts who supported us even more generously than usual.

Without golf income, shop income, events, rent from the café or room bookings, until news of government grants came in, we were entirely reliant on our council grant and what the public could give us in support. We didn't make a public appeal for help immediately as there was such emotional instability generally on a personal level, we didn't want to make things seem even worse with our own crisis. Very luckily for us, delaying things seem to have given people that time to realise the special value of a green space during lockdown – either because it was the only place they could visit or because they could not visit it. Support for the Heroes appeal was amazing from day one. The response was amplified when Julie Walters lent her voice to it too. It had a third boost when her involvement was noted by the press and Midlands Today covered the story and that brought in donations from all over the Midlands. That led to a whole programme on Radio 4's Open Country which stimulated donations from all over the country and even some international ones. Midlanders who had moved out of the area but had fond memories and others who had never visited and would never visit. It was an emotional experience to be involved in all the waves of this appeal. My work at one point was almost full time as a donation processor and sending thank yous. The result of that appeal was not just immediate donations, but people set up regular donations through direct debit. These really are the gifts that truly do keep on giving. We hoped people would not cancel as the emergency situation receded, as we always exist on a financial knife edge (just normally not quite so sharp) and a cushion of support from people on a regular basis would help to see us through the unknowns of the months to come. Most have continued and we are so incredibly grateful.

Achievements and performance (continued)

During lockdown one of my key roles was to keep communicating with public and our supporters. With a lack of actual news to share – this became a sharing of our archive of photographs and facts. This matched well with the public sharing of beautiful photos of the site which lifted the spirits of many – mine included. I have to say I felt very well cared for by our facebook users who knew I was working isolated at home and they sent me special messages and photographs and it was lovely when many shared my excitement about being able to return to the office – for some Warley Wooders, like myself, it signalled a return to some kind of normality, when both myself and other staff were visible presences, even if at a distance.

The majority of the rest of the year was taken up with the usual business of running the site and dealing with enquiries. Dealing with all the reopening and reclosing – the risk assessments needed and changes to practice every time the guidance moved. Making recommendations about whether and when we did reopen the play area, the toilets. Whether we hired out golf clubs or not. How we dealt with the extra litter and damage that came from the additional use of the site. We also dealt with recruitment to both site and shop teams through the year. Our emergency grant from Heritage Lottery helped us fund additional staff on site and in the shop – to help deal with a change from "drop in" to "book in advance" cultures. This grant also helped us introduce a larger bin at the Abbey Road entrance, which was to be temporary, but we have now decided to pay for out of general funds, at least during the summer months, when our usual bins can overflow at that entrance.

"Normal" things did happen, like upgrading our PCs, changing email platforms, reviewing our employment contract, opening new bank accounts, reworking our VAT situation. Some had hiatus in the middle of the process. Some were made more difficult due to the shortage of supply of materials, or closed businesses. Other things were made simpler by simply spending – like printing our newsletter, rather than photocopying and volunteers putting it together. Long hoped for things suddenly became possible, like the free gift of a bike rack for the Pavilion. We even managed to run a free Golf Camp thanks to funding from Sandwell Council

I have focused on the practical things that happened this year and there are many other things I could tell you about – stories, losses, kindnesses. The year has brought us new relationships with the community, as we worked together. New businesses, like the Happy Coffee Man and Wild Lives Forest Schools involved with us. New connections made when we tried to create a temporary outdoor room for the winter – the project failed due to lockdown, but the connections with other groups remain. The planting of trees has been of extra significance this year with our "normal" planting of trees for many families (many in memoriam) but for also two of the immediate Trust family as well – John McBride, Trustee and Golf Club President and Nigel Lloyd, founder of the Warley Woods Pacers who both died in 2020. In a year when the opportunity to grieve and to celebrate lives has been so difficult, we have been exceptionally pleased to be able to be involved in so many positive expressions of remembrance. We were also very pleased to be able to arrange for Nigel's Cortege to come through the Woods for a guard of honour drive through from his Pacers Clubmates.

As Doug Barber, Wild Warley Project Manager, does not have a space in the report – it is here I need to acknowledge the work he has done on Wild Warley. He was the other member of staff who was not furloughed – he legally could not be and yet what does a person who has been employed to engage people face to face do, when that is exactly what he is told he can't do. He has done brilliantly keeping all elements of the project going – creating small group training, virtual training, virtual events. Working on the practical improvement side, like the Wilderness water – even digging the pond out himself when contractor costs went sky-high in the Autumn. He dealt with cancelled events, goal posts changing, limited event numbers, all with the commitment of someone who makes the very best of a very difficult situation. His role comes to an end next March but we are really trying to see if we could fund him for longer, at least so he can achieve all the things he and the project set out to do. We have lost the potential to make this project have the full impact it would have had without this extension. It will still have fantastic results because of the calibre of the person we were lucky to appoint, but all of us hope we will be able to find a way to maximise that work – we always want what is best for Warley Woods.

Achievements and performance (continued)

We have been incredibly lucky over the last year. Lucky that emergency grants suited our needs and compensated for the lack of our trading income. Lucky that other emergency grants paid for the additional costs that came with managing a very popular site when people had limited leisure options. Lucky that golf has been a winner in the pandemic year, with a resurgence in returning and new players, making us exceptionally busy when we could open. Lucky that all of our usual grant givers chose to support us, when they had many calls for their funds. But luckiest of all, to have the support of a community that values what we do and what we offer and was prepared to step in when they realised we might fail as an organisation due to no fault of our own. Emergency grants are gone. The interest in golf may wane. But I think this year has made many people appreciate even more a beautiful green space free to visit, and to be aware that it takes time, energy and money to provide it and that they can play their part in some or all of those things. We remain blessed to have the beauty of Warley Woods and blessed to have so many who appreciate it.

Viv Cole, Trust Manager

Golf Reports
We have realised that while golf is mentioned throughout this report, it perhaps does not have the focus or explanation that you would expect for the part of our operation which raises one third of our income and covers one third of the site. So for the first time we have asked the Golf Course and Park Manager and Shop and Golf Development Manager to share some of their last year with you. Like all staff, they work on both park and golf aspects of our work, but in this section they will just cover golf related work in 20-21.

The Golf Course

Site staff were often on site, even when rules prevented the golf course being opened and in fact took the opportunity to do development work on the golf course which will be of long term benefit and which would've been much harder with customers playing the course while it was done.

The 4th and 9th greens were sandbanded and we installed 150 meters of drains. Digging to a depth of 800mm and installing pipe and gravel. Both processes we hope will improve our two greens that struggle the most. Turf was cut and removed to do this and replaced afterwards. It was interesting to see how much clay there was beneath the surface.

Many regular maintenance activities are done twice a year, overseeding, fertilising and removing thatch from the greens. I would love to do some of these more often, but staffing levels, budgets and trying to keep down the use of additional chemicals makes twice a year the limit. Things like aeration can be done every 3-4 weeks if staffing and weather allow.

In the year 30-40 tonnes of sand are applied to the greens to improve drainage and trueness and 10-20 tonnes of sand were added to bunkers. In the growing season, greens were mowed every day. Every week pin positions were moved on the greens to spread wear, and fairways, tees and our rough mown. Rough takes about 2 days a week to mow and so you can see how much staff time this takes to do weekly. Every month bunkers were edged, strimmed and weeded. Other regular tasks include slit tining the tees, pruning trees to make space for golf play and mower to pass, priming up and draining down the irrigation system.

Bunkers remain a problem area and time consuming maintenance. They are raked 4 times a week and yet they are often almost immediately disturbed by dogs visiting them, even though they should not be on the golf course at any time. This year five bunkers were filled in, as they really didn't add to the play of the course and it allowed more time for other tasks and spread the bunker sand we can afford much further.

Achievements and performance (continued)

The majority of our machinery is maintained inhouse now, which saves thousands of pounds a year and keeps down time to a minimum. Work is only outsourced now if it is impossible for us to do the work, or for specialist work such as grinding and sharpening mower parts.

In the last year we made changes to the compound adding modern doors and windows for security and comfort. We invested in an electric utility truck and a scarifier for the greens– to undertake a task which hasn't been done at that depth for many years and will now be possible more regularly. Long term repair work was also done to our irrigation system, replacing the pump and a leaking liner. Most of the system is on automatic and waters in the early hours of the morning, which is the best time to water. Two areas of the site no longer work on automatic which is a pain to do manually, but the repair cost would involve massive disruption and so it is something we have to live with and so they are watered manually.

We've continued to work on our own research and with the environmental task group to find alternative means of improving quality without using as many chemicals as used to be very normal on golf courses. We are happy to try anything that seems to be effective and cost effective and there have been some unusual trials over the last year and they will continue. We may never be totally chemically free, but much progress has been made to reduce our use of them over the last few years.

I was really pleased how the whole golf course recovered after the lockdowns. The golf course continues to get compliments which is very gratifying considering the small staff team and tight budgets. While the Community Trust may be a charity, the golf course has to be presented to be compared with courses that are run more commercially, as customers can decide each and every time where they want to play and give their custom. The good thing is that every penny that comes in through the golf course is reinvested back into the site where it is needed – whether on the golf course, park or woodland.

We were really pleased that Andy Powell joined the team permanently in December 2020 after working on and off providing cover during sickness absences for two years. He now joins myself and Daryl Jones and is able to work using most of the machinery, but will be going to college to increase his knowledge and qualifications.

Alan Merricks

Inside the "Golf" Shop
Due to the lockdown restrictions the golf course started the year in Lockdown and trading was halted a further twice through the year. During each of the closures shop staff were placed on furlough and the building and golf course were closed.

When we were able to open England Golf provided guidelines for safe play and we continued to change our practices to adhere to the restrictions. The initial restrictions included, 2-ball groups, 9 holes only, no hiring of equipment, 10 minute tee-times and players unable to remove the flags on the greens. The guidance changed every time restrictions changed and we learnt to be ready to implement changes with very short notice

When the golf course re-opened after each Lockdown we experienced a very high demand for tee-times. After Lockdown 1, we heard the news that there were no plans for Brandhall Golf Course to re-open. There were also delays to reopening two MyTime Active courses (Birmingham City Council). Hill Top Golf Course was closed with plans for a refurbishment and the opening of Harborne Church Farm was delayed by a few weeks, and this all resulted in Warley Woods receiving a high number of new players wishing to register to play. Some players were new to the course, others had played here more than five years ago, when we introduced OSWALD (our database and booking system).

Achievements and performance (continued)

As England Golf relaxed some of the restrictions we were able to allow the Golf Club to begin their competition fixtures and 18 hole rounds were allowed and 4 ball groups.

The demand for tee-times continued to be high at peak times and the number of new players registering to play on the golf course continued. Through the 2020/21 year we have registered 2177 new players. Some of these we know were regular Brandhall Players who have now signed up to our Season Ticket for unlimited golf and play regularly on the course. Some players were able to play more frequently due to their work commitments as furlough terms were extended.

The Golf Club, which is based at the course, also experienced an increase in memberships through 2020 with players wishing to play club and competition golf.

Shop staff, Sharon Simpson, Sarah Wagstaff, Nicolas Burrows, Don Gribben and Jordan While adapted to the restrictions and the increase in registrations brilliantly and at times we enrolled the help of volunteers Arthur and Linda Ward and also Eve Trinham joined the team to relieve the pressure. Jordan While resigned in December 2020 and as we were immediately locked down, we delayed appointing his replacement until we were able to reopen again.

The sad news about the passing of John McBride in March 2020 shocked many players who had known him over the many years he had played golf. He had been the President of the golf club for 15 years. Due to the restrictions through 2020 a special event in memory of John was delayed until June 2021 but a fund-raising effort was started with funds raised being donated to Warley Woods Community Trust. The grand total of £1,000 was achieved in June 2021. In January 2021 at the Golf Club AGM a new President was elected, James Bustin, who started golf for the club as a junior.

In July 2020 there was news that a bid for funding, for the Summer Golf Camp had been successful. Eve Trinham was a key person with registering and booking juniors onto the funded golf camps. The grant included a packed lunch so dietary needs were recorded too. The coaching was carried out by Greg Lynch and assisted by Richard Steadman. The golf camp took place over 9 days with 2 sessions each day, all 180 places were booked prior to the camp starting. 83 individual children actually attended, they were allowed up to 3 sessions each.

As Christmas approached the physical shop was stocked with Christmas and gift cards, but we were locked down again in November, a key month for gift sales. So books and other popular Warley Woods merchandise were put online and online orders were handled from home as part-time furlough was allowed. Local deliveries were made by hand and we offered a click and collect service with appointments to attend the Pavilion to keep staff and customers safe. Combined with shop sales when we were allowed to open, we sold out of our current range of Christmas cards in the weeks up to Christmas.

Another new item for the online shop was Golf Club memberships and for Black Friday for the second year, we offered an extended term Season Ticket which could be purchased online only as the shop was still closed.

With the café still affected with restrictions after the golf course and shop were allowed to open, the shop extended its hot drinks and snacks service for golfers and park users. It was an ideal opportunity for people to visit the Pavilion and see the stock on sale.

Achievements and performance (continued)

We started the new financial year still under restrictions, but visitors and golfers are still making the shop and golf course very busy. We are very grateful to all our customers for their resilience in adapting to the new rules and new system, and for their patience while only limited numbers were allowed in our shop and especially to those who kept ringing to book, when our phone line and staff were so busy. Thank you all.

Sharon Simpson

Site Subgroup
The Site Sub Group members are staff, trustees and volunteers: Steve Cemm, Diane Douglas, Alan Merricks, Mick Guy, John Reeves, John Newman and Arthur Ward (Chair). It supports the Trust in meeting its strategic objectives, one of which is the attainment of Green Flag status, by the active management of the Trust's physical resources. The sub group met each monthly via Zoom (except April) to discuss the management of the park, woodland and golf course areas, with particular regard to the Covid pandemic. The group supports and plans significant projects together with other sub groups and the Trust Manager.

The Covid 19 pandemic had a major impact on the site and Community Trust this year, as it did for everyone else. We lost a valued and valuable member of the site group, John McBride, who passed away due to the virus in March.

Groundstaff had to make major adjustments to their working practices and were often furloughed as the government advice changed over the course of the pandemic.

All projects and activities had to be reassessed and occasionally postponed or cancelled in order to keep everyone safe and comply with frequently evolving and changing legislation including volunteer sessions. Early in the year the Trust had to put on hold all significant expenditure as a result of our loss of golf course income and fear the situation could deteriorate.

The use of the park increased very significantly and many informal paths arose as visitors tried to maintain social distance rules whilst taking allowed daily exercise.

I would like to put on record the Site Subgroup's particular thanks to all those volunteers who cared for the site over the last year especially those who regularly and diligently picked up litter for us. The significant increase in use of the site for outdoor exercise produced a very significant increase in our litter problem and if it wasn't for these volunteers and our groundstaff the site would have looked very sorry indeed. The groundstaff also rose to the new challenges in their working practices and kept the site safe and cared for.

The group's responsibilities for the year were:

1 Environment Task group follow up
2 The Pavilion.
3 Woodland/Parkland management
4 Tree nursery maintenance
5 Golf course management and improvement.
6 Wild Warley and Wilderness management.
7 Health and Safety
8 Path improvements.
9 Compound management.
10 Volunteer tasks.
11 Play area maintenance.
12 Other.

Achievements and performance (continued)

1. Our new second-hand electric truck arrived this year and has proved to be very useful in terms of the efficiency of the groundstaff team as well as reducing our use of diesel fuel and CO2 output. We have had to undertake minor repairs as we get to grips with this new technology. As noted above litter on site was a significant problem over the last year and a large wheeled container bin was hired and placed at the Abbey Road entrance to the site to support our litter pickers and the public in general to manage this. Our bought in container-grown trees were all specified to be peat free.

2. During the year we were able to undertake some tasks around the Pavilion taking advantage of closed periods. The lobby and corridor were redecorated thanks to Shabs at Londonderry Hardware who donated the paint and John and Diane who did the work. The five year electrical inspection was completed. The cark park traffic control lines were repainted as they had become very faded. The Pavilion roof needed attention for small leaks. A gravel soakaway was created to help prevent flooding in the café during heavy rainfall and a new (Green) flag pole was installed at the main entrance.

3. Our biennial tree safety survey was commissioned and started but unfortunately had to be postponed because of the lockdown. It will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Ten large commercially grown, sponsored, trees were planted in the meadow, former rose garden, hanging groups and at the north end of the meadow.

The Trust applied to OVO energy to take part in their tree planting campaign and received over 500 whips including trees and hedgerow plants. Many of these were planted by volunteers straight out on site but the majority of trees were potted up to be grown on in the new tree nursery (see below). The Woodland Trust donated a similar number of whips and woodland plants and little later in the year Extinction Rebellion put out an appeal to save three quarters of a million unwanted oaks from being destroyed. We were able to help by taking two hundred, most of which were planted straight into our ancient oak woodland by volunteers.

Our perimeter fence on Abbey road was damaged by a vehicle – application to the uninsured drivers fund (MIB) has been made.

4 The final part of the tree nursery funding from Seven Trent was agreed in June this year. Unfortunately, because of lockdown, the installation was delayed several times and will now be completed in the next financial year. The tree whips (approximately 300) mentioned above have been potted up and cared for by volunteers and will be transferred to the new nursery at the earliest opportunity.

5 The golf course was been closed for significant parts of the year due to Covid restrictions and very busy when golfing was allowed. The groundstaff team took the later closed periods as an opportunity to undertake major drainage works on the 7th green to improve its condition and playability. The sand banding previously undertaken has made a big difference particularly to the fourth green. A new tractor driven scarifier, to remove thatch, was purchased to help improve turf quality. The irrigation tank needed relining and after delays was completed in February. New notices informing and guiding the public not to access the golf course and to use the perimeter paths were planned and installed.

6 The main work undertaken in the Wilderness this year has been driven by the Wild Warley project including the commencement of the larger permanent water feature and hedge planting. The selected area for the main pool has been mostly excavated and will be finished and lined prior to filling and planting, hopefully over the next summer. Some small areas have also been excavated in this area to create temporary pools in the winter and spring to encourage those insects and amphibians that need this occasional water source for their life cycle.

Achievements and performance (continued)

At various locations of the site we are trialling wild meadow areas. These are at the north and south ends of the main meadow, adjacent to the golf course and along Barclay Road adjacent to Abbey Road school. The grass in these areas will not be cut until later in the year so as to determine what types of grass we have and what wild flowers the soil might support.

7 This year our main health and safety considerations have been around the Covid pandemic. All government guidance was followed and risk assessments were drawn up and implemented for all staff and volunteers attending the site. When volunteering was permitted a booking system was implemented to control numbers. The groundstaff risk assessments included lone working, staggered lunch breaks, frequent cleaning of tools and touch points and machinery. Only volunteer leaders were permitted to use the compound.

8 Path improvements to the former rose garden have been on our wish list for a number of years now. It has not been possible to move forward with this this year. However we are hoping to look at this whole area of the park and consider how we might sensitively restore this area, including the paths, if we can attract grant money.

9 This year, again, we saw a member of the groundstaff team leave us but we managed to hold interviews before the last lockdown and make an appointment in December. Again we were able to undertake the vast majority of our own servicing to our machinery. After the funds for the compound security upgrade were released when our financial position became more secure the work was completed in September including new security lighting.

10. When Covid restrictions allowed volunteers supported the work of the ground-staff with four planned regular sessions per month. They also came together for particular tasks such as clearing drainage ditches and tree planting. There were no corporate volunteer groups this year. Towards the end of the year we were again joined by a small group of young people undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Award as volunteers helping with general site tasks alongside our regular volunteers.

11. We kept the play area closed while legally required, but opened it again as soon as we could with safety guidance for parents. During this period it was not inspected. When open the play area and teenage swings were inspected every day by ground-staff and maintained throughout the year. The annual external inspection of our play equipment took place in September and reported minor issues that the groundstaff attended to.

12. We were very pleased, given the pandemic, to be able to put on our plant sale again this year. The organisers (volunteers) and our local community helped us raise over £2,000 for the Trust from this very popular event.

Arthur Ward

Achievements and performance (continued)

Communications Subgroup
Members: Martin Bottoms, Andrew Bull, Viv Cole, Katy Holmes, Kate Slade (Chair), Jane Taylor, David Viney.

During this strange and very difficult year communication has been key to the survival of the Trust. In March 2020 when income dropped substantially due of the closure of the golf course and the shop, the Trust did not know if it would be able to survive financially and it was crucial that this information was shared with both the local community and the wider public. That this happened was largely down to Viv Cole, the Trust Manager who at that time was working alone from home.

To meet this crisis, in April 2020 Viv set up an appeal for financial help (The Heroes Appeal) and people responded magnificently. Two of the sub-group's aims pre-pandemic had been to increase the number of direct debits to the Trust and getting people more involved with the Trust. This appeal did both, and thanks to the generosity of both the local and the wider community enough money was donated to help reassure the Trustees that there was a viable future ahead. The local media picked up the story and Viv was interviewed for local BBC television. She then called upon one of our patrons, Julie Walters, to do a video appeal to reinforce the message. This was very successful, was picked up by the BBC Midlands Today and reached a wide audience. On the back of this Radio 4 also produced a half hour programme, Open Country, about Warley Woods and the Community Trust, thus adding to our profile nationally. Talk about great communications opportunities!

While the importance of the traditional media cannot be underestimated the appeal also showed the power of social media, particularly Facebook, in getting messages out to large numbers of people. Although obviously not part of the plan for the year this is an indication of how good communication can really help in a crisis. Another one of our Patrons helped with publicity later in the year. Stuart Maconie encouraged the Gadget Show to film a piece involving the testing of new walking tech in February and while the foggy weather didn't show the site in its best colours – it was still fantastic to see different areas of the site on national TV.

While lockdowns and restricted movement have affected the workings of the Trust the Communications sub group has continued monthly meetings by Zoom after an initial pause in April and May 2020. Whilst these meetings are not as satisfactory as face to face they have enabled us to continue our core business during the year.

This has included the quarterly production of the members' newsletter, The LEAFlet. We had to make changes, though, as restrictions meant that we were unable to bring together the usual group of volunteers to do the collation and labelling. We were able to use money from the NHLF resilience grant to cover the extra costs of printing and stapling and they were made ready for delivery by small groups of staff or volunteers. Thanks to all the volunteers who were able to continue the hand delivering for us during these difficult times. We have continued to have the LEAFlet printed all year and the situation will be kept under review for the coming year.

Several of the group's aims were able to be met despite the pandemic. These included

- the refurbishment of the lobby in the Pavilion to make it more attractive to visitors;
- the amending and reprinting of the Volunteer leaflet;
- continuing blogs to drive more people to the website;
- A User Survey undertaken in autumn 2020. The survey threw up some interesting points. We had thought that there might be a high proportion of respondents new to the site since lockdown, but this did not prove to be the case and most respondents had been using the site for a number of years. There was considerable support for the environmental importance of the site and the Trust being able to maintain this; BAME respondents were below the number expected for the area and the Communities and Events group are looking further to try and understand why and what the Trust might need to do in the future. Generally the responses were extremely positive about both the site and the Trust with many individual points being made in addition to the questions.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Other issues which have been part of the group's work during this year have included

- the revision/rewording of the notices round the golf course;
- consideration of whether the Trust's Facebook group should become private or remain public (we have decided that it should remain public at the moment);
- collecting Lockdown Stories from park users to form an archive of the pandemic and the role of the Woods during this time (Lockdown Memories);
- early thoughts on the possible ways of celebrating the 100th Anniversary in 2021 of the golf course being opened as a public course;
- looking at ways of moving forward the manufacture of a Warley Woods board game which has been created by one of our volunteers (Creative Black Country have been helping with this);
- promoting a fundraising medal – 'Warley Woods got me through lockdown'
- moving from using Mailchimp to Sendinblue for communications to our supporters and members
- amending the format of the AGM taking into account the need to conduct the meeting by Zoom

Kate Slade

Resources Subgroup
Members: David Read (Chair), Steve Eling, Andrew Williams, Mike Talbot, Viv Cole. Resources is a sub group which meets as and when to discuss organisational and financial matters.

The year had started with a good outlook from the view of our budget with increased golf income forecast – then – the pandemic. With the golf course closed revenue dropped dramatically but our outgoings were still going forward. However, with the help of our incredible supporters, the furlough scheme and various other grants available to us we were able to weather the storm and to put aside extra cash into our reserves to cover the many large items now nearing the end of their useful lives. We kept a keen eye on our revenue accounts, reporting back and advising Board so that all Trustees were fully aware of the situation on a month by month basis.

Although this created additional checks and balances, the normal work of the sub group also continued and we liaised with our external accountants to formulate a new VAT recovery scheme to enable maximum VAT recovery. This has resulted in our ticketed events carrying VAT but should enable a greater recovery rate.

Our disciplinary procedure was revisited with a great deal of help from our Vice Chair Arthur Ward and revised to ensure that we complied with the current ACAS guidelines. Also, it was time to review our employment contracts so that they also comply with the latest regulations and this was achieved with the help of external HR consultants.

With the increased membership contributions, donations and grants, we were in a situation where our bank balances were exceeding the limits covered by the guarantee if a bank defaulted, so additional, interest-bearing accounts were resourced, opened and transfers made so that our balances were, wherever possible, below the guarantee limits.

All Trustees had prepared a matrix of their skills and interests and it was agreed that this would be made available on the website in a summary-only version so that interested parties could see where the Trust was maybe lacking in any specific area.

New contracts for both Ice-cream and coffee were discussed, finalised and offered to the contractors. It was agreed to suspend rentals at times for the Café due to them being unable to open for the majority of the year.

Achievements and performance (continued)

As meetings were being held by Zoom, the time limit meant that our normal Planning Day procedures had to be reviewed. Some items which would normally be discussed were broken down and brought to Board over several months so that these items were already in place and agreed before Planning Day in order that the day itself could concentrate on the budget and our 5 year plan.

Draft budgets were considered and amended to pass to Board for discussion on Planning Day and then for approval after any final amendments at the March Board meeting.

All in all a very busy year for the sub-group doing essential work and ensuring that finance was kept under review at all times – not the most exciting work at the Trust but very essential!

David J Read

Communities Sub Group
Members: Kate Slade, Liz Coleman (Chair part year), Barbara Platts, Kathy Hodgkinson, Andy Nott, Chris Ashford, Charlotte Trinham, Lisa Burrows Pat Marsh, Paula Trinham (Chair part year)

The key focuses of the group are

1. Planning and Organising Events including vetting external requests
2. Schools Liaison
3. Community Engagement

1. Events in the last year have been severely impacted by restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Well-established and much loved events including The Picnic, Halloween Trail and Santa in the Woods were cancelled. The Trust has kept in touch with the community by offering some engagement online through social media including a quiz, special appearance from Santa and an audio-visual January Bird Walk. The Communities sub-group continued to meet and plan for delivering events in a range of ways, as well as for the return of regular events programme.

2. Schools Liaison - Ongoing liaison has continued with local schools many of which the Trust has close relationships with. Members of the Communities sub-group have communicated with different local schools about events, information and opportunities to be involved in Lockdown Memories, competitions, Wild Warley information and volunteering.

3. Community Engagement: Wild Warley Project Manager, Doug Barber, has provided online training in bird-surveying, winter tree ID and has been able to offer small group practical habitat management session. The Communities group have worked closely with him to provide support and promote further community engagement. During National Lockdown it has become evident, as never before, how much Warley Woods offers the community. It has been a place where the community could safely exercise and meet others out of doors, as restrictions allowed. We are looking forward to the exciting new community arts project 'Woodland Tales' which will include collaborative workshops with Brandhall School, local families and venues. The Trust secured funding from Sandwell Council Town Grants and Arts Council England for this innovative project. The Communities Group considered the results of the Users' Survey and continue to explore ways of encouraging new engagement from the diverse communities in the surrounding area. Connections have been made with other local interest groups.

Liz Coleman

Achievements and performance (continued)

Environmental Policy And Management Group
Members: Liz Coleman, Lisa Burrows, Alan Reynolds, Kate Slade

The Environmental Task Group carried out an overview of the Trust's Environmental policies and procedures following the guidance in the Green Flag Handbook. The group meets when required and this has been on average around once every two months. The Environmental Task Group created an action plan and made recommendations to the Board of Trustees. This led to environmental management tasks being added to the Trust's Five Year Plan.

The action plan includes consideration of the environmental of impact of projects, reducing energy and chemical use and promoting good management of waste. Management of Warley Woods for biodiversity and climate change benefits has also been part of the group's discussion. Progress on these activities were allocated to subgroup areas where they best fit, but some issues need to be worked on across a variety of subgroups and staff teams. The Environmental Task Group oversees progress on these issues and Environment Champions have been identified for each sub-group. This group continues to monitor progress on actions and research further areas where environmental impact is a factor.

Liz Coleman

Financial review

- **Reserves policy**

The management committee has undertaken an analysis of future needs, opportunities and contingencies or risks, which could not be met out of income when and if they arise. It has also taken account of forecasts for income levels in future years, on the basis of planned activity and the reliability of various income streams, and made forecasts of future expenditure. Accordingly the management committee has developed a policy on reserves for the following reasons:-

- To respond to changes or loss of generated income or grants.
- To invest in advance in potential new areas of work such as training or other new sources of income.
- To enable the community trust to honour its contractual obligations to staff, contractors, suppliers and funders.

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves that it needs in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the organisation and the work that it delivers. The Trustees are aware of the large liability of a site open for public use 24 hours a day and the potential expense which might arise through vandalism. It also has many aspirations for future investment. The charity's current reserves are considered adequate for the sustainability and operation of the organisation, but the Trust would like to increase these to provide a stronger financial buffer for the organisation. Each year the Trust plans a budget to ensure reserves are not needed for general expenditure and with the hope that with prudent financial management reserve levels can be increased slightly. Reserves are only drawn upon to meet an emergency, unforeseen need which goes beyond any contingency in the budget, or to make an investment in equipment or facilities for which grant funding could not be secured.

Due to the uncertain financial times we are currently experiencing due to COVID-19, The Trustees have looked again at its risk management register and think it prudent to retain additional reserves of £100,000 against COVID-19 risks at this current time. This makes our reserves higher than we would normally feel necessary, but feels prudent. Whenever those risks are felt to be past, if those reserves have not been needed, then future decisions about investment in physical improvements, capital investment or project activities will be made.

The current fund stands at £381,032 (2020: £226,145) of which £86,957 (2020: £100,235) is restricted and £294,075 (2020: £125,910) is unrestricted. The free reserves available for general use (ie those not represented by either fixed assets or restricted funds) totalled £265,922 (2020: £96,925).

Structure, governance and management

- **Constitution**

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association.

- **Methods of appointment or election of Trustees**

The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Under those rules, the Board has a membership of between 10 and 15. Members are appointed for a three year term and can restand again at the end of this term. Up to 4 members can be co-opted.

Trustees are asked to submit a resumé of their interests and abilities in support of their election, and on appointment are supported through induction to help them become fully effective. Trustees are encouraged to attend seminars and training events to update their skills and knowledge.

All Trustees participate in monthly business meetings, and an annual planning and team building day, to agree the strategy and priorities for the forthcoming year. Trustees also take part in sub-groups described elsewhere in this report, and from time to time the board will hold additional meetings for planning and training

- **Organisational structure and decision-making policies**

The role of the Board is to give direction and guidance to paid staff and volunteers and to take strategic and resource decisions to ensure the Trust is effective.

The Board takes responsibility for all strategic management issues and operates through sub-groups who carry out the implementation of strategy and report back to the Board on progress and make recommendations to inform future decisions.

For specific projects, including the Picnic in The Park, working or task groups are convened to manage and monitor the progress of the specified project. At least one member of the Board is involved in these groups and reports regularly to the full Board.

Some Board Members take on particular roles which can give a level of responsibility outside of the subgroup structure. These are the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Company Secretary, Health and Safety Manager. One Trustee is nominated by the Chair as the line manager for the Trust Manager.

Plans for future periods

Our Board of Trustees met in February on Zoom to review our plans and decide on any new focus area or projects. As you can imagine several plans for 2020-21 were put on hold but now our development plans have come back to the fore again.

This includes completing the new tree nursery and to developing the permanent wetland area on the Wilderness. We will also be improving our small golf practice area. As usual, we will continue to invest and improve the golf course, improving bunkers and drainage on greens are a priority. There are also plans to install irrigation heads on the putting green, improve the "entrance" onto the course and hopefully, if income continues strongly, buy a new rough mower to speed up this time consuming weekly task. We continue to work on our environment plan.

Our Wild Warley project is in its third year and continues to offer engagement activities at a variety of levels – introductory, expert and management training. We have a special arts project running this summer called Woodland Tales with specially created sculptures, workshops for families, adults and involving a local school. We will be offering as many events as we can – even if not, unfortunately, most of our larger events. There will be walks and talks and training for Wild Warley and some online and self-guided trails on offer and we will expand our offering if circumstances allow in the Autumn.

Our community communications remains a strong thread of our work – not just to promote activities and events and to solicit donations, but to ensure the Trust and Warley Woods feel like part of the heart of the community. Having a park managed by the local community brings with it community pride, identity and a sense of connection for many. So we continue to work on online as well as offline ways of connecting. For example sharing modern and historic photographs, running photography competitions and simply sharing information about what is going on, or why things are happening. These are all part of our work.

We have already submitted our application for Green Flag award and of course if the competition runs again for "UK's Favourite Park" we will be canvassing for votes all over again.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' 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 charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 Companies Act 2006. 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.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Eling



Date: 17 August 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Warley Woods Community Trust Limited ('the charity')
I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the Trustees of the charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: Helen Blundell Dated: 7 September 2021

Helen Blundell LLB FCA FCIE DChA

MHA MacIntyre Hudson
Chartered Accountants
Rutland House
148 Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2FD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**298,641**	**16,007**	**314,648**	*289,830*
Charitable activities	4	**148,703**	**-**	**148,703**	*120,314*
Other trading activities		**20,194**	**-**	**20,194**	*35,492*
Investments		**882**	**-**	**882**	*559*
Total income		**468,420**	**16,007**	**484,427**	*446,195*
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		**6,125**	**-**	**6,125**	*12,962*
Charitable activities	5	**297,550**	**25,865**	**323,415**	*327,384*
Total expenditure		**303,675**	**25,865**	**329,540**	*340,346*
Net income/(expenditure)		**164,745**	**(9,858)**	**154,887**	*105,849*
Transfers between funds	13	**3,780**	**(3,780)**	**-**	*-*
Net movement in funds		**168,525**	**(13,638)**	**154,887**	*105,849*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**125,910**	**100,235**	**226,145**	*120,296*
Net movement in funds		**168,525**	**(13,638)**	**154,887**	*105,849*
Total funds carried forward		**294,435**	**86,597**	**381,032**	*226,145*

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 23 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

WARLEY WOODS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04214547

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note		2021 £		2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		**28,513**		*28,985*
Current assets					
Stocks	10	**7,534**		*6,459*	
Debtors	11	**113,802**		*81,259*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**252,830**		*134,199*	
		374,166		*221,917*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(21,647)**		*(24,757)*	
Net current assets			**352,519**		*197,160*
Total net assets			**381,032**		*226,145*
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	13		**86,597**		*100,235*
Unrestricted funds	13		**294,435**		*125,910*
Total funds			**381,032**		*226,145*

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Eling

Date: 17 August 2021

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. General information

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the Charity's operations is to restore and sustain Warley Woods Park and develop its facilities and events for the use of the local community in the interests of social welfare and to promote education.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are presented in British pound sterling and rounded to the nearest £.

Warley Woods Community Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have considered the relevant information, including the annual budget, forecast future cash flows and the impact of subsequent events in making their assessment. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trustees have reviewed the forecasts taking into account the potential impact on the business of possible future scenarios arising from the impact of COVID-19. This also considers the effectiveness of available measures to assist in mitigating the impact.

Based on these assessments and having regard to the resources available to the entity, the Trustees have concluded that it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Trustees' Report and accounts.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, .

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery	-	25%	Reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	-	33%	Straight line
Other fixed assets	-	10%	Straight line

2.7 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs.

2.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.10 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

2.11 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.12 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Grants			
Sandwell MBC	72,488	-	**72,488**
Other	16,900	16,007	**32,907**
COVID-19 Grants			
Job Retention Scheme	33,264	-	**33,264**
Business Grant	25,000	-	**25,000**
Closure Compensation	15,500	-	**15,500**
National Lottery Heritage Fund	24,300	-	**24,300**
	187,452	16,007	**203,459**
Donations	111,189	-	**111,189**
Grants	-	-	**-**
Subtotal	111,189	-	**111,189**
	298,641	16,007	**314,648**

3. Income from donations and legacies (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	*Restricted funds 2020 £*	*Total funds 2020 £*
Grants			
Sandwell MBC	*72,488*	-	*72,488*
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	*97,600*	*97,600*
Ibstock Enovert	-	*15,000*	*15,000*
Millies Watch	*20,000*	-	*20,000*
Other	*11,850*	*9,229*	*21,079*
	104,338	*121,829*	*226,167*
Donations	*63,663*	-	*63,663*
Grants	-	-	-
Subtotal	*63,663*	-	*63,663*
	168,001	*121,829*	*289,830*

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	**Total funds 2021 £**
Golf and green fee income	148,703	**148,703**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Golf and green fee income	*120,314*	*120,314*

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Charitable Activities	297,550	25,865	**323,415**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	*Restricted funds 2020 £*	*Total funds 2020 £*
Charitable activities	*305,790*	*21,594*	*327,384*

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Charitable Activities	279,408	44,006	**323,414**

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £	*Support costs 2020 £*	*Total funds 2020 £*
Charitable Activities	*289,971*	*37,413*	*327,384*

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Staff costs	**203,799**	*191,286*
Property and accomodation	**5,486**	*6,963*
Shop stock	**2,626**	*2,752*
Site maintenance and upkeep	**55,126**	*65,776*
Other projects	**11,871**	*18,549*
Direct support costs	**500**	*4,645*
	279,408	*289,971*

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Staff costs	**-**	*386*
Depreciation	**8,321**	*8,834*
Recruitment and training	**325**	*681*
Insurance	**4,686**	*5,663*
Finance	**7,089**	*3,681*
Office costs	**20,764**	*15,566*
Independent examination	**2,821**	*2,602*
	44,006	*37,413*

7. Staff costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	**186,179**	*173,914*
Social security costs	**9,333**	*9,508*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**8,287**	*8,250*
	203,799	*191,672*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
	13	*13*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The aggregate cost to the charity of Key management personnel in the year (being inclusive of employer national insurance and employer pension) was £101,686 (2020: £99,211). Key management personnel are considered to be the trust, retail and golf and park management.

8. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2020 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 31 March 2021, no Trustee expenses have been incurred *(2020 - £NIL)*.

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2020	**162,682**	**33,895**	**80,281**	**276,858**
Additions	**3,780**	**-**	**4,069**	**7,849**
At 31 March 2021	**166,462**	**33,895**	**84,350**	**284,707**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2020	**143,443**	**32,525**	**71,905**	**247,873**
Charge for the year	**5,755**	**1,370**	**1,196**	**8,321**
At 31 March 2021	**149,198**	**33,895**	**73,101**	**256,194**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2021	**17,264**	**-**	**11,249**	**28,513**
At 31 March 2020	*19,239*	*1,370*	*8,376*	*28,985*

10. Stocks

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Finished goods and goods for resale	**7,534**	*6,459*

Due to the lockdown introduced by the Government on 23 March 2020, a full stock count did not take place at 31 March 2020. It is estimated that levels were broadly in line with the previous year.

11. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Due within one year		
Other debtors	**28,333**	*10,895*
Prepayments and accrued income	**85,469**	*70,364*
	113,802	*81,259*

Included within accrued income are grants awarded but not yet received from the Heritage Lottery and Ibstock Enovert totalling £63,800 in relation to the Wild Warley Project.

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	**7,539**	*13,020*
Other taxation and social security	**3,354**	*4,572*
Other creditors	**7,505**	*4,022*
Accruals and deferred income	**3,249**	*3,143*
	21,647	*24,757*

13. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	125,910	468,420	(303,675)	3,780	294,435
Restricted funds					
Golf	-	3,330	(3,240)	-	90
Community projects	1,999	5,500	(1,366)	-	6,133
Park improvements	5,850	7,177	(508)	(3,780)	8,739
Wild Warley	92,386	-	(20,751)	-	71,635
	100,235	16,007	(25,865)	(3,780)	86,597
Total of funds	226,145	484,427	(329,540)	-	381,032

Due to the high volume of grants, some have been pooled together under the headings of Park Inprovements, Community Projects and Golf. Where grants have been pooled the use of the individual restricted grants have been included below.

GOLF
Sandwell Council - Delivery of a golf camp

PARK IMPROVEMENTS
Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust / Severn Trent Community Fund - Funds towards the nursery project
Rowlands Trust - Funds for the purchase of a truck
John Feeney Trust - Funds for the purchase of equipment
Lady Tangye Trust - Funds for the purchase of whacker plate

COMMUNITY PROJECTS
Town team grant/ Creative Black Country - Funds towards an arts project.
SVCO - Funds towards an 'Outdoor Room' project

WILD WARLEY
Heritage lottery - Funds for the Wild Warley project to be spent across 2019/20 and 2020/21
Ibstock Enovert - Funds for the installation of a water area in the Wild Warley project

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Balance at 31 March 2020* £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	*120,296*	*324,366*	*(318,752)*	*125,910*
Restricted funds				
Community projects	-	*1,999*	-	*1,999*
Park improvements	-	*7,230*	*(1,380)*	*5,850*
Wild Warley	-	*112,600*	*(20,214)*	*92,386*
	-	*121,829*	*(21,594)*	*100,235*
Total of funds	*120,296*	*121,829*	*(340,346)*	*226,145*

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	**Restricted funds 2021** £	**Total funds 2021** £
Tangible fixed assets	28,513	-	**28,513**
Current assets	287,569	86,597	**374,166**
Creditors due within one year	(21,647)	-	**(21,647)**
Total	294,435	86,597	**381,032**

14. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	*Restricted funds 2020* £	*Total funds 2020* £
Tangible fixed assets	*28,985*	-	*28,985*
Current assets	*121,682*	*100,235*	*221,917*
Creditors due within one year	*(24,757)*	-	*(24,757)*
Total	*125,910*	*100,235*	*226,145*

15. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contributions workplace pension scheme through The People's Pension. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £8,287 (2020: £8,250). Contributions totalling £883 (2020: £280) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

16. Related party transactions

In the period there were no related party transactions (2020: £ Nil).