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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1156639

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
FOR
SUSTAINABLE MERTON**

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Sustainable Merton is Merton's local environment charity giving local residents, community organisations and businesses the opportunity to stimulate practical action to make our area a sustainable community. The thinking behind this is simply that a borough using energy and resources in a sustainable way could, if well planned and designed, be more resilient, more abundant and more pleasurable than at present.

The charitable purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are to promote for the benefit of the public in and around the London Borough of Merton:

- (a) the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, in particular but not exclusively, by encouraging the prudent use of natural resources, and raising awareness of environmental issues;
- (b) the advancement of education of the public in the subject of sustainable development, in particular, but not exclusively by raising awareness of the issues associated with peak oil and climate change and the consequent need to develop a low carbon, sustainable future.

In early 2021 our Trustees revisited our Vision and Mission and we have proactively worked in partnership with many organisations and groups in the borough to support the community, to influence behaviour change and to inspire, to mobilise and to enable people to take part in climate change combat and mitigation.

We continued to deliver our work under five main pillars - food, growing spaces, energy, air quality and waste as well as the significant work we do to raise awareness of climate change and to influence behaviours. Internally, our trustees have:

- introduced working committees (covering finance, fundraising and HR)
- overseen a review and an update of our policies
- reviewed our risk assessment using the recommended NCVO template, and assessing the risks to the charity and actions to mitigate the risks
- met six times over the year to ensure our charity continues to be fit for purpose, has the right organisational structure in place and is meeting its obligations as a Charity.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

A summary of the significant activities in the year is presented below

Merton's **Community Champions Project** is the foundation of our work addressing air quality, waste, energy, food and growing spaces. Sustainable Merton's **Community Fridge** reduces food wastage (which in turn would produce carbon emissions contributing to the climate emergency) and benefits local residents who are food insecure. We also co-ordinate the borough's **Food Poverty Response Network and Plan** on behalf of Merton Council and work with partner organisations through Merton's **Community Fridge Network**, to collect surplus food from businesses and redistribute it to those living in food insecurity.

Phipps Bridge Community Allotment and **Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden**, both being green havens in different parts of Mitcham and provided opportunities for local residents to work together, benefiting from social interaction, exercise and gaining horticultural knowledge.

Merton Garden Streets planting days offered residents social interaction and small scale outdoor projects which provided public benefit by beautifying local streets.

The Wheel project, which supports waste minimisation and the circular economy, was launched in summer 2022. The aim is to encourage networking and build capacity in waste minimisation and upcycling projects across the borough, reducing waste and carbon footprints of local businesses, while increasing business opportunities. During the year, a new initiative in Mitcham called the **Preloved Studio** was developed and **Project Pre-Loved** provided opportunities for local residents in the under-served East of the Borough to gain practical, financial and social benefit from learning textile skills.

Recent and current projects include: The Wheel, Merton's Community Fridge, Merton Garden Streets, Project Preloved, Refill Merton, Repair Café, Community Litter picks, Pollards Hill Waste & Recycling Project, Merton's Air Quality Handbook, Merton Citizen Science Air Quality Project, Mitcham Community Orchard & Gardens, Phipps Bridge Community Garden, Energy Savings Handbook, Green Coffee, and Merton Green Parents.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities we have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Trustees ensure that our activities are in line with our charitable objectives and aims, to protect and improve the natural environment. We measure the environmental impact that each of our programmes achieve, which are set out below. In addition, many of the programmes deliver added social benefits. As a result of our work:

- Less waste will be sent to landfill/incineration - in particular food, packaging and fabrics.
- Carbon dioxide emissions will be cut through reduced energy use and waste of materials and food
- Less pollution will be created including reduced plastic pollution and air pollution.
- Our neighbourhoods will be cleaner and people will feel a sense of civic pride by participating in our community projects.
- People in hardship will be given support, for example through the provision of healthy food, and better access to support and advice.
- People will gain new skills, knowledge and friends, contributing to the overall wellbeing of our community.

Volunteers

Without its volunteers, Sustainable Merton could not achieve all that it does. Our volunteers include our Community Champions, Fridge Friends, Growing Spaces volunteers, and those volunteering at our partnership project with Moat Housing. Our volunteers increased from 222 in January 2022 to 397 at the end of March 2023 and our volunteer hours increased by over 300% from 5212 to 18,031 hours at the end of March 2023.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

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.

We continue to grow our ambitions to take forward climate action projects, bring communities together and influence people to change their behaviours to achieve a more sustainable lifestyle whilst improving their health and wellbeing. We have done this in the context of the major cost of living and energy crisis and we are very mindful that we should be encouraging people to be community minded, have pride in their borough and be kind to each other and the world that we live in. We work proactively in partnership with many organisations and groups in the borough to support the community, influence behaviour change and inspire, mobilise and enable people to take action on climate change.

In September 2022 our work was recognised for the second year in a row by receiving the Runner up in the Breakthrough Charity Of the Year category in the Merton Best Business Awards.

Merton's Community Champion project is the foundation of our work and includes multiple projects including Refill Merton, Community Litter picks, Merton's Air Quality Handbook, Merton Citizen Science Air Quality Project, Energy Savings Handbook, Green Coffee, and Merton Green Parents. We worked with the community, schools and young people and the business community and engaged with the growing number of supporters and contributors through social media, our website and newsletters and blogs. We had 3,828 followers on Twitter, 2,791 followers on Facebook, 2,501 followers on Instagram and 1,510 subscribers to our newsletter and a total of 13,200 social media followers across all our platforms. We have participated in/showed our support for a number of national and international campaigns and awareness days, including: Pride Month, the Month of Community, Black History Month, Mental Health Awareness Day, Refugee Week, International Women's Day and Dementia Action Week. We also support/promote the activities of Merton's health and wellbeing organisations/initiatives such as Merton Social Prescribing, Merton Uplift and One You Merton. We worked closely with many different organisations such as Friends of the Earth, Walk and Talk movement, food support providers, schools, voluntary organisations and businesses. We continued to run networking groups such as Green Parents and Green Coffee. Training and development are fundamental to our work and over the year our volunteers and staff attended:

Behavioural change workshops Feb 2022

Training sessions on our Energy and Air Quality Handbook

Food Hygiene Training Level 1 for Fridge Friends

Mental health and suicide awareness online webinars

NCVO safeguarding training

5 volunteers participated in the Orchard Project fruit tree care course hosted at Mitcham Community Orchard

Over the year, we:

- Increased total number of volunteers to 397
- Increased the total hours contributed by all our volunteers to 18,031
- 21% of our volunteers came from the BAME community

FOOD

Sustainable Merton continued to coordinate Merton Council's **Food Response Network and Food Poverty Action Plan**. The major part of this involved the administration of borough wide Food Response meetings, involving 15 local providers of food support, and the coordination of Merton's Community Fridge Network. The model of operation for the Community Fridges was developed by Sustainable Merton, who hold the funding for the three separate Community Fridges run by Sustainable Merton, The Polish Families Association and Commonsense Development Trust as well as our transport partner, Merton Community Transport. An over 55s Clarion Housing scheme in the borough was identified as having residents in need and who are socially isolated. Clarion Satellite Fridge launched in February 2023, using Sustainable Merton's model, to help the Housing Association's residents and save surplus food from going to waste.

Sustainable Merton's Community Fridge in Morden opened twice a week to residents suffering food insecurity (no formal referral needed). The number of visits to the Fridge doubled between March 2022 and February 2023. In response to the surge in demand for food support, we increased our staffing levels and worked with our very dedicated team of volunteers. In summary there were:

- 5,473 fridge visits
- 35,500 kg of surplus food saved
- 75,400 meals equivalent distributed
- 113,687 kg of CO2 saved

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- 3,787 volunteer hours donated to the project

We are thankful to our hosts at Morden Baptist Church for providing space to deliver this project and also to London Borough of Merton for providing additional storage at the Civic Centre. We also received freezers and fridges from a number of sources and appreciated the support given to us by local celebrities - Marcus Wareing, who supported our Kitchen Cupboard Clearout campaign as well as Tasoula Gramozi - Masterchef Quarter Finalist & Merton resident. We ran Warm Wednesdays at Morden Baptist Church, providing hot soup and fresh food in a warm and welcoming space to help people affected by the cost of living crisis and to combat loneliness. In March 2023 we were delighted to work with Hubbub Foundation to pilot an e-bike and trailer and two volunteer riders were recruited and trained. They initially collected around 450kgs of food per week. Safe storage for the bike and trailer was provided by Merton Community Transport, another example of partnership working. The number of local businesses regularly donating surplus food increased across the year, with bulk supplies being provided by the Felix Project.

GROWING SPACES

Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden, a beautiful urban growing space and peaceful haven for people and nature, right in the heart of Mitcham, provides a community led green space where fruit and vegetables are grown using sustainable and organic methods and where a range of different habitats are maintained to support biodiversity whilst also providing environmental benefits to Merton. Monthly Action Days enabled some larger scale pieces of work to be undertaken, beyond the scope of the regular maintenance and improvement work at the orchard. Volunteers built a new shed, put together a greenhouse which had been donated in pieces, established a new wildflower area and mended the leaking pond. A social barbecue was held in the autumn, celebrating all that had been achieved. The Orchard also hosted the Intergenerational Food Growing Project bringing together older and younger local people to grow and cook together. Growing Fridays included regular tasks such as weeding, mulching, sowing and growing, and managing the native hedge. A number of school and business visits also took place.

Twice weekly sessions at **Phipps Bridge Community Allotment**, managed by Sustainable Merton, continued. 20 regular volunteers plus around 40 occasional volunteers, harvested 610kg of produce which was shared amongst the volunteers or donated to the Community Fridge.

We also worked with Clarion Housing to deliver a **Greening your Balcony** project in the new flats on the High Path estate. Residents had opportunities to meet their neighbours, were provided with free planting packs and learnt how to grow in small spaces, alongside the wider aims of improving air quality and increasing the biodiversity of the area.

We ran a Caring for Houseplants workshop in partnership with Merton Plus and Merton Health & Care Together, as well as a number of other **nature themed workshops** to support physical and mental well-being as part of green social prescribing.

Merton Garden Streets project, run as part of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, aims to improve biodiversity, reduce likelihood of flash floods and encourage neighbours to engage in their communities. 133 streets took part, covering every ward in the borough, with a coordinator for every street. Volunteers gave up over 10,000 hours to plant up verges, under street trees, in front gardens and window boxes, with 223 planting events and over 4,000 pollinator friendly perennial and drought tolerant plants put in over the Summer. In autumn thousands of bulbs were distributed and planted in verges. A seed swap event took place so that seedlings could be grown on for the following spring. The new friendship groups which sprang up were an additional important outcome - an example of civic pride and neighbourhood action.

AIR QUALITY

In partnership with Merton Council, we trained and supported 9 Community Champions and 6 members of the Colliers Wood Residents Association in collecting data on NO2 levels throughout Merton. We now have over 6 months' worth of data in 10 locations and will be looking at what action can be taken for those locations that exceed the National Air Quality objectives. On Clean Air Day, a joint event with Merton Council was held. The Project Manager also visited a local school on Clean Air Day and presented to 3 classes.

With a collaboration with Global Action Plan, we borrowed a PM2.5 monitor in the run up to Clean Air Day and assessed air quality across the borough and will create a "cleaner-air walking route" for school children and a report.

WASTE

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

In Jan. 2020 we began coordinating **Refill Merton**, the local chapter of the National award-winning Refill campaign to tackle plastic pollution. Since the Lockdown Refill has changed its emphasis to encourage more businesses to become Refill stations and to raise awareness of "food on the go" plastic pollution. We supported 3 Refill action days over the year. We continue to promote refill through our work within the community and have collaborated with Refill and generated social media engagement through our be spoke posts.

Since September 2020 we have held monthly **Waste Warrior Weekend litter picks** with an average monthly participation of approximately 18. These are opportunities for our Champions and supporters to undertake litter picking action in their local area and come together virtually. They provided valuable opportunities for people to give back to their community.

In its second year, **The Wheel**, which is Merton's waste reduction and circular economy capacity building project, developed new initiatives based on 3 strategic pillars- a digital hub, community waste reduction initiatives and resource efficient high streets.

The Wheel delivered a signposting digital hub, enabled the following initiatives- a 3-day community clothes swap led by young people, 3 repair cafes, a 6 week upcycling project for and at the local heritage building Canons House, 4 sessions of **Project Preloved** (focused on hardly reached communities) and launched 2 projects on Morden High Street - a waste mapping study of small, medium and micro businesses and a reusable bags trial. Through these initiatives, the Wheel avoided 705 kg of waste and added 662 volunteer hours. The avoided greenhouse gas emissions were also estimated (based on stated assumptions). In addition to these impacts, the initiatives also contributed to a range of co-benefits such as improved mental health & wellbeing, civic pride, social cohesion, green skills, behaviour change and income maximisation through avoided cost of new items during an ongoing cost of living crisis. Evidence of co-benefits was gathered where possible through customer satisfaction surveys.

Pollards Hill Waste Disposal and Recycling Project is a partnership project with Moat Housing to improve recycling rates and reduce contamination through fly tipping and incorrect disposal of waste. During the year our project manager has worked to understand the issues causing poor waste management., established an active resident group and brand identity, involved residents in planning change, worked with local stakeholders and improved trust and communication between residents and their housing provider. The emphasis has been on data gathering, qualitative feedback, subjective investigation and community engagement. Although recycling and fly-tipping levels have yet to see significant measurable change, the real success of the project so far has been in establishing a community and brand, which has made a genuine impact in the heart of Pollard's Hill life.

ENERGY

During the year we worked with Merton Council and the local Community Response Network to support people with the cost of living crisis with energy costs being a fundamental issue. At the Wheel, volunteers made and distributed draught excluders to those requiring warmer homes, we continued to write blogs on energy saving tips such as batch cooking to save on electricity, and we promoted our Energy Savings Handbook at Cost of Living and other local events.

Fundraising activities

The Trustees set up a fundraising committee in 2022 with the purpose of reducing the charity's reliance on grant funding. During the year £21,528 was received from donations and we are thankful to all those who supported us through donations and activity in kind. In 2023 we are focusing on business partnerships with a target for an increase in donations - both financial and in kind.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the year our grant income increased by over 100% and our Trustee led finance committee agreed to meet 3 times a year to review the financial position in detail, including management accounts, reserves, going concern and the production of the annual accounts..

The Charity remains in good financial health with funds to cover its contractual commitments.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

The majority of our funding comes from grants, with less than 10% from donations and legacies. Our projects are funded from a wide range of funders and fall within the key themes of Waste, Air Quality, Energy, Food Response and Growing Spaces.

During this financial year Sustainable Merton delivered 23 projects using restricted grant funding awarded from:

- The London Borough of Merton
- Clarion Futures
- The Wimbledon Foundation
- Merton Giving
- Pollards Hill Community Initiative Fund
- Tesco Community Fund
- Magic Little Grants
- NHS England
- Hubbub Foundation

We also received donations from local people and businesses totalling £21,528, an increase of 25% on the previous year.

Reserves policy

Sustainable Merton's Reserves Policy is to retain unrestricted funds to the value of 3 months typical expenditure. This amount includes salaries and office costs, enabling the charity to continue running during lean periods between the award of grants.

Details of the amount of reserves held are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year and the balance sheet for the year end.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is regulated by the Charity Commission. The activities of the CIO are controlled by its constituting document which is based on the Charity Commission model association CIO constitution.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are co-opted by the Board of Trustees during the year and confirmed by election at the AGM.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees delegate the day to day running of the charity to the CEO and team. Our CEO, Diana Sterck, oversees a team, which includes a Communications Manager, Operations and Volunteer Manager, Project Managers and Coordinators, each working on specific community projects who are further supported by a large pool of local volunteers who are integral partners in project delivery. We collaborate with local businesses, schools and other charities within the borough. In 2022 we had 4.5 full time equivalent staff and in 2023 this has increased to 6 full time equivalent staff.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees have received induction training on their governance responsibilities, including financial controls, safeguarding and other policies.

Wider network

The Sustainable Merton CEO is responsible for managing the charity's operational activity, overseeing a team of staff, volunteers and self-employed contractors. Sustainable Merton takes a very active part in the local community and borough networks, and much of its activity is undertaken in partnership with local organisations as outlined in the previous sections.

Risk management

A Trustee has led on our organisational risk assessment and Trustees have continued to review our risk log. Sustainable Merton Trustees have not identified any risks where the likelihood and impact score was higher than "acceptable low risk", using the risk assessment methodology recommended by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Controls and mitigating actions are in place to minimise risks in the areas of governance, finance, operations, external factors and regulatory & compliance activities.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1156639

Principal address

The Old Boiler House
Morden Hall Park
Morden Hall Road
Morden
SM4 5JD

Trustees

B M Cuddon - Chair
R Baber - Secretary
A S Randall - Treasurer
Dr J D Boyd
Dr G Leigh
A Maries
A Laidler - co-opted March 2022 (appointed 29/3/23)
K Punungwe-Mutandiro - co-opted March 2022 (appointed 29/3/23)
S K Stroud - co-opted March 2022 (appointed 29/3/23)
A Tacu - co-opted March 2022 (appointed 23/3/23)
L A Lazzarino (resigned 23/9/22)

Independent Examiner

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 23/11/2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Ben Cuddon
.....
B M Cuddon - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SUSTAINABLE MERTON

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sustainable Merton

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sustainable Merton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Jonathan Askew

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Date:13/12/23.....

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		21,528	-	21,528	16,812
Charitable activities					
General		1,666	306,131	307,797	125,776
Investment income	2	328	-	328	-
Total		<u>23,522</u>	<u>306,131</u>	<u>329,653</u>	<u>142,588</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		-	858	858	173
Charitable activities					
General		7,621	307,771	315,392	176,764
Total		<u>7,621</u>	<u>308,629</u>	<u>316,250</u>	<u>176,937</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)					
Other recognised gains/(losses)		15,901	(2,498)	13,403	(34,349)
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets		4,348	-	4,348	-
Net movement in funds		<u>20,249</u>	<u>(2,498)</u>	<u>17,751</u>	<u>(34,349)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		34,631	58,782	93,413	127,762
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>54,880</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>111,164</u>	<u>93,413</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SUSTAINABLE MERTON**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	6,260	-	6,260	2,944
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	16,454	-	16,454	4,722
Cash at bank		55,040	156,653	211,693	272,743
		<u>71,494</u>	<u>156,653</u>	<u>228,147</u>	<u>277,465</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(22,874)	(100,369)	(123,243)	(186,996)
		<u>48,620</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>104,904</u>	<u>90,469</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>48,620</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>104,904</u>	<u>90,469</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>54,880</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>111,164</u>	<u>93,413</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>54,880</u>	<u>56,284</u>	<u>111,164</u>	<u>93,413</u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds				54,880	34,631
Restricted funds				56,284	58,782
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>111,164</u>	<u>93,413</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:

Ben Cuddon

.....
B M Cuddon - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts for the year to March 2021 and prior years were prepared on a cash basis. For the 2022 accounts and for the future the charity has changed to preparing accounts on an accruals basis. No adjustments have been made to the prior year figures as the trustees do not consider the change in accounting policy to have significantly changed the figures previously reported.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Where restricted funds are used to acquire assets for ongoing use by the charity the expenditure is included as direct charitable expenditure of restricted funds with the restriction treated as having been met on acquisition. Where the assets remain within the control of the charity the assets are revalued based on their original costs and treated as unrestricted fixed asset additions.

Depreciation is charged on fixed assets from the date on which they are brought into use. No depreciation is charged where the assets are not brought into use prior to the year end.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

SUSTAINABLE MERTON**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023****2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>328</u>	<u>-</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	7,437	9,375	16,812
Charitable activities			
General	<u>1,059</u>	<u>124,717</u>	<u>125,776</u>
Total	<u>8,496</u>	<u>134,092</u>	<u>142,588</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	173	-	173
Charitable activities			
General	<u>(46)</u>	<u>176,810</u>	<u>176,764</u>
Total	<u>127</u>	<u>176,810</u>	<u>176,937</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	8,369	(42,718)	(34,349)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>26,262</u>	<u>101,500</u>	<u>127,762</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>34,631</u>	<u>58,782</u>	<u>93,413</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2022	-	3,097	3,097
Additions	4,348	-	4,348
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,348</u>	<u>3,097</u>	<u>7,445</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2022	-	153	153
Charge for year	-	1,032	1,032
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1,185</u>	<u>1,185</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,348</u>	<u>1,912</u>	<u>6,260</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>2,944</u>	<u>2,944</u>

Fixed assets acquired with restricted funds are capitalised with the restriction treated as satisfied on acquisition. The purchase cost is reflected initially as restricted expenditure with the assets acquired being revalued and included as unrestricted fixed asset additions where they remain within the control of the charity.

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	2,233	4,596
Accrued income	14,000	-
Prepayments	221	126
	<u>16,454</u>	<u>4,722</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	11,385	6,014
Taxation and social security	5,201	4,235
Other creditors	106,657	176,747
	<u>123,243</u>	<u>186,996</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	34,631	20,249	54,880
Restricted funds			
Restricted	58,782	(2,498)	56,284
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>93,413</u>	<u>17,751</u>	<u>111,164</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023****8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	23,522	(7,621)	4,348	20,249
Restricted funds				
Restricted	306,131	(308,629)	-	(2,498)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>329,653</u>	<u>(316,250)</u>	<u>4,348</u>	<u>17,751</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	26,262	8,369	34,631
Restricted funds			
Restricted	101,500	(42,718)	58,782
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>127,762</u>	<u>(34,349)</u>	<u>93,413</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	8,496	(127)	8,369
Restricted funds			
Restricted	134,092	(176,810)	(42,718)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>142,588</u>	<u>(176,937)</u>	<u>(34,349)</u>

SUSTAINABLE MERTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.