

Grow Together CIO

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

Charity Number 1193728

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Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Full name Grow Together CIO

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1193728

Principal address Wycliffe United Reformed Church,
The Common, Evington, Leicester, LE5 6EA.

Trustees

Diane Bell
Shantilal Chauhan
Benjamin Brown

Independent examiner

Kanti Solanki

Governance and management

The organisation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered on the 8 March 2021. The charity was established under a Foundation Model Constitution which establishes the objectives and powers of the charitable incorporated organisation and is governed under its Constitution.

Trustees are appointed in line with the constitution. Appointments are for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity are:

1. To provide facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation by providing growing areas and other activities for individuals in Leicester, Leicestershire and the surrounding area, who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.
2. The relief of poverty or financial hardship by providing food grown in community growing spaces in Leicester and Leicestershire and given to those in need as serviced by food banks and charities concerned with the relief of poverty or financial hardship in Leicester and Leicestershire.
3. To advance education for the public benefit in the subjects of horticulture, conservation of natural resources and improvement of the environment in particular by providing opportunities for learning in horticulture and environmental protection.
4. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Grow Together runs two weekly food growing and gardening clubs for people in Leicester at GraceWorks Community Gardens. There is an active group of 20 to 30 people who engage with activities.

The clubs and workshops have been tailored to the range of needs and abilities within the community. The sessions have included advice and training on sustaining the soil, planting, growing, composting and preparing food.

Volunteers have developed a thriving community garden. They grow and nurture a wide range of fruit, vegetables and pollinating plants. The produce grown is used at the community garden and in the wider community.

Grow Together reaches out into the wider community and has developed and maintains growing spaces at Downing Drive, Evington Village Green, the Village Hall, Horston Hill, Spencefield Drive and the Graceworks Community Garden.. All these sites are part of the Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme. The campaign encourages the community to come together and make their neighbourhood a cleaner and greener place to live.

Teams of volunteers plant up local beds, tubs and troughs with pollinators and floral displays. Alongside this the group carry out regular litter picks in the local area.

Grow Together has partnered with Community of Grace and the Evington Orchard Group to put on a number of public events during the year. This has included plant sales and an apple pressing day. These activities have been great events to bring the community together as well as generating income for the charity.

Alongside the food growing, the charity has worked in partnership with Community of Grace and the Orchard Group charities to provide fresh food for vulnerable and isolated members of our community. The food that is grown is used to prepare meals at the community centre for people who are isolated or vulnerable and also given out in packs that are delivered to people who are in need within Leicester.

Surplus plants from the gardening activities were sold at a local plant sale to raise money for the charity.

Grow Together CIO

Summary of the main achievements during the period

Community Gardening

The main achievement of the Charity for the period 2023-2024 was the delivery of regular workshops two days a week.

For some periods special groups were hosted such as young people from The Princes Trust and volunteers from work placements.

Graceworks Garden was awarded 'Most Inspiring Community Garden' by East Midlands in Bloom for 2023.

Community Beds and Planters in Evington

Grow Together has maintained and improved beds and planters across the Evington area of Leicester, helping to provide positive activity and improve the natural environment in our city. These areas are subject to Site Agreements with Leicester City Council each year where volunteers undertake to care for plants and maintain the bordering hedges and grass verges. They are continually developed with fresh planting of shrubs, bulbs and annuals each spring/summer and autumn.

Food Provision for people who are isolated or vulnerable

The charity has provided a wealth of fresh fruit and vegetables from the community garden that has been used to feed weekly drop in sessions as well as being distributed at the local food bank.

Community Events

A fund raising event was held in May. Stalls for local art and craft sales were rented out as well as sales of plants, second hand books and refreshments.

Apple Day was held in October for members of the local community to prepare apple juice from their own garden harvest and from local community orchards.

The charity's policy on reserves

The policy of the Trustees of the Charity is to retain monies in reserve for use in the event of emergencies. Our target for unrestricted reserves is £5000. As the Charity is small and has very limited reserves it is not yet in a position to designate funds beyond this amount, but in future years monies in excess of the reserve target will be designated for future projects or redistributed.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed Diane M. Bell Date 01/02/2025

Diane Bell, Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Grow Together CIO
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on pages 6 and 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

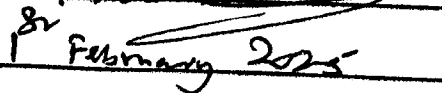
have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date



Receipts	Notes	2023	2024
		£	£
RHS Award Voucher		00.00	60.00
Plant Sales		250.00	72.00
Donations		158.88	370.00
Total Receipts		408.88	502.00
Payments			
Website Subscription			28.78
Gardening Resources - Plants		146.01	210.96
Compost		50.40	26.60
Membership Fees		45.00	45.00
Insurance		90.00	100.00
DBS registration		23.88	00.00
Admin			18.00
Total Expenditure		355.29	429.34
Net receipts(payments)		408.88	502.00
Cash funds at start of period		366.77	420.36
Cash funds at end of this period		775.65	922.36
Expenditure		355.29	429.34
Balance		420.36	493.02

Grow Together CIO
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2023 £	2024 £
Assets			
Cash assets		420.36	493.02
General Equipment		0.00	0.00
Total Assets		420.36	493.02
Retained profit		420.36	493.02
		420.36	493.02

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed

Diane M. Bell

Dated

01/02/2025

Diane Bell, Trustee