



Speen Allotment Association CIO
Charity Number 1191276
Trustees Annual Report
2024

Speen Allotment Association (SAA) became a CIO on 14 September 2020. This is the charity's annual report covering the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Objectives

To further or benefit the residents of the parish of Speen, Newbury, Berkshire and the surrounding area, without distinction of gender, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by providing allotment facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreational leisure time occupation with the objective of improving their healthy lifestyle choices, including physical and mental well-being.

Public benefit

The Trustees are made aware of the Constitution and the three Charity Commission guideline documents on public benefit PB1, PB2 and PB3.

Trustees

John Headland – Chair
Nicola (Nicky) Jenkins – Secretary
Colin Mansell – Treasurer
Martin Wiltshire
Lynne Roberts
Jonathan Fitch

Governance

The CIO constitution is that of an association with voting members other than the Trustees. The Board of Trustees is elected by the members and comprises the CIO's management team. The Constitution provides for up to nine (9) Trustees. We have three vacancies.

Each Trustee is made aware of the contents of the charity's constitution and their terms of office, holding their posts for at least two years before retiring and offering themselves for re-election.

SAACIO Trustees meet formally on a quarterly basis at minuted meetings. Individually, Trustees are involved informally in dealing with day-to-day issues on site that arise that affect members.

Background

SAA has a 70-year lease on the land at Station Road, Speen, Newbury.

The land bordering the allotments on its southern and western sides is now owned by David Wilson Homes (DWH) who are currently pursuing various planning applications with West

Berkshire Council (WBC) to deliver a major housing development that will have implications for the allotments and its members.

Throughout 2024 the Trustees monitored planning applications submitted by DWH and made representations where appropriate to DWH, Speen Parish Council and WBC. At the time of writing this report the Trustees are aware that all planning applications have been granted and designated outline planning consent. The building works are now in full flow. The Trustees are monitoring how DWH is complying with relevant planning conditions particularly those that have both direct and indirect implications for the allotments/members.

The Trustees recognise that some planning and development issues require further clarification, namely:

- the, as yet undeveloped, emergency access road (EVAR) adjoining our southern border;
- the state of the trees overhanging the EVAR and our site;
- designation of the strip of land adjacent to our western border;
- Station Road access to our main gate;
- security and the placement of bollards on the EVAR;
- the impact building work will have in terms of building dust etc ingress;
- potential changes to the flow of water into our site, and;
- the possibility of bus stop development on Station Road which will, in effect, remove members' ability to park alongside our site.

Trustees attended meetings of the Speen Parish Council's Planning Committee, WBC and made representations on behalf of the SAA members regarding the adverse impact the proposed parking would have.

During the prolonged dry spells in 2024 the Trustees had to use the mains water supply by introducing quantities of water into the existing water infrastructure. This proved to be an extremely onerous task. As a result, the Trustees sought advice from local contractors to identify a method of integrating the mains water supply into the existing infrastructure without losing water to the river whilst minimising the cost to members. A project outline was developed but unfortunately it proved difficult to obtain quotes from contractors in time to commence the planned work ahead of the 2024 'growing season'.

I'm pleased to report the project was successfully completed in 2024 and we have now completed the initial phase of water supply improvement by adding a mains water feed into the main header tank to ensure tanks are full in periods of drought. In addition new water storage tanks have been installed across the site to maximise the impact of access to water.

Activities and achievements

The past year has seen us make strides forward on several fronts and, despite the weather doing its best to challenge us, it was a good year overall for SAACIO trustees and members, as partially evidenced by the annual plot judging, with some excellent 'allotmenteeing' across the site. Indeed:

- Our membership remained stable with all pilots fully allocated and a healthy waiting list in place. This ensured good continuity, not to mention the delight of new members of all ages joining our association;
- Our annual events proved popular once again with welcome contributions from members for the Speen Fete, BBQ, food bank and working parties;
- Our major spend was our water project in 2024, which as a result gave rise to a deficit of around £60 for the reporting period. Detail is included as part of the Trustees' attached accounting reports;
- Plot fees and shed rental costs remained stable covering the reporting period;
- We extended the raffle ticket allocation to 1,000 tickets in 2024 and approximately £650 was made, before costs, as a result of our efforts. This fund-raising vehicle remained an invaluable income stream;
- We presented prize winners cups for best plot, runner up and best newcomer at our summer BBQ alongside the raffle ticket draw. The weather complied and a great time was had by all! Thanks to all who made it happen as well as the generous raffle donations from neighbouring businesses and individuals;
- Trustees met on a number of occasions and were able to discuss strategies for maintaining the site, with one eye continuously on the housing development. To achieve these objectives the Trustees again successfully applied to Greenham Trust's Tree Project;
- Members continued to harvest as much water as possible and most members with sheds have now fitted guttering. Storing harvested water remained a priority, as it will in the future;
- We continued to maintain positive relations with Speen Parish Council and other local Councillors. In future we will apply for grant aid to assist with any agreed improvements.
- Throughout the summer the Trustees encouraged Members to donate their surplus produce to the West Berkshire Food Bank. Deliveries were made to the food bank each Monday.
- The Secretary has managed the waiting list very effectively this year by, yet again, generously giving her time in order to meet prospective members on site whenever appropriate. It is pleasing to see that some members are encouraging their friends to help, thereby promoting our core objective.

Brief Financial Notes

The SAA's primary sources of income continue to be allotment rents and Membership fees. Alternative, on-line methods of payment, introduced directly as a result of Covid, have continued and it is pleasing that Members have accepted these arrangements wholeheartedly.

Annually, SAA provides access to a supply of compost/manure purchased at favourable. In 2024 a supplier delivered some 250 (80ltr) bags of compost and all were pleased with the quality.

The Trustees' budget aimed to break-even, whilst trying to maintain rent levels that are noticeably lower than the Town Council's; the latter includes water supplies.

Mains water was used when necessary in periods of drought. The Trustees arranged for the mains supply to feed into the existing infrastructure and took regular meter readings for cost monitoring purposes. As yet no charges to members have been levied and the costs continue to be monitored.

The Treasurer prepares an annual budget ahead of the AGM and this is used by the Trustees to determine whether or not any increase will be necessary. Rent levels are voted on by members at the time of an AGM and increases take effect from the following year.

Refundable deposits for new members were introduced when the CIO started to cover the costs involved in restoring to a reasonable standard any plots given up where no work had been undertaken. This initiative has been well-received and is working well.

The CIO now has a reserves policy and provides members with a Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Reserves are earmarked separately for tree and water projects, sheds, refundable deposits and a general fund.

The accounts show that the CIO made a small loss over the reporting period in line with previous years and expectations.

John Headland

SAACIO

Charity Name Speen Allotment Association CIO		No (if any) 1191276		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2024	

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					
Membership fees	175		-	175	156
Allotment rents	1,081		-	1,081	1,009
Refundable deposits		275	-	275	200
Shed rents		80	-	80	80
Fundraising (net)	1,168		-	1,168	697
Manure/Compost	1,901		-	1,901	28
Donations	22		-	22	2
Other	29		-	29	
NWB interest	89		-	89	68
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4,465	355	-	4,820	2,240
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,465	355	-	4,820	2,240
A3 Payments					
Insurance	355		-	355	344
Rent	103		-	103	103
Compost/Manure	2,280		-	2,280	-
Tree project	-		-	-	-
Fundraising costs	224		-	224	151
Site maintenance	1,460		-	1,460	86
Water usage	87		-	87	118
Water standing charges	56		-	56	45
BBQ	120		-	120	72
Equipment service	-		-	-	180
Equipment purchase	-		-	-	239
Admin	189		-	189	83
Other miscellaneous expenditure	2		-	2	118
Sub total	4,876	-	-	4,876	1,539
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,876	-	-	4,876	1,539
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 411	355	-	- 56	701
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 411	355	-	- 56	701

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	General fund	4,061		-
	Water project		-	
	Tree project		450	
	Refundable deposits		825	-
	Shed rents		240	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	4,061	1,515	-

Agreement Error

Agreement Error

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	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	Sheds	Restricted	600	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	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
	Colin Mansell	28/03/2025
	John Headland	28/03/2025