

Charity registration number: 1182997

SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX CIO

**Financial Statements for the Year Ended
31 March 2023**



SustainableSussex

Experience | Education | Employment | Environment

SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX CIO

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name Sustainable Sussex CIO

Charity registration number 1182997

Principal office

Sompting Estate Office
Lambleys Lane
Worthing
West Sussex
BN14 9JX

Trustees

Liane Webb
Mike Tristram
Ruth Kenward
Keith Colin
Gerard Cronin

www.facebook.com/SustainableSussex

SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Structure, governance and management

The trust is governed by a Trust Deed dated 15 April 2019.

Trustees have kept under review the major risks facing the trusts and have taken appropriate steps to manage them.

Objectives and activities

Sustainable Sussex supports people who find accessing the workplace difficult through providing real-work experience and education on and around Sompting Estate. Activities include gardening, building, carpentry, animal care, mindfulness, crafts and making value added products and selling them as part of their social enterprise Sussex Chilli Farm. Sustainable Sussex is developing The Fen Farm - Sompting community farm, nature trail and community orchard, in partnership with Sompting Estate.

Reserves policy

Funds are held at the year end, all for intended use in the following year with none consciously held as longer term reserves. Funds will be raised for future activities.

Risk assessment

The trustees have considered the various risks to which the trust is potentially exposed, and are satisfied that adequate measures are in place to identify, assess and mitigate the effects of these risks.

Public benefit reporting

The Trustees understand how the above objects of the charity are beneficial to the public, and confirm that they have regard to guidelines from the Charity Commission on the same.

Achievements and Performance

This reporting period saw a significant increase in activity as some charity beneficiaries returned post pandemic and more new volunteer-beneficiaries joined the ranks. The installation of shared temporary volunteer facilities, including a tea-room and composting toilet helped towards attracting people to the projects. A view was taken by trustees and project leaders to develop a strong core team of volunteers who may become leaders themselves later on and allow the charity to safely increase capacity as it grows. This has meant implementing a somewhat stricter volunteer-beneficiary application and trial period process than we have traditionally used. This is to ensure that work on the farm remains productive and safe, while also demonstrating to all, the mixed needs groups and work ethos that is core to our vision.

Volunteer sessions were expanded from two days a week to three in order to build additional capacity. Total number of beneficiary opportunities delivered over the reporting period were in excess of 530 with over 2500 hours of volunteer work by mixed-need beneficiaries.

The charity supported a partnership with Sompting Parish Council and a local conservation grazing shepherd who has additional needs - through performing vaccinations and fly-strike treatment and prevention.

Volunteers attended training sessions including first aid, DBS training and child safeguarding and fundraising training to further develop the charity's reach and observe legal compliance.

SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT, continued

Achievements and Performance. Continued

Sustainable Sussex recruited a volunteer fundraiser and a social media and website developer. The fundraising volunteer was successful in gaining funds from Sussex Community Foundation towards the market garden development and commercial poly tunnel to aid germination of seeds for crops that are donated to beneficiaries, local food banks and for sale to offer beneficiaries real-work experience and cash handling skills. Southern Water granted £3,000 towards an educational Green Roof Cycle Shelter - part funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund via partnership with the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust and Sompting Estate. This partnership also saw the installation of shared tea-room, composting toilet and the cycle shelter on the community farm site.

Sustainable Sussex's social enterprise Sussex Chilli Farm was re-started in February 2023 - a month later than was ideal due to leader's health problems. Some 400 seeds were sown and the plants tended throughout the reporting period with anticipated harvest from July to October in the next reporting period.

Food donations to beneficiaries, food banks and other community projects exceeded 350Kg of fresh produce as well as donations of value added products - namely Sussex Chilli Farm chilli infused salts to help local CICs and other groups to raise funds, while raising the profile of the charity.

Sustainable Sussex's partnership with The Sustainable Mind delivered mental health interventions including mindful-in-nature walks and retreats and encouraged several attendees to volunteer for the charity and engage in regular community activities.

Unfortunately the Sustainable Sussex minibus previously donated by Sompting Big Local was written off by youths who broke into the site and smashed the majority of the windows. The insurance payment was insufficient to replace the vehicle and so this was used for other operating costs. This incident forced us to install CCTV. Another criminal incident involved youths damaging said CCTV equipment, smashing the compost toilet window and kicking the door in. As Sussex Police were limited in their response, our own enquiries using CCTV images seemed to put a stop to the trespassing. Site security, asset safety and monitoring by CCTV will now take a more prominent role in managing the site and the charity's equipment into the future. These incidents highlighted the need for community engagement in the area and to share ownership of the community farm with local families.

Voluntary donations were made by Ace Football Academy, Waitrose, The Sustainable Mind, Agecraft and Sompting Estate as well as multiple individual donors.

Sustainable Sussex collaborated with Agecraft CIC to deliver a 'Weaving Wool Together' project, working with beneficiaries to tend sheep, watch them being shawn, taking part in washing and natural dying and then weaving, wet felting, needle-felting and finally producing a collaborative artwork that was displayed at Collonade House in Worthing Town Centre.

<https://colonnadehouse.co.uk/project/weaving-wool-together/>

Sustainable Sussex also raised additional funds through charitable trading with sales of fresh produce as well as value added goods through their social enterprise, Sussex Chilli Farm. All of these sales were direct and by charity beneficiaries, usually at community events or via word-of-mouth.

SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT, continued

Financial review

The charity ended the period with £193 of Unrestricted funds. It also had £12,755 of restricted purpose grant funds. The trust aims to hold sufficient funds to ensure the day to day operations continue, and to contribute to future activities. Whilst trustees aspire in the future to develop a 6-12 month reserve so as to assure future continuity, no minimum reserve level is currently held. Operational funds are raised as and when needed including as backstop from our principal funding partner the Sompting Estate.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M G Tristram', written over a horizontal line.

M G Tristram

Date: 8 January 2024

SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX CIO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Income from:					
Donations from businesses		2,000	-	2,000	5,000
Donations from charities		1,075	9,495	10,570	-
Project funding		8,400	-	8,400	8,400
Insurance claim		3,250	-	3,250	-
Charitable activities:					
Trading activities		620	-	620	500
Grant income		-	-	-	12,955
Total income		15,345	9,495	24,840	26,855
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	2	17,054	7,703	24,757	14,487
Total expenses		17,054	7,703	24,757	14,487
Net income/(expenditure)		(1,710)	1,792	83	12,368
Total funds brought forward		1,903	10,963	12,866	498
Total funds carried forward		193	12,755	12,949	12,866

There were no recognised gains or losses for 2023 or 2022 other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX CIO**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Office equipment			-		147
Current assets					
Debtors	98		-		
Cash at bank		13,008		17,286	
		<u>13,106</u>		<u>17,286</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(157)		(4,567)	
Net current assets			<u>12,949</u>		<u>12,719</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>12,949</u>		<u>12,866</u>
			<u><u>12,949</u></u>		<u><u>12,866</u></u>
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds			193		1,903
Restricted funds			12,755		10,963
Total Funds			<u><u>12,949</u></u>		<u><u>12,866</u></u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by



M G Tristram

Date: 8 January 2024

1 Principal accounting policies***Basis of accounting***

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice FRS 102 (SORP) applicable to charities.

Incoming resources

All other income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recorded once the charity has made an unconditional commitment to pay and is accounted for on an accruals basis.

2 Charitable activities expenditure

	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds
Direct charitable activities spend				
Costs of direct charitable activities	7,438	7,703	15,141	3,709
Advertising & Marketing	(63)	-	(63)	130
Consulting	8,400	-	8,400	8,520
Minibus	-	-	-	661
Telephone & Internet	57	-	57	269
Insurance	627	-	627	914
Stationery and Computer	448	-	448	284
Accountancy	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	147	-	147	-
	17,054	7,703	24,757	14,487

3

Liane Webb and Keith Colin received payment for their services to the charity of £4,200 and £4,200 respectively (2022: £4,320 and £4,200).

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX CIO**

I report on the accounts of the charitable trust for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed under its constitution.

It is my responsibility to

examine the financial statements (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) the 2011 Act), and
state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Alexander Spofforth FCA for and on behalf of Spofforth Partners Limited
Chartered Accountants
Byne Cottage, Manley's Hill
Storrington. West Sussex RH20 4BN

Date: 8 January 2024