

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

England & Wales · Charity number 1171175

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2017-01-18

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

## Contact

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**Address** 28 Oakdene Road  
Brockham  
Betchworth  
RH3 7JX

**Phone** 07734583922

**Email** [BERT.Brockham@gmail.com](mailto:BERT.Brockham@gmail.com)

**Website** <http://bertbrockham.org.uk/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham in particular but not exclusively by: 1. Developing the capacity of residents with the aim to prevent and reduce the likelihood and consequences of local flooding, particularly from drainage ditches and surface water,2. Recruiting and training volunteers to enable Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT) to provide assistance and undertake preventive activities when the village of Brockham is threatened by severe weather, its consequences or other local emergency or disruption,3. Assisting the Brockham community in setting up and organising community information and awareness raising events using BERT's expertise, volunteers and equipment for the benefit of local residents and4. Developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to monitor and warn local residents of the risk of flooding from rivers, streams or significant drainage ditches.

**Activities:** CSC was set up with the main objective of relieving persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- Surrey

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£3,823	£8,368	-	-
2024-03-31	£3,378	£3,386	-	-
2023-03-31	£14,635	£14,900	-	-
2022-03-31	£5,857	£4,452	-	-
2021-03-31	£45,721	£24,173	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Michael Philip Went</b>	Chair	2021-05-01
Alessandra Farias Nugnezi Truran		2023-06-01
Ann Went		2021-05-01
DAVED ROBERT SHANKS		2017-01-18
Isobel Fiona Heppenstall		2018-03-26
ROBERT JAMES THOMAS MBE		2017-01-18
SIMON BUDD BEM		2017-01-18
TREVOR HIZZARD		2017-01-18
Trevor John Anderson		2018-03-26

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE**

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	April	2024	31	March	2025

## Section A Reference and administration details

<b>Charity name</b>	Community Support in the Countryside (CSC)
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT)
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	1171175
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	28 Oakdene Road, Brockham, Surrey
<b>Postcode</b>	RH3 7JX

### 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	Robert James Thomas		Whole year	N/A
2	Trevor John Anderson	Treasurer	Whole year	N/A
3	Simon Budd		Whole year	N/A
4	Isobel Fiona Heppenstall		Whole year	N/A
5	Trevor Hizzard		Whole Year	N/A
6	Craig Scott	Chairman	April 24 to February 25 (passed away on 14 February 25)	N/A
7	Daved Robert Shanks		Whole year	N/A
8	Ann Went		Whole year	N/A
9	Michael Philip Went	Interim Chairman	Whole year (appointed Interim Chairman in March 25)	N/A
10	Alessandra F N Truran	Secretary	Whole year	N/A

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	N/A

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
N/A		

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

N/A
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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	CSC is governed by a Constitution document, which was set out when the charity was incorporated on 18 January 2017.
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	CSC is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by the Foundation Constitution document.
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	<p>The original trustees were appointed from the people who had historically helped BERT, were willing and able to act as trustees, and were able to give an appropriate range of knowledge and skills to cover the legal, financial, technical, operational, promotional and other needs of CSC as a charity.</p> <p>New trustees are appointed following existing trustees' approval and follow the same principle of creating a group with an appropriate knowledge and experience to run the charity effectively.</p>

### 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.

The formal business of CSC is conducted through trustee meetings, which are usually held quarterly. Progress of agreed actions is managed through regular follow up.

BERT carries out operational tasks with the support of volunteer team leaders. These are typically long-standing BERT volunteers who have been committed to our activities and been willing to undertake the training necessary for the role.

CSC/BERT has adopted a set of policies, which are reviewed regularly, to cover the health and safety, safeguarding, and the protection of personal data of trustees and volunteers.

CSC/BERT regularly engages with Brockham Parish Council, Mole Valley District Council, Surrey County Council and with relevant government bodies to manage flood risks, to report incidents or concerns, and to support the local community.

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

The purposes of CSC, as set out in the founding document, are:

To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham in particular but not exclusively by:

1. Developing the capacity of residents with the aim to prevent and reduce the likelihood and consequences of local flooding, particularly from drainage ditches and surface water,
2. Recruiting and training volunteers to enable Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT) to provide assistance and undertake preventive activities when the village of Brockham is threatened by severe weather, its consequences or other local emergency or disruption,
3. Assisting the Brockham community in setting up and organising community information and awareness raising events using BERT's expertise, volunteers and equipment for the benefit of local residents and
4. Developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to monitor and warn local residents of the risk of flooding from rivers, streams or significant drainage ditches.

**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)**

7 April 2024

Working party held to carry out three main activities:

1. Removal of a tree down in Tanner's Brook to unblock the flow of water.



2 – Clearance of congested drains in Kiln Lane, which were causing the road to flood.



3 - Maintenance of the drainage ditch in Oakdene Road, towards Warene Road



27 April 2024

Covid Immunisation: BERT volunteers supported six vaccinating nurses at Brookwood Medical Practice on Saturday from 9am to 12pm. A total of 365 patients were vaccinated.



**7 May 2024**

BERT community email after a period of heavy rain:

- *Betchworth bridge is open but flooded and impassable for many cars.*
- *The footpath between the Grumpy Mole and the Bowls Club is well under water and unsafe for little or unsteady feet.*
- *Little or no further rain is expected to fall today*
- *The river level at Brockham bridge is rising but not expected to exceed its normal range.*
- *All other bridges are also open.*



*Bowls' Club bridge 07am - 7 May*

**12 May 2024**

BERT kit check: Trustees gathered to undertake a full and detailed inspection of all equipment, including ensuring generators and pumps were fully functioning and the emergency lighting equipment was operating effectively.

**21 May 2024**

A report was received from a BERT member of a tree down on Snowerhill, Betchworth blocking the road. A further BERT member picked up the message and reported the closure to Surrey Highways.

**21 May 2024**

BERT Chairman Craig Scott and his wife Annie were guests at the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace hosted by the Prince of Wales. Craig was invited following his significant contribution to residents of Brockham.



The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, Peter Phillips and Zara and Mike Tindall joined the Prince of Wales for the Garden Party.

**26 May 2024**

BERT supported Teas on the Green, the fundraiser event for the Village Fair weekend. A good number of helpers were on hand to set up, serve and tidy up.



28 June 2024



*10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations*

The Lord Lieutenant Mr. Michael More-Molyneux and his wife Sarah came to Brockham to attend BERT's tenth birthday celebrations at The Pavilion. They were greeted by the chairman Craig Scott and other BERT members. The Lord Lieutenant was joined by about 80 guests, including the previous Lord Lieutenant Sarah Goad (who supported BERT from the start), Lady Corinna Hamilton, Lady Louise O'Connor DL, Mrs Johanna (Joosje) Hamilton DL and other distinguished guests. Many BERT volunteers were present.

A local catering company "Too Many Cooks" ensured the tables were dressed and everyone treated to an excellent tea, served by Joanna's staff. This admirable tea was donated by the company in recognition of BERT's contribution to the village particularly during the Covid pandemic. The Lord Lieutenant presented his certificate of recognition to the chairman for the work undertaken by so many volunteers during Covid times.

BERT Trustees arranged for an inscribed bench thanking Covid volunteers, to be at the gathering. It was later taken to The Green and erected close to the church hall. Two children from North Downs School and a local member of the Air Training Corps were presented with awards by the Lord Lieutenant on behalf of BERT Trustees for their contribution to the community.



*Chairman greeting the honoured guests*





*Trustees with the certificate and new inscribed bench*



*Ladies from Brockwood Medical Practice*



*Team leaders on their best behaviour!*



*Catering team*



*Dame Sarah Goad and Lady Corina Hamilton*



Chairman Craig Scott: *“Just wanted to say thank you again for all of your support last Friday – it was a terrific day and a great showcase for BERT to the whole community and beyond.”*

BERT received many emails of thanks and cards one of which said, *“Dear Craig and BERT Trustees, Thank you for inviting me to the celebration tea to recognise the Covid volunteers. It was an honour to be seated at the top table. It is a pleasure to work with such an inspiring team which puts the community at its heart. With best wishes, Julia Hatto BEM”*.

Message from the Lord Lieutenant:

*To Craig Scott*

*Thank you so much for you and BERT’s very warm welcome to Sarah and I on Friday. What a wonderful afternoon of celebration, with fine weather and so many old friends present. Some of whom I haven’t seen for over 20 years! I so enjoyed chatting with so many of the BERT team. All of them are so committed and it is wonderful to see in a community which has been in existence for over ten years. A really outstanding example of how a community should function. Thank you also for the delicious tea which I could see was*

*appreciated by all concerned! The three young award winners were a delight to meet and to hear of their commitment to the cause, well done them!*

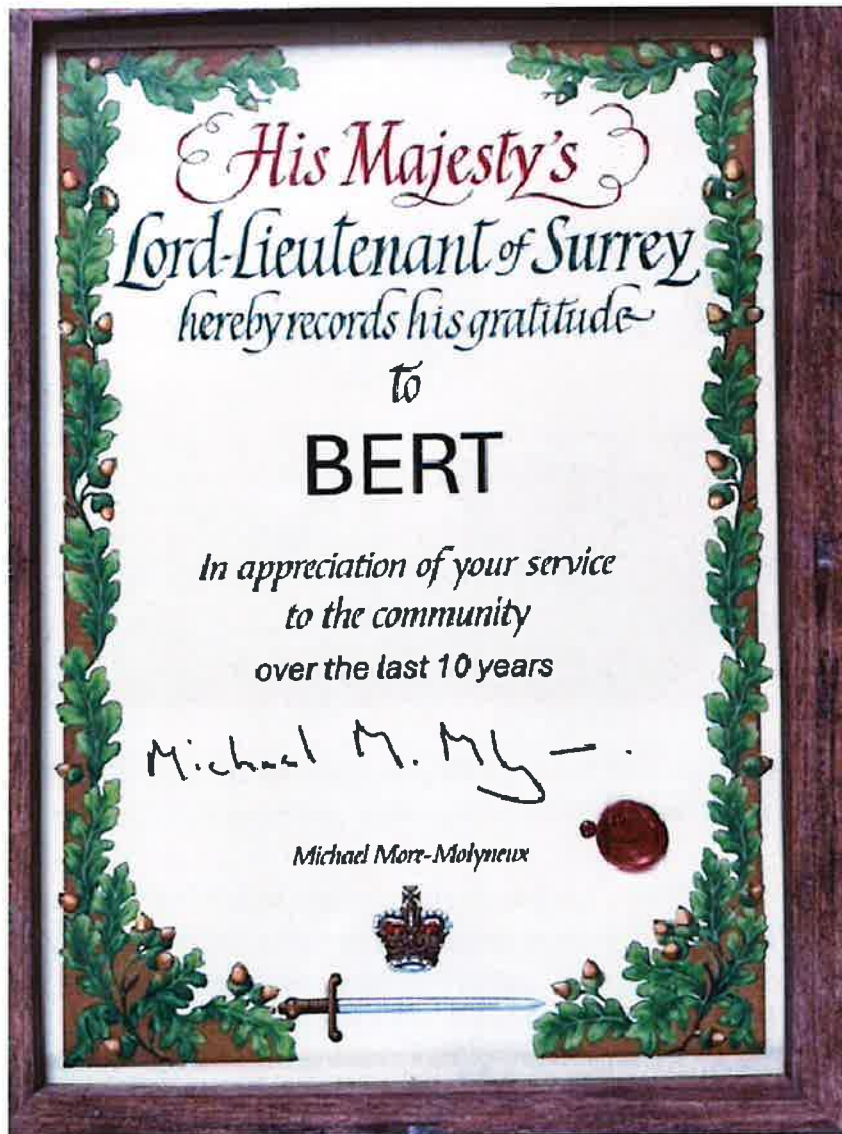
*In closing, Sarah was thrilled to receive her lovely bouquet of flowers. Our renewed thanks and appreciation for giving us such an enjoyable afternoon with you all. It was an afternoon we shall remember with great affection with a considerable time to come.*

*Sarah joins me in sending our best wishes,*

*Michael*

*Mr Michael More-Molyneux*

*HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey*



*The Lord Lieutenant presented his certificate of recognition for the work undertaken by BERT volunteers over the past ten years.*



*Impromptu inauguration of the new bench by the Rev Jonathan Willans*

**13 July 2024**

BERT set up at '10<sup>th</sup> anniversary' stall at the Brockham Victorian Fair which was well attended. The purpose was to raise awareness of BERT and recruit new volunteers. The event was a great success.





*The cutting of the cake by a BERT volunteer*



*Life President and joint founder of Bert Bob Bartlett*

**16 July 2024**

Happy Birthday, BERT- Community email: *As ever, BERT finds itself saying thank you to all who helped us and visited us at our stand at Brockham Village Fair on Saturday. We met many of our existing volunteers and welcomed new volunteers who have signed up to help in future.*

*Thank you to volunteer Victoria who cut the enormous cake to mark BERT's 10th birthday. And thank you for the donations from Two Many Cooks, the SPAR, and Chitty's the butchers, who donated towards the cost of the cake. No BERT funds were used. And finally, thanks to Putty Cakes (and coffee shop) on West Street in Dorking for making it yummy.*

*Organising the annual Brockham Village Fair takes an enormous amount of work and effort done by volunteers to help make Brockham the wonderful place it is to live – thank you very much for everything you do.*

*The BERT Trustees*

**21 July 2024**



BERT volunteers repaired the doors of the Red Barn where some BERT signage is kept. The barn is also used by other organisations to store large but not valuable artefacts and equipment.







### 3 September 2024

Craig Scott, BERT Chairman, attended a full day's training delivered by The Surrey Local Resilience Forum (SLRF) and hosted by Surrey County Council at their Reigate offices. The topic focussed on 'Emergency Assistant Centre Training'. Whilst there were some good learnings and stimulus to enhance BERT's own Village Response Plan, it proved BERT's existing plan is robust and comprehensive. The additional learnings will be applied to the 2025 review of the Village Response Plan.

15 September 2024

Over 40 BERT volunteers attended the annual ditch clearance working party. Ditches cleared included:

- Main drainage ditch in three sections, Middle Street Allotments to Pavilion via Oakdene and Warrenne Road
- Ditch north of Glenfield Road
- Wheelers Lane Blind Lane to the allotments
- Wheelers Lane ditch opposite Blind Lane
- Duke's Head path to the river bridge



*Over 40 volunteers took part*



*Tools ready for action*



*The chairman with team members*



*Duke of Edinburgh volunteers*



*Tea wagon*



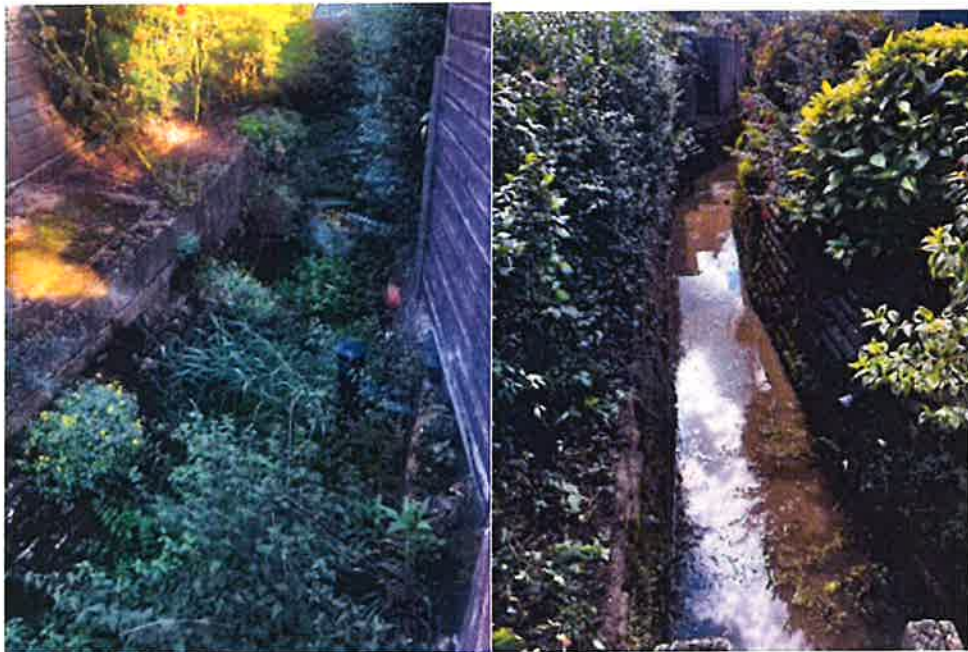


*Blind Lane off Wheelers Lane by the allotments*





*Oakdene Road main drainage ditch*





*Oakdene Road main drainage ditch*





*Glenfield Road path to Old School Lane*



*Main drainage ditch by pavilion*



**17 September 2024**

*Community email:*

*Thank You, BERT Volunteers*

*A huge thank you to the 40 plus (!) residents who came to help BERT's annual ditch clear this past weekend. As we had hoped, it did indeed turn out to be our biggest effort ever and we now have sparkly clean ditches in preparation for the winter.*

*Thank you everyone! We'll do it all again next year.*

*BERT Trustees*

**23 September 2024**

Following a period of heavy rain the following circulated on BERT community email:

***Monday, 23rd September, 5:00 pm***

- *Brockham bridge is clear, although water levels are still rising rapidly from the earlier rain.*
- *Flanchford bridge, Wonham Lane by the Dolphin, and Old School Lane each have water on the road. Although most traffic was recently able to cross, water levels are rising throughout the area. The water is already too deep for many cars at Wonham Mill.*
- *The footpath between the Grumpy Mole and the Bowls Club is well under water and unsafe for little or unsteady feet. Some folks may still be able to venture safely in Wellies.*
- *We have received no reports of property flooding, though additional rain is forecast for this evening and during the night.*

**Tuesday, 24th September, 7:30 am**

- *Brockham bridge is clear and water levels are dropping, with no more rain forecast for today.*
- *We don't have timely reporting on this morning's water levels at Wonham Lane, Betchworth bridge, or Flanchford bridge.*
- *The footpath between the Grumpy Mole and the Bowls Club is knee- to waist-deep (depending on where your knees and waist are).*
- *There are still no reports of property flooding or any problems with the recently cleared drainage ditches.*

## **12 October 2024**

The final event of the year celebrating BERT's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> October in the form of 'BERT's Big Bash'. The evening was in the style of a harvest supper barn dance at the Village Hall. Tickets were sold at £20 per person and were deliberately kept low so not to be a barrier for those wanting to attend - it was never intended to be a fundraiser but rather an opportunity to say thank you to all of BERT's supporters and volunteers as well as marking BERT's birthday. A total of 100 guests attended the sold-out event. The hall was decorated and tables and chairs laid out the evening before.



The evening opened with a few words of welcome and thanks by BERT Chairman Craig Scott followed by an amusing and anecdotal speech by BERT's chaplain Doug Ross. A meal of beef chili was served followed by chocolate muffins and ice cream. The floor was then cleared to make space for dancing and a raucous evening of country dancing followed being led by the folk band Darcy Spice. BERT has received multiple messages of thanks for organising the evening.



14 October 2024

Ditch maintenance in Tweed Lane



After a period of heavy rain, BERT received a call for assistance at Wheelers Lane. BERT members responded.





**16 October 2024**

BERT Community email: *Your Reporting Works!*

*Just one day after many residents joined BERT in reporting a flooding problem in Wheelers Lane, a representative of Surrey Highways and Transport has reached out to let us know that:*

- *We have visited the site twice this week and seen the full extent of flooding.*
- *Today (Wednesday) we have a jetting lorry attending the site to hopefully clear the culvert under the road.*
- *This is a short-term fix and we will work on a more permanent solution to prevent regular flooding.*

*Clearly, as a community, we can effectively pressure local services to address issues that could otherwise turn serious. Our thanks to everyone who participated.*

*~BERT Trustees*



**24 October 2024**

***Community email: Surrey County Council - Flood Action Week***

*We all know how unpredictable British weather can be, and with autumn rains upon us, now is the perfect time to prepare for potential flooding. This week, we're encouraging residents to take simple steps to protect their homes and families. A little preparation can go a long way!*

*This reminder is especially important as we approach the one-year anniversary of Storm Babet, which caused widespread flooding across the UK. With the wettest 18 months on record leading up to February 2024, flood risks are higher than ever. In fact, flood alerts have already been issued this week in parts of Surrey.*

*Flood Preparedness Tips:*

- 1. Sign Up for Flood Alerts: Stay in the know by signing up for free flood warnings through the Flood Warning Information Service. You'll get real-time updates via phone, email, or text, so you can act quickly if needed.*
- 2. Make a Flood Plan: Having a flood plan helps everyone in your household know what to do if flooding happens. Think about what valuables you'd need to move to safety, how to turn off gas and electricity, and where to go if evacuation becomes necessary.*
- 3. Pack a Flood Kit: A flood kit can be a lifesaver! Fill it with essentials like waterproof clothing, a battery-operated radio, bottled water, important documents, and any medications you might need. Store it somewhere easy to access.*
- 4. Protect Your Home: If a flood warning is issued, move items like electronics and personal belongings to higher ground. You might also want to invest in flood barriers or sandbags to help keep water out.*

**2 November 2024.**

**BERT** is pleased to have contributed to the smooth running of the 2024 autumn Covid and flu vaccination clinics with Brockwood Medical Practice by providing volunteers to help marshal patients through Brockham surgery. BERT recruited and organised volunteers over five consecutive weekends from the 5<sup>th</sup> October to the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. BERT is tantalisingly close to having delivered 1,000 volunteer shifts since September 2000 with 953 shifts being completed since the Covid pandemic.



November 15 2024

BERT provided training to volunteers on the use of its inspection camera



### **20 November 2024:**

Craig Scott, BERT Chairman, was invited to speak at the National Consortium of Societal Resilience webinar on Wednesday, along with other leaders of community groups, Pang Valley Flood Forum in West Berkshire and the Flood Lowdham Action Group (FLAG) in Nottinghamshire. The event, titled, 'The Anatomy of Resilience', was attended by 350 audience members made up of council counsellors nationwide as well as new and prospective community resilience groups. The purpose of the talks were to share how these well-established community resilience groups were started, how they are resourced and managed and how they have become particularly effective at what they do to solve problems at a local level.

### **24 November 2024.**

The named storm BERT blew in from the west with a range of weather patterns across the UK including snow, strong winds and heavy rain which in many areas of the country led to flooding. Brockham had a great deal of rain and high winds for about 24 hours, but the ditches and culverts held and no significant difficulties have occurred within BERT's area of operation.

### **25 November 2024**

A call was received from a resident of Jubilee Terrace, Strood Green concerned that there was a blockage in a significant drain off the ditch to the south side of Tweed Lane. Two volunteers went to the site and met the informant. Four members of the team attended and established that the ditch was free flowing and the difficult task of drain manhole cover lifting was unnecessary. A member of BERT living close by said the water flows were not unusual following heavy rain. The informant was seen and thanked and agreed to contact SCC Highways should he have further concerns.

### **27 November 2024**

Community email on Storm Conall:

- *Following substantial volumes of rain through the night (as much as 16mm in some places), we are receiving reports of widespread 'flash' flooding where water is generally running off local fields faster than it can drain from the roads.*
- *On the bright side, virtually no rain is forecast for the rest of today.*
- *We are not aware of any major bridges being closed as yet, but the river levels are still rising very quickly.*
- *The footpath between the Grumpy Mole and the Bowls Club is well under water and unsafe for little or unsteady feet.*
- *Old School Lane is several feet under water near Felton's Farm and beginning to fill at the Coach Road junction.*
- *A25 and Old Reigate Road are both under water East of the road closure at Brockham Lane and farther along to Buckland.*

- *Although most ditches are flowing at speed, standing water in the roads (generally passable) has been reported at Brockham Row, Tanners Meadow, Kiln Lane at Nutwood Avenue, Wheelers Lane at Blind Lane. Wellhouse Lane at Wheelers Lane.*

**28 November 2025**

Community email: *BERT volunteers undertook a survey of the roads and bridges from 0630 and reported to residents on Facebook and email as follows.*

- *Watch out for ice! No reports yet, but the mercury is in the negatives.*
- *No rain forecast until Sunday.*
- *River levels are steadily falling.*
- *A25 Reigate Road is clear to Redhill.*
- *Brockham bridge is open.*
- *Footpath by the Bowls Club is closed.*
- *Old School Lane is closed by Felton's Farm and by Coach Road.*
- *Betchworth bridge has lots of water.*
- *Wonham Lane and Sandy Lane have lots of water.*
- *Wonham Mill is closed.*
- *Snowerhill still closed due to a fallen tree.*

The Royal Oak pub on the green sought assistance of an electric pump. Two volunteers attended and by 1340 a pump was in operation taking water from the cellar.



7 December 2024

Storm Darragh: report to BERT of a tree down Wellhouse Lane. Two volunteers attended and cleared the obstruction.



Report to BERT of tree blocking Root Hill. A volunteer attended and worked with the farmer to reopen the road.



**23 December 2024**

Community Email How to Contact BERT

*With winter upon us, we are conscious that Brockham may experience wetter weather and possibly more storms. So you may be wondering who to call in the event of needing help.*

*In an emergency, call 999 first. If you need BERT's help urgently, please call BERT on 01302-462378. Even if no one picks up your call you can leave a voice message and that voice message will be emailed to ten people for immediate action. This is the fastest way to reach BERT.*

*If you want to contact BERT on a less urgent matter, simply reply to any email message you have received from BERT, or email us at [bert.brockham@gmail.com](mailto:bert.brockham@gmail.com), or message us on our Facebook page. These communication channels are not monitored 100% of the time, hence their being recommended for less urgent matters.*

*Please keep in mind that all of BERT's staff are volunteers. Whilst we always endeavour to help others, our volunteers may be away or working and unavailable or have to prioritise their own families or properties in times of need.*

*Thank you, **BERT Trustees***

**31 December 2024**

Community Email:

***2024 Has Been a Big Year for BERT***

*Starting with call outs to manage flooding on the 4th of January due to Storm Henk, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Surrey's visit in June, going large at the Victorian Fair in July, the biggest ever annual village ditch clear in September, BERT's big Bash in October, the arrival of Storm BERT in November and, to bookend and close the year appropriately, call outs due to storm Darragh on the 7th of December.*

***We Couldn't Have Asked for a Better Year...***

*... in which to celebrate and bring to an end the marking of BERT's 10th anniversary since our founding. There has not been a single month in 2024 where BERT has not been actively helping local residents.*

*And, of course, those same residents help us through donations, volunteering, and good wishes of appreciation and support.*

***Thank You to Everyone Who Has Been Behind Us***

*We look forward to doing it all again in 2025.*

*A very happy and peaceful new year to you all.*

***~The BERT Trustees***

4 and 5 January 2025

Snow and heavy rain overnight and on into Sunday morning. Grill by church congested mainly leaves but the inevitable crisp packet. Two volunteers cleared the grills and increased considerably the water flow. In the ditches.



*The grill in Wheelers Lane was heavily congested with litter at the seat of the blockage*



5th January 2025

Community email:

- *Brockham bridge is open and, so far, completely clear of water.*
- *The water level is approximately 3.5 meters, rising about 0.4 meters per hour. With rain continuing through much of the evening and early morning, we anticipate closure before the morning rush.*
- *Betchworth bridge is impassable with several drivers apparently intent upon getting stuck there.*
- *Flanchford bridge is wet, but still passable.*
- *Wonham is fairly deep under water, and impassable for most, with one vehicle largely blocking the way.*
- *Old School Lane is now under water, though still (briefly) passable.*
- *Water at the smaller footbridge near the Bowls Club is waist deep.*
- *This afternoon and evening, BERT has deployed two pumps at a flooded residence on Middle Street. We are trying to determine the cause/source and hope to take preventive action if/when possible.*

26 January 2025

A small team worked on a drain in **Tweed Lane** that links with a further and larger system on the junction with Middle Street which has received significant attention in the past. Blockage was caused by nylon thread netting, large sticks and vegetation that were inhibiting flow.



About ten volunteers took part in an exercise at a secondary equipment storage area clearing space and tidying all manner of chunky items of equipment belonging to a range of local organisations. Surplus and worthless materials will go to the tip. An area has been set aside for storage of sandbags which of course will be available south of the river. A further store is being established to the north of the river. There are more photos available but in the interests of security it is best to be discreet with the location.



*Raised storage area for sandbags*

**27th January 2025**

Community email:

- *Brockham bridge is open and, so far, completely clear of water.*
- *The water level is less than 3.5 meters and the rise (recently 0.4 meters per hour) is beginning to slow. With rain expected on and off until 5 pm, a Brockham Bridge closure is uncertain but entirely possible.*
- *Betchworth bridge has water across the road along with one abandoned car.*
- *Flanchford bridge also has water across the road.*
- *Wonham is closed.*
- *Old School Lane is now under water, though still (briefly?) passable.*
- *The walking path near the Bowls Club is closed.*
- *So far, we have had no reports of residential property flooding.*

**9 February 2024**

A working group Wheelers Lane by Star Builders where ditch is very full of leaves. Farmer John Muggerridge made available a tractor bucket to collect the leaves which would be spread on the farm.



*Bucket from Bushbury Farm – also litter collected the length of Wheelers Lane.*



10 March 2025

Ann Went, BERT Trustee, presented at Manchester University on community resilience. The talk was very well received.



The organiser, Professor Duncan Shaw, was really pleased with Ann's contribution in delivering the 'ingredients for success' Attendees referred to BERT as the 'five stars' community resilience organisation in the country.



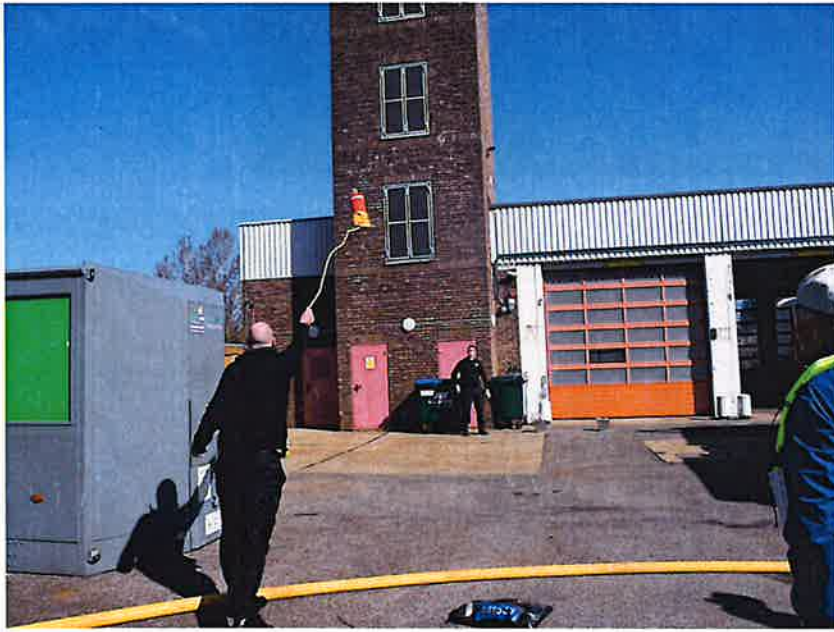
There were representatives from various government organisations including Fire & Rescue, local resilience forums, volunteer organisations and businesses.

30 March 2025

BERT leaders and volunteers attended water safety training at the Surrey Fire and Rescue Services station in North Holmwood.

There was briefing on water safety and operating pumps, with practical exercises. It was emphasised that the role of BERT is not to enter water in attempts to save life. This is not what they are trained or equipped to do. However, there are simple safety rules for entering mostly surface water to assist people in distress.







## Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

During 2024, BERT held a series of activities to celebrate its tenth anniversary and the contribution of its volunteers. This included the visit of the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, The stall at the Victorian Fair and BERT's Big Bash event. BERT also held a series of working parties, including the annual ditch clearance event, which was attended by over 40 volunteers.

On page 16 of this report, we refer to Robert (Bob) Bartlett as BERT's Life President. Bob, one of the founders of BERT, stepped down as trustee in January 2019. He was then appointed by the trustees as Life President. Bob continues to support BERT as a trusted advisor and takes part in many BERT activities.

BERT Chairman Craig Scott suddenly passed away on 14 February 2025 at the age of 56. Craig was the driving force behind the vaccination clinics volunteering activity, during the pandemic and beyond, and of BERT's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Craig was an accomplished leader and will be very much missed by all.

Michael (Mick) Went has kindly agreed to step in as interim chairman for the time being. The trustees are grateful for Mick's support.

## Section D Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

As listed in Section C – *Objectives and activities* of this report.

## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

Trustees continue to consider the optimal 'save/spend' approach to remain aligned with the objectives of CSC as detailed in its constitution.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

None to report

### 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;

The principal sources of funds are donations made by local residents and supporters.

During the period April 24 to March 25 there were no grants received from government or local authority funded organisations.

Detailed information on receipts and payments is available in the Annual Accounts (CC16a).

- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

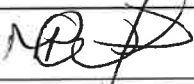
**Section F Other optional information**

Further to your [requirement](#), we declare that there were no serious incidents to report.

**Section G Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		79/0125
Full name(s)	Michael Philip Went	

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Interim Chairman	
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## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2024	To	Period end 31/03/2025
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### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	1,086	-	-	1,086	2,317
Gift aid reclaimed	207	-	-	207	230
Anniversary dinner	1,700	-	-	1,700	-
Village Fair teas	143	-	-	143	-
Other fund raising	-	-	-	-	-
Bank deposit interest	687	-	-	687	331
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>3,823</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,823</b>	<b>2,878</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Sale surplus equipment	-	-	-	-	500
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>3,823</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,823</b>	<b>3,378</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	1,059	-	-	1,059	1,001
General maintenance, fuel etc	1,444	-	-	1,444	318
Credit / Debit card fees	35	-	-	35	32
Coronavirus support	-	-	-	-	332
Donation website admin fees	216	-	-	216	216
Bank charges	32	-	-	32	32
IT costs	346	-	-	346	408
Anniversary dinner	1,700	-	-	1,700	-
Village Fair teas	143	-	-	143	-
Village Covid memorial bench	700	-	-	700	-
Award presentation	454	-	-	454	-
Village fair stall costs	201	-	-	201	-
Society Resilience Conference	405	-	-	405	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>6,735</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,735</b>	<b>2,339</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Tools	928	-	-	928	960
Protective Clothing	406	-	-	406	87
Flood alert equipment	299	-	-	299	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,633</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,633</b>	<b>1,047</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>8,368</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,368</b>	<b>3,386</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(4,545)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,545)</b>	<b>(8)</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>32,447</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,447</b>	<b>32,455</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>27,902</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,902</b>	<b>32,447</b>

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

Categories		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	27,902	-	-
	Petty Cash	-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>27,902</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	-	-	-
	Storage equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Drain scanning equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Pumps and generators	Unrestricted	-	-
	Tools	Unrestricted	-	-
	Safety equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Other equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			MICHAEL WEST	20/05/25

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1171175

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			Period end date		
		01	April	2023	31	March

**Section A Reference and administration details**

**Charity name** Community Support in the Countryside (CSC)

**Other names charity is known by** Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT)

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1171175

**Charity's principal address** 52 Oakdene Road, Brockham, Surrey

**Postcode** RH3 7JX

**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	Robert James Thomas		Whole year (stood down as Charmain on 25 May 2023)	N/A
2	Trevor John Anderson	Treasurer	Whole year	N/A
3	Simon Budd		Whole year	N/A
4	Isobel Fiona Heppenstall		Whole year	N/A
5	Trevor Hizzard		Whole Year	N/A
6	Craig Scott	Chairman	Whole year (appointed Chairman 25 May 2023)	N/A
7	Daved Robert Shanks		Whole year	N/A
8	Ann Went		Whole year	N/A
9	Michael Philip Went		Whole year	N/A
10	Alessandra F N Truran	Secretary	Appointed on 25 May 2023	N/A

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	N/A

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
N/A		

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

N/A

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	CSC is governed by a Constitution document, which was set out when the charity was incorporated on 18 January 2017.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CSC is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by the Foundation Constitution document.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	<p>The original trustees were appointed from the people who had historically helped BERT, were willing and able to act as trustees, and were able to give an appropriate range of knowledge and skills to cover the legal, financial, technical, operational, promotional and other needs of CSC as a charity.</p> <p>New trustees are appointed following existing trustees' approval and follow the same principle of creating a group with an appropriate knowledge and experience to run the charity effectively.</p>

### 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.

The formal business of CSC is conducted through trustee meetings, which are usually held quarterly. Progress of agreed actions is managed through regular follow up.

In addition to the charity structure, BERT carries out operational tasks with the support of volunteer team leaders. These are typically long-standing BERT volunteers who have been committed to our activities and been willing to undertake the training necessary for the role.

CSC/BERT has adopted a set of policies, which are reviewed regularly, to cover the health and safety, safeguarding, and the protection of personal data of trustees and volunteers.

CSC/BERT regularly engages with Brockham Parish Council, Mole Valley District Council, Surrey County Council and with relevant government bodies to manage flood risks, to report incidents or concerns, and to support the local community.

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

The purposes of CSC, as set out in the founding document, are:

To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham in particular but not exclusively by:

1. Developing the capacity of residents with the aim to prevent and reduce the likelihood and consequences of local flooding, particularly from drainage ditches and surface water,
2. Recruiting and training volunteers to enable Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT) to provide assistance and undertake preventive activities when the village of Brockham is threatened by severe weather, its consequences or other local emergency or disruption,
3. Assisting the Brockham community in setting up and organising community information and awareness raising events using BERT's expertise, volunteers and equipment for the benefit of local residents and
4. Developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to monitor and warn local residents of the risk of flooding from rivers, streams or significant drainage ditches.

**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)**

**10 April 2023 - Church flagpole snapped:** high winds caused the flagpole in the grounds of the church to snap. BERT helped the churchwarden replace and secure the flagpole.



**6 May 2023 - Chromebooks for North Downs Primary School:** BERT donated six Chromebook computers to North Downs Primary School on the basis of “need”. The school has a number of children attending who have been displaced due to international conflict. With the occasional language barrier, it is important that communication between the school and student as well as the school and parents is translated accurately. With students in different year groups and in different locations, there was a need for more than one Chromebook as they are occasionally used simultaneously or need to be close by for easy use. BERT was delighted to be able to support these children and to help them with their education given the circumstances they have endured.

**13 July 2023 - Coffin Path Brockham.** A tree down blocking access to the village for walkers and residents of Nutwood Avenue was removed by a BERT volunteer.



**17 September 2023 – village ditch clearance:** BERT held a successful working party. The objectives were met, it was well attended (including new volunteers), and the overall feedback was very positive.



Team briefing



Chairman's Craig Scott's briefing



Ditch clearing at Tweed Lane



Tweed Lane ditch before and after



Pavilion Ditch, Middle Street



Middle Street to Warrenne Road and on to Middle Street allotments



Oakdene Road – pause for refreshments



Vegetation cleared at the ditch in Oakdene Road



Ditches cleared by volunteers



Ditches cleared by volunteers



Ditches cleared by volunteers



A good turnout!

**Public message to volunteers post-event:**

*A HUGE thank you to all the residents who turned up to help BERT with the annual ditch clear on Sunday morning.*

*The team were not only enthusiastic but very sociable so it was a very happy work party. A lot was done in just over two hours to help reduce the risk of flooding this coming winter. The ditches are now very sparkly.*

*A note that more biscuits (particularly chocolate bourbons) will be supplied next year.*

*~The BERT Trustees*

**23 September 2023 - Covid and flu vaccination clinics at Brockwood Medical Practice** started its autumn Covid and Flu vaccination clinics with the assistance of BERT volunteers to marshal patients through the surgery's one-way system. A total of seven volunteers gave their time on the day with one volunteer doing the full six-hour clinic. The clinics are expected to run until late October.

**30 September 2023** - BERT volunteers again assisted **Brockwood Medical Practice** as they continue to roll out the autumn Covid and Flu vaccination clinics. A total of nine volunteers gave their time on the day with the clinic running from 9am until 3pm.

**4 October 2023** - Craig Scott, Chairman of BERT, was invited by the **Kent Environment Agency** to speak at their Flood Forum and address their volunteer Flood Wardens. Craig gave a summary of BERT's history, development, how we are structured, funded, organised and how we engage and maintain the interest of our volunteers. The response from the Flood Wardens was very positive with many expressing an interest to replicate what BERT has achieved. The Environment Agency were very thankful to BERT for giving up our time to prepare and deliver the talk and have asked if we would be available to attend a face-to-face Flood Resilience event that they are hosting.

**7 October 2023** - Brockwood Medical Practice held a **Covid and flu vaccination clinic** at Brockham Surgery. A total of nine BERT volunteers helped marshalling the patients through the one-way system to ensure the efficient movement of patients for the five vaccinating nurses to administer the jabs.

**14 October 2023** - a total of six BERT volunteers assisted the covid and flu vaccination clinic at Brockham Surgery. The clinic ran from 9am until 1pm. Craig Scott (BERT Chairman) is also Chairman of the Brockwood Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG). He received the following feedback from patients:

*"Attended Brockham for Cov/Flu yesterday morning. Arrived early in case parking might be difficult - it wasn't. Volunteers were great. Three nurses on duty. Everyone was cheery and friendly. I was done and dusted before my allotted time. All involved should be commended yet again."*

*"I totally agree with you and they all deserve much praise. I live in Kenward Court overlooking the surgery car park and there have been queues of patients over the last few weekends all arriving for their COVID and Flu jabs and everything has run impeccably."*

**21 October 2023** - A total of five BERT volunteers assisted Brockham Medical Practice with their Covid & flu vaccination clinic on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> October from 9am-12pm. The clinic went very smoothly as usual, and the volunteer team received a gift of chocolate as a thank you from the surgery. It is anticipated that there will be one final clinic in early November, but this remains to be confirmed.

**25 October 2023** - BERT volunteer Bob Thomas cleared the drainage ditch by the Smithers, Wheelers Lane, of bonfire debris left which could block the culvert following heavy rain.

**1 and 2 November 2023** - BERT monitored river levels during **storm Ciaran** and published update messages to residents. For example:

**Message issued to residents on 2 November, 8.45 am**

**Water Levels Moderate and Rising**

- *The footpath bridge at the Bowls Club is impassable under a foot or so of water.*
- *A25 near the Shell garage in Buckland is temporarily closed due a tree that went down during this morning's wind storm.*
- *Flooding is reported on A25 near the Black Horse and going into Reigate.*
- *Brockham bridge is open although surface water is slowing cars as river levels continue to rise.*
- *The same is reported for Flanchford bridge near Leigh.*
- *Wonham Lane in Betchworth is passable by high clearance vehicles only.*
- *Please avoid travel if possible, proceed with care, allow plenty of time for your journey, and slow down on rural roads with increased traffic due to diversions.*
- *High winds between 40 and 50 miles per hour are still forecast from 11 am this morning.*

***If there is a threat to life, call 999 first.*** *Otherwise, please share with us any weather-related concerns or observations you may have. If you see new or worsening flooding or wind damage, please let us know the location and severity, along with a photo if possible.*

*If you have a weather-related emergency, call 01302 GO BERT (that's 01302 462378).*

***~BERT Trustees***

BERT volunteers were in action on 1 and 2 November deploying sandbags, monitoring river levels and placing flood signs where needed.



BERT volunteers helped prevent flooding



BERT volunteers cleared the grills and culverts at Wheelers Lane.



BERT has been reporting the blocked drains at Brockham Row for over five years and requesting action from Surrey County Council



BERT monitoring cameras in action



BERT volunteers helped monitor River Mole levels



**Message issued to residents on 2 November, 3:15 pm:  
River Levels Are High and Rising**

- *The footpath bridge at the Bowls Club is totally impassable.*
- *Brockham bridge is still open, with flood water lapping at the edges. River levels are at 3.5 meters (as compared to 4.15 meters when the bridge was closed by flooding in February of 2020). Eventual closure is still predicted as river levels are rising at pace.*
- *Old School Lane at the Coach Road is under deep water with drivers resigned to the arduous task of turning back. Standing water is also blocking the road south of the nearby run of cottages.*
- *A25 is flooded and slow moving just west of Reigate where Surrey County Council is operating stop/go signs.*
- *Betchworth bridge and Wonham Lane have been closed by Police (where the high footpath remains open).*
- *Flanchford bridge is currently passable for some, but seemingly not for much longer.*
- *Light rain and the high winds of Storm Ciaran (which have not lived up to their billing so far) are forecast to continue until mid-evening.*
- *As we begin to lose the daylight, please avoid travel if possible, proceed with care, allow plenty of time for your journey, and slow down on rural roads with increased traffic due to diversions.*

***If there is a threat to life, call 999 first.*** *Otherwise, please share with us any weather-related concerns or observations you may have. If you see new or worsening flooding or wind damage, please let us know the location and severity, along with a photo if possible.*

*If you have a weather-related emergency, call 01302 GO BERT (that's 01302 462378).*

**~BERT Trustees**

**3 November 2023** - BERT continued to monitor river levels, flood spots and continued sending messages to residents.



Coffin path

**Message issued to residents on 3 November, 7:33 am**

- *The footpath bridge at the Bowls Club is still under water but improving.*
- *Betchworth bridge and Wonham Lane remain closed.*
- *Old School Lane at the Coach Road is now passable for high-clearance vehicles.*
- *Brockham bridge is open again after a brief closure last night.*
- *A25 is open and clear of downed trees.*
- *Flanchford bridge is open.*
- *The winds of Storm Ciaran have gone. River levels are falling, and today is forecast to be dry and bright throughout.*

**3 November 2023** - The BERT chairman issued a 'thank you' note to the trustees and volunteers that were in action during **storm Ciaran**:

*"I wanted to say a big thank you and well done for what we achieved yesterday. An indicator of a high performing team is individuals getting on and doing what needs to be done without being asked. Trev – you were a one-man BERT machine shifting and delivering sandbags. Simon and others feeding information to Daved to communicate worked very well and was obviously appreciated by residents who are all eagerly information seeking (Daved – I know how busy you are with your work so thank you for taking the time to prepare and send BERT emails). One limitation we have is that we are volunteers with jobs and/or other commitments which makes yesterday's workday response particularly good. We're not out of the woods yet with rain forecast tomorrow falling on wet ground combined with high river levels but more of us should be available to help if needed."*

**3 November 2023** - BERT members assisted the bonfire committee by mounting guard to prevent early lighting of the fire. It was a late night in poor weather.

**15 November 2023** - During a routine litter pick by BERT volunteer two cones were removed from a drainage ditch in **Wheeler's Lane**.



**12 December 2023** - Following heavy rain the drainage at **Brockham Row** again failed even though this has been a BERT hotspot since 2015 with numerous reports to authorities. A BERT volunteer visited the area and spoke with residents who were made aware of the sandbag store at Strood Green. SCC Highways emergency was contacted by BERT to place signs showing half the road was closed a particular danger in the dark. This they agreed to do. BERT also placed several warning signs.



Message issued to residents on 13 November, 8:40 am via the community email:

***Water Levels Have Peaked and are Falling.***

- *Brockham's Borough Bridge is completely clear of water.*
- *The footpath from the Grumpy Mole is impassable at both footbridges near the Bowls Club.*
- *Betchworth Bridge and nearby Wonham Lane are flooded.*
- *Old School Lane is passable for most, although shallow water is across the road.*
- *As advertised, Wellhouse Lane remains closed at or near the entrance to Harding's Coaches for SES Water works.*

**13 December 2023** - BERT volunteers monitored river rising levels cleared to grills in the drainage ditches by the church and on the Green increasing the flow of water.



**13 December 2023** - Flood signs recovered by volunteers from Strood Green, Brockham Row.



**16 December 2023** - BERT issued a message to residents via the community email and gave them guidance on how to prepare for floods:

*You may not be aware that Mole Valley District Council makes sandbags available on a help yourself basis (subject to availability) at their Curtis Road Depot in Dorking (they do not deliver). And the best time for you to take advantage of this resource is BEFORE the next flood.*

*They also have a variety of resources and contact numbers for you to report flooding concerns here:*

- [Mole Valley District Council Flooding Page](#)
- [Surrey County Council Flooding Page](#)

*During an emergency, BERT will always do whatever we can to help, but the long-term solution usually lies with Surrey County Council. For residents who experience persistent flooding risk we strongly encourage you to stock up on sandbags and report your flood risk to Surrey County Council every time it occurs. Effective action by the Council is far more likely if residents have consistently reported the problem. This can be done by phone, email or online at the link above.*

#### **BERT Trustees**

**31 December 2023** - Following a period of heavy rain the grills by the church and on The Green were congested mostly by leaves and twigs with limited litter. BERT volunteers cleared both grills.



*Chairman Craig Scott leading from the "front"*

**2 January 2024** - Brockham volunteers managed surface flooding in Middle Street, Strood Green, from dawn. BERT notify SCC of flooded road surface at Brockham Row – again. Ref 2835846



**2 January 2024** - BERT remote monitoring of Oakdene identified this potential blockage of the main drainage ditch. Local volunteers attended immediately and removed what was potentially a serious constriction of flow.



**2 January 2024** - BERT cameras monitoring rivel levels: Bowls Club



**2 January 2024** - Coffin Path close to Brockham village. BERT sent a notification to residents about this.



**3 January 2023** - at 7am a BERT checked “hot spots” and reported all bridges open though there is water on some of the roads. Coffin Path remained closed. Bridge update posted to via email and social media.

**4 January 2024 - Storm Henk:** Following more heavy rain, water ran off the water-logged fields and started to threaten two houses in Wheelers Lane. A call for help was received and within 15 minutes a team of volunteers were in attendance. One of the householders had a small pump deployed with a number of sandbags. BERT obtained and deployed more sandbags and a larger pump. A great deal of brush work was involved keeping the water away from the house.



Later in the evening following issues in Middle Street near Brockham Row, the team attended the medical practice in Tanner's Meadow where surface water was flooding onto the car park giving concern for the building. Sandbags were deployed stopping water accessing the car park from where the water gradually reduced.



Middle Street/Tanners Meadow



Concern was not just water in the Surgery but the houses backing onto the car park were under threat.

Old School Lane

5 January 2024 - BERT update to residents at 7:30 am



Borough Bridge early morning

**River Levels High and Rising Following Surface Flooding Yesterday**

- *The water level at Kinnersley Manor (upstream) has peaked. The water level at Brockham Bridge will continue to rise for several hours.*
- *Brockham Bridge is passable for some at the moment but slow going due to water flowing across the entrance and vehicles turning around. Closure is anticipated within an hour or two.*
- *Foot traffic at the Green end of Brockham Bridge is already hazardous for little ones, and may soon be impassable for all.*
- *Betchworth Bridge is impassable.*
- *NEW: Kiln Lane is flooded and impassable for some vehicles approaching Old Reigate Road.*
- *Old School Lane is impassable at the Coach Road.*
- *Bowls Club is flooded and the footpath nearby is shoulder height in spots.*
- *Middle Street, Brockham Row, and the Brockwood Surgery are all clear after remarkable surface flooding early last night.*
- *Thanks to all the volunteers who were out yesterday evening, placing warning signs, sandbags, and water pumps where needed.*



Road sign bridge closed placed by volunteers.



Bin washed away by Borough Bridge spilling contents.



Grill on The Green cleared

**Message from the BERT Chairman to all volunteers:** *A very good response but some lessons also learnt. Many thanks to the BERT Team Leaders who got stuck in and those who were information sharing – it all added up to impressive action. Brockwood Surgery have contacted Craig to say a huge thank you for what you did last night protecting their building. Efforts of the team massively appreciated. Earlier in the day the occupants of the premises in Wheelers Lane were very thankful for the timely support, all the hard work and loan of pumps.*

**6 January 2023** - BERT update to residents at 7:30 am via the community email:

*River levels have fallen throughout the day and are now back in the normal range. Brockham, Betchworth and Flanchford bridges are all open and clear of flooding. Old School Lane, Kiln Lane, and Middle Street are also clear. The footpath from the Grumpy Mole to the Bowls Club should be clear by now, if perhaps still a bit soggy. BERT volunteers have been busy for the two days of Storm Henk's arrival and departure:*

**6 January 2024** - BERT volunteers collected deployed road closed and diversion signs and cones.

**8 January 2024** - BERT Chairman issues a Thank You note to all volunteers:

- ◇ *Zue says, "Thank you to all Bert volunteers who worked to protect us during the storm."*
- ◇ *Nicki says, "Thank you so much BERT for your wonderful work and also for putting a sign up as far as Leigh and Brockhamhurst Road saying Brockham Bridge flooded helped us all immensely."*
- ◇ *Natasha and Stephen : We would like to sincerely thank the Bert team for coming to our rescue on Thursday night. It was not only a huge physical help but also reassuring that you were on hand in the crisis with the right equipment and knowledge .Please can you send Bert's bank details so we can make a donation of gratitude.*
- ◇ *Note of thanks received from Karen chair of Parish Council.*
- ◇ *Brockwood Surgery have contacted "Thank you for your messages yesterday and also a massive THANK YOU to BERT for helping out with the flood/excessive rainwater yesterday, it's been the topic of much conversation today.*

## **22 January 2024 - BERT update to residents via the community email - Storm Isha**

- ◇ *Limited Damage Locally*
- ◇ *All bridges are open.*
- ◇ *Some in Wheelers Lane are without power, but the school is NOT affected and staff have indicated Brockham school will be OPEN.*
- ◇ *We have no report for Leigh School.*
- ◇ *The Spar has lights on, as do various homes around the Green, so there seems to be little impact there.*
- ◇ *We've had reports of power outages in Oakdene Road, Oakdene Close, Nutwood Avenue, parts of Wheelers Lane, and Middle Green.*
- ◇ *For those without power at home, estimates by UK Power vary, but most reports we have received say power should be back on between noon and 1.00 pm.*
- ◇ *There is a lot of debris on the roads and trees/branches are down in various locations, so DELAY TRAVEL where possible and be careful on the roads.*
- ◇ *Rain showers are forecast to end by 9 am, and we've seen the worst of the winds as local estimates see wind gusts only as high as 36 mph throughout the day.*
- ◇ *POWERGEN provided hot drinks and food from a vehicle parked in the pavilion car park.*

**January 2024: BERT** members have been active in reporting fly tipping to the south of the village. These items can obstruct the main drainage ditches. MVDC are excellent in the response to this problem.



Five litre of vegetable oil drum and double mattress

**9 February 2024: BERT update to residents via the community email - Continuous rain for previous 24 hours.**

***Closures May Be Short-Lived***

- *Little rain is forecast for the rest of today.*
- *The water level at Kinnersley Manor (upstream) has peaked and begun to fall. The water level at Brockham Bridge appears to have levelled off and should begin to fall soon.*
- *Brockham Bridge is open and clear of water at the entrances.*
- *Betchworth Bridge is closed.*
- *Wonham Lane is closed.*
- *Flanchford Bridge was recently expected to close.*
- *Old School Lane is closed at the Coach Road.*
- *Pebble Hill remains closed for gas leak repairs.*
- *Two-way traffic signals on A25 at Buckland have been removed!*
- *The footpath between the Bowls Club and Grumpy Mole is impassable with water crossing the path at a volume high enough to be hazardous for little ones.*
- *Volunteer cleared grill on The Green.*



Path to Betchworth not available for the school run!  
Sunrise 9 February



Old School Lane closed to most traffic.



Mole burst its banks but contained – Old School Lane

**9 February 2024 7 am : update to residents via Facebook from a trustee:**

*All Bridges and Roads are open including Pebble Hill.*

*Betchworth Bridge - Open*

*Brockham Bridge - Open*

*Leigh/Flanchford - Open*

*Pebble Hill, Betchworth - Open*

*Wonham, Betchworth - Unknown atm.*

*Old School Lane - Open*

*Footpath behind Grumpy Mole, Brockham. Still Closed.*

*Caution- The Rivers are still in a flood state and very powerful. Do not let Dogs or Children swim/play in the water.*

*Wonham/ Betchworth is Open.*

**20 February 2024** - BERT update to residents via the community email - following a protracted period of rain.

*0630. All vehicle bridges and local roads are reportedly clear of flooding.*

*However, the footpath between the Bowls Club and the Grumpy Mole is flooded, with enough water flowing across the path to create a serious hazard for little ones and those of us who are less steady on our feet.*

*At 0930 the main drainage ditch through Wellhouse Lane, Oakdene Road, Middle Street and on past the pavilion was flowing fast and freely.*

**28 February 2024** - Chairman update via the community email:



### **Drains Maintenance at Brockham Row**

*BERT are very pleased to share that the drains at Brockham Row have been fixed by the Highways department of Surrey County Council (SCC).*

*What was thought to be a collapsed drain was found to be blocked solid with debris. This was apparent during Storm Henk on the 4th January when the water that backed up threatened residences in Brockham Row, flowed down Tanners Meadow from Middle Steet and across the surgery car park, threatening the surgery as well as houses nearby.*

*We've had no reports of any problems today or yesterday, so that's one test passed with flying colours. The next heavy downpour should mean better drainage in this area of our village and our understanding is that the fix should be effective.*

### **Reporting Problems to the Council**

*BERT first reported the issue a long time ago, and we have consistently publicised the need to report it in our weather updates. We encouraged the Brockham Row residents to report it to the SCC (they already had) as well as the surgery. Several of the BERT Trustees also reported the issue. We don't know if those efforts prioritised the work or not, but we do know the greater the volume of reports the more likely that action will be taken.*

*Thank you to everyone who reported this incident, and thanks to SCC for actioning the fix – it should relieve a lot of flooding anxiety for those in the area and will help BERT's volunteers focus on other areas of need when the next risk of flooding event occurs.*

**29 March 2024** – report from a Trustee of a **fencing panel in the main drainage ditch** by the pavilion. Trevor Hizzard attended straight away and was able to lasso the fencing and remove it from the waterway, Excellent task undertaken speedily.



## Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

***Upon a review the objectives, the trustees concluded that CSC no longer supports item 5, on the development of technology to prevent and assist in the detection of rural crime and decided to remove this from its original objectives. The focus remains on supporting residents of Brockham as a response to natural disasters or emergencies.***

Robert (Bob) Thomas stood down as Chairman on 25 May 2023. Bob is one of the original BERT founders and his dedication to BERT dates back to before CSC become a registered charity. Over the past ten years Bob has led several working parties, emergency response calls and engagements with government bodies. In addition, during the pandemic, Bob was instrumental in setting up various initiatives including Food Aid, which provided food and essential products to dozens of local families in need, and the 'fogging' machine, an industrial sanitiser which helped local business and communities operate safely. Bob continues to support BERT as a trustee, so we continue to be grateful for his support and expertise.

## Section D Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

As listed in Section C – *Objectives and activities* of this report.

## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

Trustees continue to consider the optimal 'save/spend' approach to remain aligned with the objectives of CSC as detailed in its constitution.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

None to report

### 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

The principal sources of funds are donations made by local residents and supporters.

During the period April 23 to March 24 there were no grants received from government or local authority funded organisations.

Detailed information on receipts and payments is available in the Annual Accounts (CC16a).

ethical investment policy adopted.

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## Section F Other optional information

Further to your [requirement](#), we declare that there were no serious incidents to report.

## Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>	Craig Scott	
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Craig Scott	4 June 2024
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chairman	



## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2023	To	Period end 31/03/2024
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### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	2,317	-	-	2,317	2,881
Gift aid reclaimed	230	-	-	230	124
Brockham Jubilee Celebrations- donations	-	-	-	-	10,772
Jubilee Teas receipts	-	-	-	-	858
Other fund raising	-	-	-	-	-
Bank deposit interest	331	-	-	331	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>2,878</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,878</b>	<b>14,635</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Sale surplus equipment	500	-	-	500	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>14,635</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	1,001	-	-	1,001	924
General maintenance, fuel etc	318	-	-	318	295
Credit / Debit card fees	32	-	-	32	24
Coronavirus support	332	-	#	332	733
Donation website admin fees	216	-	-	216	216
Bank charges	32	-	-	32	32
IT costs	408	-	-	408	160
Brockham Warm Hub support costs	-	-	-	-	360
School IT support for Ukraine refugee children	-	-	-	-	526
Brockham Jubilee Celebrations -costs	-	-	-	-	10,772
Jubilee teas, DEC Ukraine donation	-	-	-	-	858
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2,339</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,339</b>	<b>14,900</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Tools	960	-	-	960	-
Protective Clothing	87	-	-	87	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,386</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,386</b>	<b>14,900</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(265)</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>32,455</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,455</b>	<b>32,720</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>32,447</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,447</b>	<b>32,455</b>

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

Categories	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	32,447	-
	Petty Cash	-	-
		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>32,447</b>	<b>-</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

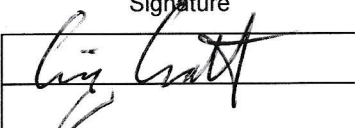
Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Unrestricted	-	-
Storage equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Drain scanning equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Pumps and generators	Unrestricted	-	-
Tools	Unrestricted	-	-
Safety equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Other equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Craig Gault	4/6/24

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1171175

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			Period end date		
		01	April	2022	31	March

**Section A Reference and administration details**

**Charity name** Community Support in the Countryside (CSC)

**Other names charity is known by** Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT)

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1171175

**Charity's principal address** 52 Oakdene Road, Brockham, Surrey

Postcode RH3 7JX

**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	Robert James Thomas	Chairman	Whole year	N/A
2	Trevor John Anderson	Treasurer	Whole year	N/A
3	Simon Budd		Whole year	N/A
4	Isobel Fiona Heppenstall		Whole year	N/A
5	Trevor Hizzard		Whole Year	N/A
6	Craig Scott		Whole year	N/A
7	Daved Robert Shanks		Whole year	N/A
8	Ann Went		Whole year	N/A
9	Michael Philip Went		Whole year	N/A
10	Alessandra F N Truran	Secretary	Appointed on 1 Jun 2023	N/A

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	N/A

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
N/A		

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

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	CSC is governed by a Constitution document, which was set out when the charity was incorporated on 18 January 2017.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CSC is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by the Foundation Constitution document.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	The original trustees were appointed from the people who had historically helped BERT, were willing and able to act as trustees and to give an appropriate range of knowledge and skills to cover the legal, financial, technical, promotional and other needs of CSC as a charity. New trustees are appointed following agreement of existing trustees, and follow the same principle of creating a group with appropriate knowledge and experience to run the charity effectively.

### 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.

The formal business of CSC is conducted through trustee meetings, which are usually held quarterly. Progress of agreed actions is managed through regular follow up.

In addition to the charity structure, BERT carries out operational tasks with the support of volunteer team leaders. These are typically long-standing BERT volunteers who have been committed to our activities and been willing to undertake the training necessary for the role.

CSC/BERT has adopted a set of policies, which are reviewed regularly, to cover the health and safety, safeguarding, and the protection of personal data of trustees and volunteers.

CSC/BERT regularly engages with Brockham Parish Council, Mole Valley District Council, Surrey County Council and with relevant government bodies to manage flood risks, to report incidents or concerns, and to support the local community.

## Section C

## Objectives and activities

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

The purposes of CSC, as set out in the founding document, are:  
To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham in particular but not exclusively by:

- a. Developing the capacity of residents with the aim to prevent and reduce the likelihood and consequences of local flooding, particularly from drainage ditches and surface water;
- b. Recruiting and training volunteers to enable Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT) to provide assistance and undertake preventive activities when the village of Brockham is threatened by severe weather, its consequences or other local emergency or disruption;
- c. Assisting the Brockham community in setting up and organising community information and awareness raising events using BERT's expertise, volunteers and equipment for the benefit of local residents;
- d. Developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to monitor and warn local residents of the risk of flooding from rivers, streams or significant drainage ditches; and
- e. Developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to prevent and assist in the detection of rural crime that may result from natural or other disasters or emergencies.

**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)**

**June 2022**

The Brockwood surgery wrote the following ‘thank you’ note to BERT in response to its coordination of volunteers to support covid vaccination clinics:

*“It was an absolute pleasure working with the BERT volunteers, we genuinely could not of managed the clinics without your help. The vaccination programme was a success because of everyone involved who showed up day in and day out to deliver an exceptional service. When I look back at that time, I feel very proud of how everyone working at Medwyn (including the other practices’ staff and volunteers) pulled together and did whatever was required to succeed. The BERT volunteers & the incredible BERT coordinators’ unstinting support in a time of need in our corner of the world has been simply outstanding”.*

**4 June 2022**

Teas on the Green for the Ukraine: As part of the village platinum jubilee celebrations, BERT organised and ran a very successful ‘teas on the green’ from the church hall to raise funds for the DEC Ukraine Appeal.





#### **4 September 2022**

BERT members were invited to a tea party at the church hall hosted by chairman of the MVDC Paul Potter to thank those in the district council area who volunteered during the Covid epidemic.

#### **14 September 2022**

Two BERT members attended a meeting held by SCC Flood Group where preliminary discussions were held about setting up a Surrey Flood Action Group.

#### **19 September 2022**

BERT held a successful working party where volunteers cleared the main ditches in Brockham in preparation for the winter ahead. This preventative activity helps avoid flooding.



### **25 September 2022**

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, BERT were members invited by Chairman Paul Potter, MVDC to a Civic Service at Brockham Church.

### **December 2022**

BERT donated funds to help purchase Chromebooks for Ukrainian refugee children attending North Downs Primary school.

Jane Douglass, North Downs Headteacher, wrote:

*“I just wanted to send you an email to pass on our heartfelt thanks for the incredible contribution from BERT, which has allowed us to buy additional Chromebooks for our EAL and SEN pupils. They are being used to support their learning, allowing them to utilise resources and tools that enable them to access a curriculum appropriate to their needs. I can’t begin to tell you what a difference they have made. Thank you so much, much appreciated.”*

### **December 2022 – February 2023**

BERT, Surrey Lieutenancy, Christ Church Brockham and the local WI developed a Warm Hub at the Church Hall to help families cope with the energy cost crisis. This initiative continued until the end of February. Each session held various “skills transfer” events including using a sewing machine, crochet, darning, knitting, cooking and window ledge gardening.

The first two sessions held in December were aimed at local school children. Food, drinks, games, and craft were on offer. There was also a surprise visit by Father Christmas & the Chief Elf, who distributed gifts to all children at the event.

### **9 January 2023**

BERT marked an important anniversary:



*On the 9th of January 2020 a group of hastily recruited BERT volunteers appeared on a freezing day at the Medwyn Medical Centre in Dorking. It was the first Covid vaccination clinic in our area. It was an extremely long and busy day with doctors, nurses, admin staff and volunteers all working together to deliver something they had never delivered before. With elderly patients queuing outside and feeling the cold the volunteers improvised a numbered waiting system so they could wait in their cars instead. Patients were ushered through a makeshift reception, received their jabs and sat for 15 minutes in the waiting room. It was a remarkably smooth operation given that it had never existed before. And, of course, it went on for weeks and weeks with up to 28 volunteers per day helping out for many consecutive days. Now, two years later, it's still going on. Given that the start was chaotic it's difficult to know with 100% accuracy, but we do know that BERT volunteers have appeared for approximately 910 shifts.*

*The Covid vaccination clinics, however, weren't the first vaccination clinics that the BERT volunteers helped at. On the 10th of September 2020, six months after the first lockdown, a small group of three volunteers helped at the first flu vaccination clinic in the context of a pandemic. These clinics continued up to December 2020 and proved extremely useful experience for the Covid vaccination clinics in January 2021.*

*The Trustees of BERT would like to extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have joined our community to help each other over such a long period of time. Your effort and continuing commitment are hugely appreciated by the local medical practices and all of the patients who needed your support in a time of need.*

*Thank you.  
BERT Trustees*

### **January 2023:**

Following more rain over a protracted period, checks revealed the drainage system was coping though the Mole was over at the Bowls Club bridge. The grills by the church and on The Green were cleared, something that requires constant attention to keep them free of leaves, hedge cuttings and litter. Litter was picked around the church and Wheelers Lane. Two BERT volunteers and a resident cleared the drainage ditch by the Mardle/ Mead House. There was significant detritus from hedging and leaves. A blockage by Star Builders was cleared.



**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

As listed in Section C - *Objectives and activities* of this report.

**Section D Achievements and performance**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

As listed in Section C - *Objectives and activities* of this report.

**Section E Financial review**

**Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves**

During the year April 22 to March 23, both receipts and payments reverted back to more normal levels, following the high levels during 2020 to 2120, which were an outcome of the pandemic.

Trustees continue to consider the optimal ‘save/spend’ approach to remain aligned with the objectives of CSC as detailed in its constitution.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

None to report

**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.

The principal sources of funds are donations made by local residents and supporters as well as proceedings from the sale of items sold via the BERT community email.

During the period April 22 to March 23 there were no grants received from government or local authority funded organisations.

Detailed information on receipts and payments is available in the Annual Accounts (CC16a).

**Section F Other optional information**

Further to your [requirement](#), we declare that there were no serious incidents to report.

**Section G Declaration**

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees**

<b>Signature(s)</b>	Craig Scott	
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<b>Full name(s)</b>	Craig Scott	
---------------------	-------------	--

<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chair	
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## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2022	To	Period end 31/03/2023
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### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	2,881	-	-	2,881	5,281
Gift aid reclaimed	124	-	-	124	576
Brockham Jubilee Celebrations- donations	10,772	-	-	10,772	-
Jubilee Teas receipts	858	-	-	858	-
Other fund raising	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>14,635</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,635</b>	<b>5,857</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Sale surplus equipment	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>14,635</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,635</b>	<b>5,857</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	924	-	-	924	851
General maintenance, fuel etc	295	-	-	295	843
Credit / Debit card fees	24	-	-	24	19
Coronavirus support	893	-	-	893	1,586
Donation website admin fees	216	-	-	216	54
Bank charges	32	-	-	32	32
Brockham Warm Hub support costs	360	-	-	360	-
School IT support for Ukraine refugee children	526	-	-	526	-
Brockham Jubilee Celebrations -costs	10,772	-	-	10,772	-
Jubilee teas, DEC Ukraine donation	858	-	-	858	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>3,385</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Tools	-	-	-	-	1,067
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,067</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>4,452</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(265)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(265)</b>	<b>1,405</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>32,720</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,720</b>	<b>31,315</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>32,455</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,455</b>	<b>32,720</b>

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

Categories	-	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	32,455	-	-
	Petty Cash	-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>32,455</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK


Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Unrestricted	-	-
Storage equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Drain scanning equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Pumps and generators	Unrestricted	-	-
Tools	Unrestricted	-	-
Safety equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Other equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Robert Thomas MBE	1st June 2023

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1171175

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			Period end date		
		01	April	2021	31	March

## Section A Reference and administration details

<b>Charity name</b>	Community Support in the Countryside (CSC)		
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT)		
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	1171175		
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	15 OAKDENE CLOSE, BROCKHAM, BETCHWORTH, SURREY		
	<b>Postcode</b>	RH3 7JZ	

### 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	Robert James Thomas	Chairperson	Whole year	N/A
2	Trevor John Anderson	Treasurer	Whole year	N/A
3	Simon Budd		Whole year	N/A
4	Isobel Fiona Heppenstall		Whole year	N/A
5	Trevor Hizzard		Whole Year	N/A
6	Craig Scott		Whole year	N/A
7	Daved Robert Shanks		Whole year	N/A
8	Ann Went		Appointed 1 May 2021	N/A
9	Michael Philip Went		Appointed 1 May 2021	N/A
	Alessandra F N Truran	Secretary	Resigned 30 April 2021	N/A
	Robert Gregory		Resigned 30 April 2021	N/A
	Zoe Odette Collins		Resigned 14 October 2021	N/A

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	N/A

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
N/A		

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

N/A
-----

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	CSC is governed by a Constitution document, which was set out when the charity was incorporated on 18 January 2017.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CSC is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by the Foundation Constitution document.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	The original trustees were appointed from the people who had historically helped BERT, were willing and able to act as trustees and to give an appropriate range of knowledge and skills to cover the legal, financial, technical, promotional and other needs of CSC as a charity. New trustees are appointed following agreement of existing trustees, and follow the same principle of creating a group with appropriate knowledge and experience to run the charity effectively.

### 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.

<p>The formal business of CSC is conducted through trustee meetings, which are usually held quarterly. Progress of agreed actions is managed through regular follow up.</p> <p>In addition to the charity structure, BERT carries out operational tasks with the support of volunteer team leaders. These are typically long-standing BERT volunteers who have been committed to our activities and been willing to undertake the training necessary for the role.</p> <p>CSC/BERT has adopted a set of policies, which are reviewed annually, to cover the health and safety, safeguarding, and the protection of personal data of trustees and volunteers.</p> <p>CSC/BERT regularly engages with Brockham Parish Council, Mole Valley District Council, Surrey County Council and with relevant government bodies to manage flood risks, to report incidents or concerns, and to support the local community.</p>
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## Section C

## Objectives and activities

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

The purposes of CSC, as set out in the founding document, are:

To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham in particular but not exclusively by:

- a. Developing the capacity of residents with the aim to prevent and reduce the likelihood and consequences of local flooding, particularly from drainage ditches and surface water;
- b. Recruiting and training volunteers to enable Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT) to provide assistance and undertake preventive activities when the village of Brockham is threatened by severe weather, its consequences or other local emergency or disruption;
- c. Assisting the Brockham community in setting up and organising community information and awareness raising events using BERT's expertise, volunteers and equipment for the benefit of local residents;
- d. Developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to monitor and warn local residents of the risk of flooding from rivers, streams or significant drainage ditches; and
- e. Developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to prevent and assist in the detection of rural crime that may result from natural or other disasters or emergencies.

**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)**

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic and through 2021 and 2022, CSC/BERT remained focused on helping local residents; on 17 March 2020 CSC/BERT launched the ‘**Community Immunity**’ (CI) project. CI supports the main object of the charity: ‘*To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham*’.

## **Community Immunity**

*A BERT initiative – Brockham communities’ response to Coronavirus*

Do you have a neighbour who is over 70 or who has health concerns? Do you even know?

Now is your time to find out if the people you live near will struggle if they are quarantined.

How can you help?

- **Start talking** – find out if the people you live near may be facing exclusion in the coming weeks and see what their concerns are. Tap on a window – remember they may not want to answer the door!
- **Find out how you can help** – Can you pick up a few extra bits when you pop to the shops?, Can you offer to collect a prescription?, Can you walk their dog with yours?
- **Volunteer to become a BEV** – we’ve developed a new “CoronaBEV” category for those who wish to offer their assistance to help people in their local community. BERT will coordinate requests for assistance and see who is available to help

With you we can create an Immunity in our Community to the disruption, hardship and isolation that restriction to movement may cause.

**Get in touch!**

**Want to Volunteer?** – email [Bert.Brockham@gmail.com](mailto:Bert.Brockham@gmail.com)

**Need help?** Call 01302 GOBERT (01302 462378) or email above address.

*Flyer/email issued to Brockham residents in March 2020*

During the year of this report BERT volunteers provided key marshalling support to vaccination clinics held at the local surgery and at the Medwyn Centre in Dorking; eventually BERT support extending to registering vaccination patients on to the NHS system, relieving the medical staff to concentrate on giving vaccinations.



In February 2022 after assisting with 69 vaccination clinics, across four surgeries with 850 volunteer appearances to assist in both marshalling and registering patients, the volunteers received the following letter of thanks from the medical practice.



In April 2021, BERT had the pleasure of a significant invitation from the Surrey Local Resilience Forum (LRF) to virtually attend a visit by The Earl and Countess of Wessex to the temporary community hospital at Headley Court. Representing BERT were BERT Chairman, Bob Thomas, Trustee Craig Scott and food aid and vaccination volunteers Anna Wilson and Charlotte Whittaker. BERT received a prominent

mention at the outset of the discussion which was attended by a number of local charities.



In June Bob Thomas, one of BERT's founders and its chairman since inception, was awarded an MBE in Her Majesty's birthday honours.

With demand dwindling, after giving due notice and ensuring all recipients had alternative mechanisms in place, August saw BERT withdraw the Community Initiative "Prescriptions collection and home delivery" service after delivering a total of 465 prescriptions to residents in need during the pandemic period.

In October Brockwood Medical Practice required a specialist portable medical grade refrigeration unit to transport vaccines to care homes and housebound patients. The request aligned with what BERT are trying to achieve during the pandemic and in September Trustees approved the purchase of one unit for the benefit of the community

At the end of the calendar year, BERT remained fully committed to supporting the community during the pandemic and with the omicron variant sweeping the country putting hospitals at full stretch and with at least 10% of staff off sick there was nothing to indicate that volunteers would not be needed on into the new year.

## BERT

### Flood Prevention and Response

During the year BERT also continued with its main task of flood prevention.

August saw a spell of very heavy overnight rain to which BERT responded by clearing various blocked ditches and trash grilles.

September - BERT assisted the Brockham Cubs. A ditch in Coffin Lane running towards the Bowling Club had become noticeably overgrown and was cut prior to the evening. The cubs were issued a selection of tools and bags and spent an hour raking and clearing the ditch filling six one-ton bags with debris. In addition to BERT's tools we were able to set up floodlights using a kind neighbour's supply to provide power.



Much of October saw repeated periods of heavy rain leading to many calls for BERT assistance from home owners and issues of ditches being overwhelmed requiring urgent attention.





October also saw BERT Life Vice President Bob Bartlett receive the Lord Lieutenant's certificate of appreciation for service to the community from DL's Corinna Lady Hamilton of Dalzell and Lady Louise O'Connor during a ceremony in the church garden.



In October, about thirty volunteers of all ages were deployed to clear mostly the main drainage ditch through the village. People will be aware that this had been an extraordinary year for the growth of vegetation and this placed some limitations on what could be done as disposal is always an issue. Men and women worked in the ditches along with young people from the age of eight.



In February a team of volunteers utilising some significant plant loaned by a local farmer undertook a range of ditch clearing actions across the village watercourses



A few weeks later Storm Eunice hit leaving a considerable amount of damage and blocked roads that BERT were able to assist in clearing enabling the community to get back to relative normal faster than if we were to wait for the overstretched statutory authorities.



As a charity CSC/BERT is financially sound and there are no shortage of volunteers both for traditional BERT activities and for helping to meet threats of the pandemic. Who can guess what the year will bring, so it is critical that BERT remains strong, resilient and committed to the tasks set down in the charitable deed.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

As listed in Section C – *Objectives and activities* of this report.

**Section D Achievements and performance**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

As listed in Section C – *Objectives and activities* of this report.

**Section E Financial review**

**Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves**

During the year April 21 to March 22 both receipts and payments reverted back to more normal levels, following the high levels of both in the previous year (2020/21), which were an outcome of the pandemic. At the end of the year CSC still retains high levels of cash, and trustees anticipate that the aftermath of the pandemic will affect local families in the years to come, and are considering the optimal ‘save/spend’ approach in these unprecedented times which will still be aligned with the objectives of CSC as detailed in its constitution.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

None to report

**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.

The principal sources of funds are donations made by local residents and supporters as well as proceedings from the sale of items sold via the BERT community email. During the period April 21 to March 22 there were no grants received from government funded organisations or other sponsorship organisations.

CSC funds this year were still spent supporting our ‘Community Immunity’ activities. This included the purchase a portable vaccine storage fridge for the Brockwood practice. CSC also spent funds on the upgrade and maintenance of BERT equipment, including a new battery operated brushcutter which is better for the environment than petrol driven equipment.

Detailed information on receipts and payments is available in the Annual Accounts (CC16a).

**Section F Other optional information**

Further to your [requirement](#), we declare that there were no serious incidents to report.

**Section G Declaration**

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees**

**Signature(s)**

**Full name(s)**

Robert James THOMAS MBE

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Chair



## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2021		31/03/2022

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	5,281	-	-	5,281	30,179
Gift aid reclaimed	576			576	3,342
District Council Covid Grant	-	-	-	-	5,000
Covid Sponsorship	-	-	-	-	7,000
Other fund raising	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>5,857</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,857</b>	<b>45,521</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Sale surplus equipment	-	-	-	-	200
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>5,857</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,857</b>	<b>45,721</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	851	-	-	851	747
General maintenance, fuel etc	843	-	-	843	1,515
Credit / Debit card fees	19	-	-	19	65
Coronavirus support -food aid	-	-	-	-	12,105
Coronavirus support -others	1,586	-	-	1,586	6,611
Donation website admin fees	54	-	-	54	-
Bank charges	32	-	-	32	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,385</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,385</b>	<b>21,043</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Tools	1,067	-	-	1,067	-
Flood Alert System upgrade	-	-	-	-	448
Safety Clothing	-	-	-	-	1,638
Covid sanitisation equipment	-	-	-	-	1,044
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>3,130</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>24,173</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>21,548</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>31,315</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,315</b>	<b>9,767</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>32,720</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,720</b>	<b>31,315</b>



**COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1171175

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	April	2020	31	March	2021

### Section A Reference and administration details

<b>Charity name</b>	Community Support in the Countryside (CSC)		
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT)		
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	1171175		
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	15 OAKDENE CLOSE, BROCKHAM, BETCHWORTH, SURREY		
	<b>Postcode</b>	RH3 7JZ	

#### 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)
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4	Craig Scott		Whole year	N/A
5	Robert Gregory		Whole year	N/A
6	Isobel Fiona Heppenstall		Whole year	N/A
7	Zoe Odette Collins		Whole year	N/A
8	Simon Budd		Whole year	N/A
9	Daved Robert Shanks		Whole year	N/A
10	Trevor Hizzard		Whole year	N/A

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	N/A

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
N/A		

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

N/A
-----

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	CSC is governed by a Constitution document, which was set out when the charity was incorporated on 18 January 2017.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CSC is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by the Foundation Constitution document.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	The original trustees were appointed from the people who had historically helped BERT, were willing and able to act as trustees and to give an appropriate range of knowledge and skills to cover the legal, financial, technical, promotional and other needs of CSC as a charity. New trustees are appointed following agreement of existing trustees and follow the same principle of creating a group with appropriate knowledge and experience to run the charity effectively.

### 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;
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The formal business of CSC is conducted through trustee meetings, which are held at least quarterly. Progress of agreed actions is managed through regular follow up.

In addition to the charity structure, BERT carries out operational tasks with the support of volunteer team leaders. These are typically long-standing BERT volunteers who have been committed to our activities and been willing to undertake the training necessary for the role.

CSC/BERT has adopted a set of policies, which are reviewed annually, to cover the health and safety, safeguarding, and the protection of personal data of trustees and volunteers.

CSC/BERT regularly engages with Brockham Parish Council, Mole Valley District Council, Surrey County Council and with relevant government bodies to manage flood risks, to report incidents or concerns, and to support the local community.

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

The purposes of CSC, as set out in the founding document, are:

To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham in particular but not exclusively by:

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- b. Recruiting and training volunteers to enable Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT) to provide assistance and undertake preventive activities when the village of Brockham is threatened by severe weather, its consequences or other local emergency or disruption;
- c. Assisting the Brockham community in setting up and organising community information and awareness raising events using BERT's expertise, volunteers and equipment for the benefit of local residents;
- d. Developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to monitor and warn local residents of the risk of flooding from rivers, streams or significant drainage ditches; and
- e. Developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to prevent and assist in the detection of rural crime that may result from natural or other disasters or emergencies.

**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 previous years prevention, training, responding and community support was mainly focused on flooding. However, since the coronavirus pandemic, CSC/BERT has also focused on helping local residents in lockdown/isolation. On 17 March 2020 CSC/BERT launched the '**Community Immunity**' (CI) project. CI supports the main object of the charity: '*To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham*'.

## **Community Immunity**

*A BERT initiative – Brockham communities' response to Coronavirus*

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Now is your time to find out if the people you live near will struggle if they are quarantined.

How can you help?

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- **Find out how you can help** – Can you pick up a few extra bits when you pop to the shops?, Can you offer to collect a prescription?, Can you walk their dog with yours?
- **Volunteer to become a BEV** – we've developed a new "CoronaBEV" category for those who wish to offer their assistance to help people in their local community. BERT will coordinate requests for assistance and see who is available to help

With you we can create an Immunity in our Community to the disruption, hardship and isolation that restriction to movement may cause.

**Get in touch!**

**Want to Volunteer?** – email [Bert.Brockham@gmail.com](mailto:Bert.Brockham@gmail.com)

**Need help?** Call 01302 GOBERT (01302 462378) or email above address.

*Flyer/email issued to Brockham residents in March 2020*

**From March 2020 Community Immunity recruited over 200 volunteers, answered over 1 thousand calls via the Go-BERT line and managed the following key initiatives:**

**FoodAid:** In conjunction with Brockham Christ Church, FoodAid operated in Brockham from April 2020 to February 2021 and offered free deliveries of food packages to individuals and families who were experiencing hardship due to the pandemic. During this period, FoodAid delivered over 2,500 parcels to local families as well as to two women's refuges and a local programme supplying hot meals for the homeless at Leatherhead Leisure Centre. The number of requests steadily reduced as the year progressed. In March 2021 CI handed the task over to Mid-Surrey Community Fridge who now operates a community fridge in Dorking. CI still delivers food parcels to a residual number of families who are unable to visit the community fridge.

See below FoodAid email from BERT/CI to Brockham residents issued in April 2020:

### **BERT Food Aid**

As the Coronavirus continues to impact our village, we expect some of us may struggle to afford basic food requirements. It is at times like this that we need to come together for the good of us all. With that in mind, BERT has established a regular donated food supply for those facing the greatest hardship.

BERT Food Aid can make deliveries to people's homes on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, on an ongoing basis. The food and delivery is free of charge to those facing hardship, loss of income or a delay in benefits. Requests for food can be made by emailing [foodaid@bertbrockham.org.uk](mailto:foodaid@bertbrockham.org.uk) or by calling us directly on 01737 402821.

Please provide us with your name, address and phone number, as well as how many adults and how many children are in the household, along with any allergies in the family. All such information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The first deliveries will be Wednesday 1st April, so please contact us before 5 pm on Tuesday 31st March.

BERT Food Aid is run by BERT and the volunteers of Brockham Christ Church. A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered and donated to support this service. Please help us to help each other. And share this message with your family, friends and neighbours, especially those who may not have access to email.

## **Community Immunity!**

~BERT Trustees

**Prescriptions:** This initiative started in March 2020 and was still in operation at the end of March 2021. It consisted of providing prescription collection and delivery to self-isolating residents. At its peak in April 2020, CI volunteers delivered 98 prescriptions. All volunteers involved were DBS-checked.

**Groceries:** This initiative was launched in March 2020 and it was still in operation 12 months later. Volunteers (all DBS-checked) did the grocery shopping for residents who were self-isolating. The number of requests steadily decreased with the easing of the lockdown in the summer. However, at its peak in April 2020, CI handled 25 requests for food shopping.

**BERTech:** Launched in June 2020, this initiative facilitated the donation of laptops and tablets to families who did not have access to them. This was mainly to help children continue their school activity during periods of self-isolation and school closures. At the end of March 2021 over 55 devices had been distributed to local families and schools.

**Fogger:** In September 2020 CI purchased two units of ShieldMe, a fogging machine that effectively disinfects surfaces and yet it is harmless to living beings and the environment. Since then, local business, including the chemist and grocery shops, as well as the nursery and community halls, have been using the fogging machines on a self-service rota basis. As a result, CI has helped keep premises safely open and local business/activities running.



*Chairman Bob Thomas operating a fogging machine*

## Community Immunity also supported the following parallel initiatives:

**Take-away delivery:** during the lockdown a local catering business used the Brockham's school kitchen to cook ready meals and sell them at a discounted rate to key workers and local families. CI volunteers helped deliver them.

**The Shop at Strood Green:** this local community shop remained closed for a good part of 2020 and operated on a delivery basis only. CI volunteers helped deliver orders to local residents. CI also helped install a Perspex barrier at the counter to protect staff and residents.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** during the lockdown local residents got together to produce PPE and CI helped provide the material and equipment needed. This resulted in the distribution of visors and scrubs to local establishments and key workers.

**Face masks:** a local businesses, with the help of local residents, produced over 4,000 face masks which were distributed to local residents for a donation to CSC. CI helped provide material and equipment for their production.



*Shirley Fisher – maker of masks and Simon Clark maker of PPE Visors coverings on 27 May 2020 at a formal visit paid to Food Aid in Brockham by Chairman MVDC Cllr Mary Huggins*

**Voice conference facility:** in conjunction with the Brockham Parish Church, CI set up a telephone conference line to enable families to join church services during the lockdown. This has become a popular service.

**Lockdown library and jigsaw exchange:** during the lockdown two local families operated a community library and a jigsaw exchange scheme containing circa 400 books and several jigsaw puzzles. CI helped advertise the initiative and set up a book / jigsaw handling quarantine process.

**Brockham befriending scheme:** in conjunction with the Brockham Parish Church, the aim of this scheme was to provide local families with a friendly voice when needed. CI helped provide telephones and guidelines. However, despite extensive campaigning, there were next to no calls and the scheme no longer operates.

**Ad-hoc jobs:** during the lockdown CI received a number ad-hoc requests from local residents including assistance with faulty appliances and dog walking. They provided assurance to residents who were self-isolating that they could count on local support.

## Covid Vaccination Clinics

Since January 2021 CI has been recruiting volunteers and coordinators to help run weekdays and weekend vaccination clinics in both Medwyn (Dorking) and Brockwood (Brockham) practices. From 8 January to 31 March 2021 over 90 CI volunteers helped these local practices staff run their car parks, receptions, waiting rooms and recovery rooms. In addition, CI purchased a storage fridge for the Brockwood practice which enabled staff to increase their capacity of storage and administration of the Pfizer vaccine.



*Volunteers at the Brockwood practice*

## Governance

### CI online meetings

As well as the quarterly trustees' meetings focusing on BERT activity, another 11 meetings took place during the height of the pandemic to agree, coordinate, launch and monitor various CI initiatives. Apart from the first CI meeting on 15 March 20, all other CI meetings were conducted on-line to guarantee the safety of those involved and comply with lockdown guidelines. A Gold/Silver/Bronze structure was set up to communicate with trustees and key volunteers and facilitate the decision making.

### Health & Safety

The safety of volunteers and residents was CI's top priority. The BERT trustees promptly devised and launched a set of policies and guidance which enabled all CI activities to be carried out in a coordinated and safe manner. Every CI volunteer allocated to a task received a briefing first and then received a volunteer kit, including an ID badge and appropriate PPE. The two documents attached, 'FoodAid Policy' and 'Grocery Guide' are examples of the CI set of policies.



Food Aid policy V2  
FINAL.docx



CI Grocery  
guide.docx

## Risk Management

During CI meeting trustees and key volunteers implemented and monitored mitigation plans for each of the key risks listed below:

key risks	How we are mitigating them
Contagion / safeguarding	Safety equipment and guide handed to volunteers / Volume of gloves and PPE in stock being monitored / H&S + Safeguarding policies in place
Data protection	Privacy policy in place / Controls put in place to restrict volume of personal data in the Google Sheets log.
Lack of governance	Gold Silver Bronze 'structure in place / overarching Covid-19 policy in place / key initiatives have their own separate policies and guidance implemented / decision making through meetings / meetings minutes documented and agreed actions followed up / key documents stored in central location.
Lack of funds available	Requests for funds and government grant as required / All comms to the community contain info on how to make a donation via Virgin Money / funds availability being monitored and reported to key members on a regular basis.
Loss of reputation	Various policies and procedures in place / Regular comms with the Parish Council, local organisations and local government authorities on initiatives / Ready to demonstrate governance on request.
Misappropriation / misuse of funds	Expenditure process in place / Access to bank account and donations system restricted to the treasurer and chairman / fidelity insurance in place (loss of funds through computer fraud or fraudulent transfer instructions by third parties).
Lack of volunteers	The availability of volunteers is being monitored by the leaders of each initiative / A volunteer coordinator updates the volunteer log in accordance with availability and skills offered.
Lack of comms with the community	Regular comms via the community email and social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) / Community Immunity website regularly updated / Radio interviews given to local radio stations
Litigation	Governance implemented / H&S + Safeguarding policy in place / liability insurance in place

## Monitoring of CI initiatives

During the hight of the pandemic the trustees monitored the progress of each initiative set up or supported by CI via a Roadmap document (attached) which also included the monitoring of calls via the Go-BERT telephone line.



CI Roadmap.xlsx

**BERT**

## Flood Prevention

Despite the unprecedented activity that the pandemic created, CSC / BERT still ran a series of working parties in Quarter 4 2020, in accordance with lockdown restrictions. The aim of these working parties was to clear the ditch network to prevent flooding. Working groups were organised in bubbles, which were mostly formed by members of the same family. Social distancing guidelines were observed and all equipment was sanitised before and after use.



*BERT working party on 18 October 20 – family bubble*



*BERT working party on 18 October 20 – three generations of the same family in one bubble*



*BERT working party on 25 October 20 – ditch clearance in Strood Green*



*BERT working party on 25 October 20 – ditch clearance in Strood Green*

**Response**

BERT volunteers and coordinators continued to respond to emergency calls, which BERT started receiving at the beginning of the winter. This activity followed the same format of the preventative working parties: social distancing guidelines were observed and all equipment was sanitised before and after use. Below are some examples of BERT response:

**15 November 2020:** following a night of heavy rain, several potential flood hazards developed to which members responded and resolved. The use of phone apps to communicate ensured that response was promptly organised and deployed after notification.



**16 November 2020:** BERT has deployed cameras at strategic locations which enables trustees and coordinators to monitor water levels remotely. The photo below is a view from the Bowls Club at 08:26am showing the fast-flowing River Mole.



**7 December 2020:** Storm Bella brought high winds and heavy rain. It caused a small amount of damage including the parish Christmas tree which was blown over. BERT response team also cleared a busy footpath blocked by a fallen tree and cleared the ditch grills in Wheelers Lane and on the Green.



**1 January 2021:** After significant rain a large pond soon formed at the corner of the Big Field closing the path and threatening to flood local residences. The BERT camera was used which detected a large amount of debris that was blocking the drainage system.



**3 January 2021:** BERT attended a blocked drain in Warrene Road, Brockham using the camera to understand why. Results passed to SCC Highways.



### Safety

During April 20 to March 21 BERT trustees continued to carry out maintenance of BERT equipment. This included the upgrading of the flood alert systems and annual maintenance of pumps and brush-cutters. In addition, BERT invested in additional safety clothing for volunteers.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

As listed in Section C – *Objectives and activities* of this report.

## Section D Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As listed in Section C – *Objectives and activities* of this report.

## Section E Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

CSC aims to keep circa £2,000 in the bank account at all times as a float for emergencies. During April 20 to March 21 grants received and donations made to CSC exceeded expectations. However, CSC trustees anticipate that the aftermath of the pandemic will affect local families in the years to come and are considering the optimal 'save/spend' approach in these unprecedented times which will still be aligned with the objectives of CSC as detailed in its constitution.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

None to report

### 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.

The principal sources of funds are donations made by local residents and supporters as well as proceedings from the sale of items sold via the BERT community email. During April 20 to March 21 CSC also received 3 specific grants to support the 'Community Immunity' initiative, Covid Sponsorship, one of which was directly government funded, being from Mole Valley District Council. The 3 grants totalled £12,000 and were spent in full.

CSC funds were mainly used to support 'Community Immunity' activity. This included the purchase a vaccine storage fridge for the Brockwood practice, two foggers, PPE and a fridge, shelves and food for FoodAid. CSC also spent funds on the upgrade and maintenance of BERT equipment and the purchase of additional safety gear.

Detailed information on receipts and payments is available in the Annual Accounts (CC16a).

## Section F Other optional information

Further to your [requirement](#), we declare that there were no serious incidents to report.

## Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Robert James THOMAS

Position (eg Secretary, Chair,  
etc)

Chair

Date

13<sup>th</sup> October 2021



**Receipts and payments accounts**

**CC16a**

For the period  
from

01/04/2020

To

31/03/2021

**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
District Council Covid Grant	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
Covid Sponsorship	7,000	-	-	7,000	-
Donations	30,179	-	-	30,179	7,009
Gift aid reclaimed	3,342	-	-	3,342	735
Other fund raising	-	-	-	-	498
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>45,521</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,521</b>	<b>8,242</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Sale surplus equipment	200	-	-	200	300
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>45,721</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,721</b>	<b>8,542</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	747	-	-	747	574
General maintenance, fuel etc	1,515	-	-	1,515	143
Credit / Debit card fees	65	-	-	65	35
Coronavirus support -food aid	12,105	-	-	12,105	-
Coronavirus support -others	6,611	-	-	6,611	50
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>21,043</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,043</b>	<b>802</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Pumps & other equipment	-	-	-	-	630
Flood Alert System upgrade	448	-	-	448	545
Safety Clothing	1,638	-	-	1,638	67
Covid sanitisation equipment	1,044	-	-	1,044	-
Fridges for food aid project	-	-	-	-	1,350
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>2,592</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>24,173</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,173</b>	<b>3,394</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>21,548</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,548</b>	<b>5,148</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>9,767</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,767</b>	<b>4,619</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>31,315</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,315</b>	<b>9,767</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	31,315	-	-
	Petty Cash	-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>31,315</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			


Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Storage equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Drain scanning equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Pumps and generators	Unrestricted	-	-
	Tools	Unrestricted	-	-
	Safety equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Other equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	ROBERT THOMAS	30/9/2021
T. Anderson	TREVOR ANDERSON	30/9/2021



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Community Support in the Countryside

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021      **Charity no  
(if any)**      1171175

**Set out on pages**

1 to 2      (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

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

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

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.

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:**

*Catherine Braidwood*

**Date:**

30-9-21

**Name:**

Mrs C Braidwood FCA

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

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

**Address:**

Lowood, The Street  
Betchworth, Surrey  
RH3 7DJ

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).