



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/1/25 **To** 31/12/25

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 50 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 initial lease was not enacted until 20/5/21.</p> <p>In 2023, we raised £45k to purchase a new 999 year lease that took effect on 8 August 2024.</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	
	Para 1.38	We do not intend to award grants.

Policy on grant making		
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	We do not envisage having funds to make 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 2025 of over 830 hours: Notes: 264 Site management 434 Governance, fundraising, comms 136 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	We ran our second Wassail in January and an Apple Blossom Open Day in April – both were well attended. The Wassail was enhanced by the performances and participation of AnnieMation, a local Clog Morris group. The fruit pressing in September was a welcome success - lots of fruit, perhaps due to the Wassail!, lots of attendees and the sun shone. We hosted more visits to the Orchard by a local junior school as part of their Forest Schools programme and we hope these will continue. We also hosted a stand at a local event celebrating Essex Orchards. Our third fungi foray in October revealed further new species in the Orchard. We ran our third tree pruning course and work parties continued throughout the year where the highlights were using a loaned chipper to recycle material generated on-site; building a couple of "dead" hedges to increase the range of wildlife habitats; and removing considerable amounts of bramble, ivy and a large sycamore. We also secured a grant of £1920 from the National Lottery community Fund to revise the Management Plan which will be undertaken in 2026.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	Para 1.41	
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Achievements against objectives set		
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 £2709 during the year and incurred expenditure of £657. As a result, our financial reserves ended the year at £3893. We plan to spend £1920 of our reserves on a new management plan during 2026.
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	£3893
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 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 has reduced 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	Wayne Bennison		
3	Nicholas Binns		
4	Katherine Sandercock	Treasurer	
5	Gavin Sandercock		
6	Willi Otto Emrich		
7	Victoria Thomas	Secretary	
8	Sarah Jane Carter		
9	Simon Amstutz		
10			
11			
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13			
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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

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For the period from	01/01/25	To	Period end date 31/12/25
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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				1,920	-
Fundraising donations				480	-
Open days				309	-
					-
					-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)				2709	1,263
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	2709	1,263
A3 Payments					
Insurance		-	-	168	
Workshop invoices		-	-	214	
Orchard sundries (boxes, trees etc)		-	-	240	
Website fees and design		-	-	35	
		-	-		
		-	-		-
		-	-		-
		-	-		-
Sub total		-	-	657	44,225
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments				657	
Net of receipts/(payments)				2,051	
A5 Transfers between funds				-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end				1,842	
Cash funds this year end				3,893	

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 (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			-
		OK	OK	OK

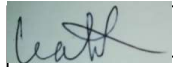
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Kate Sandercock	19/05/2026