

Charity registration number 1098378 (England and Wales)

**LITTER WATCH**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025**

# LITTER WATCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	Ian Jones (Chair) Jane Mitchell-Barnes Joanna Haydon John Murphy Joseph Piggott
<b>Charity number</b>	1098378
<b>Principal address</b>	C/O Serco Eagle Transfer Hub Danks Way Tipton West Midlands DY4 7BT
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Neal and Co Business Services Limited Shakespeare Buildings 26 Cradley Road West Midlands B64 6AG
<b>Bankers</b>	Barclays Bank PLC West Bromwich Branch 313 High Street West Bromwich West Midlands B61 8LP

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# LITTER WATCH

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# LITTER WATCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

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The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

#### Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment for public benefit, nominally in Sandwell and the surrounding areas.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what specific activities the Charity should undertake in accounting year.

The aims adopted by the charity to achieve these objects are as follows:

- 1) To promote practical measures and encourage partnerships to eliminate litter.
- 2) To support and improve the general house keeping of the local area.
- 3) To raise public awareness in matters relating to the benefits of sustainable waste management practices.

The trustees achieve these aims by the employment of a Project Manager who, as well as giving direct support to the public, also consults with partners and advises volunteers throughout the borough.

#### Achievements and performance

As I present my fourth annual report as Chair of Litter Watch, I do so with immense pride in the resilience, creativity, and compassion that continue to define our organisation. The past year has been one of challenge and opportunity, with the charity sector navigating economic pressures, environmental urgency, and growing demand for community-led solutions. Through it all, Litter Watch has remained steadfast in its mission: empowering individuals and communities to care for their environment.

#### Volunteers at the Heart of Our Work

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of Litter Watch. With more than 2,400 people signed up, we have seen an extraordinary rise in active involvement. Some head out daily, others weekly, and many whenever they can—but together they make a tangible difference in every ward across Sandwell.

- 55 tonnes of litter cleared from our streets.
- Many volunteers recycle what they collect using their own bins, demonstrating personal commitment to sustainability.
- 35,000 hours of service contributed in 2024/25.

A follow-up to last year's wellbeing survey revealed that 93% of respondents felt their involvement had positively impacted their mental and physical health. This reinforces what we have long known: litter-picking is not just about cleaner streets - it is about healthier, happier lives.

#### Growing Community Spaces

Our West Bromwich allotment has flourished into a vibrant hub of activity and wellbeing. Thanks to funding from the ASDA Foundation and generous support from local businesses, we have:

- Added new raised beds.
- Improved pathways.
- Expanded our poly tunnel.

These enhancements enabled us to donate over 80 kilos of fresh produce to food pantries, volunteers, and residents - turning environmental action into tangible social value. We continue to support Hanbury Primary School in their gardening journey, giving students access to the site and teaching them practical skills in sustainability.

# LITTER WATCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

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#### Big Spring Clean 2025

This year's Big Spring Clean was a shining example of collective action. Across 51 events, an incredible 708 volunteers gave a combined 61,705 minutes of their time, resulting in the removal of 965 bags of litter.

Whether schools, residents, community groups, or businesses, every participant played a vital role in making this campaign a success. Thank you for showing up, rolling up your sleeves, and helping Sandwell shine.

#### Innovation and Education

We were delighted to expand our collaboration with St Michael's High School, using virtual reality technology to educate students on recycling and environmental stewardship. This project exemplifies our commitment to blending innovation with education, inspiring the next generation to take ownership of their surroundings.

#### Strengthening Communities

With support from Awards for All, our Adopt a Street initiative evolved into the Healthy Communities Tidy Together programme. This rebranding reflects our holistic approach - seeing litter-picking not just as civic duty, but as a pathway to stronger, more connected neighbourhoods.

#### Leadership and Thanks

I extend heartfelt thanks to our Chief Officer, Alicia Wingfield, whose vision and tenacity continue to drive Litter Watch forward. Alicia's leadership has been instrumental in securing funding, forging partnerships, and amplifying our voice across Sandwell and beyond.

#### Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, we remain committed to:

- Deepening our impact
- Expanding our reach
- Ensuring every volunteer feels valued and empowered
- Diversify our funding

Litter Watch is more than a charity - it is a movement. I am honoured to be part of it.

#### **Financial review**

The trustees have decided that an independent examination of the accounts should be carried out. This is permitted by both the Constitution and the Charities Act 2011.

Income received for the year amounted to £92326 and resources expended amounted to £88941.

The charity's financial position at the end of the year was satisfactory and was sufficient to meet its ongoing items of expenditure, future commitments and obligations.

Funding for the charity has been secured until 31 July 2026.

No other important significant events affecting the finances or operation of the charity have occurred between the balance sheet date and the signing of this report.

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

There are no specific restrictions imposed by the constitution. There are no specific investment powers set out in the constitution.

To continue with the existing objects of the charity and to expand litter watch across the Sandwell Borough.

# LITTER WATCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025**

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### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity whose operational name is 'Litter Watch' is governed by a constitution adopted by the members on the 26th April 2003.

The Management Committee is elected annually by members of the charity. There is to be a minimum of three Trustees elected at one time to manage the charity.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Ian Jones (Chair)

Jane Mitchell-Barnes


Joanna Haydon

John Murphy

Joseph Piggott

The committee meets as and when required but not less than once every three months and this meeting usually requires the co-ordinator's presence.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



**Ian Jones (Chair)**

Trustee

Dated: 15 December 2025

# LITTER WATCH

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LITTER WATCH

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I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2025, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

#### Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In connection with my examination, no other matter except that referred to in the previous paragraph has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;have not been met or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Nigel Kirkham FCCA



Neal & Co Business Services Limited  
Shakespeare Buildings  
26 Cradley Road  
Cradley Heath  
West Midlands  
B64 6AG

Dated: 15 December 2025

# LITTER WATCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	2	92,326	77,851
<b>Total income</b>		92,326	77,851
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities	3	88,941	70,248
<b>Total expenditure</b>		88,941	70,248
<b>Net income and movement in funds</b>		3,385	7,603
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>			
Fund balances at 1 August 2024		49,734	42,131
<b>Fund balances at 31 July 2025</b>		53,119	49,734

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.



# LITTER WATCH

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 JULY 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	6		428		571
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	5,000		20,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		76,006		32,100	
		81,006		52,100	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	(28,315)		(2,937)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			52,691		49,163
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			53,119		49,734
<b>The funds of the Charity</b>					
Unrestricted funds	10		53,119		49,734
			53,119		49,734

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15 December 2025

Ian Jones (Chair)  
Trustee

# LITTER WATCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Litter Watch promotes the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment for the public benefit.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with 'the Charities Act 2011' and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

#### 1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# LITTER WATCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Resources expended

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.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Resources expended on charitable activities include all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the registered charity. Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% Reducing balance
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

#### 1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

# LITTER WATCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

### 2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	-	81
Grants	92,326	77,770
	<u>92,326</u>	<u>77,851</u>
<b>Donations and gifts</b>		
Other	-	81
	<u>-</u>	<u>81</u>
<b>Grants</b>		
Other	92,326	77,770
	<u>92,326</u>	<u>77,770</u>

### 3 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs	62,991	49,824
Depreciation and impairment	143	190
Admin expenses	25,807	20,234
	<u>88,941</u>	<u>70,248</u>
	<u>88,941</u>	<u>70,248</u>

# LITTER WATCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

<b>4</b>	<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	-	-
	Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	143	190
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>5</b>	<b>Trustees</b>		
	None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year.		
<b>6</b>	<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>		
			<b>Fixtures, fittings &amp; equipment £</b>
	<b>Cost</b>		
	At 1 August 2024		1,726
	At 31 July 2025		1,726
	<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>		
	At 1 August 2024		1,155
	Depreciation charged in the year		143
	At 31 July 2025		1,298
	<b>Carrying amount</b>		
	At 31 July 2025		428
	At 31 July 2024		571
<b>7</b>	<b>Debtors</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
	Trade debtors	5,000	20,000
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# LITTER WATCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

### 8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	1,316	807
Accruals and deferred income	26,999	2,130
	<u>28,315</u>	<u>2,937</u>

### 9 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2025 £	2024 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	1,456	1,165

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

### 10 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 August 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 July 2025 £
General funds	<u>49,734</u>	<u>92,326</u>	<u>(88,941)</u>	<u>53,119</u>
Previous year:	At 1 August 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 July 2024 £
General funds	<u>42,131</u>	<u>77,851</u>	<u>(70,248)</u>	<u>49,734</u>