



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From

16-12-19 To

31-5-21

Charity name: Benson Community Green Space Trust

Charity registration number: 1186960

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The constitution establishing BCGST sets out the objective of the CIO as being to further or benefit the inhabitants of the parishes of Benson and Berrick Salome and the neighbourhood without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
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	The Trust owns Warwick Spinney, a community nature reserve on the edge of Benson village, which it manages to provide nature-rich access to the outdoors for the benefit of the people in the area. There is strong scientific evidence that access to nature-rich green spaces is beneficial to people's physical and mental well-being. And there is a mutually reinforcing relationship with volunteering - additional benefits for individuals and communities accrue when opportunities are offered to help look after these places; physical exercise, a sense of community and connection, and the wildlife benefits too. There are multiple wins.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The trustees have noted the published guidance, and are confident that the Trust's planning and activities are undertaken so as to ensure that benefits are provided to the residents of the area defined in the charity's constitution.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-benefit-rules-for-charities</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	<p>The trust may make grants, subject to there being sufficient surplus - its constitution gives trustees the power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. But at present the Trustees do not believe there is sufficient surplus to do so.</p>
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	<p>The trust does not have a social investment programme, although its constitution gives trustees the power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so</p>
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>The Trust draws on the support of volunteers to manage Warwick Spinney, with tasks including the maintenance of footpaths, planting and laying of hedges, and mowing of the meadow to maintain the biodiversity interest. Volunteers are generally drawn from Wallingford Green Gym, although the volunteer coordinator draws on the support of Benson Nature Group to organise and run events.</p> <p>Supporting volunteering better, making it easy for them to undertake the work that the Trust relies on, for example by ensuring equipment is available on site, has been an important feature of the Trustees work in the reporting period. The estimate of volunteers is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Coordinator 6 BNG volunteers 8 Green Gym 6 RAF 75 Community tree-plant volunteers <p>For more detail, see below.</p>

Other		
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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<p>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.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>This reporting period is the first for the CIO in its current form, following the winding up of a previous version of the charity. The Trust has concentrated on establishing itself, recruiting and inducting an additional trustee, setting up a new bank account and a set of simple organisational arrangements. With that completed, the Trust then concentrated on addressing a number of fundamental issues on the site.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As noted above, we work closely with Benson Nature Group and an array of volunteers to manage the site, including a local coordinator and 8 Green Gym volunteers. A successful grant application in Spring 2019 (prior to the current Trust being established) funded the purchase of an array of tools to aid site mgmt. One of the enablers identified for building a stronger volunteer ethos in the village is providing on-site tool storage. In this period, the Trustees successfully bid for local authority grant funding to buy a suitable shed. They also drew in new volunteer support from 6 locally based RAF personnel to construct the shed. 2. Supporting public access to Warwick Spinney is a key driver for the Trust. The gate to the site was in a very poor state of repair, meaning that the site appeared unloved; And furthermore, it was vulnerable to trespass [an issue that did result in a problem with travellers occupying the site in April 21. The Trustees developed a plan to replace the gate, supported in part by a substantial donation by a local resident member of Wallingford and Didcot Rotary. The gate was procured and installed in May 21. (The private donation and grant from the Benson Bulletin, a local CIC, to help cover the cost of the gate were credited to our accounts in the next reporting period.) 3. With partners, Benson Nature Group, the Trustees hosted a community tree-planting event in March 20 to continue work on a boundary hedge, a measure designed to increase the wildlife value of the site and provide a pollution and noise screen along the adjacent road. The event attracted 80 volunteers. We know from monitoring local social media activity that the community responds very well to this kind of event - it fosters a sense of community well-being. Plans for further community events went on hold due to the need to meet social distancing rules during the Covid-19 pandemic.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Through the successful and considered use of grant applications the financial accounts are in a healthy position. The charity has sufficient reserves to cover regular outgoing payments
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Charity holds a reserve of funds, which is needed to cover ongoing liabilities such as annual site/ public liability insurance at Warwick Spinney. Investment in infrastructure and activities is only possible therefore through grants, donations and other fund-raising. A future task for the Trustees will be the development of a funding strategy.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	At the end of the reporting the charity held reserves of £4312.18.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	The fund is not materially in deficit
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

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	The Trust can seek to raise funds through applying for grants and inviting donations (by publicising what it does) and legacies.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A

A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>Risks include: Injury or death of a user or volunteer. Theft of tools stored on the site.</p> <p>The Trust is insured in respect of both of these risks.</p> <p>Another risk is that the Trust may be hampered in achieving its objectives if it is unable to attract community volunteer support to manage the site. The Trust is managing this risk by investing with local partners in developing a shared Volunteering Strategy.</p>
Other		<p>The charity has a number of assets in addition to Warwick Spinney, the small nature reserve it owns. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A storage shed for tools A metal gate A security bollard at entrance

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	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	<p>The approach to selection of trustees is set out in the constitution -</p> <p><i>‘every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees, and</i></p> <p><i>In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.’</i></p> <p>The constitution also sets out that a new Trustee must expressly acknowledge that they accept the office of trustee.</p>

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	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Benson Community Green Space Trust
Other name the charity uses	Benson Green Space Trust
Registered charity number	1186960
Charity's principal address	15 Castle Square Benson Wallingford Oxon OX10 6SD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Edel McGurk	Chair		Any trustee
2	Jon Fowler	Treasurer		Any trustee
3	Helen Stevenson	Trustee		Any trustee
4	Emma Simpson	Trustee		Any trustee
5	Dave Rushton	Trustee		Any trustee

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

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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None		

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

The CIO has no staff

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Nothing to declare

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Edel McGurk

Full name(s)

EDEL MCGURK

Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)

CHAIR

Date

13-03-22

