



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/1/23 **To** 31/12/23

Charity name: Irvine Road Community Orchard

Charity registration number: 1183649

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Irvine Road Orchard, Colchester
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>To fulfil its purpose, the charity will restore, manage, promote and celebrate this ancient orchard and its wildlife for the public benefit.</p> <p>Our aim is to engage the community in achieving its purpose and to rely on volunteers to undertake a range of activities including – site management, fundraising, education, community engagement, fruit harvesting, and communication.</p> <p>The CIO was registered in May 2019 in anticipation of taking on a fifty year lease for the Orchard. We expected to take on the lease in early 2020 but Brexit and Covid19 slowed building on the part of the Orchard allocated for development, and the lease was not enacted until 20/5/21.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Statutory Declaration The IRCO Trustees consider that they have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the 2006 Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Commission on charitable purposes and public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	We do not intend to award grants.
		We do not envisage having funds to make

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	investments but have chosen our bank (co-op) based on its ethical credentials.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	IRCO is run entirely by volunteers with an estimated annual contribution in 2023 of over 665 hours: Notes: 272 Site management 318 Governance, fundraising, comms 75 Events
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>We completed our major fundraising effort during 2023, hitting the £45k target required to extend our lease of the Orchard to 999 years.</p> <p>We raised £41k in grants from Colchester City Council, the Tudwick Foundation, the Essex Community Foundation and the Postcode Lottery Donations with more local sources (eg the open days, quizzes, street sales, street party and personal donations) ensuring we have sufficient funds to complete the purchase whilst still leaving financial reserves at a healthy level. We expect to complete the signing of the new lease in 2024.</p> <p>We ran a fruit tree pruning course and a fungi foray, each for the second time. We held two open day type events but had to cancel the planned fruit pressing day due to a lack of fruit which we ascribed to the weather over the summer.</p> <p>Work parties continued throughout the year where the highlights were using a loaned chipper to recycle material generated on-site and the installation of an owl box made by community volunteers.</p> <p>During the year, we kept people informed of the state of play through the Residents' Association (newsletter, emails, noticeboard and Facebook page) and via the Orchard Facebook page. We used these to advertise for new Trustees who we appointed early in 2024.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	We raised £46149 during the year and incurred expenditure of £5123 leaving our financial reserves at £44802 at the end of the year with £40,500 earmarked for concluding the extension of the lease on the Orchard
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We will need to maintain financial reserves but do not expect our normal running costs to be greater than £1k per annum. We could run the operation, for a time, on considerably less if we had to. We will also fundraise for specific projects we wish to run.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£44,802.00
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>We would expect to raise funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - through voluntary donations - through events (sometimes in partnership with the Residents' Association) - corporate sponsorship and donations - grants
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We have yet to ascertain, beyond doubt, the long-term appetite of the community to get engaged in supporting and managing the Orchard – but evidence so far suggests that this risk is unlikely to materialise. 2) All the uncertainties and risks associated with land ownership – trespass, neighbourhood disputes, vandalism. The active engagement of the new residents abutting the Orchard has minimised this risk. 3) There is always a risk that the current landowner changes his current collaborative approach and looks to find ways to break the lease, returning the site to his control, or sells the land to someone who does likewise.

		Securing the 999 year lease will reduce this risk. Maintaining the relationship with him will continue to be important for the Trustees to pay attention to
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution (based on the foundation model of a CIO)
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	We are constituted as a CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The Irvine Road Area Residents' Association may appoint four charity trustees. Each appointment must be for a term of three years. The charity trustees can appoint three trustees for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	None
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Irvine Road Community Orchard
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1183649
Charity's principal address	17 Irvine Road Colchester Essex CO3 3TS

**Names of the charity
trustees who manage the
charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Shaun Thomas	Chair	
2	Simon Amstutz		
3	Sarah Jane Carter		
4	Katherine Sandercock	Treasurer	
5	Gavin Sandercock		
6	Willi Otto Emrich		
7	Victoria Thomas	Secretary	
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Irvine Road Community Orchard

1183649

Receipts and payments accounts


CC16a

For the period from	01/01/23	To	Period end date 31/12/23
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants				41,000	-
Fundraising via local giving				1,920	-
fundraising other eg open days/sales				3,229	-
					-
					-
					-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)				46 149	1,267
(see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	46 149	1,267
A3 Payments					
Insurance		-	-	156	-
Workshop invoice		-	-	150	-
Orchard sundries (boxes, trees etc)		-	-	137	-
website fees and design		-	-	180	-
Legal fees		-	-	4,500	-
		-	-		-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	5,123	464
A4 Asset and investment					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments				5,123	464
Net of receipts/(payments)				41,026	803
A5 Transfers between funds					-
A6 Cash funds last year end				3,776	2,973
Cash funds this year end				44 802	3,776

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			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	44 802		-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	#VALUE!	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Kate Sandercock	25/06/2024	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

IRVINE ROAD COMMUNITY ORCHARD

On accounts for the year
ended

31/12/23

Charity no
(if any)

1183649

Set out on pages

1 AND 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

Signed:

M S Sipp

Date:

21/6/24

Name:

HELEN SIPP

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

N/A

Address:

30 IRVINE ROAD

COLCHESTER

CO3 3TR

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

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.