

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Reference and administrative information

Thorns Community Trust (TCT) is a registered charity, no. 1184065. TCT trades under the name Brambles Pre-School and Out of School Club (Brambles). Brambles is located on the site of Thorns Community Infant School (Thorns), and continues to maintain close links with the school. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DS.

TCT is overseen by a committee of Trustees. There are three types of trustee:

Ex-officio - the head teacher of Thorns Community Infant School

Nominated - Trustees who are appointed by the governing body of Thorns Community Infant School, and

Co-opted – Trustees who have been appointed by the TCT committee of Trustees as a consequence of their particular professional skills.

TRUSTEES WHO SERVED DURING THE YEAR		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
David Webber	Trustee	Nominated
TRUSTEES MANAGING TCT AT THE TIME THIS REPORT IS SIGNED		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated
Liz Bradbury	Trustee	Ex-officio

Structure, Governance and Management

TCT is governed by a constitution, which was written in June 2019. The trust was created to convert an existing Charity (Thorns Community Trust No. 1071096) to a CIO. The purpose of this decision was to provide greater protection to the board of Trustees in the event that the charity became insolvent.

In 2022-23, the Trustees met four times. In November 2019 on advice from Warwickshire County Council the Trust decided not to proceed with the conversion due to the Inadequate Ofsted rating received in November 2019. The resultant repercussions of Covid 19 meant that inspections were halted and as in the previous year the decision was made not to convert until a "Good Inspection" result was achieved.

In January 2022 the setting received a rating of "Good" after Ofsted inspection. The board felt that a period of consolidation was necessary, given the disruptions of the previous years. It was decided to formally pursue the conversion in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Governance of Brambles during this year was overseen by the Board of Thorns Community Trust (1071096).

The day-to-day management of Brambles is delegated to the manager of Brambles, who is supported by a deputy manager. TCT also (via its predecessor charity) contracts a direct employee who is responsible for day to day administration and business management. Operational reports are made by the Brambles manager and the business administrator (who is responsible for finance) at most Trustee meetings.

Objectives, activities and performance

The main aim of TCT is to provide high quality child care to young children between the ages of 2 years 9 months and eleven years through the provision of a Pre-School, Out of School Club and Holiday Club.

In effect, Brambles fulfils the obligation of Thorns Community Infant School by way of its extended hours provision.

Public benefit

Brambles is a pre-school, out of school club and holiday club setting that provides reasonably priced childcare and educational benefit to the local community. The Trustees, always seek to bear in mind that TCT is a charity and that they have a responsibility to act in the public interest. At the time of signing this report all serving Trustees had read the guidance published by the Charities Commission on public benefit.

Financial Review

For the year ending 31 August 2020, TCT made no financial transactions. No Trustees received remuneration of any kind.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true

and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SOFA;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above

Signed on behalf of the TCT's Trustees:

Signature	
Full Names	Jonathan Wright
Positions	Trustee
Date	27/06/2024

Thorns Community Trust

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES Year ended August 2023

Income from:

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other trading activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Expenditure on:

Caritable Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Net Expenditure / Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Reconciliation of Funds

Funds brought forward	0	0	0	0	0	0
Funds carried forward	0	0	0	0	0	0