
Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

Trustees Annual Report for Year

1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021



The Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

19, Chilton Grove
Yeovil
Somerset
BA21 4AN

<https://yrct.co.uk>

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1180724

Executive Summary

1. Registration Name:

The Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

2. Registration Number:

1180724

3. Registration date:

16th November 2018

4. Governing Document:

The Yeovil Rivers Community Trust Constitution

5. Names of Charity Trustees serving during the year:

Mr Lorne Thomson	Chair
Ms Sarah Hunt.	Secretary
Mr Thomas Bell	
Mr Roger Meecham	Treasurer
Mr Robert Brookes	

6. Objects of the Charity

- To promote for the benefit of the public both locally in Yeovil and the wider public within Somerset and Dorset, the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting and maintaining biological diversity, notably, but not exclusively, in the restoration, enhancement and creation of watercourses and any other water features (including multi-function surface features as part of a sustainable drainage system) and their adjoining terrestrial areas. Maintaining biological diversity includes managing and monitoring relevant habitats for the mutual benefit of biodiversity and the public.
- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

7. Organisation of the Charity

- Number of elected Honorary Officers: 3
- Number of representatives of statutory authorities: 2
- Number of paid staff: 3

Note: Two of the trustees are professional ecologists who provide their professional expertise and experience to the Charity

8. Further details of the Charity

- Name and address of Bank: Barclays Bank plc,
King George Street
Yeovil
Somerset
- Insurers: Zurich Insurance
The Zurich Centre
3000 Parkway
Whiteley
Fareham
Hampshire PO15 7JZ

Objectives & Activities

The formation of the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust (YRCT) was spurred by the need to protect the local streams, rivers and ponds together with adjacent natural landscape features, amid growing concern for the environment expressed by the local population as well as a range of organisations including local authorities, the Environment Agency, Somerset Catchment Partnership and other NGOs.

The objectives of the Charity are to promote for the benefit of the wider public, primarily in and around Yeovil, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by:

- Promoting and maintaining biological diversity, notably, but not exclusively, in the restoration, enhancement and creation of water courses and any other water features (including multi-function surface features as part of a sustainable drainage system) and their adjoining terrestrial areas.
- Maintaining biological diversity includes managing and monitoring relevant habitats for the mutual benefit of biodiversity and the public.
- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

Funding to support this activity is sourced solely through public donations and grants from the statutory nature conservation body (SNCO), local authorities and charitable organisations. The Charity's work is managed and undertaken by local volunteers and a small number of part-time staff. Technical advice and project management as well as specialist services are supplied by consultants as required.

Specifically, the needs and activities addressed by the Charity are:

- An independent overview of Planning Applications insofar as they affect the natural flow and diversity of waterbodies and habitats, this activity being undertaken in co-operation with the relevant authorities and organisations.
- Through the deployment of volunteer working parties, undertake physical activities on streams and riverbanks, clearing rubbish, debris and invasive non-native plants and undergrowth. This work is in support of the South Somerset District and Local Councils and their Parish Rangers who have neither the time nor resource to provide this service 100% of the time.
- To carry out surveys of local water courses checking for sustainable wildlife habitat by undertaking water sampling and checking out sources of pollution and reporting formally to the appropriate authorities.

Deliverables resulting from the work of the Charity include:

- The provision of technical/specialist analysis and reports to the appropriate sponsor/authority of the Trusts findings.

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- Provision of hydraulic modelling studies and design drawings for new ponds, wetlands and modified riverbanks etc. as required.
 - Provision of plants, fencing, trees etc in support of new pond and wetland creations.
 - Visual and amenity improvements and ongoing maintenance to existing projects.
 - Learning opportunities for young people via formal programmes integrated with school curriculum and informal events sponsored during school holidays. It is planned to extend this work to local adult groups and organisations with a focus on mental and physical wellbeing and special needs.
 - Active public engagement on environmental issues around rivers and waterways.
 - Physical improvement and extended viability to the local streams and rivers in respect of public accessibility and enjoyment. This includes a healthier and sustainable wildlife habitat. This includes identifying, designing and implementing a range of measures to restore, enhance and create aquatic and terrestrial habitats within the Yeo Catchment.

In addition to the ongoing maintenance and tidying up activities, the Charity has completed a major project (P010) during the financial period and commenced work on three others. The projects numbering ten in total are described in the following section. At the time of reporting, five projects are currently not being worked on as they are held awaiting approval/clearance from sources external to the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust.

The trust also employed three part-time staff within the year to assist with administration, volunteer co-ordination and the delivery of practical project actions, e.g. habitat enhancement and creation.

Achievements and Performance

The following table itemises the major project activity undertaken by the Charity during the reporting period.

Project Identity	Description	% Completion	Deliverables	Funding Status
Dodham Brook Restoration 001 Phase 2	Implementing a number of rehabilitation and enhancement measures in-channel and on the bankside. These included 5 brushwood berms, creation of wildflower areas on the river bank, installing three aquatic benches in-channel and establishing vegetation on them and hinging four trees into the brook. This work was undertaken in a section of the Dodham Brook within the Yeovil Country Park. In addition to enhancing habitat the actions also provide increased public amenity benefits.	100% Subject to on-going monitoring and evaluation	Provision of the actual improvements within the boundary of the Yeovil Country Park including a public demonstration appreciation and learning site.	Funding of £12000 has been received from the Steel Charitable Trust (£8000 to cover this project and £4000 for Project 008). £6000 has been secured from the Postcode Local Trust and £6000 from the Environment Agency. Funding in kind to the value of £5000 was provided by the SSDC
001 Phase 3	Implementation of the physical changes required for rehabilitation of the concrete flood channel containing a section of the Dodham Brook beyond the Yeovil Country Park towards Newton Road.	0% Programme and funding sources to be confirmed. Project go-ahead awaiting formal agreement with the SSDC		A bid for circa £200,000 will be submitted to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund (Second Round) when the round opens in April/May 2021

004	<p>Restoration and long-term maintenance of Brympton Pond.</p> <p>Planned activity: Development of a natural pond which will be semi incorporated into a proposed business park development. Future use and maintenance to be planned.</p>	0%	<p>Following discussion within the YRCT, it is considered that if the focus is changed from public amenity to a closed conservation area, the landowner may be more willing to agree to this project. Project currently on hold.</p>	<p>Awaiting landowners agreement. Project on hold</p>
005	<p>Alvington Lane Pond and Foxglove Way Basin Provision of a pond with enhanced wildlife habitats in area at the end of the hamlet Enhancement of an adjacent balancing pond.</p>	30%	<p>The BPC and SSDC are both supportive. The pond has been re-established on the SSDC land in Alvington Lane and is being monitored. Detailed habitat feature designs have been prepared for implementation in 2021/22 at the pond and Foxglove Way basin. Proposed works include extensive planting and seeding of terrestrial and aquatic species, a complex habitat bank and creation of wet meadow areas.</p>	<p>Estimated cost of works £8000 max. £15,000 grant has been secured from the Bannister Trust and a further bid is in progress with Somerset County Council through their Climate Change Fund. Project P005 is being amalgamated with projects P007 and P009 to form the Brympton Project which will require a total budget of circa £35,000.</p>
006	<p>Brimsmore housing development. Improvements and overall enhancement of the SuDS which will include: stabilisation of water level and improvements in its quality. Cleaning the outlet culvert and stream which are severely silted up.</p>	0%	<p>No activity undertaken in the reporting period. Awaiting the SSDC adoption of the site</p>	<p>No budget in place at this time Project on hold until site is adopted by the SSDC</p>

007	<p>The proposed creation of two ponds/wetlands by the Preston Brook at Lawrence Way in the parish of Brympton had to be abandoned due to the reactivation of a nearby badger sett. Work still started on creating backwaters in the brook, creating a wildflower area and surveying habitats for enhancement and interpretation. An alternative site within the parish has been selected for the rehabilitation of two ponds at Oak Tree Park.</p> <p>The project still has the support of the district and parish councils plus the local junior school for use as a learning experience.</p> <p>This project was integrated with projects P005 and P009 in February 2021.</p>	25%	<p>Work on the backwaters started in February 2021 and a range of surveys and further activities were scheduled from spring 2021 to Spring 2022</p>	<p>Residue of a grant of £2000 provided by Brympton Parish Council in the previous accounting year was used and further funding was secured and planned as detailed for project P005 above.</p>
008	<p>Yeovil Country Park (Ninesprings) Lake, Pond and Water Vole habitat Enhancement</p> <p>The project aims to: Create new aquatic habitats in the lake and pond</p> <p>The project will provide valuable new and enhanced aquatic habitats near the centre of Yeovil which already accommodate endangered species. The proposed enhancements will also augment the works planned for the restoration of Dodham Brook which runs through the country park to the north of the lake and pond. An optimised, resilient network of habitats will thereby be created to support enhanced biodiversity.</p>	20%	<p>Funding was available via the Steel Charitable Trust (see Project 001 Phase 2 above). Surveys of the lake and pond in Yeovil Country Park were carried out in the Summer of 2020 but the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions forced a delay in progressing to detailed design and implementation stages.</p> <p>Work programme to be drawn up with work commencing later in 2021 or early 2022.</p>	<p>A grant has been provided by the Steel Charitable Trust Of £4000</p> <p>See funding discussion for Project 001 Phase 2 above. Further funding is required and additional bids will be made in 2021.</p>

009	Agusta Park residential development. Improvements and enhancement of existing pond and SuDS. Project has been integrated with projects P005 and P007 into the Brympton Project.	0%	Initial discussions held with SSDC and the site Development Company. Formal programme of work to be agreed with developer.	A budget of £4000 has been allocated from the identified budget requirement of £35000 noted in project P005 above. Further funding will be required once permissions are secured from the developer for delivery through a further phase.
010	Yeovil Urban Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) and Surface Water Management study	100%	YRCT successfully delivered the final project report in November 2020 to the SRA, LLFA and other relevant partners in the SCP.	The project was fully funded by the SRA via FWAG(SW).
011	Yeovil Schools Education Outreach Project	Delayed by Covid-19 pandemic	YRCT had delivered practical sessions and classroom sessions for four schools in the programme as part of a pilot scheme up to March 2020. This was successful but could not be taken further due to the Covid-19 pandemic.	Funding bids to support this work will be submitted to private grant providers and the National Lottery in 2021 to implement after restrictions have eased.
012	Upper River Yeo Catchment Strategy. The project is being initiated from funding provided through the Environment Agency. The project aims to prepare a detailed catchment restoration plan for implementing at the landscape scale to address identified environmental issues.	30%	The first phase of the project was delivered between September 2020 and March 2021. Further phases will be delivered over 2021/22 culminating in a final Catchment Strategy for implementing in phases over a number of years. The EA and SCP are very keen to support this project. YRCT has made enquiry from key partners to	A £6000 budget was secured via the EA Partnership Grant for the 2020/21 financial year. A further bid via the same grant will be made in 2021/22 for £25000. A bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund is being considered for

			establish methodology and funding streams to maintain project delivery.	2022.
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Financial Review

- At the end of the reporting period, the total income amounted to £42266 The total expenditure amounted to £30915, thus making a surplus of £11351
- The charity does not currently have any unallocated financial reserves. The credit balance at the end of this financial year represents unspent grant funds which are largely committed to spending on the Dodham Brook Restoration Project and other current projects according to the required expediency in maintaining progress. When further funding has been secured and the prospect of a reserve being retained becomes potentially viable, a discussion will be held among the trustees to agree if such a reserve is required and if so, the amount which should be held, e.g. would a sum to cover fixed costs be an acceptable maximum?
- Funds in deficit - None

Financial Report

The financial status of the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust for the period ending 31st March 2021 is shown in the Accounts Form CC16a for submission to the Charity Commission.

Report Prepared by: Lorne Thomson (Chair – YRCT)

Date: 25/11/2021

Report Approved by: (Trustee – YRCT)

Date:

Definitions & Abbreviations

BPC	Brympton Parish Council
CIO	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
EA	Environment Agency
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
helophyte	plant which grows in marsh, partly submerged
HotSWEP	Heads of South West Local Business Groups
LDC	Land Drainage Consent
macrophyte	aquatic plant that grows in or near water
PA	Planning Application
SCC	Somerset County Council
SSDC	South Somerset District Council
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
YRCT	Yeovil Rivers Community Trust
YTC	Yeovil Town Council



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

No (if any)
1180724

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01-Apr-20

To

Period end date
31-Mar-21

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	1,390	-	-	1,390	1,157
Grants		40,876	-	40,876	35,650
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,390	40,876	-	42,266	36,807
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,390	40,876	-	42,266	36,807
A3 Payments					
Insurance	453	-	-	453	313
Consultancy Fees		22,022	-	22,022	15,926
Data & Services Supply		84	-	84	492
Water samples analysis		-	-	-	993
Handtools & Protective Clothing		412	-	412	126
Website/media	295	-	-	295	1,114
Miscellaneous /expenses	362	492	-	855	500
Project Site Works		3,976	-	3,976	1,963
Staff wages/PAYE/Pensions	420	2,398	-	2,818	-
Sub total	1,531	29,384	-	30,915	21,427
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,531	29,384	-	30,915	21,427
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 141	11,492	-	11,351	15,381
A5 Transfers between funds	516	516	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	15,543	-	15,543	162
Cash funds this year end	375	26,519	-	26,894	15,543

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Current Account	375	26,519	-
	Bank Reserve Account	-	-	-
	Cash in hand	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	375	26,519	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	SCC Climate Emergency Community Fund grant re Project 007 via Brympton PC	-	22,400	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	General & specialised handtools	Unrestricted	438	15
	Protective clothing	Unrestricted	100	25
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Accountancy Fees		180	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Yeovil Rivers Community Trust ("the charity") for the period ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 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 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 in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these 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.



Michelle Ferris FCA

Albert Goodman LLP
Chartered Accountants
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date: 02 December 2021