



Annual report and Accounts 31st March 2023

Charity's principal address: c/o Binscombe Medical Centre
106 Binscombe Lane
Godalming
GU7 3PR

Trustees: Helen Farmer (Chair)
Dr Martin Brunet
Deepa Craig
Dr Karen Jones

Aims and Objectives

Farncombe Community Garden is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The charitable objectives are stated in its constitution: -

To provide facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation by providing an area for use as a community garden for individuals in Farncombe 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.

Farncombe Community Garden is an ambitious project which aims to bring the local community together in the creation of a vibrant, beautiful, productive, and wildlife-friendly garden. It will be inclusive to all, seeking to share the health and well-being benefits of the outdoors, connecting people more closely to the natural world on our doorstep and encouraging community cohesion as individuals of all ages and backgrounds work together towards a common goal.

Vision and Mission

The project vision is to establish a working community garden within Farncombe for all the local residents to benefit from, whether it is through taking up gardening for the first time to aid recovery from a physical or mental health problem, finding purpose by volunteering in

support of the project, enjoying passing on a passion for gardening to others, or in education as people of all ages are encouraged to learn about horticulture and the importance of encouraging and supporting wildlife in an urban environment.

In planning the charity's activities the trustees have regarded the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Organisational Structure

As well as the four trustees to oversee and give strategic direction to the project, there is a management team who meet regularly consisting of 10 volunteers with different areas of expertise.

Achievements and performance

During the first year of the charity the key achievements were as follows: -

- Securing a 2.5 acre site by signing an initial 15 year lease with Surrey County Council at a peppercorn rent;
- Raising over £100,000 in income through grants and donations;
- Over 80 people engaging with the garden and activities so far;
- Raising the profile of the garden through fundraising events, social media, a new website, a radio appearance on BBC Surrey, and talks to the public;
- Developing links with other community groups and other service providers, including the local care home.

The charity commissioned various ecological surveys to determine the suitability of the site and preserve its natural features and biodiversity.

Future Plans

Over the next year our aims are to achieve the following:

- Install a wildlife pond
- Install a temporary building on the site to allow all-weather activities for up to 30 people
- Install accessible pathways around the site
- Install accessible plant beds
- Install a polytunnel to allow a wider range of gardening opportunities and development of skills
- Enlist and train a team of volunteers and provide safeguarding training and undertake DBS checks
- Continue to develop links with other local charities and services
- Hold at least 4 regular sessions per week, with the aim to engage at least 100 people

By the end of 3 years, we hope to:

- Have a core team of support volunteers to help run sessions
- Recruit further trustees with a variety of relevant skills

- Hold at least 6 sessions over 3 days, including one weekend session
- Each session with up to 30 people including supported and supporting volunteers
- Have an annual schedule of activities to cover the full calendar year
- Have at least one open garden event per year to showcase the garden and sell plants and produce from the garden
- Have a programme of workshops throughout the year to generate revenue and increase community engagement
- Have collected strong evidence of impact

Financial Review

The charity received grants from People's Postcode Lottery, The National Lottery, Openworks, The Community Foundation for Surrey, Binscombe Medical Trust and Penny Rivers via the Surrey County Councillor nomination. A grant was also awarded by Godalming Town Council for a storage container, but planning permission needs to be granted before this will be received.

A restricted donation was also received towards a building on the site.

Donations of goods/services have been gratefully received from Honey Brothers, Lucas Groundworks, Alstom and Network Rail. These included a donation of loose tools which totalled £577. The Charity has chosen not to include these in the Accounts. Donations were also received from individuals through various initiatives, including a crowd-funding campaign and a wreath-making workshop.

Expenditure of funds was delayed due to waiting for confirmation of the lease from Surrey County Council. This is now in place and it is expected that the grants will be spent in the next few months on developing the infrastructure so that the garden can be made safe and accessible to the public.

Whilst the charity has been successful securing grants in the first year, the aim will be to try and build up sustainable income sources and reserves to cover running costs once the garden is fully open.

This report was approved by the trustees on 28th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Helen Farmer
(Chair of Trustees)

FARNCOMBE COMMUNITY GARDEN**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT****TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FARNCOMBE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Farncombe Community garden (the charity) for the period to 1 December 2021 to 31 March 2023 as set out on pages 5 and 6.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Charity's trustees consider an audit is not required for this financial period 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;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To 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 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' 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.

P I Vickerman FCA
Practising Accountant
31a Nightingale Road
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 2HP

Farncombe Community Garden
Receipts and payments accounts
1st December 2021-31st March 2023

Charity number: 1198491

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL FUNDS
	£	£	£
RECEIPTS			
Grants	-	59,700	59,700
Donations	15,150	30,000	45,150
Total receipts	15,150	89,700	104,850
PAYMENTS			
Infrastructure	4,528	14,279	18,807
Fundraising costs	212	-	212
Administration and insurance	403	-	403
Total payments	5,143	14,279	19,422
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,007	75,421	85,428
Cash funds last year end	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	10,007	75,421	85,428

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL FUNDS
	£	£	£
Assets			
Cash in current account	10,007	75,421	85,428
Total	10,007	75,421	85,428
Liabilities			
Amounts due in respect of acquisition of lease	978	-	978
Total	978	-	978

The notes on page 6 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 28th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Name:

Notes to the Financial Statements
1st December 2021-31st March 2023

1. Assets are only capitalised when future income or cost reduction from their acquisition can be identified.

2. Restricted Fund Analysis

	Total Received	Total Expenditure	Balance C/fwd
	£	£	£
Postcode Society Trust	25,000	11,779	13,221
National Lottery	10,000	-	10,000
Openworks	10,000	-	10,000
Penny Rivers SCC	2,500	2,500	-
CF Surrey	12,200	-	12,200
Care UK (donation)	30,000	-	30,000
	89,700	14,279	75,421