

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1156639

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-04-11

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN AND AROUND THE LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON:(A) THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY ENCOURAGING THE PRUDENT USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND RAISING AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES;(B) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY RAISING AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH PEAK OIL AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CONSEQUENT NEED TO DEVELOP A LOW CARBON, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Activities: SUSTAINABLE MERTON IS A COMMUNITY LED INITIATIVE GIVING LOCAL RESIDENTS, ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES THE OPPORTUNITY TO STIMULATE PRACTICAL ACTION TO MAKE OUR AREA A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY. THE THINKING BEHIND THIS IS SIMPLY THAT A BOROUGH USING ENERGY AND RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY COULD, IF WELL PLANNED AND DESIGNED, BE MORE RESILIENT, MORE ABUNDANT AND MORE PLEASURABLE THAN AT PRESENT.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Merton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£261,782	£305,257	-	-
2024-03-31	£391,447	£370,813	-	-
2023-03-31	£329,653	£316,422	-	-
2022-03-31	£142,588	£176,937	-	-
2021-03-31	£180,353	£107,538	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrea Gayle Wildman	Chair	2025-07-10
Alan Maries		2021-03-23
Alysha Simone Randall		2022-03-09
Anca Tacu		2023-03-29
Anna Bruni Sabhaney		2026-02-25
Eleanor Cranmer		2026-02-25
Joseph Christopher Lambe		2026-02-25
Nicholas Robert Frank		2026-02-25
Sarah Warren		2026-02-25
Su Kim-Stroud		2023-03-29

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Accounts

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Signature Details

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Signing Statement:	Andrea Wildman confirms that the information is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief.

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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1156639

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
FOR
SUSTAINABLE MERTON**

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
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SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Sustainable Merton is Merton's local environment charity giving local residents, community organisations and businesses the opportunity to stimulate practical action to make our area a sustainable community. The thinking behind this is simply that a borough using energy and resources in a sustainable way could, if well planned and designed, be more resilient, more abundant and more pleasurable than at present.

The charitable purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are to promote for the benefit of the public in and around the London Borough of Merton:

- (a) the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, in particular but not exclusively, by encouraging the prudent use of natural resources, and raising awareness of environmental issues;
- (b) the advancement of education of the public in the subject of sustainable development, in particular, but not exclusively by raising awareness of the issues associated with peak oil and climate change and the consequent need to develop a low carbon, sustainable future.

In early 2024 our Trustees revisited our Vision and Mission and decided that we needed to align ourselves more to the United Nations's Sustainable Development Goals. We have therefore revised our four key pillars to (i) protecting natural resources and restoring biodiversity; (ii) taking action on environmental risks to health and wellbeing; (iii) creating a more sustainable, connected food system and addressing food insecurity; (iv) reducing waste and transitioning to the circular economy.

We have continued to proactively work in partnership with Merton Council, along with many organisations and groups in the borough to support the community, to influence behaviour change and to inspire, to mobilise and to enable people to take part in tackling climate change.

Internally, our trustees have continued to run regular working committees covering finance, fundraising, HR and risk assessment; overseen updates of our policies; and held a strategic planning session to develop our business plan, resulting in a stronger emphasis on increasing non-restricted income and to secure grant funding to support our volunteer management and the development of our volunteer strategy. The Trustees met six times over the year to ensure our charity continues to be fit for purpose, has the right organisational structure in place and is meeting its obligations as a Charity.

Significant activities

A summary of the significant activities in the year is presented below.

Our Community Fridge continued to provide vital support to local people experiencing food insecurity. The project reduces food wastage (which in turn would produce greenhouse gas emissions contributing to the climate emergency) and benefits local residents with the supply of fresh and ambient food as well as referrals to other partner organisations who provide additional welfare.

Our growing space activity increased. Both Phipps Bridge Community Allotment and Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden, are green havens in different parts of Mitcham and provided opportunities for local residents to work together, benefiting from social interaction, exercise and gaining horticultural knowledge. We also organised volunteer planting days at Canons House and introduced initiatives to encourage people to grow their own food, and supplies to the Community Fridge, thereby reducing food miles.

Merton Garden Streets planting days offered residents social interaction and small scale outdoor projects which provided public benefit by beautifying local streets.

The Wheel project, which supports waste minimisation and the circular economy, was launched in summer 2022. The aim is to encourage networking and build capacity in waste minimisation and upcycling projects across the borough, reducing waste and carbon footprints of local businesses, while increasing opportunities for businesses to collaborate.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Preloved Studio, based in Canons House in Mitcham, grew its textile reduction activity as a destination for local residents in the under-served East of the Borough to gain practical, financial and social benefits from learning textile skills.

We also continued our work in Pollards Hill in Mitcham, delivering the WeRPollards waste minimisation project, in partnership with Moat Housing.

Recent and current projects and activities include: The Wheel, Merton's Community Fridge, Merton Garden Streets, Repair Cafés, Pollards Hill Waste & Recycling Project, Mitcham Community Orchard & Gardens, Phipps Bridge Community Garden, The Preloved Studio, Green Coffee, and Merton Green Parents.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities we have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Trustees ensure that our activities are in line with our charitable objectives and aims, to protect and improve the natural environment. We measure the environmental impact that each of our programmes achieve, which are set out below. In addition, many of the programmes deliver added social benefits. As a result of our work:

- Less waste is sent to landfill/incineration - in particular food, packaging and fabrics.
- Greenhouse gas emissions are cut through reduced energy use and reduced waste of materials and food.
- Less pollution is created including reduced plastic pollution and air pollution.
- Our neighbourhoods are cleaner and people feel a sense of civic pride by participating in our community projects.
- People in hardship are given support, for example through the provision of healthy food, and better access to support and advice.
- People struggling with the cost of living are provided good quality food, contributing to their overall wellbeing.
- People gain new skills, knowledge and friends, contributing to the overall wellbeing of our community.

Volunteers

Without its volunteers, Sustainable Merton could not achieve all that it does. Our volunteers include our Fridge Friends as well as Growing Spaces and Merton Garden Streets volunteers, those volunteering at our Repair Cafés, the Preloved Studio and at WeRPollards. We also have a number of volunteers that support us in other ways, contributing to our business planning, our fundraising and our communications. The number of volunteers increased to 341 and the number of hours given by our volunteers was 19,198.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

We continue to grow our ambitions to take forward climate action projects, bring communities together and influence people to change their behaviours to achieve a more sustainable lifestyle whilst improving their health and wellbeing. We have done this in the context of the continuation of the cost of living crisis and unpredictable energy costs, and we are very mindful that we should be encouraging people to be community minded, have pride in their borough and be kind to each other and the world that we live in. We work proactively in partnership with many organisations and groups in the borough to support our work in the Merton borough.

PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESTORING BIODIVERSITY

Merton Garden Streets

In 2024, Sustainable Merton was awarded funding for Merton Garden Streets through the Merton's Civic Pride Investing in Neighbourhoods and Community Climate Action Funds. The project's aims were to increase plant biodiversity in Merton by planting pollinator friendly plants, to reduce the likelihood of flash floods and to encourage intergenerational social cohesion through volunteer-led planting initiatives at community planting days.

114 streets signed up to Merton Garden Streets in 2024. Some of the previous year's sign-ups remained active volunteers, but chose not to sign up in 2024 as they had well established verges and did not need any plant supplies.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Three community planting days took place on the fourth weekend of May, June and July 2024. The first community planting day in May was preceded by a plant swap at Morden Baptist Church. Over 500 plants were swapped and the verge in front of the church was planted up. With a minimum average of 10 participants per road (114 total signups), we can estimate that at least 1,140 volunteers participated across the borough.

Volunteers planted over 5,000 plants in tree pits, verges and front gardens across Merton. Almost 2,000 plants were purchased, and 1,800 plants were donated from volunteers who propagated and grew their own plants. Approximately 500 plants and 500 bulbs were donated by Wimbledon Foundation, the Hampton Court Flower Show and Chelsea Flower Show and collected by street coordinators who distributed them via the network of volunteers who planted them across Merton. 300 plants were donated by Morden Hall Park Garden Centre. Local parks, which include John Innes, Wimbledon Park, South Park Gardens and Holland Garden who were turning over their beds, allowed volunteers to collect approximately 500 plants which were then planted on the verges instead of being turned into compost.

In autumn, over 3,000 bulbs (six different varieties) were planted by volunteers across Merton in October, November and December. At the same time, seed saving was encouraged and lots of resources and advice shared on the WhatsApp group and social media. A seed swap took place in November at Morden Park Baptist Church. It was very well attended, and hundreds of seeds were sorted, packaged and shared. Another seed swap took place in March 2025 at Wimbledon Library to make seeds easily available for anyone wanting to green their streets in spring. Over 50 volunteers and local residents attended.

Facebook page: 130 likes, 183 followers
Facebook group: 747 members
WhatsApp group: 105 members

Canons House Community Garden

We continued our partnership, with Merton Council, with grant funding, to look after and develop Canons House Community Garden. Twelve volunteer sessions were held between July and March. This included one bigger work day on 2nd July to clear up the site. Around 135 hours were given during the sessions with more being volunteered from a local school, charity and friends groups, tending to their own plots. The Canons Community Garden WhatsApp group was re-established and currently has 20 members. Information is also shared on our Growing Spaces social media page and Sustainable Merton's social media pages. Flyers and posters were designed and distributed amongst the community in 2024 to recruit new volunteers and promote opportunities. Social media assets have also been designed and are used regularly to promote each volunteer session. We have been working with Goodgym to recruit more volunteers since January 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Due to lack of grant funding we have not been able to continue our Citizen Science project focusing on Air Quality and this activity ended in March 2024. We, however, welcomed the introduction of ULEZ in Merton, along with an increase in school streets, both of which have had a positive impact on the quality of the air we breathe.

The Cost of Living crisis has continued to affect Merton residents and our Community Fridge supports people who struggle with being able to buy sufficient food to stay healthy. Evidence collected from all our projects demonstrate that our activity around connecting with nature, growing food, food insecurity and taking positive climate action and making new social connections, has a positive effect on people's overall health and wellbeing.

FOOD SYSTEMS AND FOOD INSECURITY

Merton's Community Fridge

Our Community Fridge, run from Morden Baptist Church, continues to be in demand and we are working to find long term funding solutions to support this vital service. During the year, we experienced a number of staff changes, but managed to keep the service active and we currently have a team consisting of a Manager, a Coordinator and two ebike couriers. We also have 65 volunteer Fridge Friends, who are central to our service, some of whom have been recipients and volunteer as part of their payback to society.

Facing longer term funding pressure, we launched our first individual fundraising campaign in November 2024. We did a mini survey of members of the Fridge and had many who were willing to be filmed or give us audio clips. When combined with our corporate fundraising, we exceeded our £10,000 goal and raised £12,000 - a fantastic result for our first effort.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We were successful in a bid for Hubbub's investment fund for £5k to build a bike shed at the church. Unfortunately, the cut in Merton Council funding for the 2025/26 year meant we needed to redirect this to support continued use of the e-bike following the end of Hubbub's FoodConnect program in March 2025. The bike is currently stored for free at the storage container at an Id Verde depot. A more suitable long-term solution needs to be found depending on the long-term use of the e-bike and trailer.

In February 2025 Merton Council announced that they were changing their funding model for 2025/26 and required us to transition to a pantry model of delivery. As our service focuses on using food that would otherwise be thrown away and our belief that this should be free to our Fridge members, we decided not to adopt the pantry model and this has resulted in a 70% funding cut. To ensure the Fridge can remain open in 2025/26, a reduced schedule was agreed for the new financial year. As a result of our funding cuts, we have also had to opt out of our coordination role for Merton's Food Response Network.

In February 2025, Hubbub asked if they could visit the Fridge with their CEO and 2 reps from Sainsbury's. The visit was very successful and led to them asking to film us for their new promo video which is now on their website.

We are thankful to our hosts at Morden Baptist Church for providing space to deliver this project and also to London Borough of Merton for providing additional storage at the Civic Centre.

Our Community Fridge has seen a fairly consistent increase in visitors as well as food collected. Volunteer hours were somewhat erratic with lower hours following the staffing changes, and increasing again from September/October. We also began tracking food waste (either from expired food or food not suitable for distribution) and this averages 8-10% per month).

During the year we had 10,949 visits (almost 10% up on last year); redistributed 63,824 kg of surplus food, equivalent to 153,178 meals; and saved 204,238 of CO2 emissions. Our 65 volunteers contributed 4962 hours.

Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden

Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden, a beautiful urban growing space and peaceful haven for people and nature, right in the heart of Mitcham, provides a community-led green space where fruit and vegetables are grown using sustainable and organic methods, and where a range of different habitats are maintained to support biodiversity whilst also providing environmental benefits to Merton.

The dedication and commitment of our volunteers has seen Mitcham Orchard come along in leaps and bounds. 37 Growing Friday volunteer sessions and 10 weekend Action Days were planned and delivered. Significantly, we introduced community cooking to our Saturday Action Days where we prepare and cook nutritious vegan food, using products grown at the orchard, to share with volunteers. Close to 2000 hours of volunteer time was given in 2024.

We planned and delivered our regular spring open day on 11th May and our harvest festival on 22nd September. We also delivered an informal wassail on 11th January and a Blossom Walk and Talk on 26th April. These events aim to bring local people into the space who may not be able to, or want to, join our gardening sessions.

We held 2 formal working group meetings online with our core group of 9 volunteers who commit so much time and energy to the project. Work continued to promote our volunteer sessions via WhatsApp, social media and on our website. We entered into the London in Bloom awards for the second time and achieved the highest level 'Outstanding' in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category.

In terms of infrastructure, we created a new composting system, fixed the existing tap and added two extra stand pipes and created a new smaller raised bed for the roses. The pond has been developed with additional planting. We're also thrilled to have a brand-new outdoor shelter, thanks to the amazing generosity of GreenLight, a local business.

Morden Hall Park Community Kitchen

From November 2023 to February 2025, we transformed the kitchen garden in Morden Hall Park into a thriving and productive growing space, supplying locally grown fresh produce to people experiencing food poverty in Merton. In the process, this green space became a community resource, providing volunteer opportunities for Merton residents and for schools and corporate groups. Two regular weekly volunteer sessions were delivered with volunteers giving over 500 hours in time to help look after the garden and care for the crops.

Our ambition for the garden was to grow a meaningful amount of fresh fruit and vegetables for donation to our Community Fridge and network. We harvested and donated 222 kg of crops, including brassicas, root crops, greens, onions, beans and rhubarb.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The funding has now ended and it has been handed back over to the National Trust to continue this great work.

Community Food Growing Project

Due to high demand from its street coordinators, Merton Garden Streets launched its new Community Food Growing Project in October 2024. Funding until June 2025 was secured through the Hubbub Community Food Hub Grant. The project aims to bring together a community of food growers from across the borough and create connections for locally grown food to be shared within the community and with Merton's Community Fridge Network. At monthly events, street coordinators and local residents can learn all about growing fruit, vegetables, and herbs. Between October 2024 and March 2025, 7 workshops took place with 95 residents attending (on average 13 per workshop).

Merton's Green Social Prescribing Project

The final green social prescribing workshop 'Working with Natural Dyes' was held at Mitcham Orchard in April 2024 and was a great success. This funding has now ended and a final report was sent to Merton Connected who administered the funding.

Phipps Bridge Community Allotment

The Phipps Bridge Community Allotment continued to offer twice weekly sessions to volunteers from across Merton enabling people to learn about organic gardening and to enjoy fresh air and exercise as well as social contact. The demographics of the two sessions are different - retired people, part-time workers, vulnerable and disabled adults on Wednesdays and younger working adults on Sundays; thus we consider it important to continue to offer the Sunday session even though they are less well attended. The total number of hours contributed was 1398 and the total weight of fruit and vegetables was just over half a ton at 543kg. The produce is shared amongst volunteers and donated to Sustainable Merton's Community Fridge.

WASTE REDUCTION AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The Wheel

The Wheel is our circular economy project, originally developed by Merton's Climate Action Group and has received grant funding from Merton Council. With our delivery partners we developed and managed the following initiatives and events::

- * 5 Repair Cafés at Canons House, Cricket Green Ward (Mitcham),
- * 1 Repair Café at Moat's Wellbeing Studio, Pollards Hill Ward (Mitcham)
- * Additional and separate furniture repair and upcycling workshop at NEMCA, Graveney Ward (Mitcham),
- * 1 public film screening and panel discussion event on environmental impacts of fast fashion at Vestry Hall, Cricket Green Ward (Mitcham),
- * 1 public panel discussion event on low waste living in a circular economy at Merton Arts Space, Hillside Ward (Wimbledon)
- * The creation of 100 draught excluders made from scrap and donated fabrics for community use,
- * The creation of 100 reusable fabric food produce bags made from preloved and donated fabrics for community use,
- * Updated The Wheel Website to signpost residents to waste reduction options in Merton.
- * Became an official supporter of London Repair Week.

Through these initiatives, The Wheel had 71 attendances across 6 Repair Cafes and 135 attendances including the repair team. Through these initiatives the Wheel directly prevented 513 kg of waste with 38 unique volunteers giving over 210 hours to the project. The avoided GHG emissions were estimated (based on stated assumptions) to be 2,539 kg CO₂e.

In addition to these impacts, the initiatives also contributed to a range of co-benefits such as improved mental health & wellbeing, civic pride, social cohesion, building green skills, behaviour change, and saved money through avoided cost of buying new items during an ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Evidence of co-benefits was gathered through participant satisfaction surveys and written testimonials. Survey respondents who attended our repair events estimated a total combined saving of £1,922 thanks to the free community repair on offer.

The Preloved Studio

The Preloved Studio is a community space dedicated to textile repair, reuse and repurposing. It is located within Canons House in Mitcham. This year, Sustainable Merton developed and managed the following activities:

- * 3 residency spaces for local sustainable textile businesses (Barjis, Little ARK and RE-RUNN CIC)
- * Weekly social sewing drop-in sessions
- * 6 free sewing workshops to upskill the local community

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- o 2 x Sewing Machine 101 for Beginners (Delivered by Sustainable Merton)
- o Making Lavender Bags from Scrap Fabrics (Delivered by Little ARK CIC)
- o Making Bucket Hats from Scrap Fabrics (Delivered by Sustainable Merton)
- o The Ancient Art of Ajrak Print using Preloved Fabrics (Delivered by Barjis)
- o Upcycled Fashion (Delivered by RE-RUNN CIC)

Through these activities the Preloved Studio directly prevented 323 kg of waste. The avoided GHG emissions were also estimated (based on stated assumptions) to be 1,024 kg. This was a significant over-delivery on the Preloved Studio project targets for 2024-25 of 200 kg avoided waste and 720 kg avoided CO2 emissions.

Over 360 people visited the Studio and volunteers gave a total of 1360 volunteer hours.

In addition to these impacts, the activities also contributed to a range of co-benefits such as improved mental health and wellbeing, civic pride, social cohesion, building green skills, behaviour change, and saved money through avoided cost of buying new items during an ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Evidence of co-benefits was gathered through participant satisfaction surveys and written testimonials. Survey respondents who attended workshops, or regular / semi-regular attendees of drop-in Social Sewing Sessions estimated a total combined saving of £1,980 thanks to Preloved Studio activities.

WeRPollards

Back in 2022, Moat and Sustainable Merton partnered to bring a recycling and behaviour campaign to the Pollard's Hill estate in Mitcham. Now branded WeRPollards the goal was to recruit community waste champions to help tackle contamination and dumping issues and build a brand promoting responsibility in waste disposal. Fast forward to where we are now, the WeRPollards campaign has been a successful model for changing attitudes and behaviours, has made significant inroads in tackling waste issues on the estate, as well as building a dedicated resident led community and provided a legacy for a new model for WeRPollards from September 2025.

Results include:

- The group reforming in the new Wellbeing Studio with a stronger emphasis on education particularly around the idea of reuse, reduce and recycle.
- New partnerships and collaborations.
- In October 2024 we delivered Pollards Hill first ever Repair Cafe which included training and delivery by our waste champions in Wellbeing Studio. - Residents brought along clothes and electrical items and were able to renew items and save money. This prevented 6kg of waste, saved 84 kg of CO2 emissions and saved residents £135.
- In December we launched the Waste to Waves: Sea Life Sculpture challenge. Children from William Rose Primary School used sustainable materials to produce over 20 sculptures.
- In March we produced a display using the sculptures. 7 children helped build the display and it has since been displayed around the community.
- In April we completed a new round of bin sticker installation, with around 80% of the site now having improved recycling messaging and WeRPollards branding.

COMMUNICATIONS, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS

In 2024-25, Sustainable Merton's communications and engagement activity continued to raise awareness, strengthen partnerships, and inspire local action on sustainability and community wellbeing. Our storytelling, campaigns, events and media presence reached a wide local audience, showcasing the power of collective community action.

We began the year by hosting key public debates and community events to place sustainability firmly on the local agenda. Our Electoral Environmental Debate in partnership with Merton Friends of the Earth and Merton Cyclists Group brought together over 80 residents to question London Assembly candidates, with press coverage in the South West Londoner. Our CEO, Diana Sterck, also chaired the Wimbledon Hustings event ahead of the General Election, ensuring environmental issues were at the forefront of political discussion.

Our visibility grew through strong media partnerships. Diana appeared live on BBC Radio London, sharing how our 400 volunteers contribute over 19,000 hours annually - the equivalent of 10.5 full-time staff - to projects from food growing and waste reduction to Merton's Community Fridge. We were also featured on BBC Radio 4 as part of The Orchard Project's Radio 4 appeal, which was recorded with Julia Bradbury at Mitcham Community Orchard & Gardens.

Our work was recognised borough-wide when Sustainable Merton was named "Charity of the Year" at the Merton Best Business Awards 2024, a proud achievement reflecting the collective impact of our small team, volunteers, and supporters.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Throughout the year, we engaged the public through creative campaigns, markets, and events that connected environmental action with everyday life:

- Partnered with Love Wimbledon for Sustainable September and ran a stall at their Sustainable Market on Wimbledon Piazza, where we launched our reusable water bottles to promote reuse and raise funds.
- Hosted our first-ever Greener Living Pop-Up Market at Elys, Wimbledon, and later our Greener Giving Holiday Pop-Up at Wimbledon Quarter, both celebrating local sustainable businesses and inspiring low-waste lifestyles.
- Organised an exclusive screening of "Fashion Reimagined" during Sustainable Fashion Week, followed by a panel discussion with industry experts exploring circular fashion.
- Partnered with Wimbledon Guild in Morden for our first photo exhibition at Metronome coffee shop, showcasing the breadth of our volunteer-led climate action projects.

Our storytelling highlighted the social side of sustainability. We celebrated Volunteers' Week and proudly shared news of our volunteers' recognition at the Merton Partnership Civic Pride Volunteer Awards. We launched our video-led "Feed Families, Fight Waste" campaign to raise urgent funds for Merton's Community Fridge amid increasing need, using real stories to show how the project is a lifeline for local families. The campaign was a success with over £12,400 being generously donated to keep the Fridge open.

Community and environmental impact were also recognised through awards, including London in Bloom's "Outstanding" rating for Mitcham Community Orchard and Gardens. We continued to grow public engagement through awareness campaigns such as No Mow May, World Refill Day, and Clean Air Day.

We strengthened relationships across the sector, welcoming visits to Merton's Community Fridge from national environmental charity Hubbub and Sainsbury's, and connecting with local partners at community events and beyond.

Finally, we launched our Friends of Sustainable Merton membership scheme in March 2025, inviting residents to become part of a growing movement for a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient Merton.

Through dynamic communications and meaningful engagement, Sustainable Merton has continued to build a strong, connected community that takes tangible action for people and the planet.

Fundraising activities

The Trustees set up a fundraising committee in 2023 with the purpose of increasing the charity's financial resilience by growing its proportion of unrestricted funding. During the year, £18,717 was received from unrestricted donations and we are thankful to all those who supported us through donations and activity in kind. Looking ahead, we have drawn up a 3 year fundraising strategy with stretch targets for donations and unrestricted income as well as donations in kind.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the year our grant income decreased by 36% on the previous year to £235,949 and our overall income reduced to £261,782 from £391,447, reflecting the competitiveness of bidding for grants within the Charity sector. The trustee-led finance committee continued to meet 3 times a year to review our financial position in detail, including our reserves position along with management accounts and the production of the annual accounts.

We raised £25,833 in donations and other restricted and unrestricted income, a 15% increase on the previous year of £22,538. The Trustees have approved a 3 year fundraising strategy which aims to reduce the charity's reliance on restricted grant income and includes stretch targets for unrestricted income.

The Charity remains in acceptable financial health with funds to cover its contractual commitments.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

The majority of our funding came from grants. During this financial year Sustainable Merton delivered grants awarded from:

- The London Borough of Merton
- Clarion Futures
- Pollards Hill Community Initiative Fund
- Hubbub Foundation
- CoOp Community Fund
- Merton Giving
- Magic Little Grant
- Wandle Valley Forum

Reserves policy

Sustainable Merton's Reserves Policy was changed in 2024 and is to retain unrestricted funds to the value of 6 months core expenditure. This amount includes non-project funded salaries and office costs, enabling the charity to continue running during lean periods between the award of grants.

Details of the amount of reserves held (prior to the change in our Reserves Policy) are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year and the balance sheet for the year end.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is regulated by the Charity Commission. The activities of the CIO are controlled by its constituting document which is based on the Charity Commission model association CIO constitution.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are co-opted by the Board of Trustees during the year and confirmed by election at the AGM.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees delegate the day to day running of the charity to the CEO and team. Our CEO, Diana Sterck, oversees a team, which includes a Communications Manager, Project Managers and Coordinators, each working on specific community projects. We also had 2 ebike couriers and self employed finance, project management and PR support. All our project managers are supported by a large pool of local volunteers who are integral partners in project delivery. We collaborate with local businesses, schools and other charities within the borough. In 2025 we had 4.5 full time equivalent staff.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees have received induction training on their governance responsibilities, including financial controls, safeguarding and other policies.

Wider network

The Sustainable Merton CEO is responsible for managing the charity's operational activity, overseeing a team of staff, volunteers and self-employed contractors. Sustainable Merton takes a very active part in the local community and borough networks, and much of its activity is undertaken in partnership with local organisations as outlined in the previous sections.

Risk management

We have one Trustee who takes the lead on our organisational risk assessment and he has worked with other trustees and the CEO to review our organisational and project risks. The report is reviewed by all Trustees twice a year. We use the risk assessment methodology recommended by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Controls and mitigating actions are in place to minimise risks in the areas of governance, finance, operations, external factors and regulatory and compliance activities.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1156639

Principal address

The Old Boiler House
Morden Hall Park
Morden Hall Road
Morden
SM4 5JD

Trustees

A Wildman - Chair (appointed 10/7/25)
R Baber - Secretary
A S Randall - Treasurer
Dr J D Boyd
S Kim-Stroud
A Laidler
Dr G Leigh
A Maries
K Punungwe-Mutandiro (resigned 12/5/25)
A Tacu
B M Cuddon - Chair (resigned 10/7/25)

Independent Examiner

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 15 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

A Wildman - Chair - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SUSTAINABLE MERTON

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sustainable Merton

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sustainable Merton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can 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 material 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.



Jonathan Askew

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Date: 20/01/2026

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		18,717	380	19,097	20,396
Charitable activities					
General		5,532	235,949	241,481	370,756
Other trading activities	2	1,016	-	1,016	-
Investment income	3	188	-	188	295
Total		<u>25,453</u>	<u>236,329</u>	<u>261,782</u>	<u>391,447</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		1,449	-	1,449	1,015
Charitable activities					
General		<u>31,864</u>	<u>271,944</u>	<u>303,808</u>	<u>369,798</u>
Total		<u>33,313</u>	<u>271,944</u>	<u>305,257</u>	<u>370,813</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(7,860)	(35,615)	(43,475)	20,634
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		75,723	56,075	131,798	111,164
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>67,863</u></u>	<u><u>20,460</u></u>	<u><u>88,323</u></u>	<u><u>131,798</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	2,164	-	2,164	4,136
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	7	473	-	473	-
Debtors	8	6,505	3,000	9,505	22,284
Cash at bank		98,921	48,988	147,909	171,679
		<u>105,899</u>	<u>51,988</u>	<u>157,887</u>	<u>193,963</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(40,200)	(31,528)	(71,728)	(66,301)
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>65,699</u>	<u>20,460</u>	<u>86,159</u>	<u>127,662</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>67,863</u>	<u>20,460</u>	<u>88,323</u>	<u>131,798</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>67,863</u>	<u>20,460</u>	<u>88,323</u>	<u>131,798</u>
FUNDS					
	10			67,863	75,723
Unrestricted funds				20,460	56,075
Restricted funds					
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>88,323</u>	<u>131,798</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 15 January 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

A Wildman - Chair - Trustee

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Where restricted funds are used to acquire assets for ongoing use by the charity the expenditure is included as direct charitable expenditure of restricted funds with the restriction treated as having been met on acquisition. Where the assets remain within the control of the charity the assets are revalued based on their original costs and treated as unrestricted fixed asset additions.

Depreciation is charged on fixed assets from the date on which they are brought into use. No depreciation is charged where the assets are not brought into use prior to the year end.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Merchandise income	<u>1,016</u>	<u>-</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025 £	2024 £
Deposit account interest	<u>188</u>	<u>295</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	20,396	-	20,396
Charitable activities			
General	3,432	367,324	370,756
Investment income	-	295	295
Total	<u>23,828</u>	<u>367,619</u>	<u>391,447</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	-	1,015	1,015
Charitable activities			
General	2,985	366,813	369,798
Total	<u>2,985</u>	<u>367,828</u>	<u>370,813</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	20,843	(209)	20,634
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	54,880	56,284	111,164
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>75,723</u>	<u>56,075</u>	<u>131,798</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	4,348	3,097	7,445
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2024	1,092	2,217	3,309
Charge for year	1,092	880	1,972
At 31 March 2025	2,184	3,097	5,281
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2025	2,164	-	2,164
At 31 March 2024	3,256	880	4,136

Fixed assets acquired with restricted funds are capitalised with the restriction treated as satisfied on acquisition. The purchase cost is reflected initially as restricted expenditure with the assets acquired being revalued and included as unrestricted fixed asset additions where they remain within the control of the charity.

7. STOCKS

	2025 £	2024 £
Stocks	473	-

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	2,290	14,506
Accrued income	3,000	6,527
Prepayments	4,215	1,251
	<u>9,505</u>	<u>22,284</u>

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	11,898	10,127
Taxation and social security	3,366	3,576
Other creditors	56,464	52,598
	<u>71,728</u>	<u>66,301</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	75,723	(7,860)	67,863
Restricted funds			
Restricted	56,075	(35,615)	20,460
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>131,798</u>	<u>(43,475)</u>	<u>88,323</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	25,453	(33,313)	(7,860)
Restricted funds			
Restricted	236,329	(271,944)	(35,615)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>261,782</u>	<u>(305,257)</u>	<u>(43,475)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	54,880	20,843	75,723
Restricted funds			
Restricted	56,284	(209)	56,075
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>111,164</u>	<u>20,634</u>	<u>131,798</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	23,828	(2,985)	20,843
Restricted funds			
Restricted	367,619	(367,828)	(209)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>391,447</u>	<u>(370,813)</u>	<u>20,634</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1156639

Accounts

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
FOR
SUSTAINABLE MERTON**

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
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SW19 4EU

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Sustainable Merton is Merton's local environment charity giving local residents, community organisations and businesses the opportunity to stimulate practical action to make our area a sustainable community. The thinking behind this is simply that a borough using energy and resources in a sustainable way could, if well planned and designed, be more resilient, more abundant and more pleasurable than at present.

The charitable purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are to promote for the benefit of the public in and around the London Borough of Merton:

- (a) the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, in particular but not exclusively, by encouraging the prudent use of natural resources, and raising awareness of environmental issues;
- (b) the advancement of education of the public in the subject of sustainable development, in particular, but not exclusively by raising awareness of the issues associated with peak oil and climate change and the consequent need to develop a low carbon, sustainable future.

In early 2024 our Trustees revisited our Vision and Mission and decided that we needed to align ourselves more to the United Nations's Sustainable Development Goals. We have revised our main pillars accordingly:

4 KEY PILLARS OF ACTION

NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY	ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING	SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND FOOD INSECURITY	WASTE AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY
Includes: Energy, Water, Virgin Materials, Habitats, Nature, Biodiversity, Rivers & Oceans, Water Harvesting, Carbon Footprint, Reducing Consumption	Includes: Air Pollution, Incineration, Active Travel, Trees, Cold Homes, Retrofitting, Flooding, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, Cost of Living - energy prices, Heatwaves, Climate Justice, Intersectional Issues, Water Pollution	Includes: Growing and Gardening, Food Waste, Food Insecurity, Cost of Living - food prices, Food Partnerships, Food Insecurity, Food Deserts, Permaculture, Social Prescribing	Includes: Waste Reduction, Circular Economy, Refill Merton, Waste & Recycling Behaviour Change, 7 Rs: Rethinking, Reducing, Reusing, Repairing, Recycling, Refurbishing, and Recovering, Sustainable Fashion

We have proactively worked in partnership with many organisations and groups in the borough to support the community, to influence behaviour change and to inspire, to mobilise and to enable people to take part in tackling climate change .

Internally, our trustees have continued to run regular working committees (covering finance, fundraising and HR); overseen a review and an update of our policies; have regularly reviewed our risk assessment using the recommended NCVO template, assessing the risks to the charity and taking action to mitigate the risks. The Trustees met six times over the year to ensure our charity continues to be fit for purpose, has the right organisational structure in place and is meeting its obligations as a Charity.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

A summary of the significant activities in the year is presented below

Merton's Community Champions Project remained the foundation of our work addressing air quality, waste, energy, food and growing spaces. Sustainable Merton's **Community Fridge** reduces food wastage (which in turn would produce greenhouse gas emissions contributing to the climate emergency) and benefits local residents who are struggling with food insecurity. We also coordinated the borough's **Food Response Network** on behalf of Merton Council and worked with partner organisations through Merton's **Community Fridge Network**, to collect surplus food from businesses and redistribute it to those living in food insecurity.

Phipps Bridge Community Allotment and **Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden**, both are green havens in different parts of Mitcham and provided opportunities for local residents to work together, benefiting from social interaction, exercise and gaining horticultural knowledge. We also supported volunteer planting days at **Canons House**.

Merton Garden Streets planting days offered residents social interaction and small scale outdoor projects which provided public benefit by beautifying local streets.

The **Wheel** project, which supports waste minimisation and the circular economy, was launched in summer 2022. The aim is to encourage networking and build capacity in waste minimisation and upcycling projects across the borough, reducing waste and carbon footprints of local businesses, while increasing opportunities for businesses to collaborate. During the year, a new studio was opened in Canons House in Mitcham called the **Preloved Studio**, a destination for local residents in the under-served East of the Borough to gain practical, financial and social benefits from learning textile skills.

We also continued our work in Pollards Hill in Mitcham, delivering the **WeRPollards** waste minimisation project, in partnership with Moat Housing and Merton's Community Fridge Network, working with Commonsense Development Trust, Polish Family Association and Merton Community Transport.

Recent and current projects and activities include: The Wheel, Merton's Community Fridge, Merton Garden Streets, Repair Cafés, Pollards Hill Waste & Recycling Project, Merton Citizen Science Air Quality Project, Mitcham Community Orchard & Gardens, Phipps Bridge Community Garden, Green Coffee, and Merton Green Parents.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities we have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Trustees ensure that our activities are in line with our charitable objectives and aims, to protect and improve the natural environment. We measure the environmental impact that each of our programmes achieve, which are set out below. In addition, many of the programmes deliver added social benefits. As a result of our work:

- Less waste is sent to landfill/incineration - in particular food, packaging and fabrics.
- Greenhouse gas emissions are cut through reduced energy use and reduced waste of materials and food.
- Less pollution is created including reduced plastic pollution and air pollution.
- Our neighbourhoods are cleaner and people feel a sense of civic pride by participating in our community projects.
- People in hardship are given support, for example through the provision of healthy food, and better access to support and advice.
- People gain new skills, knowledge and friends, contributing to the overall wellbeing of our community.

Volunteers

Without its volunteers, Sustainable Merton could not achieve all that it does. Our volunteers include our Fridge Friends as well as Growing Spaces and Merton Garden Streets volunteers, those volunteering in our Air Quality Citizen Science project and those volunteering in our waste minimisation projects. Although the number of our volunteers reduced to 300 (down from 397 in March 2023) the number of hours given by our volunteers increased to 21,137 hours (up from 18,031 hours at the end of March 2023).

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

We continue to grow our ambitions to take forward climate action projects, bring communities together and influence people to change their behaviours to achieve a more sustainable lifestyle whilst improving their health and wellbeing. We have done this in the context of the continuation of the cost of living crisis and unpredictable energy costs, and we are very mindful that we should be encouraging people to be community minded, have pride in their borough and be kind to each other and the world that we live in. We work proactively in partnership with many organisations and groups in the borough to support our work in the Merton borough.

Merton's Community Champions project remained the foundation of our work and included multiple projects including Refill Merton, Community Litter picks, Merton Citizen Science Air Quality Project, Green Coffee, and Merton Green Parents. We worked with our community, schools and young people and the business community, and engaged with the growing number of supporters and contributors through social media, our website, newsletters and blogs. At the end of March 2024, we had 11,143 social media followers across all our social media channels and 1,631 subscribers. We had 13,720 visitors to our web site during the period April 2023 - March 2024.

Event highlights include:

Welcoming Colliers Wood resident and Masterchef: The Professionals quarter finalist Tasoula Gramozi to Merton's Community Fridge as our VIP guest chef for our weekly Warm Wednesday meal on 12th April. Tasoula made use of a variety of surplus food to make a fish stew, side of garlic bread and bread and butter pudding for over 90 visitors.

Operation Coronation: Sustainable Merton's Community Fridge e-bike team travelled around the borough over the bank holiday weekend (6/7th May) to rescue excess food from residents' coronation celebrations and redistribute this to the community.

The Preloved Studio launch (20th May): The launch ceremony was a huge celebration of preloved textiles. The then Mayor of Merton, Gill Manly, ward councillor for Cricket Green in Mitcham where the Preloved Studio is located, officiated the opening by cutting a ribbon made from fabric scraps. Local residents were invited to picnic in the grounds of Canons House and to tour the studio space. Preloved textiles projects by local makers were on display, from quilting to creative visible mending of children's clothes.

Launch of the We R Pollards campaign & Volunteers Week celebration: The Pollards Hill community came together to take part in a family-friendly litter pick and celebrate a shared vision for a cleaner, more sustainable Pollards Hill Estate. The new bin vinyl design was unveiled.

Clean Air Day: To mark Clean Air Day and shine a spotlight on air pollution, our Volunteer and Operations Manager walked Merton's streets with Global Action Plan's 2.5 Particulate Monitor to measure air quality across the borough, sharing that data with the Council.

Sustainable Fashion Week Repair Cafe: The Wheel hosted a special Sustainable Fashion Week Edition Repair Cafe, with a Sewing Machine Clinic and volunteer repairers helped residents mend their clothes and fix small electricals and furniture. A total of 11 items were repaired, preventing 33kg of waste and 227kg of CO2 emissions.

Morden Hall National Trust, in their Fun Palaces event, where we welcomed over 100 young people aged 3-18 to raise awareness of the energy crisis and actions we can take to conserve energy. This tied in with the Friends of the Earth's United for Warm Homes campaign. Participants drew or painted their ideas on quilt squares which were then made into 4 large quilts and displayed in the Park for a month.

Weekly volunteering sessions were organised with Harris Academy Morden post-16 children to support them in their learning, undertaking 3 litter picks and taking part in Net Zero games as well as visiting the Mitcham Orchard.

Anti-Idling Action Day on 19th January: Our Air Quality Team supported Merton Council's anti-idling event at the traffic-prone West Barnes Lane level crossing to help raise awareness of how idling affects air pollution.

We ran our own Spring Greening campaign to raise awareness of sustainable solutions for homes, gardens, and communities through social media activity and in-person events - Repair Cafe, Tranquil City Walk and 'In Conversation with Nicole de Caires from Declutter'd' - an in-person discussion on how to transform cluttered spaces and responsible disposal of unwanted items.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Awareness Days & Campaigns:

We also showed our support for a number of national and international campaigns and awareness days, including: World Refill Day, Pride Month, London Climate Action Week, Plastic Free July, Zero Waste Week, Car Free Day, Second Hand September, Green Friday, Giving Tuesday, Global Action Plan's first-ever Clean Air Night, and the Eat Like a Londoner food waste campaign. We continued to run networking groups such as Green Parents and Green Coffee.

Awards:

Mitcham Community Orchard & Gardens received a "Thriving - Level 4, It's Your Neighbourhood" award from The Royal Horticultural Society & London in Bloom. This recognition celebrates our commitment to making our community more green, sustainable, and vibrant. Sustainable Merton was also shortlisted in the 'Charity of the Year' category at the Merton Best Business awards amongst strong competition.

Charity Video:

We were delighted to launch our first-ever charity video which highlights our impressive impact and showcases how Sustainable Merton is driving positive change through climate action and community partnerships in Merton. The video tells the story of how we empower the local community to take meaningful steps towards combating climate change. The film was produced by Mitcham-based Casa Creative Studios.

FOOD

Sustainable Merton continued to coordinate Merton Council's **Food Response Network and Food Poverty Action Plan**. The major part of this involved the administration of borough wide Food Response meetings, involving 15 local providers of food support, and the coordination of Merton's Community Fridge Network. The model of operation for the Community Fridges was developed by Sustainable Merton, who hold the funding for the three separate Community Fridges run by Sustainable Merton, The Polish Families Association and Commonsense Development Trust as well as our transport partner, Merton Community Transport. An over 55s Clarion Housing scheme in the borough was identified as having residents in need and who are socially isolated. Clarion Satellite Fridge launched in February 2023, using Sustainable Merton's model, to help the Housing Association's residents and save surplus food from going to waste.

Sustainable Merton's Community Fridge in Morden opened twice a week to residents struggling with food insecurity (no formal referral needed). The number of visits to the Fridge almost doubled between April 2023 and March 2024. In response to the surge in demand for food support, we continued to look for sources of surplus food in the community and worked to make optimal use of the e-bike and trailer funded through Hubbub as well as continuing to work with volunteers to collect on evenings and weekends. In October 2023 we hired a new Community Fridge Network Manager and worked with our very dedicated team of volunteers. In summary there were:

- 10,003 fridge visits
- 58,906 kg of surplus food saved
- 141,375 meals equivalent distributed
- 188,501 kg of CO2 saved
- 5,066 volunteer hours contributed to the service

We are thankful to our hosts at Morden Baptist Church for providing space to deliver this project and also to London Borough of Merton for providing additional storage at the Civic Centre. From March 2023 we have worked with Hubbub Foundation to pilot an e-bike and trailer and two riders have been recruited and trained. Safe storage for the bike and trailer was provided by Merton Community Transport. The number of local businesses regularly donating surplus food increased across the year, with bulk supplies being provided by the Felix Project.

GROWING SPACES

Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden, a beautiful urban growing space and peaceful haven for people and nature, right in the heart of Mitcham, provides a community-led green space where fruit and vegetables are grown using sustainable and organic methods, and where a range of different habitats are maintained to support biodiversity whilst also providing environmental benefits to Merton.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Monthly Action Days and weekly Growing Fridays continued to be delivered throughout 2023 and 2024 where we invited volunteers and local residents to come along and undertake regular tasks such as weeding, mulching, sowing and growing, and managing the native hedge, pond and wildflower meadow. We hosted 2 corporate team days and one school visit to provide opportunities for people to get outside and enjoy the benefits of working in nature. A spring blossom event and a harvest event were organised to celebrate the work we do at the Orchard and the efforts of the volunteers to maintain the space. We provided nature based activities for people to enjoy and shared food and drink. Local residents are invited to these events, along with our regular and occasional volunteers, with the aim of bringing people together and encouraging people to get involved with our work.

Twice-weekly sessions at **Phipps Bridge Community Allotment**, managed by Sustainable Merton, continued. Twenty regular volunteers together with around forty occasional volunteers, harvested produce which was shared amongst the volunteers or donated to the Community Fridge.

In October 2023, we began a project in partnership with Canons House and Grounds and Merton Council to look after and develop **Canons House Community Garden**. We received funding for 3 months to deliver gardening workshops and volunteer sessions at the community garden. New volunteers were engaged and they participated in these educational sessions whilst getting involved in planning for the garden. Plants were purchased and planted alongside undertaking work to clear the beds. In the early part of 2024, we were in talks with Merton Council to receive more funding to continue this work which was agreed in March 2024 for an April start.

We were also successful in winning funding from Hubbub to develop a new **Community Kitchen Garden** to provide fresh local produce for the Merton Community Fridge Network. A partnership was agreed with Morden Hall Park National Trust to use their community growing space for this purpose. The project planning began in November 2023 and volunteer sessions started in February 2024. Initial work involved creating new raised beds and clearing the space so we could maximise growing space. We also started sowing seeds and planting. Volunteer sessions run weekly on Tuesday mornings with a volunteer led session on Saturday mornings.

Merton Garden Streets project, run as part of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, aims to improve biodiversity, reduce likelihood of flash floods and encourage neighbours to engage in their communities. 113 streets took part, covering every ward in the borough, with a coordinator for every street. Volunteers gave up over 12,000 hours to plant up verges, under street trees, in front gardens and window boxes. Three community planting days were held with 5000 pollinator friendly perennial and drought-tolerant plants put in over the Summer. In autumn thousands of bulbs were distributed and planted in verges. A seed swap event took place with 80m people attending and 200 varieties of seeds were harvested, collected and swapped. The new friendship groups which sprang up were an additional important outcome - an example of civic pride and neighbourhood action.

AIR QUALITY

As part of our Community Champion project we collaborated with the local Council to continue the Merton Citizen Science Air Quality Project. A Breathe London Node installed in Abbey Road, SW19 with the support of Merton Council's Air Quality Team remained in situ. This project involved sharing information and updates with the Council and community engagement. In early 2024 Merton Council cancelled the NO2 diffusion tube project which was the "active backbone" of the Merton Citizen Science Project and there is no indication that this will return. Engagement was primarily around raising awareness, the Clean Air Day campaign and the Air Quality Handbook, going into schools and sending out newsletters. We also created a facebook page and a WhatsApp group for this project.

WASTE

In its third year, The Wheel, which is Merton's waste reduction and circular economy capacity building project, directly prevented 1197 kg of waste and added 586 volunteer hours. The avoided GHG emissions were also estimated (based on stated assumptions) to be 4483 kg. This is a significant over-delivery on The Wheel's project targets for 2023-24 of 775 kg avoided waste and 1163 avoided CO2 emissions.

It delivered:

- 6 Repair Cafés at Canons House, Mitcham,
- 6 weekly upcycling project sessions at Wilson Wellbeing in Mitcham,
- Launched the Preloved Studio, a textiles waste reduction hub at Canons House,
- 6 Project Preloved workshops at the Preloved Studio,
- 10 sewing, mending, and upcycling skills workshops for textiles waste reduction at the Preloved Studio,

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- 30 social sewing drop-in sessions at the Preloved Studio,
- The creation of over 200 draught excluders made from scrap and donated fabrics for community use,
- The creation of 300 reusable fabric tote bags made from preloved and donated fabrics for community use,
- 1 public panel discussion event on slow and sustainable fashion,
- Became an official supporter of London Repair Week.

Back in 2022, Moat and Sustainable Merton partnered to bring a recycling and behaviour campaign to the Pollard's Hill estate in Mitcham. Now branded **WeRpollards** the goal was to recruit community waste champions to help tackle contamination and dumping issues and build a brand promoting responsibility in waste disposal. Fast forward over two years, and the WeRpollards campaign is a well-established force. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, the campaign has been able to make significant inroads in tackling waste issues on the estate, as well as building a dedicated resident led community. Through leaflet and doorknocking campaigns reaching up to 400 properties, 100's of surveys collected, monthly feedback meetings, 4 major events (Litterpicks, Skip Days etc.) and improved waste messaging across the whole estate - the campaign has achieved direct results:

- A new dedicated caretaker
- 50 upgraded bin stickers across 6 blocks,
- Increased CCTV across the entire estate
- Better waste removal systems with 'Anyjunk' removing waste for Moat on demand
- 2 active waste reporting groups.

The campaign has also diversified to focus more directly on Sustainability Education with Moat's Wellbeing Studio as its base. Recent work has seen collaborations with The Wheel to deliver Pollards Hill's first repair cafe and further work with William Morris Primary School to launch a 'Waste Reduction' drive through art competitions such as recycle art for the bin stickers and more recently the 'Waste to Waves: Sea Sculpture Challenge'. The aim is to create a lasting legacy around attitudes to waste disposal on Pollard's Hill.

Fundraising activities

The Trustees set up a fundraising committee in 2023 with the purpose of increasing the charity's financial resilience by growing its proportion of unrestricted funding. During the year, £20,396 was received from unrestricted donations and we are thankful to all those who supported us through donations and activity in kind. Looking ahead, we have drawn up a 3 year fundraising strategy with stretch targets for donations and unrestricted income as well as donations in kind.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the year our grant income increased by 16% on the previous year and our Trustee-led finance committee continued to meet 3 times a year to review the financial position in detail, including management accounts, reserves, and the production of the annual accounts.

The Charity remains in good financial health with funds to cover its contractual commitments.

Principal funding sources

The majority of our funding comes from grants, with less than 10% from donations and legacies. Our projects are funded from a wide range of funders and fall within the key themes of Waste, Air Quality, Energy, Food Response and Growing Spaces.

During this financial year Sustainable Merton delivered 24 grants awarded from:

- The London Borough of Merton
- Clarion Futures
- Pollards Hill Community Initiative Fund
- Hubbub Foundation
- LCF Wimbledon Futures
- Tesco Community Grant
- Merton Giving
- GLA Winter Crisis Grant
- Magic Little Grant
- NPT Transatlantic donor fund
- South West London Integrated Commissioning Board

We also received donations from local people and businesses totalling £20,396.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

Sustainable Merton's Reserves Policy was changed in 2024 and is to retain unrestricted funds to the value of 6 months core expenditure. This amount includes non-project funded salaries and office costs, enabling the charity to continue running during lean periods between the award of grants.

Details of the amount of reserves held (prior to the change in our Reserves Policy) are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year and the balance sheet for the year end.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is regulated by the Charity Commission. The activities of the CIO are controlled by its constituting document which is based on the Charity Commission model association CIO constitution.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are co-opted by the Board of Trustees during the year and confirmed by election at the AGM.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees delegate the day to day running of the charity to the CEO and team. Our CEO, Diana Sterck, oversees a team, which includes a Communications Manager, Project Managers and Coordinators, each working on specific community projects. We also had 2 ebike couriers and self employed finance, project management and PR support. All our project managers are supported by a large pool of local volunteers who are integral partners in project delivery. We collaborate with local businesses, schools and other charities within the borough. In 2023 we had 6 full time equivalent staff and during 2024 this was reduced to 4.5 full time equivalent staff, reflecting a drop in our grant income.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees have received induction training on their governance responsibilities, including financial controls, safeguarding and other policies.

Wider network

The Sustainable Merton CEO is responsible for managing the charity's operational activity, overseeing a team of staff, volunteers and self-employed contractors. Sustainable Merton takes a very active part in the local community and borough networks, and much of its activity is undertaken in partnership with local organisations as outlined in the previous sections.

Risk management

A Trustee has led on our organisational risk assessment and Trustees have continued to review our risk log. Sustainable Merton Trustees have not identified any risks where the likelihood and impact score was higher than "acceptable low risk", using the risk assessment methodology recommended by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Controls and mitigating actions are in place to minimise risks in the areas of governance, finance, operations, external factors and regulatory & compliance activities.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1156639

Principal address

The Old Boiler House
Morden Hall Park
Morden Hall Road
Morden
SM4 5JD

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees

B M Cuddon - Chair
R Baber - Secretary
A S Randall - Treasurer
Dr J D Boyd
S Kim-Stroud
A Laidler
Dr G Leigh
A Maries
K Punungwe-Mutandiro
A Tacu

Independent Examiner

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 9 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

B M Cuddon - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SUSTAINABLE MERTON

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sustainable Merton

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sustainable Merton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can 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 material 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Jonathan Askew

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

17 January 2025

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		20,396	-	20,396	21,528
Charitable activities					
General		3,432	367,324	370,756	307,797
Investment income	2	-	295	295	328
Total		<u>23,828</u>	<u>367,619</u>	<u>391,447</u>	<u>329,653</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		-	1,015	1,015	858
Charitable activities					
General		<u>2,985</u>	<u>366,813</u>	<u>369,798</u>	<u>311,044</u>
Total		<u>2,985</u>	<u>367,828</u>	<u>370,813</u>	<u>311,902</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		20,843	(209)	20,634	17,751
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		54,880	56,284	111,164	93,413
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>75,723</u></u>	<u><u>56,075</u></u>	<u><u>131,798</u></u>	<u><u>111,164</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	4,136	-	4,136	6,260
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	22,284	-	22,284	16,454
Cash at bank		86,820	84,859	171,679	211,693
		<u>109,104</u>	<u>84,859</u>	<u>193,963</u>	<u>228,147</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(37,517)	(28,784)	(66,301)	(123,243)
		<u>71,587</u>	<u>56,075</u>	<u>127,662</u>	<u>104,904</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>75,723</u>	<u>56,075</u>	<u>131,798</u>	<u>111,164</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>75,723</u>	<u>56,075</u>	<u>131,798</u>	<u>111,164</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>75,723</u>	<u>56,075</u>	<u>131,798</u>	<u>111,164</u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds				75,723	54,880
Restricted funds				56,075	56,284
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>131,798</u>	<u>111,164</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 9 January 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

B M Cuddon - Trustee

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts for the year to March 2021 and prior years were prepared on a cash basis. For the 2022 accounts and for the future the charity has changed to preparing accounts on an accruals basis. No adjustments have been made to the prior year figures as the trustees do not consider the change in accounting policy to have significantly changed the figures previously reported.

Income

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

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Where restricted funds are used to acquire assets for ongoing use by the charity the expenditure is included as direct charitable expenditure of restricted funds with the restriction treated as having been met on acquisition. Where the assets remain within the control of the charity the assets are revalued based on their original costs and treated as unrestricted fixed asset additions.

Depreciation is charged on fixed assets from the date on which they are brought into use. No depreciation is charged where the assets are not brought into use prior to the year end.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>295</u>	<u>328</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	21,528	-	21,528
Charitable activities			
General	1,666	306,131	307,797
Investment income	<u>328</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>328</u>
Total	<u>23,522</u>	<u>306,131</u>	<u>329,653</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	-	858	858
Charitable activities			
General	<u>3,273</u>	<u>307,771</u>	<u>311,044</u>
Total	<u>3,273</u>	<u>308,629</u>	<u>311,902</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	20,249	(2,498)	17,751
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>34,631</u>	<u>58,782</u>	<u>93,413</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>54,880</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>111,164</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	4,348	3,097	7,445
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2023	-	1,185	1,185
Charge for year	1,092	1,032	2,124
At 31 March 2024	1,092	2,217	3,309
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2024	3,256	880	4,136
At 31 March 2023	4,348	1,912	6,260

Fixed assets acquired with restricted funds are capitalised with the restriction treated as satisfied on acquisition. The purchase cost is reflected initially as restricted expenditure with the assets acquired being revalued and included as unrestricted fixed asset additions where they remain within the control of the charity.

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	14,506	2,233
Accrued income	6,527	14,000
Prepayments	1,251	221
	<u>22,284</u>	<u>16,454</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	10,127	11,385
Taxation and social security	3,576	5,201
Other creditors	52,598	106,657
	<u>66,301</u>	<u>123,243</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	54,880	20,843	75,723
Restricted funds			
Restricted	56,284	(209)	56,075
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>111,164</u>	<u>20,634</u>	<u>131,798</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	23,828	(2,985)	20,843
Restricted funds			
Restricted	367,619	(367,828)	(209)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>391,447</u>	<u>(370,813)</u>	<u>20,634</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	34,631	20,249	54,880
Restricted funds			
Restricted	58,782	(2,498)	56,284
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>93,413</u>	<u>17,751</u>	<u>111,164</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	23,522	(3,273)	20,249
Restricted funds			
Restricted	306,131	(308,629)	(2,498)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>329,653</u>	<u>(311,902)</u>	<u>17,751</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1156639

Accounts

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Signature Details

Name:	Ben Cuddon
Email:	ben.cuddon@gmail.com
Date & Time:	09/12/2023 09:51:30 AM (GMT)
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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1156639

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
FOR
SUSTAINABLE MERTON**

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
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SW19 4EU

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11 to 15

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Sustainable Merton is Merton's local environment charity giving local residents, community organisations and businesses the opportunity to stimulate practical action to make our area a sustainable community. The thinking behind this is simply that a borough using energy and resources in a sustainable way could, if well planned and designed, be more resilient, more abundant and more pleasurable than at present.

The charitable purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are to promote for the benefit of the public in and around the London Borough of Merton:

- (a) the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, in particular but not exclusively, by encouraging the prudent use of natural resources, and raising awareness of environmental issues;
- (b) the advancement of education of the public in the subject of sustainable development, in particular, but not exclusively by raising awareness of the issues associated with peak oil and climate change and the consequent need to develop a low carbon, sustainable future.

In early 2021 our Trustees revisited our Vision and Mission and we have proactively worked in partnership with many organisations and groups in the borough to support the community, to influence behaviour change and to inspire, to mobilise and to enable people to take part in climate change combat and mitigation.

We continued to deliver our work under five main pillars - food, growing spaces, energy, air quality and waste as well as the significant work we do to raise awareness of climate change and to influence behaviours. Internally, our trustees have:

- introduced working committees (covering finance, fundraising and HR)
- overseen a review and an update of our policies
- reviewed our risk assessment using the recommended NCVO template, and assessing the risks to the charity and actions to mitigate the risks
- met six times over the year to ensure our charity continues to be fit for purpose, has the right organisational structure in place and is meeting its obligations as a Charity.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

A summary of the significant activities in the year is presented below

Merton's **Community Champions Project** is the foundation of our work addressing air quality, waste, energy, food and growing spaces. Sustainable Merton's **Community Fridge** reduces food wastage (which in turn would produce carbon emissions contributing to the climate emergency) and benefits local residents who are food insecure. We also co-ordinate the borough's **Food Poverty Response Network and Plan** on behalf of Merton Council and work with partner organisations through Merton's **Community Fridge Network**, to collect surplus food from businesses and redistribute it to those living in food insecurity.

Phipps Bridge Community Allotment and **Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden**, both being green havens in different parts of Mitcham and provided opportunities for local residents to work together, benefiting from social interaction, exercise and gaining horticultural knowledge.

Merton Garden Streets planting days offered residents social interaction and small scale outdoor projects which provided public benefit by beautifying local streets.

The Wheel project, which supports waste minimisation and the circular economy, was launched in summer 2022. The aim is to encourage networking and build capacity in waste minimisation and upcycling projects across the borough, reducing waste and carbon footprints of local businesses, while increasing business opportunities. During the year, a new initiative in Mitcham called the **Preloved Studio** was developed and **Project Pre-Loved** provided opportunities for local residents in the under-served East of the Borough to gain practical, financial and social benefit from learning textile skills.

Recent and current projects include: The Wheel, Merton's Community Fridge, Merton Garden Streets, Project Preloved, Refill Merton, Repair Café, Community Litter picks, Pollards Hill Waste & Recycling Project, Merton's Air Quality Handbook, Merton Citizen Science Air Quality Project, Mitcham Community Orchard & Gardens, Phipps Bridge Community Garden, Energy Savings Handbook, Green Coffee, and Merton Green Parents.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities we have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Trustees ensure that our activities are in line with our charitable objectives and aims, to protect and improve the natural environment. We measure the environmental impact that each of our programmes achieve, which are set out below. In addition, many of the programmes deliver added social benefits. As a result of our work:

- Less waste will be sent to landfill/incineration - in particular food, packaging and fabrics.
- Carbon dioxide emissions will be cut through reduced energy use and waste of materials and food
- Less pollution will be created including reduced plastic pollution and air pollution.
- Our neighbourhoods will be cleaner and people will feel a sense of civic pride by participating in our community projects.
- People in hardship will be given support, for example through the provision of healthy food, and better access to support and advice.
- People will gain new skills, knowledge and friends, contributing to the overall wellbeing of our community.

Volunteers

Without its volunteers, Sustainable Merton could not achieve all that it does. Our volunteers include our Community Champions, Fridge Friends, Growing Spaces volunteers, and those volunteering at our partnership project with Moat Housing. Our volunteers increased from 222 in January 2022 to 397 at the end of March 2023 and our volunteer hours increased by over 300% from 5212 to 18,031 hours at the end of March 2023.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

We continue to grow our ambitions to take forward climate action projects, bring communities together and influence people to change their behaviours to achieve a more sustainable lifestyle whilst improving their health and wellbeing. We have done this in the context of the major cost of living and energy crisis and we are very mindful that we should be encouraging people to be community minded, have pride in their borough and be kind to each other and the world that we live in. We work proactively in partnership with many organisations and groups in the borough to support the community, influence behaviour change and inspire, mobilise and enable people to take action on climate change.

In September 2022 our work was recognised for the second year in a row by receiving the Runner up in the Breakthrough Charity Of the Year category in the Merton Best Business Awards.

Merton's Community Champion project is the foundation of our work and includes multiple projects including Refill Merton, Community Litter picks, Merton's Air Quality Handbook, Merton Citizen Science Air Quality Project, Energy Savings Handbook, Green Coffee, and Merton Green Parents. We worked with the community, schools and young people and the business community and engaged with the growing number of supporters and contributors through social media, our website and newsletters and blogs. We had 3,828 followers on Twitter, 2,791 followers on Facebook, 2,501 followers on Instagram and 1,510 subscribers to our newsletter and a total of 13,200 social media followers across all our platforms. We have participated in/showed our support for a number of national and international campaigns and awareness days, including: Pride Month, the Month of Community, Black History Month, Mental Health Awareness Day, Refugee Week, International Women's Day and Dementia Action Week. We also support/promote the activities of Merton's health and wellbeing organisations/initiatives such as Merton Social Prescribing, Merton Uplift and One You Merton. We worked closely with many different organisations such as Friends of the Earth, Walk and Talk movement, food support providers, schools, voluntary organisations and businesses. We continued to run networking groups such as Green Parents and Green Coffee. Training and development are fundamental to our work and over the year our volunteers and staff attended:

Behavioural change workshops Feb 2022

Training sessions on our Energy and Air Quality Handbook

Food Hygiene Training Level 1 for Fridge Friends

Mental health and suicide awareness online webinars

NCVO safeguarding training

5 volunteers participated in the Orchard Project fruit tree care course hosted at Mitcham Community Orchard

Over the year, we:

- Increased total number of volunteers to 397
- Increased the total hours contributed by all our volunteers to 18,031
- 21% of our volunteers came from the BAME community

FOOD

Sustainable Merton continued to coordinate Merton Council's **Food Response Network and Food Poverty Action Plan**. The major part of this involved the administration of borough wide Food Response meetings, involving 15 local providers of food support, and the coordination of Merton's Community Fridge Network. The model of operation for the Community Fridges was developed by Sustainable Merton, who hold the funding for the three separate Community Fridges run by Sustainable Merton, The Polish Families Association and Commonsense Development Trust as well as our transport partner, Merton Community Transport. An over 55s Clarion Housing scheme in the borough was identified as having residents in need and who are socially isolated. Clarion Satellite Fridge launched in February 2023, using Sustainable Merton's model, to help the Housing Association's residents and save surplus food from going to waste.

Sustainable Merton's Community Fridge in Morden opened twice a week to residents suffering food insecurity (no formal referral needed). The number of visits to the Fridge doubled between March 2022 and February 2023. In response to the surge in demand for food support, we increased our staffing levels and worked with our very dedicated team of volunteers. In summary there were:

- 5,473 fridge visits
- 35,500 kg of surplus food saved
- 75,400 meals equivalent distributed
- 113,687 kg of CO2 saved

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- 3,787 volunteer hours donated to the project

We are thankful to our hosts at Morden Baptist Church for providing space to deliver this project and also to London Borough of Merton for providing additional storage at the Civic Centre. We also received freezers and fridges from a number of sources and appreciated the support given to us by local celebrities - Marcus Wareing, who supported our Kitchen Cupboard Clearout campaign as well as Tasoula Gramozi - Masterchef Quarter Finalist & Merton resident. We ran Warm Wednesdays at Morden Baptist Church, providing hot soup and fresh food in a warm and welcoming space to help people affected by the cost of living crisis and to combat loneliness. In March 2023 we were delighted to work with Hubbub Foundation to pilot an e-bike and trailer and two volunteer riders were recruited and trained. They initially collected around 450kgs of food per week. Safe storage for the bike and trailer was provided by Merton Community Transport, another example of partnership working. The number of local businesses regularly donating surplus food increased across the year, with bulk supplies being provided by the Felix Project.

GROWING SPACES

Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden, a beautiful urban growing space and peaceful haven for people and nature, right in the heart of Mitcham, provides a community led green space where fruit and vegetables are grown using sustainable and organic methods and where a range of different habitats are maintained to support biodiversity whilst also providing environmental benefits to Merton. Monthly Action Days enabled some larger scale pieces of work to be undertaken, beyond the scope of the regular maintenance and improvement work at the orchard. Volunteers built a new shed, put together a greenhouse which had been donated in pieces, established a new wildflower area and mended the leaking pond. A social barbecue was held in the autumn, celebrating all that had been achieved. The Orchard also hosted the Intergenerational Food Growing Project bringing together older and younger local people to grow and cook together. Growing Fridays included regular tasks such as weeding, mulching, sowing and growing, and managing the native hedge. A number of school and business visits also took place.

Twice weekly sessions at **Phipps Bridge Community Allotment**, managed by Sustainable Merton, continued. 20 regular volunteers plus around 40 occasional volunteers, harvested 610kg of produce which was shared amongst the volunteers or donated to the Community Fridge.

We also worked with Clarion Housing to deliver a **Greening your Balcony** project in the new flats on the High Path estate. Residents had opportunities to meet their neighbours, were provided with free planting packs and learnt how to grow in small spaces, alongside the wider aims of improving air quality and increasing the biodiversity of the area.

We ran a Caring for Houseplants workshop in partnership with Merton Plus and Merton Health & Care Together, as well as a number of other **nature themed workshops** to support physical and mental well-being as part of green social prescribing.

Merton Garden Streets project, run as part of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, aims to improve biodiversity, reduce likelihood of flash floods and encourage neighbours to engage in their communities. 133 streets took part, covering every ward in the borough, with a coordinator for every street. Volunteers gave up over 10,000 hours to plant up verges, under street trees, in front gardens and window boxes, with 223 planting events and over 4,000 pollinator friendly perennial and drought tolerant plants put in over the Summer. In autumn thousands of bulbs were distributed and planted in verges. A seed swap event took place so that seedlings could be grown on for the following spring. The new friendship groups which sprang up were an additional important outcome - an example of civic pride and neighbourhood action.

AIR QUALITY

In partnership with Merton Council, we trained and supported 9 Community Champions and 6 members of the Colliers Wood Residents Association in collecting data on NO2 levels throughout Merton. We now have over 6 months' worth of data in 10 locations and will be looking at what action can be taken for those locations that exceed the National Air Quality objectives. On Clean Air Day, a joint event with Merton Council was held. The Project Manager also visited a local school on Clean Air Day and presented to 3 classes.

With a collaboration with Global Action Plan, we borrowed a PM2.5 monitor in the run up to Clean Air Day and assessed air quality across the borough and will create a "cleaner-air walking route" for school children and a report.

WASTE

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

In Jan. 2020 we began coordinating **Refill Merton**, the local chapter of the National award-winning Refill campaign to tackle plastic pollution. Since the Lockdown Refill has changed its emphasis to encourage more businesses to become Refill stations and to raise awareness of "food on the go" plastic pollution. We supported 3 Refill action days over the year. We continue to promote refill through our work within the community and have collaborated with Refill and generated social media engagement through our be spoke posts.

Since September 2020 we have held monthly **Waste Warrior Weekend litter picks** with an average monthly participation of approximately 18. These are opportunities for our Champions and supporters to undertake litter picking action in their local area and come together virtually. They provided valuable opportunities for people to give back to their community.

In its second year, **The Wheel**, which is Merton's waste reduction and circular economy capacity building project, developed new initiatives based on 3 strategic pillars- a digital hub, community waste reduction initiatives and resource efficient high streets.

The Wheel delivered a signposting digital hub, enabled the following initiatives- a 3-day community clothes swap led by young people, 3 repair cafes, a 6 week upcycling project for and at the local heritage building Canons House, 4 sessions of **Project Preloved** (focused on hardly reached communities) and launched 2 projects on Morden High Street - a waste mapping study of small, medium and micro businesses and a reusable bags trial. Through these initiatives, the Wheel avoided 705 kg of waste and added 662 volunteer hours. The avoided greenhouse gas emissions were also estimated (based on stated assumptions). In addition to these impacts, the initiatives also contributed to a range of co-benefits such as improved mental health & wellbeing, civic pride, social cohesion, green skills, behaviour change and income maximisation through avoided cost of new items during an ongoing cost of living crisis. Evidence of co-benefits was gathered where possible through customer satisfaction surveys.

Pollards Hill Waste Disposal and Recycling Project is a partnership project with Moat Housing to improve recycling rates and reduce contamination through fly tipping and incorrect disposal of waste. During the year our project manager has worked to understand the issues causing poor waste management., established an active resident group and brand identity, involved residents in planning change, worked with local stakeholders and improved trust and communication between residents and their housing provider. The emphasis has been on data gathering, qualitative feedback, subjective investigation and community engagement. Although recycling and fly-tipping levels have yet to see significant measurable change, the real success of the project so far has been in establishing a community and brand, which has made a genuine impact in the heart of Pollard's Hi ll life.

ENERGY

During the year we worked with Merton Council and the local Community Response Network to support people with the cost of living crisis with energy costs being a fundamental issue. At the Wheel, volunteers made and distributed draught excluders to those requiring warmer homes, we continued to write blogs on energy saving tips such as batch cooking to save on electricity, and we promoted our Energy Savings Handbook at Cost of Living and other local events.

Fundraising activities

The Trustees set up a fundraising committee in 2022 with the purpose of reducing the charity's reliance on grant funding. During the year £21,528 was received from donations and we are thankful to all those who supported us through donations and activity in kind. In 2023 we are focusing on business partnerships with a target for an increase in donations - both financial and in kind.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the year our grant income increased by over 100% and our Trustee led finance committee agreed to meet 3 times a year to review the financial position in detail, including management accounts, reserves, going concern and the production of the annual accounts..

The Charity remains in good financial health with funds to cover its contractual commitments.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

The majority of our funding comes from grants, with less than 10% from donations and legacies. Our projects are funded from a wide range of funders and fall within the key themes of Waste, Air Quality, Energy, Food Response and Growing Spaces.

During this financial year Sustainable Merton delivered 23 projects using restricted grant funding awarded from:

- The London Borough of Merton
- Clarion Futures
- The Wimbledon Foundation
- Merton Giving
- Pollards Hill Community Initiative Fund
- Tesco Community Fund
- Magic Little Grants
- NHS England
- Hubbub Foundation

We also received donations from local people and businesses totalling £21,528, an increase of 25% on the previous year.

Reserves policy

Sustainable Merton's Reserves Policy is to retain unrestricted funds to the value of 3 months typical expenditure. This amount includes salaries and office costs, enabling the charity to continue running during lean periods between the award of grants.

Details of the amount of reserves held are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year and the balance sheet for the year end.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is regulated by the Charity Commission. The activities of the CIO are controlled by its constituting document which is based on the Charity Commission model association CIO constitution.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are co-opted by the Board of Trustees during the year and confirmed by election at the AGM.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees delegate the day to day running of the charity to the CEO and team. Our CEO, Diana Sterck, oversees a team, which includes a Communications Manager, Operations and Volunteer Manager, Project Managers and Coordinators, each working on specific community projects who are further supported by a large pool of local volunteers who are integral partners in project delivery. We collaborate with local businesses, schools and other charities within the borough. In 2022 we had 4.5 full time equivalent staff and in 2023 this has increased to 6 full time equivalent staff.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees have received induction training on their governance responsibilities, including financial controls, safeguarding and other policies.

Wider network

The Sustainable Merton CEO is responsible for managing the charity's operational activity, overseeing a team of staff, volunteers and self-employed contractors. Sustainable Merton takes a very active part in the local community and borough networks, and much of its activity is undertaken in partnership with local organisations as outlined in the previous sections.

Risk management

A Trustee has led on our organisational risk assessment and Trustees have continued to review our risk log. Sustainable Merton Trustees have not identified any risks where the likelihood and impact score was higher than "acceptable low risk", using the risk assessment methodology recommended by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Controls and mitigating actions are in place to minimise risks in the areas of governance, finance, operations, external factors and regulatory & compliance activities.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1156639

Principal address

The Old Boiler House
Morden Hall Park
Morden Hall Road
Morden
SM4 5JD

Trustees

B M Cuddon - Chair
R Baber - Secretary
A S Randall - Treasurer
Dr J D Boyd
Dr G Leigh
A Maries
A Laidler - co-opted March 2022 (appointed 29/3/23)
K Punungwe-Mutandiro - co-opted March 2022 (appointed 29/3/23)
S K Stroud - co-opted March 2022 (appointed 29/3/23)
A Tacu - co-opted March 2022 (appointed 23/3/23)
L A Lazzarino (resigned 23/9/22)

Independent Examiner

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
B M Cuddon - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SUSTAINABLE MERTON

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sustainable Merton

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sustainable Merton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.


Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can 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 material 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.


Jonathan Askew

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Date:13/12/23.....

SUSTAINABLE MERTON**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		21,528	-	21,528	16,812
Charitable activities					
General		1,666	306,131	307,797	125,776
Investment income	2	328	-	328	-
Total		<u>23,522</u>	<u>306,131</u>	<u>329,653</u>	<u>142,588</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		-	858	858	173
Charitable activities					
General		7,621	307,771	315,392	176,764
Total		<u>7,621</u>	<u>308,629</u>	<u>316,250</u>	<u>176,937</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		15,901	(2,498)	13,403	(34,349)
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets		4,348	-	4,348	-
Net movement in funds		20,249	(2,498)	17,751	(34,349)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		34,631	58,782	93,413	127,762
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>54,880</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>111,164</u>	<u>93,413</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SUSTAINABLE MERTON**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	6,260	-	6,260	2,944
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	16,454	-	16,454	4,722
Cash at bank		55,040	156,653	211,693	272,743
		<u>71,494</u>	<u>156,653</u>	<u>228,147</u>	<u>277,465</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(22,874)	(100,369)	(123,243)	(186,996)
		<u>48,620</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>104,904</u>	<u>90,469</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>48,620</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>104,904</u>	<u>90,469</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>54,880</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>111,164</u>	<u>93,413</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>54,880</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>111,164</u>	<u>93,413</u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds				54,880	34,631
Restricted funds				56,284	58,782
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>111,164</u>	<u>93,413</u>

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

.....
B M Cuddon - Trustee

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts for the year to March 2021 and prior years were prepared on a cash basis. For the 2022 accounts and for the future the charity has changed to preparing accounts on an accruals basis. No adjustments have been made to the prior year figures as the trustees do not consider the change in accounting policy to have significantly changed the figures previously reported.

Income

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

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Where restricted funds are used to acquire assets for ongoing use by the charity the expenditure is included as direct charitable expenditure of restricted funds with the restriction treated as having been met on acquisition. Where the assets remain within the control of the charity the assets are revalued based on their original costs and treated as unrestricted fixed asset additions.

Depreciation is charged on fixed assets from the date on which they are brought into use. No depreciation is charged where the assets are not brought into use prior to the year end.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023****2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	328	-

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	7,437	9,375	16,812
Charitable activities			
General	1,059	124,717	125,776
Total	<u>8,496</u>	<u>134,092</u>	<u>142,588</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	173	-	173
Charitable activities			
General	(46)	176,810	176,764
Total	<u>127</u>	<u>176,810</u>	<u>176,937</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	8,369	(42,718)	(34,349)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	26,262	101,500	127,762
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>34,631</u></u>	<u><u>58,782</u></u>	<u><u>93,413</u></u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2022	-	3,097	3,097
Additions	4,348	-	4,348
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,348</u>	<u>3,097</u>	<u>7,445</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2022	-	153	153
Charge for year	-	1,032	1,032
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1,185</u>	<u>1,185</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,348</u>	<u>1,912</u>	<u>6,260</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>2,944</u>	<u>2,944</u>

Fixed assets acquired with restricted funds are capitalised with the restriction treated as satisfied on acquisition. The purchase cost is reflected initially as restricted expenditure with the assets acquired being revalued and included as unrestricted fixed asset additions where they remain within the control of the charity.

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	2,233	4,596
Accrued income	14,000	-
Prepayments	221	126
	<u>16,454</u>	<u>4,722</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	11,385	6,014
Taxation and social security	5,201	4,235
Other creditors	106,657	176,747
	<u>123,243</u>	<u>186,996</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	34,631	20,249	54,880
Restricted funds			
Restricted	58,782	(2,498)	56,284
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>93,413</u>	<u>17,751</u>	<u>111,164</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	23,522	(7,621)	4,348	20,249
Restricted funds				
Restricted	306,131	(308,629)	-	(2,498)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>329,653</u>	<u>(316,250)</u>	<u>4,348</u>	<u>17,751</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	26,262	8,369	34,631
Restricted funds			
Restricted	101,500	(42,718)	58,782
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>127,762</u>	<u>(34,349)</u>	<u>93,413</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	8,496	(127)	8,369
Restricted funds			
Restricted	134,092	(176,810)	(42,718)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>142,588</u>	<u>(176,937)</u>	<u>(34,349)</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1156639

Accounts

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
FOR
SUSTAINABLE MERTON

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Sustainable Merton is a community led initiative giving local residents, community organisations and businesses the opportunity to stimulate practical action to make our area a sustainable community. The thinking behind this is simply that a borough using energy and resources in a sustainable way could, if well planned and designed, be more resilient, more abundant and more pleasurable than at present.

The charitable purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are to promote for the benefit of the public in and around the London Borough of Merton:

- (a) the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, in particular but not exclusively, by encouraging the prudent use of natural resources, and raising awareness of environmental issues;
- (b) the advancement of education of the public in the subject of sustainable development, in particular, but not exclusively by raising awareness of the issues associated with peak oil and climate change and the consequent need to develop a low carbon, sustainable future.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

A summary of the significant activities in the year is presented below

Sustainable Merton's Community Champions project is the foundation of our work addressing air quality, energy, waste, food and growing spaces, and is supported by volunteers called Community Champions. Our work in this area is funded by the London Borough of Merton's Neighbourhood Fund.

Sustainable Merton's Community Fridge

Our Community Fridge reduces food wastage (which in turn would produce greenhouse gas emissions contributing to the climate emergency) and benefits local residents, who are food insecure. We also coordinate 'Merton's Food Poverty Response Network' and Plan on behalf of Merton Council and, through a number of funding streams, work with partner organisations to collect surplus food from businesses and redistribute it to those living in food insecurity.

We undertook a Gardening project at the Community Fridge to build a sense of community amongst the Community Fridge users and teach them new skills. Grant funding during the year came from London Borough of Merton, Merton Giving, the London Community Fund and Wimbledon Foundation, the London Community Response Fund and the People's Postcode Lottery.

Phipps Bridge Community Allotment and Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden provide opportunities for local residents to work together, benefiting from social interaction, exercise and gaining horticultural knowledge.

Merton residents have benefited from cleaner streets and a better financial return on their recycling through the Hubbub Recycling on the go project.

Project Pre-Loved, funded by Merton Giving, provided opportunities for local residents in the under-served East of the Borough to gain practical, financial and social benefits from learning textile skills.

Our Loving Earth project, funded by Merton Giving, involved the community in demonstrating their creative skills by creating tapestries and artwork during Covid, allowing them to share their passion for the environment.

The Wheel Project, funded by the Merton Neighbourhood Fund as part of the Council's Climate Action Plan, which supports waste minimisation and the circular economy, began preparations for its formal launch in the autumn 2022. The aim is to encourage networking and build capacity in waste minimisation and upcycling projects across the borough, reducing waste and carbon footprints of local businesses, while increasing business opportunities.

Sustainable Merton devoted funding awarded for capacity building by the National Lottery to improve our policies and procedures. A new financial system was introduced to enable the charity to manage and control restricted grant funding and a new in-house finance team was recruited in September 2021 to manage our finances. A new Treasurer with financial expertise was recruited during 2022. In terms of HR, all staff Job Titles and Job Descriptions were reviewed to better reflect the level of work and actual work being done and to support retention. Salary comparisons with comparable jobs in the charity sector resulted in pay increases for all staff including the CEO.

Work on an Employee Handbook started in addition to the revision and creation of a standard employment contract, data protection policy, and grievance and disciplinary policy. Additional staff were recruited in January 2022 (Growing Spaces Coordinator, Communications and Office Assistant) and the part-time post of Community Champions Project Manager became a full-time post from August 2021.

All our policies were reviewed and brought up to date.

Public benefit

In planning the activities of the charity the trustees have had regard to the guidance of the Charity Commission with regard to public benefit.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers

Without its volunteers, who we call Community Champions, Sustainable Merton could not achieve all that it does. Our Community Champions embrace those we call our Fridge Friends and our Growing Spaces volunteers. The total number of Community Champions increased from 145 in January 2021 to 222 in January 2022. Between January 2021 and January 2022 volunteer hours increased by 76%, from 2955 hours to 5212 hours.

Sustainable Merton is grateful to the retiring volunteer Treasurer Sue McGhie (not a Trustee) who stood down in September 2021 after 4 years of service, through a period of time where the charity has grown very substantially, with increasing financial complexities, including managing payroll, restricted grant funding and supplier contracts.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The work of Sustainable Merton was recognised through the Runner Up award in the Breakthrough Charity Of the Year category in the Merton Best Business Awards.

The number of Community Champions engaged in Sustainable Merton's activities grew 53% between Jan 2021 and Jan 2022 (from 145 to 222).

FOOD

Sustainable Merton co-ordinated Merton Council's Food Poverty Response Network and the ongoing development of the borough's Food Poverty Action Plan. The major part of this involved Merton's Community Fridge Network. The model of operation for the Community Fridge Network was developed by Sustainable Merton, who hold the funding for the partners in the network, including The Polish Families Association, Commonsense Development Trust and Merton Community Transport.

Sustainable Merton's Community Fridge is run from Morden Baptist Church and was open twice a week to residents suffering food insecurity (no formal referral needed). The number of unique households using the Fridge during the year totalled 1051, with visit numbers per month rising from 148 to 306 between April 2021 and March 2022. Over 13,150kg of food was donated, with the number of local businesses regularly donating rising from 3 to 9 across the year, in addition to Fareshare and the Felix Project as well as national retailers. A team of volunteers worked in shifts to collect food donations and run the fridge, contributing a total of 1727 hours.

An on-site Community Garden for Community Fridge users, was established, with funding from Sustainable Food Places, and sessions were run by a paid sessional gardener. We also undertook a mapping project of community growing spaces funded by Sustainable Food Places in order to link them to our Community Fridge Network when harvesting their produce.

Growing Spaces

Monthly Action Days at Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden enabled some larger scale pieces of work to be undertaken, beyond the scope of the regular maintenance and improvement work at the orchard. The Orchard also hosted the Intergenerational Food Growing Project funded by Clarion Housing which brings together older and younger local people to grow and cook together.

Twice weekly sessions at Phipps Bridge Community Allotment continued, where almost three quarters of a tonne of produce was harvested and shared amongst the volunteers or donated to the Community Fridge.

In March 2022 funding from Merton Council was approved for Merton Garden Streets, to be run from 1st April as part of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, and aiming to improve biodiversity by planting up tree pits and grass verges, reduce likelihood of flash floods by de-paving and planting up front gardens, and encouraging neighbours to get engaged in their communities.

ENERGY

An Energy Efficiency Handbook was published Sept 2021 and shared with the community, including at a Pop-up Energy Saving event.

AIR QUALITY

An Air Quality Handbook was published May 2021 and shared in the wider community via various channels.

24 bikes were donated to the Bike Project (a charity which provides refugees with bikes) as part of Clean Air Day on 17 June with a pop-up donation point outside the office, supporting Sustainable Merton's work on both Air Quality and Waste.

Sustainable Merton continued to chair the Environmental Sub Group & Air Quality Action Plan Group, (reporting to the borough-wide Merton Partnership) which aims to coordinate environmental and air quality activity across the borough, benefiting those who live, work and study in Merton.

Sustainable Merton also worked with the Council's Air Quality team, with volunteers undertaking air quality monitoring as part of our citizen's science project.

We also continued to care for 18 trees with Clarion Housing as part of the High Path regeneration project.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

WASTE

Sustainable Merton partnered the national charity Hubbub to deliver Recycling on the Go, working also with Merton Council, with a particular focus on the period of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in July 2021. 24 new bins with separate recycling containers were installed in the town. By the end of the campaign, 9 in 10 plastic bottles and cans ended up in recycling compared to only 1 in 2 at the start. The subsequent lack of contamination in the recycling containers meant that recycling facilities were then able to accept the contents, which had previously been too contaminated to be recycled.

Project Pre-loved - In September 2021 we received funding from Merton Giving to run 8 social sewing workshops focusing on teaching people how to mend and re-purpose textiles (clothes, bags etc). 41 people were involved, with 56% of them from the east of the borough.

Working with the Library of Things and Merton Council, we helped launch this new initiative running out of Morden Library, engaging with residents to encourage them to borrow items rather than buy them.

AWARENESS RAISING

Sustainable Merton wrote to local MPs in relation to COP26, and we also ran a webinar and produced a COP26 inspired newsletter.

Membership of Merton's Business Network for Climate Action increased by 30% between January 2021 and Jan 2022 (from 20 to 26 businesses)

Sustainable Merton supported the Loving Earth project and, with funding from Merton Giving, ran workshops and engaged with residents and colleges to produce textile panels reflecting on the environment during the Covid pandemic. We mounted an exhibition in July 2021 with support from Wimbledon Centre Court Shopping.

Sustainable Merton continued to coordinate Green Coffee meetings which continued remote monthly meetings whilst in person gatherings were prohibited, providing a forum for discussing and raising local environmental issues.

When permitted, Green Drinks provided opportunities for social gatherings and networking of local green-minded residents.

Likewise, Merton Green Parents Group was initiated by one of our Community Champions and provided opportunities for the sharing of sustainable parenting tips.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the year, our grant income increased and we made a significant policy change in the way income is managed, moving from a cash to an accrued income accounting system. We have used external accountants as our independent examiners to produce our accounts. The 2021/22 accounts reflect the shift in our accounting and deferred income. Sustainable Merton remains in good financial health with funds to cover its contractual commitments.

Principal funding sources

Grant funding was received from multiple grant bodies including London Borough of Merton, Merton Giving, National Lottery, People's Postcode Lottery, Clarion Housing Community Fund, Wimbledon Foundation, the London Community Response Fund, Hubbub and the Soil Association.

Donations into the Charity were received through our subscribers, fundraising activity bringing donations from residents and businesses and our Local Giving platform.

Reserves policy

Sustainable Merton's Reserves Policy is to retain unrestricted funds to the value of 3 months typical expenditure. This amount includes salaries and office costs, enabling the charity to continue running during lean periods between the award of grants.

Details of the amount of reserves held are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year and the balance sheet for the year end.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is regulated by the Charity Commission. The activities of the CIO are controlled by its constituting document which is based on the Charity Commission model association CIO constitution.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are co-opted by the Board of Trustees during the year and confirmed by election at the AGM.

Organisational structure

Because the charity has grown and financial operations have become more complicated, the Trustees took the decision to split the two roles of financial operation and financial governance. When our volunteer Treasurer stepped down in Sept 2021 a financially qualified Treasurer Trustee was co-opted to maintain strategic oversight over the finances and financial governance and a Finance Manager and Book-keeper (sessionally paid) were appointed to manage the finance function and carry out day to day financial operations. The Trustees also set up a Finance sub-committee, enabling them to review detailed financial issues more efficiently.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees have received induction training on their governance responsibilities, including financial controls, safeguarding and other policies.

Wider network

The Sustainable Merton CEO is responsible for managing the charity's operational activity, overseeing a team of staff, volunteers and self-employed contractors. Sustainable Merton takes a very active part in the local community and borough networks, and much of its activity is undertaken in partnership with local organisations as outlined in the previous sections.

Risk management

A Trustee has led on our organisational risk assessment and Trustees have continued to review our risk log. Sustainable Merton Trustees have not identified any risks where the likelihood and impact score was higher than "acceptable low risk", using the risk assessment methodology recommended by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Controls and mitigating actions are in place to minimise risks in the areas of governance, finance, operations, external factors and regulatory & compliance activities.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1156639

Principal address

The Old Boiler House
Morden Hall Park
Morden Hall Road
Morden
SM4 5JD

Trustees

B M Cuddon Chair
R Baber Secretary
A S Randall Treasurer (appointed 9/3/22)
Dr J D Boyd
L A Lazzarino
Dr G Leigh
A Maries
Mrs B Pena-Mendez (resigned 1/10/21)
J Webb (resigned 1/10/21)

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 13 January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

B M Cuddon - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SUSTAINABLE MERTON

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sustainable Merton

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sustainable Merton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Jonathan Askew
ICAEW
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

16 January 2023

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		7,437	9,375	16,812	3,858
Charitable activities					
General		1,059	124,717	125,776	176,495
Total		<u>8,496</u>	<u>134,092</u>	<u>142,588</u>	<u>180,353</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		173	-	173	144
Charitable activities					
General		(46)	176,810	176,764	107,394
Total		<u>127</u>	<u>176,810</u>	<u>176,937</u>	<u>107,538</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		8,369	(42,718)	(34,349)	72,815
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		26,262	101,500	127,762	54,947
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>34,631</u></u>	<u><u>58,782</u></u>	<u><u>93,413</u></u>	<u><u>127,762</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	4	2,944	-	2,944	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	4,722	-	4,722	-
Cash at bank		213,961	58,782	272,743	127,762
		<u>218,683</u>	<u>58,782</u>	<u>277,465</u>	<u>127,762</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(186,996)	-	(186,996)	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>31,687</u>	<u>58,782</u>	<u>90,469</u>	<u>127,762</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>34,631</u>	<u>58,782</u>	<u>93,413</u>	<u>127,762</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u><u>34,631</u></u>	<u><u>58,782</u></u>	<u><u>93,413</u></u>	<u><u>127,762</u></u>
FUNDS					
	7			34,631	26,262
Unrestricted funds				58,782	101,500
Restricted funds				<u>93,413</u>	<u>127,762</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u><u>93,413</u></u>	<u><u>127,762</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 13 January 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

B M Cuddon - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts for the year to March 2021 and prior years were prepared on a cash basis. For the 2022 accounts and for the future the charity has changed to preparing accounts on an accruals basis. No adjustments have been made to the prior year figures as the trustees do not consider the change in accounting policy to have significantly changed the figures previously reported.

Income

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

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

3. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	3,858	-	3,858
Charitable activities			
General	-	176,495	176,495
Total	<u>3,858</u>	<u>176,495</u>	<u>180,353</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	-	144	144
Charitable activities			
General	8,265	99,129	107,394
Total	<u>8,265</u>	<u>99,273</u>	<u>107,538</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(4,407)	77,222	72,815
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	30,669	24,278	54,947
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>26,262</u></u>	<u><u>101,500</u></u>	<u><u>127,762</u></u>

4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

COST	Computer equipment £
Additions	<u>3,097</u>
DEPRECIATION	
Charge for year	<u>153</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2022	<u><u>2,944</u></u>
At 31 March 2021	<u><u>-</u></u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other debtors	4,596	-
Prepayments	126	-
	<u>4,722</u>	<u>-</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,014	-
Taxation and social security	4,235	-
Other creditors	176,747	-
	<u>186,996</u>	<u>-</u>

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/21	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	26,262	8,369	34,631
Restricted funds			
Restricted	101,500	(42,718)	58,782
	<u>127,762</u>	<u>(34,349)</u>	<u>93,413</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	8,496	(127)	8,369
Restricted funds			
Restricted	134,092	(176,810)	(42,718)
	<u>142,588</u>	<u>(176,937)</u>	<u>(34,349)</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	30,669	(4,407)	26,262
Restricted funds			
Restricted	24,278	77,222	101,500
	<u>54,947</u>	<u>72,815</u>	<u>127,762</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	3,858	(8,265)	(4,407)
Restricted funds			
Restricted	176,495	(99,273)	77,222
	<u>180,353</u>	<u>(107,538)</u>	<u>72,815</u>

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1156639

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date		
From	1 April 2020	To	31 March 2021	

Charity name

Sustainable Merton

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1156639

Charity's principal address

The Old Boiler House, Morden Hall Park,
Morden Hall Rd, Morden

Postcode SM4 5JD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Gillian Leigh			
2	Ruth Baber	Secretary		
3	Isabelle Bano		Until 22/10/20	
4	Blanca Pena-Mendez		From 17/9/20	
5	Juliet Boyd			
6	Ben Cuddon	Chair		
7	James Webb	Vice Chair from 14/1/21		
8	Vera Lahme		Until 22/2/21	
9	Louisella Lazzarino		From 17/9/20	
10	Alan Maries		From 16/7/20	
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Diana Sterck – Chief Executive



Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	election

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Staff were transferred from fixed term to permanent contracts reflecting their value to the charity. All staff received the London Living Wage as a minimum. Several staff were allocated increased hours as a result of additional funding gained.

In February 2021 Sustainable Merton took on a Community Fridge Co-ordinator on a sessional basis.

The Trustees appreciate that neither they, nor the staff, nor the volunteers reflect Merton's ethnic make-up and are attempting to rectify this, recognising that this is likely to be a long-term task.

As the charity has grown considerably and circumstances changed since the last formulation of its overall strategy, in February the Trustees met (remotely) with an external consultant to review the charity's overall strategy and consider our Vision and Mission statements. The work continued in 2021/22 developing short and medium term priorities and KPIs

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote for the benefit of the public in and around the London Borough of Merton:

- (a) the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, in particular but not exclusively by encouraging the prudent use of natural resources, and raising awareness of environmental issues;
- (b) the advancement of education of the public in the subject of sustainable development, in particular, but not exclusively by raising awareness of the issues associated with peak oil and climate change and the consequent need to develop a low carbon, sustainable future.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

In common with all organisations Sustainable Merton had to adapt its operations to deal with the restrictions and new needs thrown up by the **pandemic**. The staff worked from home, the Trustees held meetings including the AGM on Zoom, and many other activities took place online rather than in person.

The recruitment of new **Community Champions** continued. Through their awareness raising work supporting Sustainable Merton's four key areas of work (food, waste, energy and air quality) they helped residents benefit from lower energy, water and food bills and a cleaner environment. Community Champions themselves benefited opportunities to extend their skillset when in person activities were possible and some training sessions at events which moved online due to the pandemic.

The **Community Fridge** launched just at the time when it was urgently needed as households fell into food poverty due to the pandemic. Volunteer Fridge Friends organised and ran the fridge sessions, taking in donated food, much of which would otherwise have gone to waste, and handing out food parcels to anyone in need, without the need for formal referrals. In February 2021 a part-time (sessional) Fridge Co-ordinator post was created, enabling permanent staff to concentrate on other work for the charity. The Community Fridge concept was extended through a partnership with the Polish & Eastern European Families Network, Commonsides Development Trust and Wimbledon Guild creating a network of fridges across the borough, with SM being the lead partner funded by LB Merton.

SM's gardening projects were able to continue running throughout the pandemic with some additional safeguards, as they take place in a low risk outdoor spaces where social distancing is easily achieved. The **Phipps Bridge Community Garden** continued to flourish with regular volunteers working there each week. Community Harvest funding for seeds and plants boosted the volume of produce. Volunteers benefited from the fruit and vegetable harvest shared amongst them, as well as in person (socially distanced) social interaction and physical exercise. The users of the Community Fridge also benefited from the organic fruit and vegetables donated from the garden.

Since the lead volunteer for **Mitcham Orchard** left the area, site had become a little neglected. The few remaining volunteers asked SM to take over responsibility for the project and handed over their funds. The administration was brought entirely in house. New volunteers were enrolled and work sessions and training workshops reinstated from July, albeit with limited numbers due to Covid restrictions. Community Harvest funding was obtained to purchase compost to reinvigorate the garden beds. A local company donated and installed a new shed.

Funding from **Sustain** was used to link all the local community gardens that grow food (including those run by organisations other than SM) to the network of Community Fridges.

These gardening projects benefit local residents by providing opportunities for reducing food miles, teaching about gardening and eating seasonally, and most importantly during the pandemic, offering opportunities to improve mental and physical health through social interaction and exercise.

Sustainable Merton's partnership with Clarion Housing Association for their **Tree project** continued. Volunteers watered the trees in containers and the new native hedge and mowed the grass, bringing beauty to a somewhat neglected corner of Morden Recreation Ground.

Sustainable Merton continued to chair and manage LB Merton's **Environment Sub-Group**, now moved online, bringing together interested parties from within and beyond Merton Council to discuss topics such as air quality and the circular economy.

SM worked in partnership with Merton Council and the **Library of Things** to introduce a waste reduction project to the borough where tools and equipment can be hired, saving residents expensive purchases and reducing the amount of equipment lying unused in people's homes. A Community Champion was appointed to co-ordinate the Library of Things based in Morden Library. Due to the pandemic the launch of this project was deferred until 2021/22.

In response to Merton Council's declaration of a **Climate Emergency** in July 2019 3 SM members continued to sit on the Working Group drafting a Climate Strategy and Action Plan. This 30 year plan sets out a vision for Merton in 2050 and the key actions required to get to net-zero carbon across four thematic areas (the Green Economy, Buildings and Energy, Transport and Greening Merton), as well as how the Council is going to decarbonise its own operations by 2030. The whole borough will benefit over the coming years.

SM volunteers participated in the **Great British September Clean up** acting individually, rather than together in a single location. Litter picking continued on a monthly basis, where individuals posted photos and reports of their activities.

Funding was obtained to co-ordinate, finish and present a textile moment of lockdown relating to sustainability and the environment as part of the **Loving Earth** project set up by a Sustainable Merton supporter. Individuals produced panels of a uniform size, using any textile techniques they wished, with accompanying short texts explaining their sources of inspiration. Online workshops supported those new to textile work and provided a forum for exchange of ideas.

Abundance Wimbledon continued its work to minimise waste of fruit and provide fresh fruit for other groups which feed those in need. The group were able to organise a well attended covid-safe Fruit Day on 19/9/20.

Sustainable Merton continued its work of **awareness raising** of issues related to climate change in weekly or monthly webinars on a wide variety of sustainability topics given by Community Champions and outside experts. **Green Coffee** continued online and offers a considerable archive of past newsletters with information on all types of local sustainability issues. **Green Drinks** took place online for some months, providing a forum for more informal discussion of

sustainability issues and offering opportunities for informal social interaction at a time when social isolation was a significant problem for some.

The trustees have regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance would be relevant.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Sustainable Merton does not make grants, but uses its funds to execute the projects undertaken to enable it to achieve in line with its charitable objects.

Sustainable Merton is grateful for the many hours of unpaid work over 150 volunteers have put in to run projects. In addition the CEO, Community Champions Project Manager, Trustees and other volunteers have spent many hours in Zoom meetings with Merton Council officers and councillors, funders and other groups pressing for actions to combat climate change and introduce sustainability initiatives for the benefit of local people, in addition to seeking further funding for the charity's activities.

The Trustees are extremely grateful for the quick response and hard work of the staff team during the pandemic which has kept the charity afloat during a very challenging year. The charity owes much to their tolerance and willingness to adapt their working methods

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The sudden onset of the covid 19 pandemic demanded a significant change in working methods and increasing prioritisation of projects offering community support. The staff team responded extremely quickly, followed up new funding streams and supported each other in working from home. Due to their hard work the charity has increased its reach and raised significant extra funds in very difficult circumstances.

By March 2021 there were 117 **Community Champions**.

Over the year 1212 food parcels were put together and distributed by 40 Freidge Friends who volunteered 860 hours of their time at Sustainable Merton's **Community Fridge** in Morden. 10,971kg of food (equivalent to 26,295 meals and 35,056kg of CO2) donated by around 20 businesses as well as several local gardening projects was distributed to those in need.

Community Champion volunteers at **Phipps Bridge Community Garden** contributed 1538 hours of work and harvested a record breaking tonne of fruit and vegetables, a significant proportion of which was donated to the Community Fridge.

Around 40 Sustainable Merton volunteers participated in **Mitcham Community Orchard**.

A Community Champion was appointed to co-ordinate the **Library of Things** based in Morden Library, whose launch was considerably delayed due to the pandemic.

LB Merton's **Climate Action Plan**, to which SM members made significant contributions, was published in September 2020 and adopted by the Council in November 2020.

Sustainable Merton staff and volunteers submitted a response to **consultation** on the **Local Plan**

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Sustainable Merton's policy is to maintain reserves of £1,500 or 3 months estimated running costs, whichever is the larger in order to ensure the sustainability of the charity. £26,262 unrestricted funds were available at the end of the period

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Expenditure for Sustainable Merton's activities has been covered by grants specifically obtained in relation to each project and general donations. Sustainable Merton receives no core funding, but is paying essential office and support staff from its own funds, in addition to project funding provided for this purpose.

Due to the pandemic some existing funders cancelled old funding streams and created emergency funds which Sustainable Merton was able to tap into. A substantial amount of new funding from the People's Postcode Trust, Merton Giving, London Community Response Fund, Wimbledon Foundation, the team's 2.6 challenge and Waitrose Raynes Park green tokens, fully funding the running of the **Community Fridge** during 2020/21 and also making substantial contributions to the charity's overall running costs. Care has been taken not to incur additional costs for the charity as the funds we have are limited, but Local Giving has proved a cost effective way of individual receiving donations.

Merton Council funded the **Community Champions** for a further year, whilst Clarion Housing continued to fund the Tree Project.

Arrangements were put in place to claim Gift Aid from HMRC, as an earlier arrangement had lapsed.

Section F**Other optional information**

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The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Ruth Baber</i>	<i>Benedict Michael Cuddon</i>
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Full name(s)	Ruth Baber	Benedict Michael Cuddon
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary to the Trustees	Chair of Trustees
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Date	24th January 2022
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	Wednesday, April 01, 2020		31 March 2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations , memberships etc	3,858	-	-	3,858	4,329
DIG Merton	-	150	-	150	20
Community Champions	-	50,000	-	50,000	30,000
Mitcham Community Garden	-	2,103	-	2,103	4,328
Clarion Housing	-	6,315	-	6,315	6,315
Food Poverty Action Plan	-	-	-	-	-
Library of things	-	-	-	-	7,320
Community Fridge	-	107,743	-	107,743	5,670
Loving Earth Project	-	5,000	-	5,000	
Recycling on the go	-	5,184	-	5,184	
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	3,858	176,495	-	180,353	57,982
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,858	176,495	-	180,353	57,982
A3 Payments					
General	8,265	-	-	8,265	14,137
DIG Merton	-	172	-	172	932
Community Champions	-	39,938	-	39,938	30,000
Mitcham Community Garden	-	1,139	-	1,139	1,952
Food Poverty Action Plan	-	-	-	-	1,000
Clarion Housing	-	6,315	-	6,315	10,681
Library of things	-	2,320	-	2,320	2,000
Community Fridge	-	45,389	-	45,389	2,129
Loving Earth Project	-	4,000	-	4,000	-
Recycling on th go	-	-	-	-	-
Office overhead	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,265	99,273	-	107,538	62,831
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8,265	99,273	-	107,538	62,831
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 4,407	77,222	-	72,815	- 4,849
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	30,669	24,278	-	54,947	59,796
Cash funds this year end	26,262	101,500	-	127,762	54,947

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank	26,262	17,907	-
	Cooperative Bank		83,593	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	26,262	101,500	-
	<small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>		OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Key deposits		-	
	nest pension		-	
	accruals		-	
			-	
			-	
<small>Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees</small>	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Ruth Baber</div>	Ruth Baber	24/01/22	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Benedict Cudden</div>	Benedict Cudden	24/01/22	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name SUSTAINABLE MERTON		
On accounts for the year ended	31 MARCH 2021	Charity no (if any)	1156639
Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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


Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:  Date: 26 / 01 / 2022

Name: KEVIN A. MALLETT

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ICAEW

Address: 18 THE BROADWAY
STONELEIGH, EPSOM
SURREY, KT17 2HU