

RIMROSE VALLEY FRIENDS

England & Wales · Charity number 1171536

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-02-08

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

Contact

Address Office 18
113 Liverpool Road
Crosby
Liverpool
L23 5TD

Phone 01515581105

Email enquiries@rimrosevalleyfriends.org

Website www.rimrosevalleyfriends.org

Activities

Objects: THE ENHANCEMENT, PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF RIMROSE VALLEY COUNTRY PARK FOR THE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING OR ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES AND TO PROVIDE SUCH FACILITIES TO HELP WITH THE USE, APPRECIATION OR EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND TO ASSIST WITH THE CONSERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE THEREIN

Activities: Our activities encourage public engagement with Rimrose Valley Country Park in Merseyside. They include community festivals, forest schools, environmental initiatives, guided walks, health and wellbeing projects and volunteering opportunities. We encourage people to become active citizens, engaging in all issues relating to protecting the park and surrounding communities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Sefton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-01	£36,924	£46,521	-	-
2024-04-01	£35,328	£30,482	-	-
2023-04-01	£37,928	£46,378	-	-
2022-04-01	£43,068	£24,564	-	-
2021-04-01	£25,853	£18,324	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gary Young		2020-12-10
Linda Gaskell		2019-01-15
SARAH EDEY		2018-08-01
Sandra Brogan		2025-09-11
Simon Albert		2023-04-26

RIMROSE VALLEY FRIENDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1171536

Accounts

Rimrose Valley Friends

Charity Number 1171536

Trustees' Report and Unaudited Accounts

31st March 2025

Rimrose Valley Friends Contents

	Pages
Trustees' Annual Report	2 to 10
Independent Examiner's Report	11
Receipts and Payments Accounts	12
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	13
Notes to the Accounts	

Trustees' Annual Report April 2024 to March 2025

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Rimrose Valley Friends

Registered Charity number: 1171536

Registered addresses:

32 Henley Ave

Litherland

LIVERPOOL

L21 2PU

The Charity's current Trustees are:

Simon Albert

Sarah Edey

Linda Gaskell

Gary Young

Structure, Governance and Management

1. The Charity is governed by a written constitution
2. During this period, each of the charity's previous 5 trustees retired and were reappointed at the last AGM, in line with the charity's constitution.
3. RVF member, Simon Albert, put himself forward as a trustee at the AGM in this period, which was confirmed by those present
4. Tracey Boileau stepped down as a trustee in January 2025
5. The Charity has a paid membership scheme, with all members having voting rights at the AGM and other general meetings.
6. The last AGM was held on Wednesday, 19th June 2024, with the next to take place within the 15-month period permitted by the constitution.

This Annual Report covers the period from April 2024 to March 2025 in line with the Charity's accounts covering the same period.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives:

1. Rimrose Valley Friends sets out to promote, protect and improve the community resource that is Rimrose Valley Country Park.
2. Rimrose Valley Friends aims to benefit the local community surrounding Rimrose Valley, promoting it through events and activities, engaging with other community groups and liaising with the police to cut down on anti-social behaviour.
3. Rimrose Valley Friends' work covers the area of Rimrose Valley Country Park, bordering the Leeds-Liverpool canal and the adjoining communities of Seaforth, Litherland, Waterloo, Crosby, Thornton and Netherton.

Activities:

The Charity's trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and have undertaken the following activities within the boundaries of that guidance.

During this period, the Charity has aimed to further the core activities of Rimrose Valley Friends and simultaneously run a successful campaign against a road proposal which threatened the park's future, which is known as Save Rimrose Valley. As these have different objectives, the activities for each are summarised separately below.

Rimrose Valley Friends

The Charity's core activities include:

1. Raising awareness and promoting the Charity's work **online** via the following:
 - Writing articles, blogs and content added to dedicated website www.rimrosevalleyfriends.org
 - Administering the charity's Facebook Page and Group
 - Administering the charity's Insta account
 - Administering the charity's Twitter/X account
2. Raising awareness of and promoting the Charity's work **in the community** via the following:
 - Organising activities and events on Rimrose Valley
 - Engaging with local schools, community groups and other charities with shared objectives
 - Attending and supporting local community events
3. Engaging with relevant **stakeholders** including:
 - Local Councillors
 - Green Sefton
 - Sefton CVS
 - Local MPs

Specific activities in this period

The following is a summary of the key activities in this period:

1. **Facebook** The charity's community group has remained an active and positive forum to thousands of members predominantly from the surrounding communities. At the time of preparing this report, membership of the group stands at around 9,500. The group is used for people to share relevant news stories, photographs and information and is administered by 2 volunteers who ensure that the community rules are adhered to and that it is a pleasant online space. The group's settings are private for this purpose. Following the success of the Save Rimrose Valley campaign (see below), the campaign's Facebook page has been rebranded as RVF and currently has over 4,400 followers. This is visible to the public and is therefore used to promote projects, activities and events and to share important news.
2. **Website** During this period, we redesigned and rebuilt the charity's website which was almost 10 years old. The new site better showcases our work, ways to get involved and is much more in line with other sites in our sector. The mailing list has continued to grow. Members of the public can subscribe to this list and receive email notifications of news and events added to the website.
3. **Upgraded Membership Platform** The new website contains a brand-new membership platform which is to replace the existing 'WebCollect' platform. This was deemed user-unfriendly and complicated to subscribe to. The switch to the new platform will see new enhancements to our membership offering
4. **Twitter/X** This had previously proven to be a great way of connecting with similar local community groups and supporting each other's work. However, the platform has become a less inclusive space and the charity is considering whether it should remain on X. We are less active on this platform as we have found that majority of our supporters use Facebook to engage on Rimrose Valley matters
5. **Insta** The charity previously had no presence on Instagram. However, following the success of the Save Rimrose Valley campaign (see below), the campaign's account was rebranded as RVF and currently has 850+ followers. The charity is looking to engage younger volunteers to run Insta and possibly TikTok and other platforms in the future in order to connect with a younger demographic
6. **Eventbrite** After securing funding to deliver more events and activities in this period, the charity increased its use of the Eventbrite platform to administer these. This helps track bookings and communicate with participants more effectively than social media alone. At the time of preparing this report, the charity has 298 followers on this platform, up from 159 in the previous period.
7. **Paid role** Following the success of the Save Rimrose Valley campaign (see below) the charity wished to maintain one paid role to progress its work. Residual campaign funding meant this role was funded until June 2025. At the time of preparing this report, the charity is actively pursuing funding applications for a new Project Manager role to continue its work.
8. **Guided Walks** We arranged 4 guided walks during this period; a foraging walk in May; a nature walk led by Green Sefton in June; a bird-spotting walk led by our local RSPB officer, also in June. We worked with Green Sefton to arrange another bat walk in September. These walks are incredibly popular, and all were free to take part in.
9. **Tesco Stronger Starts – Explore & Learn on Rimrose Valley** We secured funding from Tesco's Stronger Starts programme, which focusses on delivering activities

based on learning in the community. Delivery of these activities took place throughout this reporting period and included the following:

- i. Yoga
- ii. Tai Chi
- iii. Guided Walks – RSPB, Mindfulness and Foraging
- iv. Art & Relaxation classes
- v. Craft sessions
- vi. Forest School
- vii. Apple pressing

These activities were incredibly well received. RVF were represented at each session and captured the necessary feedback for the funder. As is common with many other local groups offering free events, we noticed a number of 'no shows'. We fed back to our supporters that because an activity is free doesn't mean there is no cost to providing it. We will continue to communicate this for future events

10. **Liverpool's Most Wuthering Heights Day, Ever!** In July 2024, we became Liverpool's first location for this event which began life in Brighton as a way of marking Kate Bush's birthday. It was then picked up by other countries and recreated across the globe. The purpose of this event was to draw attention to the park and our campaign to save it. Almost 300 people attended and recreated the 1978 Kate Bush contemporary dance masterpiece. The event was a huge success attracting people from across the Liverpool City Region, and beyond. We arranged rehearsals in advance and people were led by instructors from local dance schools on the day. The positive feedback from the event means that we will look to host this again in future years.
11. **60 Minute Heroes!** A new volunteer joined our action group as a result of the Wuthering Heights event. They were keen to get involved and have subsequently led weekly volunteer sessions encouraging local people to get involved in hands-on work to improve the park. Activities include litter picks, trimming overgrown benches, tables and footpaths and reclaiming tarmac pathways by removing vegetation. There is now a core group, with plans to grow this work in the future. All work is done using hand tools and in line with Green Sefton's volunteer guidance
12. **Step-tember!** This walking challenge was suggested by a member of our action group as a means of drawing attention to the park, getting people active in autumn and encouraging people to engage with the campaign to save it. Over the course of the 30 days, people used apps and pedometers to log the number of steps they had walked or run each day, with a requirement that some or all of this had to be on Rimrose Valley. The target of 10 million steps was reached with days to spare, boosted by huge contributions from running groups Marsh Lane Harriers and Rimrose Runners. Following its success, we plan for this to become an annual event.
13. **Dr Bike** Our contacts at Cycling UK offered free bike maintenance sessions under their Dr Bike initiative during this period. We coordinated these with Merseyside Police so members of the public could get their bike serviced and security marked at the same time. These were extremely popular, with dozens of local people taking advantage of the service. We will continue these in the future and explore ways of doing more with Cycling UK.
14. **Wildflower meadow** Once again, the Charity sold seeds harvested from the previous year's meadow to raise the funds for subsequent sowing and to generate income for the Charity. Following concerns expressed around the use of herbicide outlined in last year's report, the decision was taken to transition away from annuals to perennials, which do not require the annual intervention of herbicide. This is in line with the charity's objectives of championing the environment and the health and wellbeing of

the surrounding communities. This meant that 2024/25 was the final year the RVF meadow at the centre of Chaffers running track will be sprayed. A community sowing took place in May 2024 which was well attended by people of all ages.

15. **Rimrose Valley Calendar** The Charity again invited people to submit photographs for the 2025 calendar. 500 copies were ordered and the majority sold, making a healthy profit from the sales. Leftover copies were given to local individuals, community groups and businesses who support the Charity's work, as well as being recycled in card-making classes
16. **Marsh Lane Harriers & Chaffers Running Track** At the time of preparing this report, this work has yet to commence on the clubhouse construction at this location within the park, outlined in the previous year's report.
17. **Rimrose What If? Sessions** We supported a local student with their Masters dissertation by providing them with documentation and promoting drop-in consultation events they organised in the local community. With their permission, we are able to use the anonymised information gathered from these events to help inform our future work and funding bids. The dissertation outlines a vision for restoring nature on the park and enhancing it for local communities. We therefore hope to work with the student to explore what we might be able to deliver in the future.

Save Rimrose Valley

The Charity continued to oppose National Highways' plans to build a dual carriageway through Rimrose Valley Country Park, known as The A5036 Port of Liverpool Access Scheme.

The Charity set up a Road Action Group in September 2017. The group included several of the charity's trustees and additional volunteers from the community, with approximately 20 active members.

The campaign's work was coordinated by Stuart Bennett through a part-time role, funded via a combination of grants and general Charity fundraising. During this period, this moved from a contractor to a paid role (PAYE) to give greater job security and a pension, which took effect in July 2024.

Guidance and support were received from relevant environmental groups and NGOs including Transport Action Network, Friends of the Earth, CPRE and Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

This guidance informed the campaign's strategy which had two key objectives:

1. To change minds of decision-makers at Westminster
2. To engage the community in the fight to save the park

The campaign's work therefore met either of the two objectives, with the Road Action Group supporting the delivery of this work.

The campaign's core activities included:

1. Raising awareness and promoting the campaign's work **online** via the following:
 - Writing articles, blogs and content added to dedicated website www.saverimrosevalley.org
 - Writing and distributing press releases to local, regional and national media outlets
 - Maintaining the campaign's Facebook page
 - Maintaining the campaign's Twitter account
 - Maintaining the campaign's Instagram account
 - Producing a podcast series "We Said No" covering many of the issues around the campaign
 - Creating videos to convey key messages
2. Raising awareness and promoting the campaign's work **in the community** via the following:
 - Organising demonstrations
 - Leafleting
 - Using signs, posters and banners in prominent locations
 - Engaging with local schools

- Promoting the campaign at 'in store' events such as LUSH and local supermarkets
 - Engaging with other environmental groups and campaigns from across the Liverpool City Region
 - Attending and supporting local community events
3. Engaging with key stakeholders in the road proposal including:
 - National Highways
 - Peel Ports
 - Department for Transport
 - Transport for the North
 - Local MPs, Councillors, the Metro Mayor & Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
 4. Documenting key arguments against the road proposal
 5. Exploring and promoting viable alternatives the road proposal

Developments and activities in this period

1. **Cancellation of the road proposal** On 30th October, 2024, the Port of Liverpool Access Road was cancelled in the Chancellor's Budget Statement on the grounds that it was 'unfunded and unaffordable'. The charity believes that this was the culmination of public and political pressure brought about by the Save Rimrose Valley campaign, as other, far more costly road schemes survived this spending review.
2. **Celebration gathering** On Sunday 17th November, the charity held a small, symbolic gathering on Rimrose Valley to mark the above announcement, which included guest speakers from Sefton Council, Friends of the Earth, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Scouse Flowerhouse with statements read out for those unable to attend. These included both constituency MPs, CPRE and Transport Action Network.
3. **Future campaigning** Despite the road's cancellation, the charity remains vigilant and will continue to keep an eye on transport developments which have the potential to impact the park and the surrounding communities. We will seek multiple ways to protect the park long-term and continue to research and push for sustainable, non-road alternatives to port access. In this sense, an element of campaigning will continue.

Many of the following activities pre-date the announcement above but are included here for completeness:

4. **Social media** The campaign continued to grow its following across all platforms during this period which was a vital and dynamic way of communicating key issues. Following the road's cancellation, we have taken advantage of the following the campaign gathered on its Facebook Page and Insta profile by rebranding these as the charity to promote and grow our work
5. **Website** The campaign-specific website was updated consistently throughout this period with press coverage secured, blogs and longer articles covering the more detailed topics linked to the campaign. Many articles have been viewed thousands of times. At the time of writing the website is relatively dormant, but we will continue to use it to flag important developments and consultations. Some minor updates are required to reflect that the campaign as a success.

6. **National Highways** We facilitated a meeting with National Highways, Sefton Council and residents from the existing port access route – the A5036 – in February 2025 through our participation in the South Sefton Communities Alliance. This was with a view to improving relations with those from the wider community and to demonstrate that our charity cares about securing a better solution for everyone. We hope to continue to engage in the SSCA and its work
7. **Alternative Solutions** At the time of writing, we are actively pursuing alternative options and have met with 2 consultancies, having been introduced by Transport Action Network. We wish to commission a study into port access and have written to the Mayor of the LCRCA and Council Leader asking for their input and a contribution to the cost of the report.
8. **Politics** The campaign maintained good relations with Councillors, the relevant Council Officers and MPs; all of whom opposed the road proposal. The 2024 general election saw Labour come to power, which no doubt influenced the decision to cancel the road proposal, with Sefton being a Labour council, both MPs Labour and a Labour Metro Mayor. We again attended the Labour Party Conference in September 2024, which was a great opportunity to network with the newly elected government's Transport Ministers
9. **We Said No** The podcast series continued throughout this period, culminating in an episode which documented the small gathering we held to mark the success of the campaign.
10. **Media coverage** Press releases remained a key tool for the campaign and we continued to keep the story in the news with major developments covered locally via the Liverpool Echo, BBC Radio Merseyside, Granada TV and BBC North West Tonight. The Echo and Radio Merseyside each reported on the campaign's success.
11. **Funding** The Charity was successful with funding applications to Foundation for Integrated Transport and Patagonia Action Works. A combination of these 2 grants secured the role of campaign coordinator for 2 days per week for this accounting period, putting the campaign in a secure position. The campaign also held several in-store fundraising events at LUSH in Liverpool. These proceeds go towards the general costs of running the campaign – leaflets, signs and design costs.
12. **Consultations** During this period, the campaign responded to key consultations and encouraged supporters to do the same, as they had a direct link to transport in our area and our local environment. These included the LCRCA's consultations on its Draft Local Transport Plan and its Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Both presented opportunities to flag the importance of Rimrose Valley to South Sefton communities.
13. **Demonstrations** In April 2024, we commissioned a local visual design company to project campaign images and core messages onto major landmarks in Liverpool city centre at dusk and into the late evening. The subsequent video was viewed thousands of times, further raising awareness of our work. In September 2024, we demonstrated outside the Labour Party conference, calling for the Chancellor and Transport Secretary to cancel the port access road and other damaging road proposals.

Achievements and Performance

The Charity continued to raise awareness of Rimrose Valley Country Park and to pursue our core objects of promoting, protecting and enhancing the space and improving the health and wellbeing of surrounding communities.

We gathered feedback on our work in 2024-25 and are in the process of documenting our effectiveness in the form of an evaluation report to aid future funding bids.

The campaign was successful in securing the cancellation of the road proposal. It is one of only a handful of campaigns to have successfully stopped a government-led Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) – something we are incredibly proud of.

Financial Review

1. The Charity is regularly funded by public donation. It has a LocalGiving account which can accept one-off donations as well as recurring direct debits.
2. The Charity has actively applied for grants and other funding to finance both the Charity's activities and events and the work of the Save Rimrose Valley campaign. All funds applied for are ringfenced for their specific purpose and are clearly referenced in the Charity's accounts
3. The Accounts for the financial year 2024/25 will be prepared and audited by Sefton CVS and will be reviewed and approved at the upcoming AGM.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity trustees.



S Edey
Trustee
29th January 2026

**Independent Examiners Report
To the Trustees of the Rimrose Valley Friends CIO
For the year ended 31st March 2025**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31st March 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act: or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed: *I Wright*

Date: *26th February 2026*

Ian Wright F.C.A.
Community Accountant
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service
Crosby Road North
Waterloo
L22 0LG

**Rimrose Valley Friends
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 31st March 2025**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Receipts from:				
Donations, legacies and similar Income	5,990	-	5,990	5201
Grants	-	28,675	28,675	29374
Fundraising	1,861	-	1,861	523
Investment income	398	-	398	230
Total gross income	8,249	28,675	36,924	35,328
Total Receipts	8,249	28,675	36,924	35,328
Payments on:				
Charitable payments		17,141	17,141	4,459
Charity Cost	8,213	21,167	29,380	26,023
Total gross expenditure	8,213	38,308	46,521	30,482
Total payments	8,213	38,308	46,521	30,482
Net of receipts/(payments)	36	(9,633)	(9,597)	4,846
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year	10,258	27,366	37,624	37,624
Cash fund this year end	10,294	17,733	28,027	37,624

**Rimrose Valley Friends
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31st March 2025**

Charity No. 1171536

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Cash funds				
Current Accounts	2,193	-	2,193	12,189
Deposit Accounts	-	25,834	25,834	25,435
	<u>2,193</u>	<u>25,834</u>	<u>28,027</u>	<u>37,624</u>

Approved by the Trustees on the 24th of February 2026

And signed on their behalf by



S. Edey
Trustee
24th February 2026

**Rimrose Valley Friends
Notes to the Accounts
for year ended 31st March 2025**

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the 'Receipts and Payments' basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds: These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

Designated funds: These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Revaluation funds: These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.

Restricted funds: These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

2. Income from grants

	2025	2024
Lush Limited	758	7,459
Mind	-	1,000
Better Breathe	-	3,340
Sefton CVS	-	1,000
Foundation for Int	9,360	7,020
Patagonia		9,555
Charities Aid Foundation	11,807	-
Ground Work - Tesco	5,000	-
Centric Lab	1,750	-
	<u>28,675</u>	<u>29,374</u>






Rimrose Valley Accounts

Final Audit Report

2026-02-24

Created:	2026-02-24
By:	Simone Me-me (simone.meme@seftoncvcs.org.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAan8qj4I58dHJEFQcAV-gnnptcFmukadw

"Rimrose Valley Accounts" History

-  Document created by Simone Me-me (simone.meme@seftoncvcs.org.uk)
2026-02-24 - 12:04:45 PM GMT- IP address: 80.209.135.82
-  Document emailed to Sarah Edey (sarah@rimrosevalleyfriends.org) for signature
2026-02-24 - 12:04:50 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Sarah Edey (sarah@rimrosevalleyfriends.org)
2026-02-24 - 12:18:38 PM GMT- IP address: 82.132.236.241
-  Document e-signed by Sarah Edey (sarah@rimrosevalleyfriends.org)
Signature Date: 2026-02-24 - 12:19:35 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 82.132.236.241
-  Agreement completed.
2026-02-24 - 12:19:35 PM GMT

RIMROSE VALLEY FRIENDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1171536

Accounts

Rimrose Valley Friends

Charity No. 1171536

Trustees' Report and Unaudited Accounts

31 March 2024

Rimrose Valley Friends
Contents

	Pages
Trustees' Annual Report	2 to 3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Receipts and Payments Accounts	5
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	6
Notes to the Accounts	7

Trustees' Annual Report April 2023 to March 2024

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Rimrose Valley Friends

Registered Charity number: 1171536

Registered addresses:

32 Henley Ave
Litherland
LIVERPOOL
L21 2PU

The Charity's current Trustees are:

Simon Albert
Tracey Boileau
Sarah Edey
Linda Gaskell
Gary Young

Structure, Governance and Management

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4. The Charity has a paid membership scheme, with all members having voting rights at the AGM and other general meetings.
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Activities:

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During this period, the Charity has aimed to further the core activities of Rimrose Valley Friends and simultaneously run a successful campaign against a road proposal which threatens the park's future, which is known as Save Rimrose Valley. As these have different objectives, the activities for each are summarised separately below.

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 - Maintaining the campaign's Twitter account @RimroseValley
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 - Local MPs

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2. **Website** The mailing list has continued to grow. Members of the public can subscribe to this list and receive email notifications of news and events added to the website. The charity has plans to develop a brand-new membership programme to replace the existing 'WebCollect' platform, specific to RVF, which will be housed on the website. See membership update below.
3. **Twitter/X** This has proven to be a great way of connecting with similar local community groups and supporting each other's work. Again, the account is administered by volunteers. At the time of preparing this report, the charity has 1,764 followers. We are less active on this platform as we have found that majority of our supporters use Facebook to engage on Rimrose Valley matters
4. **Eventbrite** After securing funding to deliver more events and activities in this period, the charity increased its use of the Eventbrite platform to administer these. This helps track bookings and communicate with participants more effectively than social media alone. At the time of preparing this report, the charity has 159 followers on this platform, from just over 30 in the previous period.
5. **Paid role** This period proved to be one of the busiest in the charity's short history with funding secured to deliver events and activities (see below). As a result, the charity took the decision to fund a part-time role to apply for funding and deliver these events. This was a huge success with 4 out of 5 funding applications being successful and a constant flow of activities and events for the public to engage in. At the time of preparing this report, the role has ceased temporarily, and the charity is considering how to make this self-sustaining.
6. **Guided Walks** We arranged 4 guided walks during this period; a foraging walk in May; a nature walk led by Green Sefton in June; a bird-spotting walk led by our local RSPB officer, also in June. We worked with Green Sefton to arrange another bat walk in September. These walks are incredibly popular, and all were free to take part in.
7. **Living Well Sefton – Relax on Rimrose** During this period we secured funding from Living Well Sefton to deliver a series of free events promoting physical and mental health on Rimrose Valley itself. The project was named "Relax on Rimrose" and events included the following:
 - i. Yoga (adult and child sessions)
 - ii. Tai Chi
 - iii. Guided Foraging Walks
 - iv. Art & Relaxation classes
 - v. Forest School (adult sessions)

These activities were incredibly well received and ran throughout the calendar year. RVF were represented at each session and captured the necessary feedback for the funder. As is common with many other local groups offering free events, we noticed a number of 'no shows'. We fed back to our supporters that because an activity is free doesn't mean there is no cost to providing it. We will continue to communicate this for future events

8. **Mind - Time to Talk Day** During this period we secured funding from mental health charity, Mind, to deliver a day of free activities on the specific date of 1st February 2024. Activities were organised by RVF volunteers, based at a local church, and included the following
 - i. A mindfulness walk on Rimrose Valley
 - ii. Group cooking sessions
 - iii. Rock painting
 - iv. A cooking demonstration
 - v. Health checks, including weight, BMI and blood pressure
 - vi. Mindfulness talks and poetryRefreshments were provided, travel expenses were covered and each participant had a choice of book to take home, on either mindfulness techniques or simple, healthy cooking on a budget
9. **Breathe Better Air Fund – Let's put the Brakes on Pollution** During this period we secured funding from Community Foundation for Merseyside's Breathe Better Air Fund. The purpose of this fund is to raise awareness of air pollution and encourage individuals to take steps to improve it. As this was predominantly a publicity campaign, many of the activities took a significant amount of planning and were delivered in the 2024-25 and will therefore appear in the next annual report. The following activities took place in this period:
 - i. Funding provided for 2 x Dr Bike sessions on Rimrose valley in January and February. Members of the public could turn up and have their bike repaired or maintained. Merseyside police also attended and carried out security marking. These events were both extremely popular with 100+ bikes worked on across the events
 - ii. Flyers and posters were shared with schools in the vicinity, encouraging behavioural change in travel to and from school
10. **Tesco Stronger Starts – Explore & Learn on Rimrose Valley** Towards the end of this period we secured funding from Tesco's Stronger Starts programme, which focusses on delivering activities based on learning in the community. Delivery of these activities will commence in 2024-25 and will therefore appear in the next annual report.
11. **Wildflower meadow** Once again, the Charity sold seeds harvested from the previous year's meadow to raise the funds for subsequent sowing and to generate income for the Charity. In spring/summer 2023, neither meadow required the intervention of herbicide. However, upon notifying the public of upcoming works in March 2024, concerns were again expressed around the herbicide, glyphosate, to prepare the ground. As a result, trustees arranged a meeting with Richard Scott from Scouse Flowerhouse. He advised that he has studied the research around glyphosate and is comfortable with its use, which is necessary to give 'annual' varieties of wildflower the best chance of success. A decision was taken to transition away from annuals to perennials, which do not require the annual intervention of herbicide. This is in line with the charity's objectives of championing the environment and the health and wellbeing of the surrounding communities. This meant that 2024 will be the final year the RVF meadow at the centre of Chaffers running track will be sprayed.
12. **Rimrose Valley Calendar** The Charity again invited people to submit photographs for the 2024 calendar. The Charity reverted to ordering 500 copies to avoid the excess stock from the previous year. This meant a healthy profit from the sales, leftover copies were given to local individuals, community groups and businesses who support the Charity's work.
13. **Marsh Lane Harriers & Chaffers Running Track** MLH's plans to construct a club house next to Chaffers' running track was approved by Sefton Council's planning department during this period. At the time of preparing this report, this work has yet to

commence. In April 2023, MLH approached RVF asking if the charity would consider relocating the wildflower meadow to a smaller site near to the track, as they wished to develop the field into a sporting facility – including football pitches and an athletics field. MLH hold the lease for this land, and it sits within a recreational zone of the park, according to Sefton Council's management plan. In theory, this means they can do this, subject to approval from Sefton Council and Green Sefton. The trustees met to consider this request. Although we support all the work MLH has done in reinstating the track and promoting health and wellbeing, given that the project was funded by both members of the public and environmental grants, which included leaving a legacy of a habitat, and has been maintained at a cost for 4+ years, it was felt that the meadow should remain in its current location. It also creates a unique setting for runners to exercise. We fed this back and recommended that, if MLH wanted to revisit the idea in the future, any plans should go out to the local community for consideration and feedback. MLH accepted this decision. However, we expect this topic to come up again in the future, based on the ongoing success of their running club and popularity of the track.

14. **Former trustee, Hazel Davies.** The charity funded an oak bench in memory of Hazel, which was installed on the park in the summer of 2023.

Save Rimrose Valley

The Charity continues to oppose National Highways' plans to build a dual carriageway through Rimrose Valley Country Park, known as The A5036 Port of Liverpool Access Scheme.

The Charity set up a Road Action Group in September 2017. The group comprises the four trustees and additional volunteers from the community, with approximately 20 active members.

The campaign's work is coordinated by Stuart Bennett on a paid contractor basis. The role is paid for via a combination of funding from grants and general Charity fundraising. During this period, the trustees decided they wished this to become a paid role (PAYE) to offer greater job security and a pension. At the time of writing this report, the trustees are working with Sefton CVS to get this in place for the following period 2024-25.

Guidance and support are received from relevant environmental groups and NGOs including Transport Action Network, Friends of the Earth, CPRE and Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

This guidance informs the campaign's strategy which has two key objectives:

1. To change minds of decision-makers at Westminster
2. To engage the community in the fight to save the park

The campaign's work should therefore fulfil either of the two objectives, with the Road Action Group supporting the delivery of this work.

The campaign's core activities include:

1. Raising awareness and promoting the campaign's work **online** via the following:
 - Writing articles, blogs and content added to dedicated website www.saverimrosevalley.org
 - Writing and distributing press releases to local, regional and national media outlets
 - Maintaining the campaign's Facebook page @saverimrosevalley
 - Maintaining the campaign's Twitter account @saverimrose
 - Maintaining the campaign's Instagram account @saverimrose
 - Producing a podcast series "We Said No" covering many of the issues around the campaign
 - Creating videos to convey key messages
2. Raising awareness and promoting the campaign's work **in the community** via the following:
 - Organising demonstrations
 - Leafleting
 - Using signs, posters and banners in prominent locations

- Engaging with local schools
 - Promoting the campaign at 'in store' events such as LUSH and local supermarkets
 - Engaging with other environmental groups and campaigns from across the Liverpool City Region
 - Attending and supporting local community events
3. Engaging with key stakeholders in the road proposal including:
 - National Highways
 - Peel Ports
 - Department for Transport
 - Transport for the North
 - Local MPs, Councillors, the Metro Mayor & Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
 4. Documenting key arguments against the road proposal
 5. Exploring and promoting viable alternatives the road proposal

Specific activities in this period

1. **Social media** The campaign continued to grow its following across all platforms during this period and it continues to be a vital and dynamic way of communicating key issues. At the time of preparing this report, the campaign has >4,200 followers of the Facebook (an increase of 700 since last year) page, 2,236 on Twitter/X (an increase of 36 since last year). The campaign previously had >1,000 followers on Instagram but the account was hacked. It was subsequently retrieved and, at the time of writing, is back up towards 592 followers (an increase of 192 since last year). 2-factor authentication was then added to all social media accounts. Analytics show that many tweets and posts have been viewed thousands of times.
2. **Website** The campaign-specific website was updated consistently throughout this period with press coverage secured, blogs and longer articles covering the more detailed topics linked to the campaign. Website visits continue to be encouraging. As with social media, website analytics show that many articles have been viewed thousands of times.
3. **National Highways** The project was formally moved to RIS3 last year, which picks up again in 2025. The last formal update posted to its project page was in July 2022 and its last formal newsletter in October 2019. No consultations or public information events have taken place in this period. At the time of writing this report, we are attempting to have sight of the latest traffic flow analysis which we know was completed by NH's contractor in autumn of last year.
4. **Alternative Solutions** The campaign continued to chase Sefton Council and the Liverpool City Region on follow up work to 2020's ARUP report and for greater clarification around the role of PASG (Port Access Steering Group) where such topics are discussed and progressed. We continued to push for cross-community representation on PASG, with continued resistance and no genuine desire to engage forthcoming. We secured funding from LUSH to create a website promoting the alternatives we're aware of, which will be going live in the following period (2024/25).
5. **Politics** The campaign maintained good relations with Councillors, the relevant Council Officers and MPs; all of whom oppose the road proposal. Major developments as follows:

- a. In efforts to secure the Shadow Transport team's support, we **attended the Labour Party Conference** in October 2023 which was in Liverpool and spoke with Shadow Transport Secretary, Louise Haigh, and other shadow ministers on the subject of the road proposal and port access.
 - b. In February 2024, we attended the **Northern Transport Summit** in Liverpool which again proved to be a good networking opportunity and an opportunity to raise and discuss the Port of Liverpool Access Scheme in a high-profile forum.
 - c. In March 2024, we attended **Transport for the North's conference** in Newcastle which proved to be a good networking opportunity and an important contact was established with the Chair of the Liverpool City Region's Transport Committee – an elected body – which would be followed up in the next period.
6. **We Said No** The podcast series continued throughout this period covering topics of rail access, the role of Rimrose Valley and local green spaces in supporting football/local sports activities, our Manchester demonstration (see below) and the importance of the wildflower project. All episodes include local contributors and we are able to track the number of downloads/plays
 7. **Media coverage** Press releases remain a key tool for the campaign and we continued to keep the story in the news with major developments covered locally via the Liverpool Echo, BBC Radio Merseyside, Granada TV and BBC North West Tonight.
 8. **Funding** The Charity was successful in a new funding application to Foundation for Integrated Transport, lowering the amount asked for and seeking match funding via an application to Patagonia Action Works, which was also successful. A combination of these 2 grants secured the role of campaign coordinator for 2 days per week for this accounting period, putting the campaign in a secure position. The campaign also held several in-store fundraising events at LUSH in Liverpool. These proceeds go towards the general costs of running the campaign – leaflets, signs and design costs.
 9. **Consultations** During this period, the campaign responded to key consultations and encouraged supporters to do the same. These included the following: Active Travel measures, Nature Recovery Strategy; Re-regulation of buses; Strategic Development Plan. All of these relate to transport and the use of green space, so participation in them was important.
 10. **Demonstration – The BIG push to LUSH** August 2023. This activity consisted of a 6-mile march from Rimrose Valley along the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath to Mann Island in the city centre, home of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. Its purpose was to highlight the vital role the Metro Mayor, Steve Rotherham, and the LCRCA has in solving the issues around port access. The Metro Mayor and Chief Exec of the LCRCA declined our invitation to meet us, but we were greeted by Cllr Steve Foulkes, Chair of the LCRCA's Transport Committee. He gave unequivocal support for the campaign to save the park and to demand better solutions. We received coverage on Granada news and the event was well attended, despite bad weather. We ended the walk with refreshments in LUSH's Liverpool store to acknowledge their support and to thank people for attending.
 11. **Demonstration – Our Rags, Your Riches** October 2023. This demo consisted of members of the public joining us outside the Port of Liverpool's Seaforth entrance to tie strips of green fabric to their fencing as a symbol of our opposition to the proposed road and to highlight the port's involvement in these plans. This mirrored the actions of campaigners against fracking at the Preston New Road site. Old and young wrote their wishes for the future of Rimrose Valley on pieces of card, which were also tied to the fence. Again, the event was well attended despite challenging weather

12. **Campaign Strategy.** In March 2023, Chris Todd, Director of Transport Action Network and long-time supporter of the campaign visited Liverpool to deliver a campaign workshop to ensure that the campaign team and wider community remain engaged in the fight to save the park and come up with new ways of communicating our messages. This support was gratefully received and resulted in a positive day of workshops and activities held at Marine FC
13. **Petition** At the time of writing signatures stand at 16,127
14. **Presentations** Throughout this period, we delivered several presentations about our work to local schools (Chesterfield High School, Waterloo Primary School) and a Patagonia in-store event; all to raise awareness of our work and how people can contribute
15. **Patagonia Gathering** As a result of our funding application, we were invited to attend Patagonia's "Tools for grassroots activists" conference in July. This was located on a farm in Wiltshire and consisted of 3 days' of presentations and workshops with campaigners from across the country, offering an ideal opportunity to network, share experiences and skills and to raise awareness of each other's work.

Achievements and Performance

The Charity continued to raise awareness of Rimrose Valley Country Park and this period was the most active in its short history in terms of delivering events and activities.

The campaign measures its performance by the status of the road proposal. Construction should have commenced in 2020. Instead, National Highways were notified in March 2023 that the road proposal has been deferred until 2025 at the earliest, as outlined above.

The campaign will use this newly found time to ramp up efforts to ensure that the road project is cancelled completely, in favour of better, more sustainable solutions.

Financial Review

1. The Charity is regularly funded by public donation. It has a LocalGiving account which can accept one-off donations as well as recurring direct debits.
2. The Charity has actively applied for grants and other funding to finance both the Charity's activities and events and the work of the Save Rimrose Valley campaign. All funds applied for are ringfenced for their specific purpose and are clearly referenced in the Charity's accounts
3. The Accounts for the financial year 2023/24 will be prepared and audited by Sefton CVS and will be reviewed and approved at the upcoming AGM.

Declaration

**Rimrose Valley Friends
Trustees Annual Report**

1. Rimrose Valley Friends sets out to promote, protect and improve the community resource that is Rimrose Valley Country Park.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The Charity's trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and have undertaken the following activities within the boundaries of that guidance.

Additional details of objectives and activities

During this period, the Charity has aimed to further the core activities of Rimrose Valley Friends and simultaneously run a successful campaign against a road proposal which threatens the park's future, which is known as Save Rimrose Valley. As these have different objectives, the activities for each are summarised separately below.

DECLARATION

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

S. Edey
Trustee
30 January 2025

Rimrose Valley Friends
Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Rimrose Valley Friends

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Rimrose Valley Friends for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

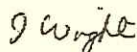
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Wright
Chartered Accountant
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service
Burlington House
Crosby Road North
Waterloo
Liverpool
L22 0LG
30 January 2025

Rimrose Valley Friends
 Receipts and Payments Account
 for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Receipts from:				
Donations, legacies and similar income	5,201	-	5,201	13,330
Grants	-	29,374	29,374	23,660
Fundraising	523	-	523	760
Investment income	230	-	230	178
Total gross income	5,954	29,374	35,328	37,928
Total receipts	5,954	29,374	35,328	37,928
Payments on:				
Charitable payments	-	4,459	4,459	41,126
Charity costs	25,330	693	26,023	5,252
Total gross expenditure	25,330	5,152	30,482	46,378
Total payments	25,330	5,152	30,482	46,378
Net of receipts/(payments)	(19,376)	24,222	4,846	(8,450)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year	29,634	3,144	32,778	41,228
Cash funds this year end	10,258	27,366	37,624	32,778

Rimrose Valley Friends
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31 March 2024

Charity No. 1171536

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Cash funds				
Current accounts	10,258	1,931	12,189	7,630
Deposit accounts	-	25,435	25,435	25,148
Total cash funds	<u>10,258</u>	<u>27,366</u>	<u>37,624</u>	<u>32,778</u>

Signed by the trustees on 30 January 2025

And signed on their behalf by:



S. Edey
Trustee
30 January 2025

Rimrose Valley Friends

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the 'Receipts and Payments' basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

Designated funds These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Revaluation funds These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.

Restricted funds These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

2 Income from grants

	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Community Foundation	-	-	9,972
Lush Limited	7,459	7,459	3,688
Foundation For Integrated Transport	-	-	10,000
MIND NAMH	1,000	1,000	-
Better Breathe	3,340	3,340	-
Sefton CVS	1,000	1,000	-
Foundation for Int	7,020	7,020	-
Patagonia	9,555	9,555	-
	<u>29,374</u>	<u>29,374</u>	<u>23,660</u>

RIMROSE VALLEY FRIENDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1171536

Accounts

Rimrose Valley Friends

Charity No. 1171536

Trustees' Report and Unaudited Accounts

31 March 2023

**Rimrose Valley Friends
Contents**

	Pages
Trustees' Annual Report	1
Receipts and Payments Accounts	4 to 4
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	5 to 5
Notes to the Accounts	6 to 6

Objectives and Activities

Objectives:

1. Rimrose Valley Friends sets out to promote, protect and improve the community resource that is Rimrose Valley Country Park.
2. Rimrose Valley Friends aims to benefit the local community surrounding Rimrose Valley, promoting it through events and activities, engaging with other community groups and liaising with the police to cut down on anti-social behaviour.
3. Rimrose Valley Friends' work covers the area of Rimrose Valley Country Park, bordering the Leeds-Liverpool canal and the adjoining communities of Seaforth, Litherland, Waterloo, Crosby, Thornton and Netherton.

Activities:

The Charity's trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and have undertaken the following activities within the boundaries of that guidance.

During this period, the Charity has aimed to further the core activities of Rimrose Valley Friends and simultaneously run a successful campaign against a road proposal which threatens the park's future, which is known as Save Rimrose Valley. As these have different objectives, the activities for each are summarised separately below.

Rimrose Valley Friends

The Charity's core activities include:

1. Raising awareness and promoting the Charity's work **online** via the following:
 - Writing articles, blogs and content added to dedicated website www.rimrosevalleyfriends.org
 - Administering the campaign's Facebook group "Rimrose Valley Friends"
 - Maintaining the campaign's Twitter account @RimroseValley
2. Raising awareness and promoting the Charity's work **in the community** via the following:
 - Organising activities and events on Rimrose Valley
 - Engaging with local schools, community groups and other charities with shared objectives
 - Attending and supporting local community events
3. Engaging with relevant **stakeholders** including:
 - Local Councillors
 - Green Sefton
 - Sefton CVS
 - Local MPs

Specific activities in this period

Some of the key activities in this period are as follows:

1. **Facebook** The charity's community group has remained an active and positive forum to thousands of members predominantly from the surrounding communities. At the time of preparing this report, membership of the group stands at around 8,500. The group is used for people to share relevant news stories, photographs and information and is administered by volunteers.
2. **Website** The mailing list has continued to grow. Members of the public can subscribe to this list and receive email notifications of news and events added to the website.
3. **Twitter** This has proven to be a great way of connecting with similar local community groups and supporting each other's work. Again, the account is administered by volunteers.
4. **Rimrose Runners** The group, which is co-run by the charity's trustee, Sarah Edey, saw another spike in new members and through membership payments, three new run leaders were paid for to enable the club to offer more variety in training including longer run sessions, couch to 5k and speed sessions. The club became affiliated in July 2022 and secured a London Marathon place for a member. There were regular group runs and group events including: the Liverpool Santa Dash; The Mersey tunnel 10k; the Jubilee Bridge 10k; Run for the 97 5k; The Wilmslow running festival; the Liverpool Half Marathon; Southport 10k and a local run raising money for Papyrus. Many social events have been well attended by the club. The club's Facebook group now has over 900 members and regular weekly runs attract approximately 30 to 40 attendees. The Club continues to promote health and wellbeing among the local community, using Rimrose Valley as its base, raising awareness of the park and the campaign to save it.
5. **Queen's Jubilee Fund "Modern Nature" Project** During this period, the charity worked with a local arts organisation, Rule of Threes, to secure funding to deliver free activities on Rimrose Valley, based out of the nearby Crosby Library and aimed at 16-25 year olds. These included a nature & wellbeing walk, 'forest bathing' and art sessions drawing inspiration from the park's surroundings; including a cyanotype photography workshop and collage and riso printing. Unfortunately, the activities were poorly attended, despite both the charity and Rule of Threes following their usual avenues to promote them. The charity felt that because of this, the considerable amount of funding secured did not have the biggest impact and, unfortunately, did not represent value for money. A decision was taken not to co-apply for similar funding in the future without a clearly defined marketing plan and set of deliverables. This will ensure that every step has been taken to ensure that any events in the charity's name are as successful as we would wish them to be.
6. **Guided Walks** The Charity arranged several well-attended guided walks during this period. In spring, a nature walk was led by a ranger from Green Sefton which took in large sections of the park and highlighted plant and birdlife. In September, the charity again worked with Green Sefton to deliver an extremely popular guided bat walk, which was educational and attended by old and young. In November, a Fungal expert returned for another highly popular walk. All were free to attend and well received.
7. **Rimrose Valley Community Celebration** In July, the Charity delivered a free-to-attend community festival using a grant awarded by the National Lottery's Celebrate! Fund. The charity worked with local event management company Waterloo Sunrise CIC who secured approval from Sefton Council to stage the event on the newly resurfaced Chaffer's Running track. The event consisted of live music, food and drink, and free stalls for local charities, community groups and makers to promote their own

activities and products. Free bike repairs and servicing were provided by Dr Bike, free Yoga sessions for adults and children, and a “sports day” was held by coaches from a local running group. The event was delivered on budget, it was a memorable occasion and the feedback received was extremely positive. The charity hopes to organise a similar event in the future.

8. **Wildflower meadow** Once again, the Charity sold seeds harvested from the previous year’s meadow to raise the funds for subsequent sowing and to generate income for the Charity. The wildflower meadow and the newly extended section bloomed during the summer of 2022, attracting large amounts of visitors to the park. Based on concerns expressed in previous years around the herbicide used to prepare the ground, the charity erected signs and put posts on social media channels fully explaining the works and heading off complaints, which was a success. The Charity did explore the use of non-chemical, organic alternatives but after consulting Richard Scott, were advised that these were not suitable on this scale. In the future it is hoped that less intervention (and herbicide) will be needed.
9. **Rimrose Valley Calendar** The Charity again invited people to submit photographs for the 2022 calendar. The Charity doubled the order from previous years (500 to 1,000) but were left with a surplus so will revert to 500 copies in future. However, this still made a healthy profit from the sales, Leftover copies were given to local individuals, community groups and businesses who support the Charity’s work.
10. **Forest School.** After the previous year’s successful Forest School sessions, our relationship with My Outdoor Classroom who delivered these events continued to grow. We assisted them in promoting more free Forest School Toddler sessions which were delivered across Autumn 2022. Funding for these was received from Sefton Council, but the Charity’s social media platforms meant that participants could be targeted from the surrounding Rimrose communities.
11. **John Muir Environmental Award.** The Charity and My Outdoor Classroom secured funding for a programme of environmental education for children from our area, via The D’Oily Carte Charitable Trust. The [John Muir Environmental Award](#) which encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places. The programme was delivered from August to November of 2022 by My Outdoor Classroom. All activities and learnings for the award took place on Rimrose itself which fits perfectly with the Charity’s objectives. A total of 27 children successfully completed the award which involved committing to attending every session in order to qualify. The children and family members were invited to a presentation ceremony at Old Christchurch and Cllr Paul Cummins of Church Ward presented the certificates.
12. **Proposal to grow the charity** As reported in the previous period, an application to the National Lottery’s Community Fund was unsuccessful, but plans to grow the charity on such a scale were put on hold rather than abandoned and are to be revisited in the following period (2023-24)
13. **Rimrose Rounds craft group** Card-making classes continued during this period with sessions taking place at the nearby Queensway allotments. Cards and gifts created are sold at community events with proceeds going to the charity and its campaign.
14. **Marsh Lane Harriers** In September 2022, Marsh Lane Harriers submitted a planning application for a clubhouse at the newly refurbished Chaffers Running Track on Rimrose Valley and The Charity was invited to respond. The Charity responded positively and supported the application, highlighting the need to continue to encourage people to travel to the track on foot, bicycle or public transport wherever possible, drawing attention to the protected species on the park and encouraging measures to ‘green’ the new building to help it blend into its surroundings.
15. **Former trustee, Hazel Davies.** In December 2022, Hazel Davies, a former trustee passed away. The Charity shared the news on its website and social media and agreed

to commemorate Hazel in the new year, which would take place in the following accounting period.

Save Rimrose Valley

The Charity continues to oppose National Highways' plans to build a dual carriageway through Rimrose Valley Country Park, known as The A5036 Port of Liverpool Access Scheme.

The Charity set up a Road Action Group in September 2017. The group comprises the four trustees and additional volunteers from the community, with approximately 20 active members.

The campaign's work is coordinated by Stuart Bennett on a paid contractor basis. The role is paid for via a combination of funding from grants and general Charity fundraising.

Guidance and support are received from relevant environmental groups and NGOs including Transport Action Network, Friends of the Earth, CPRE and Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

This guidance informs the campaign's strategy which has two key objectives:

1. To change minds of decision-makers at Westminster
2. To engage the community in the fight to save the park

The campaign's work should therefore fulfil either of the two objectives, with the Road Action Group supporting the delivery of this work.

The campaign's core activities include:

1. Raising awareness and promoting the campaign's work **online** via the following:
 - Writing articles, blogs and content added to dedicated website www.saverimrosevalley.org
 - Writing and distributing press releases to local, regional and national media outlets
 - Maintaining the campaign's Facebook page @saverimrosevalley
 - Maintaining the campaign's Twitter account @saverimrose
 - Maintaining the campaign's Instagram account @saverimrose
 - Producing a podcast series "We Said No" covering many of the issues around the campaign
 - Creating videos to convey key messages
2. Raising awareness and promoting the campaign's work **in the community** via the following:
 - Organising demonstrations
 - Leafleting

- Using signs, posters and banners in prominent locations
- Engaging with local schools
- Promoting the campaign at 'in store' events such as LUSH and local supermarkets
- Engaging with other environmental groups and campaigns from across the Liverpool City Region
- Attending and supporting local community events

3. Engaging with key stakeholders in the road proposal including:

- National Highways
- Peel Ports
- Department for Transport
- Transport for the North
- Local MPs, Councillors, the Metro Mayor & Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

4. Documenting key arguments against the road proposal

5. Exploring and promoting viable alternatives the road proposal

Specific activities in this period

1. **Social media** The campaign continued to grow its following across all platforms during this period and it continues to be a vital and dynamic way of communicating key issues. At the time of preparing this report, the campaign has >3,500 followers of the Facebook page, >2,200 on Twitter. The campaign previously had >1,000 followers on Instagram but the account was hacked. It was subsequently retrieved and, at the time of writing, is back up towards 400 followers. 2-factor authentication was then added to all social media accounts. Analytics show that many tweets and posts have been viewed thousands of times.
2. **Website** The campaign-specific website was updated consistently throughout this period with press coverage secured, blogs and longer articles covering the more detailed topics linked to the campaign. Website visits continue to be encouraging. As with social media, website analytics show that many articles have been viewed thousands of times.
3. **National Highways** Work began on updated traffic surveys during this period, but there were no consultations or public information events held. The last formal update posted to its project page was in July 2022 and its last formal newsletter in October 2010.
4. **Alternative Solutions** The campaign continued to chase Sefton Council and the Liverpool City Region on follow up work to 2020's ARUP report and for greater clarification around the role of PASG (Port Access Steering Group) where such topics are discussed and progressed. We continued to push for cross-community representation on PASG, with continued resistance and no genuine desire to engage forthcoming.
5. **Politics** The campaign maintained good relations with Councillors, the relevant Council Officers and MPs; all of whom oppose the road proposal. Major developments as follows:
 - a. ***Formal delay confirmed*** In March 2023 current Transport Secretary, Mark Harper, announced that the A5036 Port of Liverpool Access Scheme was to be formally delayed and moved to the subsequent batch of road building projects,

- known as RIS3. These projects are not due to commence until early 2025, meaning a delay of more than 18 months. Crucially, there will be a general election in the interim and therefore a new government in place at the beginning of RIS3. Work with the Shadow Transport team is therefore even more vital and will be a priority in the subsequent period. The formal explanation for the delay was as follows: “(the project) faces a range of challenges including environmental considerations and ongoing scope and design changes to ensure stakeholders' views are fully considered”. Much of this can be attributed to the work of the campaign team.
- b. Also in March 2023, we attended **Transport for the North's conference** in Newcastle which proved to be a good networking opportunity and an important contact was established with the Chair of the Liverpool City Region's Transport Committee – an elected body – which would be followed up in the next period.
 - c. In February 2023, we attended the **Northern Transport Summit** in Liverpool which again proved to be a good networking opportunity and an opportunity to raise and discuss the Port of Liverpool Access Scheme in a high-profile forum.
 - d. In efforts to secure the Shadow Transport team's support, we **attended the Labour Party Conference** in October 2022 which was in Liverpool and spoke with Shadow Transport Secretary, Louise Haigh, and other shadow ministers on the subject of the road proposal and port access.
 - e. **Westminster Hall Debate.** In September 2022, local MP Peter Dowd secured a Westminster Hall Debate on the issue of access to the Port of Liverpool and the threat to Rimrose Valley. The speeches were supported by other Labour MPs including Bill Esterson, and Mike Kane MP, Shadow Minister for Maritime. All opposed National Highways' road proposal and called for proper investment in port infrastructure. The debate was open to members of the public and 4 members of the campaign team attended in person.
 - f. **TUC support.** In April 2022, the campaign secured the support of the Trades Union Congress after a motion was passed at its North West Conference to demand better, non-road alternatives to port access. This support will have a bearing on the Shadow Transport team, with Labour's close ties to unions.
 - g. In June 2022, the campaign secured the **support of Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor**, Steve Rotheram, who joined MP and Council calls for better alternatives to be explored, writing to then Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps
6. **We Said No** The podcast series continued throughout this period covering topics of rail access, the role of Rimrose Valley and local green spaces in supporting football/local sports activities, our Manchester demonstration (see below) and the importance of the wildflower project. All episodes include local contributors and we are able to track the number of downloads/plays
 7. **Media coverage** Press releases remain a key tool for the campaign and we continued to keep the story in the news with major developments covered locally in The Champion. However, in August 2022, The Champion newspaper collapsed.
 8. **Funding** The campaign held several in-store fundraising events at LUSH in Liverpool. These proceeds go towards the general costs of running the campaign – leaflets, signs and design costs. The Charity was also successful in a new funding application to Foundation for Integrated Transport. This secured the role of campaign coordinator for 2 days per week for 12 months, which put the campaign in a secure position. The Charity also applied to Patagonia Action Works for funding beyond this period.

9. **Consultations** During this period, the campaign responded to key consultations and encouraged supporters to do the same. This included the Liverpool City Region's Local Transport Plan, which had a direct link to the campaign's work
10. **Demonstrations** August 2022 saw the campaign organise its biggest demo of this period: a trip to Manchester, the location of National Highways' regional headquarters. The event was planned in conjunction with funders Patagonia who paid for a coach to take members of the public to its Manchester store where placards were made before protestors marched through the city centre to Piccadilly Gate. The campaign presented the Regional Delivery Director with materials made by local school children, opposing plans to destroy the park. We were joined by members of Lancashire Wildlife Trust.
11. **Campaign Strategy.** In March 2023, Chris Todd, Director of Transport Action Network and long-time supporter of the campaign visited Liverpool to deliver a campaign workshop to ensure that the campaign team and wider community remain engaged in the fight to save the park and come up with new ways of communicating our messages. This support was gratefully received and resulted in a positive day of workshops and activities held at Marine FC.
12. **Peel Ports** Following the formal delay to the project, we again wrote to Peel Ports asking for their cooperation in securing a better outcome and better infrastructure. Non-committal responses were received.
13. **Petition** At the time of writing signatures stand at 16,127.

Achievements and Performance

The Charity continued to raise awareness of Rimrose Valley Country Park and this period was the most active in its short history in terms of delivering events and activities.

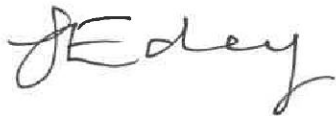
The campaign measures its performance by the status of the road proposal. Construction should have commenced in 2020. Instead, National Highways were notified in March 2023 that the road proposal has been deferred until 2025 at the earliest, as outlined above.

The campaign will use this newly-found time to ramp up efforts to ensure that the road project is cancelled completely, in favour of better, more sustainable solutions.

Financial Review

1. The Charity is regularly funded by public donation. It has a LocalGiving account which can accept one-off donations as well as recurring direct debits.
2. The Charity has actively applied for grants and other funding to finance both the Charity's activities and events and the work of the Save Rimrose Valley campaign. All funds applied for are ringfenced for their specific purpose and are clearly referenced in the Charity's accounts
3. The Accounts for the financial year 2022/23 have been prepared and audited by Sefton CVS and will be reviewed and approved at the upcoming AGM.

Declaration



18.12.23

Rimrose Valley Friends
 Receipts and Payments Account
 for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Receipts from:				
Donations, legacies and similar income	13,330	-	13,330	9,437
Grants	3,688	19,972	23,660	33,631
Fundraising	760	-	760	-
Investment income	178	-	178	-
Total gross income	17,956	19,972	37,928	43,068
Total receipts	17,956	19,972	37,928	43,068
Payments on:				
Charitable payments	19,368	21,758	41,126	21,605
Charity costs	5,252	-	5,252	2,909
Total gross expenditure	24,620	21,758	46,378	24,514
Total payments	24,620	21,758	46,378	24,514
Net of receipts/(payments)	(6,664)	(1,786)	(8,450)	18,554
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year	36,298	4,930	41,228	22,674
Cash funds this year end	29,634	3,144	32,778	41,228

Rimrose Valley Friends
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

at 31 March 2023

Charity No. 1171536

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Cash funds				
Current accounts	4,486	3,144	7,630	41,228
Deposit accounts	25,148	-	25,148	-
Total cash funds	<u>29,634</u>	<u>3,144</u>	<u>32,778</u>	<u>41,228</u>

Signed by the trustees on 22 December 2023

And signed on their behalf by:



S. Edey
Trustee
22 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the 'Receipts and Payments' basis.

Fund accounting

- Unrestricted funds These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
- Designated funds These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
- Revaluation funds These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.
- Restricted funds These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

2 Income from grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Community Foundation	-	9,972	9,972	-
Lush Limited	3,688	-	3,688	2,520
Foundation For Integrated Transport	-	10,000	10,000	12,480
The Tides Foundation	-	-	-	200
Canal & River Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Awards for All	-	-	-	9,931
D'Oyley Carte Grant	-	-	-	3,500
	<u>3,688</u>	<u>19,972</u>	<u>23,660</u>	<u>33,631</u>

Trustees' Annual Report April 2022 to March 2023

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Rimrose Valley Friends

Registered Charity number: 1171536

Registered addresses:

32 Henley Ave

Litherland

LIVERPOOL

L21 2PU

The Charity's current Trustees are:

Sarah Edey

Linda Gaskell

Gary Young

Tracey Boileau

Structure, Governance and Management

1. The Charity is governed by a written constitution
2. During this period, each of the 4 trustees above retired and were reappointed at the last AGM, in line with the charity's constitution.
3. The Charity has a paid membership scheme, with all members having voting rights at the AGM and other general meetings.
4. The last AGM was held on 23rd February 2022, with the next to take place within the 15-month period permitted by the constitution.

This Annual Report covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023 in line with the Charity's accounts covering the same period.

RIMROSE VALLEY FRIENDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1171536

Accounts

Charity number: 1171536

Rimrose Valley Friend CIO

Payment and Receipts

For The Period Ended 31st March 2022

Rimrose Valley Friends CIO
Receipts and Payments Account
For the year ended 31st March 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Receipts		
Gifts, Donations and Collections	9,436.88	13,451.30
Sefton MBC - Contribution to Wildflower Meadow	-	600.00
The Tides Foundation	200.00	4,449.67
COOP Community Funding	-	5,351.78
Lush Limited - Carbon Tax Grant	2,520.39	2,000.00
INT FIT Grant	12,480.00	-
Canal and River Trust	5,000.00	-
Awards for All Lottery Grant	9,931.00	-
D'Oyley Carte Grant	3,500.00	-
Total Receipts	<u>43,068.27</u>	<u>25,852.75</u>
Payments		
Direct Event Costs	11,585.80	10,693.98
Charitable Activities	7,225.00	551.22
Telephone	-	61.20
Professional Fees	185.00	185.00
Printing, Postage and Stationary	1,732.04	598.60
Neo Enviromental Survey/Research	2,874.00	-
Leaflets, Flyers	-	828.02
Membership / Subscriptions	30.00	242.39
Insurance	792.32	40.32
IRYP Communication - Website	-	5,123.00
Storage	120.00	-
Sundries	15.00	-
Bank Charges	5.00	-
Total Expenditure	<u>24,564.16</u>	<u>18,323.73</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	18,504.11	7,529.02
Opening Bank Balances	22,674.17	15,145.15
Closing Bank Balances	<u>41,178.28</u>	<u>22,674.17</u>
Statement of Assetts and Liabilities		
Monetary Assets		
Cooperative Bank Account-68778458	-	-
Cooperative Bank Account-65845666	<u>41,148.28</u>	<u>22,674.17</u>

Signed:  _____ Trustee/Director

Date: 25.11.22

Trustees' Annual Report April 2021 to March 2022

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Rimrose Valley Friends

Registered Charity number: 1171536

Registered addresses:

32 Henley Ave

Litherland

LIVERPOOL

L21 2PU

The Charity's current Trustees are:

Sarah Edey

Linda Gaskell

Gary Young

Tracey Boileau

Structure, Governance and Management

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This Annual Report covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022 in line with the Charity's accounts covering the same period.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives:

1. Rimrose Valley Friends sets out to promote, protect and improve the community resource that is Rimrose Valley Country Park.
2. Rimrose Valley Friends aims to benefit the local community surrounding Rimrose Valley, promoting it through events and activities, engaging with other community groups and liaising with the police to cut down on anti-social behaviour.
3. Rimrose Valley Friends' work covers the area of Rimrose Valley Country Park, bordering the Leeds-Liverpool canal and the adjoining communities of Seaforth, Litherland, Waterloo, Crosby, Thornton and Netherton.

Activities:

The Charity's trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and have undertaken the following activities within the boundaries of that guidance.

During this period, the Charity has aimed to further the core activities of Rimrose Valley Friends and simultaneously run a successful campaign against a road proposal which threatens the park's future, which is known as Save Rimrose Valley. As these have different objectives, the activities for each are summarised separately below.

Rimrose Valley Friends

The Charity's core activities include:

1. Raising awareness and promoting the Charity's work **online** via the following:
 - Writing articles, blogs and content added to dedicated website www.rimrosevalleyfriends.org
 - Administering the campaign's Facebook group "Rimrose Valley Friends"
 - Maintaining the campaign's Twitter account @RimroseValley
2. Raising awareness and promoting the Charity's work **in the community** via the following:
 - Organising activities and events on Rimrose Valley
 - Engaging with local schools, community groups and other charities with shared objectives
 - Attending and supporting local community events
3. Engaging with relevant **stakeholders** including:
 - Local Councillors
 - Green Sefton
 - Sefton CVS
 - Local MPs

Specific activities in this period

In the previous Annual Report, it was noted that delivery of the Charity's core activities was hampered as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the associated lockdowns and subsequent social distancing rules. These restrictions eased in this period, enabling the Charity to undertake more of its work. Some of the key activities in this period are as follows

1. **Facebook** The charity's community group has continued to grow, with thousands of members predominantly from the surrounding communities. At the time of preparing this report, membership of the group stands at around 8,500. The group is used for people to share relevant news stories, photographs and information and is administered by volunteers.
2. **Website** The mailing list has continued to grow. Members of the public can subscribe to this list and receive email notifications of news and events added to the website.
3. **Twitter** This has proven to be a great way of connecting with similar local community groups and supporting each other's work. Again, the account is administered by volunteers.
4. **Rimrose Runners** Post-lockdown, Rimrose Runners saw a huge spike in new members and the run leaders were able to reinstate regular training sessions. This included marathon and half marathon training and several couch to 5ks to help people on their running journey. Funding was secured through membership fees to allow 2 new run leaders to be trained in Autumn 2021. There were regular group runs and group events. The club's Facebook group now has almost 800 members and regular weekly runs attract approximately 40 attendees. The Club continues to promote health and wellbeing among the local community, using Rimrose Valley as its base, raising awareness of the park and the campaign to save it.
5. **Guided Walks** The Charity arranged several successful guided walks during this period. In spring, a nature walk was led by a ranger from Green Sefton which took in large sections of the park and highlighted plant and birdlife. In November, a walk was led by a Fungal expert which identified almost 100 different species in 3 hours. Finally, the Charity's popular Boxing Day and New Year's Day walks returned for the first time since Covid-19 and again, were well attended. All were free to attend.
6. **Pop-up Yoga** The Charity was approached by a local Yoga practitioner who offered to run outdoor Yoga classes on the park in the summer of 2021. These were really popular and she requested that donations be made to the Charity in lieu of charging for the sessions.
7. **Litter Picks** 2 litter picks were held during this period in conjunction with Green Sefton, but despite being publicised, these were poorly attended. However, the Charity has found that the vast majority of people respect Rimrose Valley and littering is not as big a problem as often perceived. This will be monitored and any ad hoc litter collections arranged, as necessary.
8. **Wildflower meadow** Again, the Charity sold seeds harvested from the previous year's meadow to raise the funds for subsequent sowing and to generate income for the Charity. As with the previous period, due to Covid-19 restrictions the proposed public sowing event was unable to be held, but a small number of children from local primary school Our Lady Star of the Sea attended a less formal event. The wildflower meadow was again a success during the summer of 2021. The wildflower meadow project was extended during this period in a project led by Cllr Mick Roche using Council funds. He worked with the same delivery partner, Richard Scott of the Eden Project. Members of the Charity's Facebook group expressed concerns around the herbicide used to

prepare the ground, the lack of advanced notice and signage, highlighting the potential impact on dogs, children and wildlife. The Charity committed to exploring alternatives and to working with the contractors and Green Sefton to provide advanced notice of this activity in subsequent years.

9. **Summer Raffle** The Charity was gifted an oil painting by a local artists which was raffled off and tickets were sold at various community events.
10. **Rimrose Valley Calendar** The Charity again invited people to submit photographs for a calendar. This proved to be very successful, with the Charity making a healthy profit from the sales, doubling the order from previous years (500 to 1,000). Leftover copies were given to local individuals, groups and businesses who support the Charity's work.
11. **Forest School.** The Co-op Community fund secured in the previous period was to be used for community events which we were unable to deliver due to Covid restrictions. As soon as this situation changed, the Charity partnered with My Outdoor Classroom to deliver 8 x Forest School taster sessions on the parkland during this period to both pre-school and older children. Paying My Outdoor Classroom to deliver these events meant that these sessions were completely free to members of the public. The Charity believes that such activities which promote access to nature are vital in a post-Covid world and making them free is just as important. The sessions were extremely well received and after some initial admin difficulties around booking, every session was soon full and oversubscribed. The Charity agreed to deliver similar events in the future with My Outdoor Classroom in the future and worked together on a funding application to the The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust which was successful. The activity would be delivered in the next period.
12. **Walk/Run/Cycle/Play (WRCP)** The Charity was successful in an application to the Tackling Inequalities fund during this period. This was administered by the Canal & River Trust with whom the Charity has good relations. The Charity partnered with HYPE Merseyside to deliver 6 x WRCP events on Rimrose Valley, based out of Liverpool County FA's site at the north of the park. Again, these were free sessions, designed to get local families active on a Sunday morning between 10am-Midday and included football coaching and a route for people to follow around the park itself – either walking, running or cycling. Initial sessions during the summer holidays were poorly attended. We believe that this was due to many families taking their first opportunity to go on holiday following the pandemic. The sessions were paused and restarted when the schools returned. Many schools publicised this and attendance went up. The Charity will consider continuing this programme in the future and explore ways to make it more effective.
13. **Survey of activities** In spring 2021 a survey was undertaken to explore what events and activities people wished to see take place on Rimrose Valley and approx. 200 responses were received. This information informed the application outlined in the next item below.
14. **Proposal to grow the charity** During the previous period, a motion was put forward to grow the Charity and to try and secure funding for full and/or part-time resource. During this period, a subgroup was formed to try and deliver this. This information was used in an application submitted to the National Lottery's Community Fund. The application to this highly competitive fund was unsuccessful but useful feedback was received. At the time of writing this report, the amount of work generated by the charity's campaign has meant that the Charity has been unable to follow this up. However, the Charity remains committed to growing its work and hopes to revisit this piece of work in the future.
15. **Rimrose Rounds craft group** During this period, one of the charity's members, Kate Elder, launched a craft group. The group meets periodically to knit, crochet and create.

Their handiwork has been placed around Rimrose Valley for people to enjoy and sold via the RVF stall at community events.

Save Rimrose Valley

The Charity opposes National Highways' plans to build a dual carriageway through Rimrose Valley Country Park, known as The A5036 Port of Liverpool Access Scheme.

The Charity set up a Road Action Group in September 2017. The group comprises the four trustees and additional volunteers from the community, with approximately 18 active members.

The campaign's work is coordinated by Stuart Bennett on a paid contractor basis. The role is paid for via a combination of funding from grants and general Charity fundraising.

Guidance and support are received from relevant environmental groups and NGOs including Transport Action Network, Friends of the Earth, CPRE and Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

This guidance informs the campaign's strategy which has two key objectives:

1. To change minds of decision-makers at Westminster
2. To engage the community in the fight to save the park

The campaign's work should therefore fulfil either of the two objectives, with the Road Action Group supporting the delivery of this work.

The campaign's core activities include:

1. Raising awareness and promoting the campaign's work **online** via the following:
 - Writing articles, blogs and content added to dedicated website www.saverimrosevalley.org
 - Writing and distributing press releases to local, regional and national media outlets
 - Maintaining the campaign's Facebook page @saverimrosevalley
 - Maintaining the campaign's Twitter account @saverimrose
 - Maintaining the campaign's Instagram account @saverimrose
 - Producing a podcast series "We Said No" covering many of the issues around the campaign
 - Creating videos to convey key messages
2. Raising awareness and promoting the campaign's work **in the community** via the following:
 - Organising demonstrations
 - Leafleting
 - Using signs, posters and banners in prominent locations

- Engaging with local schools
 - Promoting the campaign at 'in store' events such as LUSH and local supermarkets
 - Engaging with other environmental groups and campaigns from across the Liverpool City Region
 - Attending and supporting local community events
3. Engaging with key stakeholders in the road proposal including:
 - National Highways
 - Peel Ports
 - Department for Transport
 - Transport for the North
 - Local MPs, Councillors, the Metro Mayor & Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
 4. Documenting key arguments against the road proposal
 5. Exploring and promoting viable alternatives the road proposal

Specific activities in this period

1. **Social media** The campaign continued to grow its following across all platforms during this period and it continues to be a vital and dynamic way of communicating key issues. At the time of preparing this report, the campaign has >3,000 followers of the Facebook page, >2,000 on Twitter and >1,000 on Instagram. Analytics show that many tweets and posts have been viewed thousands of times
2. **Website** The campaign-specific website was updated throughout this period with press coverage secured, blogs and longer articles covering the more detailed topics linked to the campaign. Website visits continue to be encouraging. As with social media, website analytics show that many articles have been viewed thousands of times
3. **National Highways' activities** The fallout from Covid continued to result in more delay with just 2 public updates shared during this period. The first advised that ecological studies would be taking place in the spring. Other environmental studies were due to commence, including air quality, groundwater and noise, although these were again paused later on during this period meaning that the statutory consultation was deferred.
4. **Alternative Solutions** In the previous report, Sefton Council released an Inland Port Connectivity Concept which detailed possible non-road solutions to port access. In this period, the campaign pushed for the next phase – a more detailed feasibility study. However, at the time of writing this is still to be commissioned, which is a concern. The campaign continues to chase Sefton Council and the Liverpool City Region on this matter. In addition, during this period Transport Secretary Grant Shapps rejected the Integrated Rail Plan presented by Northern Metro Mayors. Better rail freight connectivity is vital. Again, the campaign continued to push for this.
5. **Politicians** The campaign maintained good relations with Councillors, the relevant Council Officers and MPs; all of whom oppose the road proposal. Work continued to engage the Metro Mayor and the Liverpool City Region in the debate which would bear fruit in the following period. We send emails, letters and request meetings with all levels of the local political scene in order to further our work. In addition to local and regional politicians, we also wrote to Transport Secretary Grant Shapps and the

relevant DfT ministers, often to no avail. We continue to push for cross-community representation on the Port Access Steering Group, which is a key forum.

6. **We Said No** The podcast series continued throughout this period covering a wide range of topics including air pollution; our biggest demonstration to date (see below), 'voices from Rimrose' and the alternatives presented in Sefton-ARUP report. All episodes include local contributors and we are able to track the number of downloads/plays which are typically 200 per episode
7. **Media coverage** Press releases remain a key tool for the campaign and we continued to keep the story in the news with major developments covered locally in The Champion. Bigger stories, including our big demonstration received coverage on Granada, BBC NWT and the Echo
8. **Funding** The campaign held several in-store fundraising events at LUSH in Liverpool. These proceeds go towards the general costs of running the campaign – leaflets, signs and design costs. The Charity was also successful in a funding application to Foundation for Integrated Transport. This secured the role of campaign coordinator for 2 days per week for 12 months, which put the campaign in a secure position.
9. **Consultations** During this period, the campaign responded to key consultations and encouraged supporters to do the same. These ranged from topics including the Council's efforts on active travel (walking and cycling), Transport for the North's decarbonisation and freight & logistics strategies and the Liverpool City Region efforts on public transport and reaching net zero. All had a direct link to the campaign's work
10. **Demonstrations** August 2021 saw the campaign deliver its biggest demonstration to date. Almost 1,000 members of the public attended a mass rally on Rimrose Valley. This featured speeches from local MPs and councillors and environmental groups including Transport Action Network, CPRE and Friends of the Earth. The rally was followed by a march to the gates of the Port of Liverpool, with roads blocked. A letter was delivered to Peel Ports, highlighting their major role in the road proposal. The event will live long in the memory and was a resounding success. TAN advised that it was the biggest anti-road protest in a generation. Other protests during this period including another demonstration at the port to highlight Drax's operations. They import wooden pellets via the port to be burned in UK power stations, occupying a vital rail link in the process. Finally, as the UK hosted COP26 Save Rimrose Valley was well represented at a Liverpool-wide march which began in Sefton Park and ended in the city centre. We addressed crowds at the start of the rally, linking road building to the climate emergency. The campaign is now well known in the Liverpool area.
11. **Peel Ports** The above demonstration was followed up with correspondence to the CEO of the port. The port's response was dismissive and generated further media coverage. It is clear to the campaign that direct pleas to the port will not work, which reconfirms the need to pursue both a political and a direct, public campaigning approach.
12. **Petition** During this period, we updated the supporting our ongoing petition to more accurately reflect our work and what we are calling for. This led to another push on signatures and we passed the 15,000 mark.
13. **WildLIVE** The campaign was invited to take part in The Wildlife Trust's series of YouTube livestreams where we talked about campaigning with fellow campaigners from across the country
14. **Lancaster University** The campaign was also invited to present to students at Lancaster University and to explain the link between the road proposal and climate change

Achievements and Performance

The Charity continued to raise awareness of Rimrose Valley Country Park and this period was the most active in its short history in terms of delivering events and activities.

The campaign measures its performance by the status of the road proposal. Construction should have commenced in 2020. Instead, National Highways are not much further along in their plans than they were in 2018, meaning that the proposal is at least 4 years behind schedule. The hope is that with the sustainability, net zero and the climate emergency having become more relevant than ever, the scheme will eventually be cancelled.

Financial Review

1. The Charity is regularly funded by public donation. It has a LocalGiving account which can accept one-off donations as well as recurring direct debits.
2. The Charity has actively applied for grants and other funding to finance both the Charity's activities and events and the work of the Save Rimrose Valley campaign. All funds applied for are ringfenced for their specific purpose and are clearly referenced in the Charity's accounts
3. The Accounts for the financial year 2021/22 have been prepared and audited by Sefton CVS and will be reviewed and approved at the upcoming AGM.

Declaration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Gray', written in a cursive style.

**Independent Examiners Report
To the Trustees of the Rimrose Valley Friends CIO
For the year ended 31st March 2022**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31st March 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act: or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed: 

Date: 25/11/22

Anthony Deegan MAAT, MICB Pm.Dip
Community Accountant
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service
Crosby Road North
Waterloo
L22 0LG

RIMROSE VALLEY FRIENDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1171536

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report April 2020 to March 2021

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Rimrose Valley Friends

Registered Charity number: 1171536

Registered addresses:

32 Henley Ave

Litherland

LIVERPOOL

L21 2PU

The Charity's current Trustees are:

Sarah Edey

Linda Gaskell

Gary Young

Tracey Boileau

Structure, Governance and Management

1. The Charity is governed by a written constitution
2. During this period, Gail Wilson, Hazel Davies, Mike Carter, and Janet McNulty stepped down as Trustees and Gary Young and Tracey Boileau were appointed.
3. The Charity has a paid membership scheme, with all members having voting rights at the AGM and other general meetings.
4. During the period one formal complaint was received. The trustees in place at that time investigated the complaint and reached the decision that it not be upheld.
5. The last AGM was held on 10th December 2020, with the next scheduled for February 2022, which is within the 15-month period permitted by the constitution.

This Annual Report covers the period from April 2020 to March 2021 to bring it into line with the Charity's accounts. It therefore includes elements of the previous Annual Report which ran from the calendar year. This explains the repetition of some items.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives:

1. Rimrose Valley Friends sets out to promote, protect and improve the community resource that is Rimrose Valley Country Park.
2. Rimrose Valley Friends aims to benefit the local community surrounding Rimrose Valley, promoting it through events and activities, engaging with other community groups and liaising with the police to cut down on anti-social behaviour.
3. Rimrose Valley Friends' work covers the area of Rimrose Valley Country Park, bordering the Leeds-Liverpool canal and the adjoining communities of Seaforth, Litherland, Waterloo, Crosby, Thornton and Netherton.

Activities:

The Charity's trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and have undertaken the following activities within the boundaries of that guidance.

During this period, the Charity has aimed to further the core activities of Rimrose Valley Friends and simultaneously run a successful campaign against a road proposal which threatens the park's future, which is known as Save Rimrose Valley. As these have different objectives, the activities for each are summarised separately below.

Rimrose Valley Friends

The Charity's core activities include:

1. Raising awareness and promoting the Charity's work **online** via the following:
 - Writing articles, blogs and content for its dedicated website www.rimrosevalleyfriends.org
 - Administering the campaign's Facebook group "Rimrose Valley Friends"
 - Maintaining the campaign's Twitter account @RimroseValley
2. Raising awareness and promoting the Charity's work **in the community** via the following:
 - Organising activities and events on Rimrose Valley
 - Engaging with local schools, community groups and other charities with shared objectives
 - Attending and supporting local community events
3. Engaging with relevant **stakeholders** including:
 - Local Councillors
 - Green Sefton
 - Sefton CVS
 - Local MPs

Specific activities in this period

Delivery of the Charity's core activities was hampered during this period due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the associated lockdowns and subsequent social distancing rules. However, the Charity remained active, particularly online, and activities included

1. **Facebook** The charity's community group has grown, with thousands of members predominantly from the surrounding communities. This number increased significantly (estimate of around 2,000) as a result of more people discovering Rimrose Valley during the pandemic. The group is used for people to share relevant news stories, photographs and information and is administered by volunteers.
2. **Website** The mailing list has continued to grow. Members of the public can subscribe to this list and receive email notifications of news and events added to the website.
3. **Twitter** This has proven to be a great way of connecting with similar local community groups and supporting each other's work. Again, the account is administered by volunteers.
4. **Rimrose Runners** Activities had to be suspended during the height of lockdown but the club resumed as soon as was allowed and activities followed Covid-secure practices. It saw an increase in membership during this period as more people became aware of the park. The club ran a half marathon in October 2020 raising funds for the Charity. The Club promotes health and wellbeing among the local community as well as raising awareness of Rimrose Valley Country Park and the campaign to save it
5. **Guided Walks** The Charity's traditional programme of walks was suspended during this period due to lockdowns, limits on group numbers and following guidance from Green Sefton. These would resume in the following period.
6. **Litter Picks** Two were carried out in accordance with Covid-secure practises, following guidance from Green Sefton. However, these were limited to a maximum of 6 people and it was decided to revisit when restrictions allowed greater participation.
7. **ValleyWatch** The Charity purchased a trailcam which was placed in the park from May 2020 with the approval of Green Sefton. This resulted in a series of films collecting wildlife footage at a time when many people were in lockdown. These proved popular and this project will be revisited.
8. **Running Track** The Charity supported the efforts of local running club, Marsh Lane Harriers, to reinstate the disused 'Chaffers' running track which surrounds the wildflower meadow. Work was completed with financial support from Jamie Carragher's 23 Foundation. The Charity assisted MLH in gaining permission from Sefton Council and work started in May 2020 at the height of the first lockdown. The refurbishment of the track continued and has been an enormous success. The track is used regularly by Rimrose Runners, Marsh Lane Harriers, a youth group and other informal groups and individuals. There are plans to further develop this facility and the Charity will support these and continue to promote the facility.
9. **Wildflower meadow** The Charity sold seeds harvested from the previous year's meadow to raise the funds for subsequent sowing and to generate income for the Charity. Due to the lockdown restrictions the proposed public sowing event was unable to be held, but the wildflower meadow was again a success during the summer of 2020. As a result of this project, the Charity received a national environmental Bees' Needs Award by DeFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) for creating habitat for bees and other pollinators.
10. **Rimrose Valley Calendar** The Charity invited people to submit photographs for a calendar. This proved to be very successful, with the Charity making a profit from the sales. This is to be repeated each year.

11. **Co-op Community fund** The Charity was successful in its application to be included as a nominated Charity for this fund. The money is to be used for community events. Due to the pandemic restrictions no events were held in this period, but the Co-op Community Fund gave permission for funds to be used for the good of the community. To this end the Charity purchased 2 benches and an Information Board which were installed next to the running track and wildflower meadow in the subsequent period, with the balance to roll over to the next financial year.
12. **Survey of usage** The Charity carried out an online survey of park users during the Covid-19 pandemic with over 1,000 respondents. The survey asked people how often they used the park, what for, why it was important to them, how they travelled there and for any thoughts they wished to share. The results are to be published on the Charity's website and will be used to support future funding bids.
13. **Proposal to grow the charity** During this financial year, a motion was put forward via a general meeting and the subsequent AGM to grow the Charity and to make an application to the National Lottery (or similar) to fund full and/or part-time resource for the Charity. This work was carried over to financial year 2021/22 and will therefore be reported on in the next Annual Report.

Save Rimrose Valley

The Charity opposes National Highways' plans to build a dual carriageway through Rimrose Valley Country Park, known as The A5036 Port of Liverpool Access Scheme.

The Charity set up a Road Action Group in September 2017. The group comprises the four trustees and additional volunteers from the community, with approximately 18 active members.

The campaign's work is coordinated by Stuart Bennett on a part-time paid contractor basis. The role is paid for via a combination of funding from grants and general Charity fundraising.

Guidance and support are received from relevant environmental groups and NGOs including Transport Action Network, Friends of the Earth, CPRE and Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

This guidance informs the campaign's strategy which has two key objectives:

1. To change minds of decision-makers at Westminster
2. To engage the community in the fight to save the park

The campaign's work should therefore fulfil either of the two objectives, with the Road Action Group supporting the delivery of this work.

The campaign's core activities include:

1. Raising awareness and promoting the campaign's work **online** via the following:

- Writing articles, blogs and content added to dedicated website www.saverimrosevalley.org
 - Writing and distributing press releases to local, regional and national media outlets
 - Maintaining the campaign's Facebook page @saverimrosevalley
 - Maintaining the campaign's Twitter account @saverimrose
 - Maintaining the campaign's Instagram account @saverimrose
 - Producing a podcast series "We Said No" covering many of the issues around the campaign
 - Creating videos to convey key messages
2. Raising awareness and promoting the campaign's work **in the community** via the following:
- Organising demonstrations
 - Leafleting
 - Using signs, posters and banners in prominent locations
 - Engaging with local schools
 - Promoting the campaign at 'in store' events such as LUSH and local supermarkets
 - Engaging with other environmental groups and campaigns from across the Liverpool City Region
 - Attending and supporting local community events
3. Engaging with key stakeholders in the road proposal including:
- National Highways
 - Peel Ports
 - Department for Transport
 - Transport for the North
 - Local MPs, Councillors, the Metro Mayor & Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
4. Documenting key arguments against the road proposal
5. Exploring and promoting viable alternatives the road proposal

Specific activities in this period

As with the Charity's work, the campaign's public activities were hampered during this period due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the associated lockdowns and subsequent social distancing rules. However, a successful online presence was maintained and key administrative work was progressed with some notable activities as follows:

1. **Social media** Despite being unable to hold demonstrations, the campaign actually grew its following during this time as the connection was made between the pandemic, lockdowns and the importance of access to green space was understood. The campaign its following increase across all channels. Supporters were encouraged to submit photos of themselves using the park during lockdown. Instagram was added as an additional channel, with the hope of attracting a younger audience. Filming short videos also proved to be a good way of increasing engagement during lockdown.
2. **National Highways** Covid resulted in more delay to the project with plans for a statutory consultation, environmental studies and traffic monitoring cancelled. The

campaign continued to submit Freedom of Information requests. These were rejected en masse and subsequently appealed for support from local MPs.

3. **Alternative Solutions** Sefton Council released an Inland Port Connectivity Concept report during this period. Prepared by ARUP, this offered alternatives to moving freight containers by road including a freight pipeline, overhead container transfer and automated guided vehicles. The campaign supports this work and is pushing for the next phase – a more detailed feasibility study.
4. **Politicians** The campaign maintained good relations with Councillors, the relevant Council Officers and MPs; all of whom oppose the road proposal. MPs raised their own FOI requests which were rejected and they committed to following this up. The Metro Mayor and the Liverpool City Region comment on the scheme but do not go as far as opposing it. They support Sefton's stance. Getting the Metro Mayor and LCRC to change their position is a key goal for the campaign. A meeting with the Roads Minister organised by both MPs was unproductive and unlikely to help the campaign.
5. **We Said No** This podcast was launched during this period and has given the campaign a new way to communicate the key issues with supporters. Initial episodes explained the background to the campaign and another focussed on Peel Ports' role. These will continue in subsequent periods.
6. **Media coverage** Despite the pandemic the campaign kept the story in the news with good coverage, particularly around MPs own FOI requests being refused. Press releases remain a key tool for the campaign and will continue.
7. **Leafleting campaign** This took place during summer 2020 with over 20,000 leaflets distributed to local communities, raising awareness of the road proposal, the campaign, ways to get involved and the upcoming statutory consultation. The reverse was a poster which has been a great way for people to display support in their homes.
8. **Funding** The campaign was successful with applications to both LUSH and Patagonia during this period. The LUSH funds go towards ongoing campaign costs, whereas the Patagonia fund paid for the campaign coordinator role for several months.

Achievements and Performance

The main achievement of the Charity during this extremely challenging period has been to continue to raise awareness of Rimrose Valley Country Park. The Facebook group in particular has been a source of promoting the park and enabling people to connect and share stories when this wasn't always possible in person.

In turn, this has continued to raise the profile of the campaign and the threat of the road proposal, growing support in the process.

The Charity plans to grow its work in the next period and to build on the activities outlined above.

In terms of external recognition, the Charity received two, prestigious awards during this period:

- A national environmental **Bees' Needs Award** from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DeFRA) for the Wildflower Meadow project which has created a habitat for bees and other pollinators.
- An Echo Environment **Healthy Living Award** in recognition of the work the Charity undertakes to promote and protect the park. Particular reference was made to the Covid-19 pandemic and the importance of the greens space.

Financial Review

1. The Charity is regularly funded by public donation. It has a LocalGiving account which can accept one-off donations as well as recurring direct debits.
2. The Charity has actively applied for grants and other funding to finance both the Charity's activities and events and the work of the Save Rimrose Valley campaign. Funders include Patagonia, LUSH and the Co-Op with all funds clearly ringfenced in the Charity's accounts.
3. The Accounts for the financial year 2020/21 have been prepared and audited by Sefton CVS and will be reviewed and approved at the upcoming AGM.

Declaration

**Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of the Rimrose Valley Friends CIO
For the year ended 31st March 2021**

Charity Number: 1171536

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2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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Signed: 

Date: 29.11.21.

Anthony Deegan MAAT, MICB Pm.Dip
Community Accountant
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service
Crosby Road North
Waterloo
Liverpool
L22 0LG

1st October 2021