

Company Number: 07557852

Charity Number: 1141126

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Trustees Annual Report

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Company No. 07557852

Charity No. 1141126

Principal Office

Ow Bist Forest Community Space
Dockham Road
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2AN

Formerly, Rheola House, Belle Vue Centre, Belle Vue Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire GL14 2AB

Registered Office

Rheola House
Belle Vue Centre
Belle Vue Road
Cinderford
Gloucestershire GL14 2AB

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The following directors and trustees served during the year and up to the date of this report (*except as shown below*):

Roger Deeks
Jonathan Gault (Treasurer)
Victoria Head (*resigned 12 March 2025*)
Penelope Hulbert (Chair)
Elizabeth ~~Diana~~ Martin
Simon Murray (Deputy Chair)
Louise Penny
Sidney Phelps
Susan Pritchard (*resigned 24 March 2025*)
Robert Rhodes
Christopher Walker (*resigned 29 November 2024*)
Joshua Bond (*appointed 9 June 2025*)

Company Secretary

Christopher Brown

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Trustees Annual Report

Key Management Personnel

Christopher Brown, CEO

Nicholas Penny, Programme Manager

Teresa Allewell, Finance & Operations Manager

Felicity Simister, Youth Association Manager

Catherine Best, Communications & Fundraising Manager

Bankers

CAF Bank Limited

25 Kings Hill Avenue

Kings Hill

West Malling

Kent

ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

Christy Lau FCCA CTA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited

Beehive Mill

Jersey Street

Ancoats

Manchester

M4 6JG

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

Reference and administrative information set out on pages 1 and 2 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our purpose as a charity is to promote any charitable purpose in the area of benefit, principally but not exclusively in the area currently administered by the Forest of Dean District Council, especially in relation to the advancement of education, the protection of health and relief of poverty, sickness and distress.

The main activities to achieve the purpose of the charity are:

- (a) Promoting and organising co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes by bringing together council representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities within the area of benefit.
- (b) Associating together volunteers and organisations, in a common effort to achieve those objects through providing advice and support to persons willing to volunteer, by promoting volunteering and community involvement, including in direct service provision by providing a centre and by advising and supporting organisations which involve and are willing to involve volunteers in their charitable activities.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum Trustees Annual Report

Summary of the main activities

Community Hubs

Facilitating conversations with local residents to develop and grow grassroots community activities and groups. Creating an 'open door' for support services, education, and training provision, and gathering information to develop the Forest Compass publication with signposting for individuals to local organisations and community activities.

Digi-Hubs

The facilitation of digital hubs across the Forest of Dean to support people to learn and navigate digital solutions to specific challenges e.g. accessing online food deliveries and accessing NHS services. Due to the success of this provision, FVAF are now facilitating a countywide partnership to ensure Digital Hubs are present in every district in Gloucestershire.

Digital Inclusion Project

Facilitation of a partnership focusing on digital inclusion in the Forest of Dean. This includes undertaking local research and running pilot projects to address identified gaps.

Forest Youth Association

An association of youth groups, clubs, activities, services, councils and residents where skills, experiences and assets are shared for the benefit of young people and communities throughout the Forest of Dean. The Association facilitates a wide array of projects with and on behalf of communities. During the reporting period this included supporting the Children and Young Persons Weight Management Service (CYPWMS) and facilitating youth clubs in Blakeney, Coleford and Mitcheldean, and a Young Mum's Support Group.

Significantly, FVAF collaborated with Gloucestershire Gateway Trust (GGT), The Venture Community Hub and other partners to bid for the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) for Gloucestershire, supporting young people aged 11 to 19 (or up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities). The bid was successful, and the YSS contract began 1st October 2024 with FVAF covering the Forest of Dean district.

To support the setting up and implementation of the YSS, FVAF's Development Manager was seconded to GGT as Interim YSS Director to provide strategic capacity, build relationships with partners and Gloucester County Council, and to support and coach the FVAF Youth Team. She continued in that role (initially on a part-time basis, then on a full-time basis) until end August 2025. A new permanent YSS Director was appointed by GGT in January 2025, yet due to the successful award of a new Family Hubs contract starting 1st April 2025, FVAF's Development Manager continued to support the embedding of the YSS and later transitioned the YSS to the new permanent YSS Director.

The YSS contract will ensure the long-term sustainability of the Forest Youth Association and enable further investment by FVAF in youth and community activities over the next four to six years. In the first six (6) months of the contract (up to 31 March 25), 191 youth sessions had been delivered. In March 25 alone 650 young people were supported.

Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF/HAP)

A central government led programme to deliver food and activities to children aged 4-16 during school holidays. FVAF delivered the programme for the Forest of Dean District during the reporting year working closely with the Forest Youth Association and over 35 other local providers, many of which were local voluntary sector organisations.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum Trustees Annual Report

Know Your Patch

A fortnightly community forum that brings together voluntary sector groups, statutory services and residents to support collaborative approaches to service design and participation.

My Networks (Now MyCelium)

The facilitation of a Mental Health Alliance in the Forest of Dean, consisting of individuals, groups, and organisations that support people with mental health challenges. This includes the facilitation of a recovery and wellbeing café, a training and mentoring offer, capacity building, advocacy, and provision of a shared resource hub.

Organisational Development

FVAF keep voluntary organisations up to date with best practice and key legislative changes and help with the creation and alteration of governing documents and policies. We also help organisations, clubs and groups to publicise themselves to communities through a wide variety of mediums and networks. This includes facilitating regular community events and publishing the Forest Compass directory. During the reporting year, we facilitated DBS checks for community volunteers in order to support the safer delivery of provision in the Forest of Dean district.

Ow Bist Forest Community Space - Office Share and Meeting Room Hire

To promote closer working within the sector and better community engagement, we actively promote office sharing and meeting room hire in the space we lease from Cinderford Town Council. During the reporting period, we rented out parts of the building to North & West Gloucestershire Citizens Advice, Caring for Communities and People (CCP) and Great Oaks Hospice. We also continued to provide space for regular hirers including Lloyds Bank (providing a fortnightly community banking service) and Wyldwood Arts, as well as one-off hires for meetings, workshops and events.

Strategic Development and Advocacy

FVAF sit on a wide variety of influential partnerships, boards and forums. This includes the Community Safety Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Strategic Partnership, VCSE Strategic Partnership and Integrated Local Partnership. Here we advocate on behalf of local communities and the local VCSE, ensuring their voices, skills and capacity are recognised and rewarded in the development of and delivery of services. A key achievement and ongoing mission through this work is to ensure resources (financial or otherwise), are equitably distributed and peer accountability across sectors is recognised and upheld.

Sustainable Food Networks

Funding from Thirty Percy, Gloucestershire County Council and others, via Forest of District Council, enabled FVAF to establish the Forest of Dean Food Network. This followed a previous piece of work to map, develop and join up sustainable food initiatives across the Forest of Dean. Projects supported by the Network this year include; Bream Gardening Society, Yorkley Community Garden, Parkend Community Orchard, Cinderford and Coleford Grows, Dean Forest Food Hub, Sharing Kitchen Newent, Salvation Army and Two Rivers Housing. The Food Network has also facilitated a variety of partnership events around themes such as Social and Therapeutic Gardening and Community Growing.

Volunteer Brokerage

FVAF run a volunteer brokerage service where we advertise and recruit volunteers for organisations and ensure appropriate support is in place for both. This includes placing individual volunteers in suitable roles, publishing a volunteer directory, monthly newsletter, facilitating annual volunteering awards, and participating towards Go Volunteer Glos and the Gloucestershire Volunteering Collaborative.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum Trustees Annual Report

Walking with Wheels

Hiring out all-terrain mobility scooters to those suffering from ill health or disability so that they can access the Forest of Dean woodland trails.

Contribution made by volunteers

Volunteers are central to us achieving our objects. We had 26 regular volunteers in the reporting period who helped with administration (related to our volunteering offer), marketing, providing digital support, and running youth clubs and supporting holiday food provision.

We have also continued to signpost volunteer roles to over 1,000 people throughout the reporting period through mail shots, social media, events, roadshows, drop-ins, and one to one conversations.

FVAF's own staff team completed in excess of 125 hours volunteering for local organisations, charities and groups, ranging from painting a local gym, supporting the local food bank and acting as trustee. These hours relate to FVAF's Employer Supported Volunteering offer, where all staff can contribute up to one week pro rata each year to volunteering initiatives. Many FVAF staff also volunteer their time outside of these hours.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of the main achievements of the charity

During the reporting period, FVAF provided support to groups within the Voluntary and Community Sector concerning the following topics:

- a. Finding an appropriate structure (charity, charitable company, community interest company or simply unincorporated).
- b. Supporting with creating governing documents (constitution, Memorandum and Articles etc).
- c. Supporting with creating and amending policies (Health and Safety, Equalities, Safeguarding etc).
- d. Supporting with marketing and social media.
- e. Financial processes, including signposting to funding opportunities and how to be "funding ready".
- f. Supporting with communication plan and development and design of promotional materials and dissemination events for the launch of Gloucestershire Volunteering Collaborative's Employee Supported Volunteering Toolkit.
- g. Insurance and staffing.
- h. Succession planning and mentoring to community leaders and activists
- i. Utilising community assets - using our contacts to ensure community resources are adequately made use of.

Achievements against objectives set:

1. To establish a presence and reputation throughout the Forest of Dean

- Supported 6 regular digital and community hubs across the district and over 35 across the county, with an additional 20 'pop ups' and events.
- Maintained a mailing list and volunteering database of over 1,500 people.
- Delivered projects in every parish within the district.
- Continue to support the employment of a shared Facilities Manager with ArtSpace Cinderford, and until early September 2024 supported the employment of a Youth Worker on behalf of Tidenham Parish Council.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum Trustees Annual Report

- Supported with the recruitment and employment of a new Community Centre Manager on behalf of Sedbury Space (following the retirement of the previous manager).
- Responded to local demand and produced a further 1,000 copies of the Forest Compass directory (edition 3) listing community groups, organisations and charities across the Forest of Dean.
- Continue to maintain Volunteer directory listing volunteering opportunities across a wide range of local charities and communities in the district.
- Held a successful week-long Volunteer Roadshow across the district and the third FVAF Volunteer Awards Event in September 2024 celebrating the contribution of volunteers to local charities, groups and organisations.
- Supported a Skate Jam for the young people of Coleford as part of a wider community event to celebrate and showcase activities for young people in the district.
- Utilised our community engagement vehicle to undertake youth outreach work and to support FVAF and others to reach communities that are often ignored or underrepresented.

2. To support stronger, resilient and sustainable communities

- Influenced the integration of community chests and grant pots within statutory services and contracts. Most significantly this includes the IYSS contract, with £22,500 per annum being distributed to local Forest of Dean groups and activities.
- The intention of supporting local supply chains in order to sustain communities is echoed by our HAF delivery model which engages over 35 local suppliers each year. Where local organisations face barriers to participate, we actively support them to address these.
- We continue to directly support the resilience and sustainability of local groups and organisations through mentoring and handholding. This has included supporting organisations such as Newent Chillout Zone, CANDI, Blakeney Youth Club, The Main Place, Bream Dream Project, Lydney Hub and the Forest Foodbank. Topics of support include safeguarding, policy development, succession planning, fundraising, conflict resolution, volunteer management and facilitating DBS checks.
- Sustainability from an environmental and community sense has been supported via our Forest Food Network and other community projects, such as the development of a Bike Repair Space in Coleford.
- We have also supported the resilience of individuals within our community, most notably with our Digital Hubs and our Mental Health Project. Digi Hubs has now supported over 1,000 people to be more confident online and access the technology needed to access services, social opportunities and support. My Networks (now MyCelium) has facilitated and contributed to a wide range of peer support networks which has resulted in people feeling better connected and supported. This has included those experiencing chronic pain, bereavement, neurodiversity, hoarding and personality disorders.
- Know Your Patch continues to support groups, organisations, statutory services and individuals to share challenges and opportunities which often result in better outcomes for their communities.

3. Establish "what works", tell the stories and demonstrate the value of strong communities across the county

- Represented the Forest of Dean on various partnerships and boards, including the Integrated Locality Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Strategic Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, Gloucestershire Gateway Partnership, VCSE Strategic Partnership and the Gloucestershire Volunteering Collaborative.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum Trustees Annual Report

- Continued to facilitate the development of sustainable food network to better utilise resources and knowledge to enhance food provision across the district, and held first Big Seed Swap in the district.
- Further developed the Forest of Dean Youth Association as a mechanism for supporting high quality youth provision in the area.
- Produced an 8-episode Community Action podcast to showcase inspiring stories from the local community.

4. Build capacity with the focus of facilitating productive conversations with communities

- Employed Forest Food Network Co-ordinator, who has met with a variety of growers, producers and suppliers across the district, and established a group of interested individuals and organisations to form a Forest Food Network (FFN) to share knowledge and develop ideas for improving accessibility to good quality local food, supporting growers and encouraging new growers, increasing food security across the district and understanding current challenges. The first Big Seed Swap event in the district was organised by the FFN, taking place in February 2025.
- Recruited a Youth Development Projects Manager, and as part of the new IYSS contract, acquired an additional part-time Youth Worker (TUPE transfer). Their focus has been youth outreach activities across the district, including visiting local schools with the FVAF Community Engagement Vehicle to encourage participation in local youth clubs and healthy eating challenges, and working with others for example, local police, to support awareness campaigns for anti-knife crime, Hollie Guard etc.
- Two Peer Development Facilitators joined us to support the work of My Networks Mental Health Alliance by facilitating peer advocacy, peer mentoring and peer development opportunities for individuals aged over 16 who are at risk of developing mental health challenges.
- Helped to generate over £5m in additional resources for the sector during the year. The c.£3m award of the Integrated Youth Support Service contract was a particularly big achievement, with a significant portion used to establish local community chests.
- Signposted over 1,000 people into various volunteering roles.

Performance of fundraising objectives against objectives set:

Income generated was in line with our fundraising objectives.

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the charity's set aims and objectives.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and fundraising

FVAF's income for the reporting period was £836,556 (2024: £830,371).

2024/2025 has seen a reduction in debtors at the financial year end to £115,875 (2024: £214,615). The majority of sums owed were paid in early April 2025, and with the exception of £5,000 owed by Mitcheldean Parish Council all sums owed have been received in 2025/26.

Having opened two new savings accounts in the 2023/24 reporting period, FVAF benefitted from the opportunity to earn interest over a full 12 months to 31 March 2025, generating a large increase in interest income to £15,938 (2024: £8,476).

Expenditure

Spending on charitable activities increased during the reporting period to £756,340 (2024: £722,289), enabling FVAF to recruit additional staff to establish a Forest Food Network, provide peer support, advocacy and development opportunities to individuals at risk of mental health challenges, and support the new youth support services contract including increasing youth outreach work.

The significant increase in creditors falling due in less than one year to £280,680 (2024: £116,166) was principally the result of monies received in advance for delivery of digital projects in 2025/26 (£204,255) and sums payable to partners working with FVAF on digital projects. All sums owed as at 31 March 2025 have been paid in 2025/26.

FVAF applied for and received a social investment loan from Barnwood Trust (£65,000) to help fund the creation of a community café at Ow Bist Forest Community Space. The loan was drawn down in full in October 2024, for more information see Note 20 to the Financial Statements (Creditors: falling due after more than one year).

Risk Management

As part of FVAF's on-going risk management, FVAF continues to operate a current account with CAF Bank Limited, and holds an instant access account with Unity Trust Bank and a liquidity manager 95-day notice account with National Westminster Bank plc: these latter accounts are used to hold the charity reserves and, at times, may hold some of FVAF's working capital.

The current principal risks facing the organisation include funding core costs:

- in 2024/25 FVAF received its final instalment of 3 years' funding from Thirty Percy.
- Reliance on non-recurrent project funding.
- Continuous cuts to local Government funding and services.
- Liabilities associated with full repairing lease for premises.

Immediate risks are low, but measured and mitigated through the allocation of sufficient reserves.

We have excellent relationships with principal funders, which we actively manage through regular communications and delivery of timely monitoring reports. We keep abreast of developments in the funding climate, both locally and nationally.

In addition, our senior management team use a decision-making framework to analyse opportunities against our charitable objectives and aims, capacity and values. Where required, we use fixed term contracts to mitigate against short term funding.

With Local Government Reform announcements due to impact two of our principal funders (Gloucestershire County Council and Forest of Dean District Council) within the next 5 years, we are mindful of our reliance on their income. To mitigate, FVAF are actively engaged in conversations related to Local Government Reform and continue to highlight the need to maintain or increase funds to the VCSE and local communities within whatever new structure follows.

Additionally, FVAF recruited a Finance & Administration Officer, during the reporting period, to support the finance function as FVAF continues to grow and expand its activities, with increasing numbers of projects, transactions and staff.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum Trustees Annual Report

FVAF maintains, reviews and updates risk assessments for its operations and activities on a regular basis and, when necessary, will undertake a dynamic risk assessment to respond to a new or specific risk that is identified or arises during the course of an activity or engagement.

Reserves

The trustees review the reserves each year in line with Charity Commission guidance.

In December 2024, the trustees approved a new Reserves Policy with an increased target level for reserves of £360,000 to £875,000, and agreed to maintain reserves at the mid-range level of £582,000.

To enable FVAF to withstand financial risk without comprising its ability to deliver its aims, the trustees recognise the need to hold reserves for the purposes of managing cashflow (impacted by timing of receipts from funders), grant income uncertainty, increased liabilities with our larger premises and greater use of those premises, cover for 6 months' operating costs, improving staff terms and conditions and the need for additional senior management capacity as the organisation continues to grow.

As at 31 March 2025, FVAF held funds of £927,011 (2024: £884,104). Of this £203,689 (2024: £236,144) was in restricted funds and £723,322 (2024: £647,960) in unrestricted funds. The unrestricted funds of £723,322 exceed our mid-range target reserves and are nearing the higher figure of £875,000.

Principal sources of funds

Principal core funding: Forest of Dean District Council (Volunteering SLA), Thirty Percy Foundation and Gloucestershire Gateway Trust (secondment of FVAF Development Manager).

Principal grants: Gloucestershire County Council (Community Food Network, Digital Hubs, HAF/HAP Programme, Know Your Patch, and Thriving Communities), Barnwood Trust (My Networks, Community Café and Walking with Wheels) and Forest of Dean District Council (Digital Inclusion., Forest Food Network and Community Café).

Principal other income: includes re-charged salaries to Gloucestershire Gateway Trust (IYSS) and service charges from tenants at Ow Bist Forest Community Space.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Charity's governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association, it being a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital as well as a registered charity.

Membership is open to individuals and not-for-profit organisations. Every member of the charity, if the charity is dissolved while they are a member or within 12 months of them ceasing to be a member, guarantee to contribute up to £1 towards the debts and liabilities of the charity incurred before they ceased to be a member.

Trustee selection, induction and training

We advertise for new Trustees through our extensive networks, and any interested persons are required to submit an application form, provide references and attend an interview with at least two trustees (usually, including the Chair of Trustees) and FVAF's CEO. If successful, they are appointed by election at the AGM or through co-option at our quarterly trustee meetings.

All new trustees are provided with a full induction and required to read all FVAF's relevant policies and procedures.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum Trustees Annual Report

Trustees are also offered relevant training where required from the likes of NCVO and the Gloucestershire VCS Alliance.

Organisational structure and wider network

The charity is governed by a board of trustees and managed on a day-to-day basis by the CEO and senior management leadership team.

The charity also hosts the Forest of Dean Youth Association and My Networks Mental Health Alliance and was an active partner of the Gloucestershire Gateway Partnership CIC (GGP) until August 2025. GGP dissolved in August 2025 and is in the process of re-establishing itself as a registered charity.

In December 2024, FVAF engaged The Connectives consultancy to undertake a review of FVAF's structure and strategy. The work included undertaking interviews, surveys and workshops with FVAF staff, trustees and key stakeholders to understand the strengths and opportunities within the organisation and ultimately recommend an organisational structure and strategy that is fit for the future.

During the reporting period, FVAF also recruited and employed a new Community Centre Manager on behalf of Sedbury Space community group and a Youth Worker on behalf of Tidenham Parish Council (until early September 2024). FVAF also employs a Facilities Manager, who it shares with ArtSpace Cinderford.

At times, FVAF may sub-contract providers to deliver some elements of work to achieve the charitable aims. This includes but is not limited to trainers, youth workers and community organisations.

Future Plans

As we finalise this report, FVAF is delighted to report that its collaboration with Gloucestershire Gateway Trust, Aspire Foundation, and other partners to bid for the Children and Family Centres contract for the Forest of Dean and Gloucester has been successful. The contract started 1st April 2025. Whilst FVAF are not directly delivering on the contract itself, we are an influential part of the partnership and will help to shape the way in which the children and family centres serve their communities. This will include enabling FVAF to utilise these spaces and reach the children, families and stakeholders who access them.

FVAF have designed a 5 year delivery model to support families with children under 5 across the county. This includes strategies for capturing the voices of communities to understand where capacity and support networks need to be developed. This will be facilitated by Neighbourhood Connectors and supported by local organisations. A catalyst for growing this capacity comes from local community chests. The model was presented to the Summerfield Charitable Trust as part of the Gloucestershire Gateway Partnership and in Summer 25 the Partnership were awarded £1.5m over 5 years. FVAF will receive in the region of £300,000 to run the Forest of Dean part of the project.

Additional support is also being provided to young people of Cinderford to help them engage in new activities, and reduce anti-social behaviour. Funding for this project has been received from the local Community Safety Partnership.

The delivery of the Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF/HAP) has, and will continue, throughout 2025 and into Spring 2026.

In September 2025, we held our fourth Annual Volunteer Awards event, and have recently taken initial steps to produce a new directory of voluntary and community organisations, for one of the principal towns in the district, Lydney, with the aim of helping to integrate existing residents and new residents, following the building of several new housing developments in recent years.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum Trustees Annual Report

We have also recruited two new members of staff, each fulfilling the role of Forest of Dean Climate Action Partnership Coordinator, working closely together, to build and strengthen a growing partnership of communities, businesses, and organisations driving urgent and fair climate action across the Forest of Dean District. Funding is being provided by Thirty Percy.

FVAF is increasingly becoming involved in health-related projects. We have received funding from NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board to help local people manage their blood pressure and reduce their risk of heart attacks and strokes. This will involve working with the NHS and local community to co-design projects or interventions that seek to address these gaps. The focus will be on identifying and creating a network of trusted community-based spaces in which to undertake blood pressure testing and give further guidance/signposting: it is expected to be delivered by volunteers and community groups.

We have also been approached to re-launch and transform a volunteer-led 'Forest Health Forum' into a robust, community-driven health advocacy forum. There are significant health inequalities in the Forest of Dean district, and so a need to amplify the voice and lived experience of local residents, particularly those affected by long-term health conditions and social isolation. The Forum will facilitate health campaigning and meaningful engagement with service providers, ensuring that local needs and priorities shape both current and future healthcare delivery.

October 2025 has been an especially busy month for FVAF:

- New Community Connector has joined us (supported by funding from Active Gloucestershire/ Sport England), with a focus on helping to drive forward the reduction of inequalities and inactivity in Cinderford.
- We have received notification of a successful application to the Government's Digital Inclusion Innovation Fund. The funding will be used to pilot and evidence a county-wide model of volunteer-led digital inclusion, designed for those most at risk of exclusion: housebound residents, elderly people, disabled people, carers, and individuals in refuges. By delivering structured, safeguarding-led home visits, supported by statutory and VCSE partners, the project aims to directly address barriers to digital participation and health access, building confidence, independence, and wellbeing.
- Preparation works on the Community Café at Ow Bist Forest Community Space have started, with construction works to be completed in Winter 2025/26. The purpose is to create a 'bumping' space within the Ow Bist building that brings together diverse members of the community and helps to unify and connect the many tenants, services and activities that operate within the building. A community café model is a proven catalyst towards relational and strengths-based working, both of which are critical to our ways of working. The café will also help to showcase local people, groups, and produce which is consistent across a variety of our projects. Conversations are progressing with local social entrepreneurs regarding the business model, and we are hopeful of an operating model going live in Spring 2026.
- FVAF continue to advocate for community needs across various strategic boards and forums, engaging in the co-design of essential services such as the VCSE Infrastructure contract and the development of Lydney Super Surgery. We are also advocating for the interests of our local communities and sector during the evolution of plans relating to Local Government Reform.
- The work with The Connectives Consultancy has continued into 2025/26 with a structure and strategy proposed by the Connectives and accepted by the Board of Trustees ready for implementation by 1st April 2026. Trustees believe that these changes will significantly strengthen our 'development' function (identified by Connectives as the biggest risk to and opportunity for the organisation) through

Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Trustees Annual Report

dedicated capacity and leadership, whilst unlocking existing capacity for members of staff to act more strategically in line with the Theory of Change. This will also support the organisation to raise its profile and influence. The structure will also provide clear career and development pathways for staff whilst strengthening lines of accountability and rewarding those who demonstrate our culture and values. The permanent new staffing changes will cost approximately £50,000 per annum, with temporary (fixed term) changes costing in the region of £40,000 per annum. The initial investment will come from reserves with the expectation that the roles will become self-sustaining over time.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Forest Voluntary Action Forum for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 operation

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the Board of Trustees on 27/11/2025 and signed on their behalf of the Board of Trustees by

Penelope Hulbert
Chair of Trustees

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Forest Voluntary Action Forum

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 15 to 37.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also 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 company 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 your company's accounts as 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 company'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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company 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.

Christy Lau FCCA CTA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG
Date: 28/11/2025

Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,085	525	1,610	3,668
Charitable activities	4	202,545	616,463	819,008	818,227
Investments	5	15,938	-	15,938	8,476
Total income		219,568	616,988	836,556	830,371
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	37,309	-	37,309	17,005
Charitable activities	7	115,616	640,724	756,340	722,289
Total expenditure		152,925	640,724	793,649	739,294
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	9	66,643	(23,736)	42,907	91,077
Transfer between funds		8,719	(8,719)	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		75,362	(32,455)	42,907	91,077
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		647,960	236,144	884,104	793,027
Total funds carried forward		723,322	203,689	927,011	884,104

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

A full comparative SOFA is available on the last page of the financial statements.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Company number 07557852
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	200,539	166,004
Total fixed assets		200,539	166,004
Current assets			
Debtors	15	115,875	214,615
Cash at bank and in hand	16	956,277	619,651
Total current assets		1,072,152	834,266
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	18	(280,680)	(116,166)
Net current assets		791,472	718,100
Total assets less current liabilities		992,011	884,104
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	20	(65,000)	-
Net assets		927,011	884,104
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	21	203,689	236,144
Unrestricted income funds	22	723,322	647,960
Total charity funds		927,011	884,104

For the year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and in accordance with FRS102 SORP, and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 18 to 37 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 27/11/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Penelope Hulbert (Chair)

.....
Jonathan Gault (Treasurer)

Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	25	307,226	23,952
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Dividends, interest, and rents from investments		15,938	8,476
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(51,538)	(105,941)
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(35,600)	(97,465)
<i>Cash flows from financing activities:</i>			
Cash inflows from new borrowing		65,000	-
Cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		65,000	-
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		336,626	(73,513)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		619,651	693,164
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		956,277	619,651

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

d 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 Bank.

e Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are resources which the funder has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

f Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

- Costs of raising funds comprise the salary and associated costs of staff involved in fundraising
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

g Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

h Operating leases

Operating leases are leases in which the title to the assets, and the risks and rewards of ownership, remain with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

i Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Leasehold property improvement projects (25 year lease from 1st July 2022)	
Building-related costs	straight line over remainder of lease period
Major items	straight line 10% (10 years)
Fittings	straight line 20% (5 years)
Motor vehicles	25% of reducing balance
Computer equipment	straight line 50% (2 years)
Office equipment	straight line 12.5% (8 years)

j Debtors

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

k Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash 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.

l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m 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.

n Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 10. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end (2024: £nil).

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

3 Income from donations and legacies

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £
Donations	1,085	525	1,610
Total	1,085	525	1,610
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Donations	1,466	2,202	3,668
Total	1,466	2,202	3,668

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

4 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £
Project income	129,798	615,863	745,661
Office rental income	67,225	-	67,225
Room hire income	5,522	-	5,522
Sponsorship income	-	600	600
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	202,545	616,463	819,008
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Project income	122,913	587,818	710,731
Office rental income	* 101,222	-	101,222
Room hire income	5,124	-	5,124
Sponsorship income	-	1,150	1,150
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	229,259	587,818	818,227
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

* 2024 total included income relating to 2023

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

5 Investment income

Current reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £
Income from bank deposits	15,597	-	15,597
Income from investments	341	-	341
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15,938	-	15,938
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £
<i>Income from bank deposits</i>	<i>8,157</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>8,157</i>
<i>Income from investments</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>319</i>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,476	-	8,476
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

6 Cost of raising funds

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs	37,309	17,005
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	37,309	17,005
	<hr/>	<hr/>

All expenditure on cost of raising funds is unrestricted.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

7 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £
Projects	-	132,573	132,573
Staff costs	15,865	508,151	524,016
Premises costs	48,889	-	48,889
Administrative/office costs	12,103	-	12,103
Legal & professional costs	14,510	-	14,510
Community Engagement vehicle	3,796	-	3,796
Depreciation	17,003	-	17,003
Governance costs (see note 8)	3,450	-	3,450
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	115,616	640,724	756,340
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
<i>Projects</i>	<i>6,344</i>	<i>162,408</i>	<i>168,752</i>
<i>Staff Costs</i>	<i>27,745</i>	<i>433,814</i>	<i>461,559</i>
<i>Premises Costs</i>	<i>25,849</i>	<i>26,925</i>	<i>52,774</i>
<i>Administrative/office costs</i>	<i>7,431</i>	<i>3,330</i>	<i>10,761</i>
<i>Legal & professional costs</i>	<i>5,199</i>	<i>504</i>	<i>5,703</i>
<i>Community Engagement Vehicle</i>	<i>3,355</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>3,355</i>
<i>Depreciation</i>	<i>16,565</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>16,565</i>
<i>Governance costs</i> <i>(see note 8)</i>	<i>2,820</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2,820</i>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	95,308	626,981	722,289
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		2025 £	2024 £
Restricted expenditure		640,724	626,981
Unrestricted expenditure		115,616	95,308
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		756,340	722,289
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Support £	Governance £	Total 2025 £
Accountancy services	Governance	-	2,850	2,850
Independent examiner's fee	Governance	-	600	600
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	3,450	3,450
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The charity has one activity and therefore does not apportion other support costs..

Previous reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Support £	Governance £	Total 2024 £
Accountancy services	Governance	-	2,400	2,400
Independent examiner's fee	Governance	-	420	420
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	2,820	2,820
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

9 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	17,003	16,565
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	* 25,000	44,274
Accountancy fees	2,375	2,000
Auditor's / Independent examiner's fee	500	350
	<hr/>	<hr/>

* 2024 total included expenditure relating to 2023

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

10 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	500,694	433,643
Social security costs	38,718	27,918
Pension costs	12,839	10,185
Staff training	2,326	2,000
Increase in provision for untaken annual leave	6,748	4,818
	<hr/> 561,325	<hr/> 478,564
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Allocated as follows:		
Cost of raising funds	37,309	17,005
Charitable activities	524,016	461,559
	<hr/> 561,325	<hr/> 478,564
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

One employee has employee benefits (excluding employer NI and pension costs) between £60,000 and £70,000 (2024: no employee has employee benefits (excluding employer NI and pension costs) in excess of £60,000).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 19.8 (2024: 17.8).

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed during the period was 15.9 (2024: 14.6).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Leadership Team. The total employee benefits (including employer NI and pension costs) of the key management personnel of the charity were £214,963 (2024: (trustees and CEO only) £63,351).

11 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration or reimbursed expenses during the year (2024: Nil).

No trustees received travel and subsistence expenses during the year (2024: £nil).

Aggregate donations from related parties were £nil (2024: £nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties (2024: £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2024: nil).

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

12 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Parish Council	14,154	10,000
Town Council	15,176	17,000
District Council	52,535	31,560
County Council:		
Community Food Network	17,500	-
Digital Hubs	79,289	57,059
Forest Community Space	-	52,500
GEM / ESHO	-	36,800
Holiday & Activity Food Programmes	104,082	95,950
Know Your Patch	15,000	12,000
Thriving Communities	7,500	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	305,236	312,869
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

13 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

14 Fixed assets: tangible assets

	Leasehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	141,373	51,000	1,449	3,096	196,918
Additions	51,538	-	-	-	51,538
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	192,911	51,000	1,449	3,096	248,456
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	7,490	22,313	724	387	30,914
Charge for the year	8,719	7,172	725	387	17,003
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	16,209	29,485	1,449	774	47,917
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	176,702	21,515	-	2,322	200,539
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>At 31 March 2024</i>	<i>133,883</i>	<i>28,687</i>	<i>725</i>	<i>2,709</i>	<i>166,004</i>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	96,690	12,834
Other debtors	* 11,312	201,781
Prepayments and accrued income	7,873	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	115,875	214,615
	<hr/>	<hr/>

* 2024 total included office rental income relating to 2023

16 Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 month maturity date)	7,233	6,891
Short term deposits	390,601	122,595
Cash at bank and on hand	558,443	490,165
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	956,277	619,651
	<hr/>	<hr/>

17 Agency collections

In 2023/24 funds were held temporarily for the Ukraine Community Hub, which was able to receive and distribute donations in support of families coming from Ukraine sooner than it was able to open its own bank account.

Active Gloucestershire funding to support youth activities at a local gym was also channelled through FVAF.

Such transactions are recorded as agency collections.

At 31st March 2024, both funds had zero balances.

There was no further agency activity in 2024/25.

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts received		
Ukraine Community Hub	-	7,223
Active Gloucestershire	-	1,860
Amounts distributed		
Ukraine Community Hub	-	(7,223)
Active Gloucestershire	-	(1,860)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Amount held at end of the period	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	28,234	66,872
Short term compensated absences (holiday pay)	11,566	4,818
Other creditors and accruals	36,625	44,476
Deferred income	204,255	-
	<hr/> 280,680	<hr/> 116,166
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

19 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred grant brought forward	-	-
Grant received	204,255	-
Released to income from charitable activities	-	-
	<hr/> 204,255	<hr/> -
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

20 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Barnwood Trust loan	65,000	-
	<hr/> 65,000	<hr/> -
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Repayable on 29th October 2034	65,000	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The loan financing is in the form of an unsecured loan with a 4% flat interest rate per annum, and is for capital development and set-up costs for a community café.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

21 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Ow Bist Forest Community Space	55,472	64,795	-	(8,719)	111,548
Digital Inclusion	37,899	-	(20,899)	(1,000)	16,000
Forest Youth Association	43,526	163,477	(203,231)	-	3,772
Digital Hubs	31,408	89,289	(113,482)	-	7,215
Holiday & Activity Food Programmes	6,300	104,082	(107,020)	-	3,362
Barnwood Trust - For My Networks	45,528	61,860	(72,720)	(2,197)	32,471
Other restricted funds	16,011	133,485	(123,372)	3,197	29,321
Total	236,144	616,988	(640,724)	(8,719)	203,689

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

21 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

<i>Previous reporting period</i>	<i>Balance at 1 April 2023 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2024 £</i>
<i>Ow Bist Forest Community Space</i>	64,846	112,566	(17,448)	(104,492)	55,472
<i>Digital Inclusion</i>	136,005	48,898	(125,154)	(21,850)	37,899
<i>Going Extra Mile / ESHO</i>	5,678	36,800	(29,826)	(12,652)	-
<i>Forest Youth Association</i>	54,716	70,562	(69,834)	(11,918)	43,526
<i>Digital Hubs</i>	61,595	71,619	(86,407)	(15,399)	31,408
<i>Holiday & Activity Food Programmes</i>	26,240	95,950	(115,890)	-	6,300
<i>Barnwood Trust - For My Networks</i>	30,286	63,780	(48,538)	-	45,528
<i>Other restricted funds</i>	102,260	90,995	(133,884)	(43,360)	16,011
<i>Total</i>	481,626	591,170	(626,981)	(209,671)	236,144

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

21 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Ow Bist Forest Community Space	The repurposing of a former GP's surgery into FVAF's new office base and community hub in the heart of Cinderford. A transfer was made from restricted to unrestricted funds to reflect that the cost of the leasehold property has been capitalised within fixed assets, with depreciation charged annually to restricted funds.
Digital Inclusion	The facilitation of a partnership focusing on digital inclusion in the Forest of Dean.
Going Extra Mile / ESHO	Supports people who want to move closer towards education, training or work.
Forest Youth Association	An association of youth groups, clubs, activities, services, councils and residents where skills, experiences and assets are shared for the benefit of young people and communities throughout the Forest of Dean.
Digital Hubs	The facilitation of digital hubs across the Forest of Dean to help individuals overcome barriers to digital access, including online shopping, healthcare, and employment, and, as appointed lead for Gloucestershire, overseeing district partners and ensuring the development and sustainability of the digital hubs project.
Holiday & Activity Food Programmes	A central government led programme to deliver food and activities to children aged 4-16 during school holidays. FVAF delivered the programme for the Forest of Dean district.
Barnwood Trust - For My Networks	The facilitation of a Mental Health Alliance in the Forest of Dean, consisting of individuals, groups and organisations that support people with mental health challenges.
Other restricted funds	Promote any charitable purpose in the area of benefit, principally but not exclusively in the area currently administered by the Forest of Dean District Council, especially in relation to the advancement of education, the protection of health and relief of poverty, sickness and distress.
Transfers	<p>2024/25 Transfers are agreed transfers between funds to support Forest Compass publication.</p> <p>2023/24 Transfers comprise amounts spent on capitalised assets, historical adjustments relating to costs not allocated in previous periods, and balance adjustments between specified funds and funds formerly within "Other restricted funds".</p>

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

22 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2025 £
General fund	647,960	219,568	(152,925)	8,719	723,322
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	647,960	219,568	(152,925)	8,719	723,322
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2024 £
General fund	311,401	239,201	(112,313)	209,671	647,960
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	311,401	239,201	(112,313)	209,671	647,960
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

23 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	200,539	-	-	200,539
Net current assets/(liabilities)	587,783	-	203,689	791,472
Creditors of more than one year	(65,000)	-	-	(65,000)
Total	723,322	-	203,689	927,011
Previous reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	<i>166,004</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>166,004</i>
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	<i>481,956</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>236,144</i>	<i>718,100</i>
Total	647,960	-	236,144	884,104

24 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

	Property	
	2025 £	2024 £
Less than one year	25,000	25,000
One to five years	81,250	100,000
Over five years	-	6,250
	106,250	131,250

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	42,907	91,077
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	17,003	16,565
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(15,938)	(8,476)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	98,740	(180,876)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	164,514	105,662
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating	307,226	23,952
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

26 Analysis of changes in net debt

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Cashflows £	Other non- cash changes £	As at 31 March 2025 £
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	619,651	336,626	-	956,277
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	619,651	336,626	-	956,277
Borrowings				
Debt due more than 1 year	-	(65,000)	-	(65,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	(65,000)	-	(65,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	619,651	271,626	-	891,277
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

27 Prior Year Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,466	2,202	3,668	5,536
Charitable activities	4	229,259	588,968	818,227	748,563
Investments	5	8,476	-	8,476	980
Total income		239,201	591,170	830,371	755,079
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	6	17,005	-	17,005	-
Charitable activities	7	95,308	626,981	722,289	540,294
Total expenditure		112,313	626,981	739,294	540,294
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	9	126,888	(35,811)	91,077	214,785
Transfer between funds		209,671	(209,671)	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		336,559	(245,482)	91,077	214,785
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		311,401	481,626	793,027	578,242
Total funds carried forward		647,960	236,144	884,104	793,027

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