

FOREST GATE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Charitable incorporated organisation
Charity number 1169500



Trustees' annual report for the year ended 5 April 2024

The trustees present their report and financial statement for the year ended 5 April 2024.

Forest Gate Community Garden ('FGCG' or 'the charity') is a charitable incorporated organisation whose principal address is 72B Hampton Road, London, E7 0NU.

Objectives of the charity

The charity's objectives are to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals residing in Forest Gate and the surrounding area who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life, in particular through the facilitation of a community gardening, growing and volunteering project.

Activities

The garden is on designated housing land owned by the London Borough of Newham (LBN) at 136 Earlham Grove, London, E7 9AS and held by FGCG under a peppercorn lease with a contractual lease expiry date of 19th May 2025.

LBN's Property Services confirmed on 31 August 2023 that it will not exercise the break clause in the lease before the contractual lease expiry date of 19 May 2025.

FGCG has received an indication from LBN's Property Services that it will consider extending the lease for a further ten years, with LBN having a break clause after three years on twelve months' notice. As at the balance sheet date, the lease documents are yet to be completed.

The charity has no employees and to a large extent the garden is maintained and staffed by volunteer efforts. The garden is normally open to the public for free for a number of hours each week over four days. Volunteers work in small teams as Garden Hosts during these hours.

Grants enable the charity to obtain its necessary administrative and support services (see 'Financial Review' below) and allow it to run other courses and workshops in gardening or the arts.

Other activities held in the garden include a number of seasonal activities and celebrations. Members of the public on occasion hire the garden for events such as birthday parties and art classes.

FGCC will be continue to explore any opportunities that present themselves beyond the garden itself

Financial Review

At 6 April 2023 the charity brought forward deferred income of £17,159 net, being grants received in cash before it provided the specified goods or services. During the year to 5 April 2024, FGCG received grants of £41,443. It recognised total grant revenue of £29,936 in

respect of activities carried out in the year and carried forward £26,572 in respect of specified goods or services to be provided in subsequent years.

At 6 April 2022 the charity brought forward deferred income of £27,611. During the year to 5 April 2023, FGCG received grants of £34,386. It recognised total grant revenue for the year of £43,596 in respect of activities carried out in the year and carried forward £17,159 net in respect of specified goods or services to be provided in subsequent years.

As in previous years, FGCG received grants from a variety of sources, including:

- £10,000 from the London Borough of Newham's People Powered Places (PPP) funds to improve facilities and access in the Community Garden as well as projects such as workshops. FGCG received a further £10,000 in two tranches of £5,000 each on 30 August and 25 October 2024 in order to complete the project
- £10,820 received from City Bridge Trust (2022/2023 £10,957) and £7,516 from the National Lottery Community which have helped fund FGCG's administrative and support services
- Two grants totalling £4,150 from London Catalyst.
- £2,500 from Fairy Water Trust

Revenue recognised in the year included the following amounts of £1,000 and over:

City Bridge Trust	12,708
Co-op	1,225
Our Space	1,339
London Catalyst 1 and 2	4,150
LBN PPP	3,579

Unlike many community gardens, FGCG does not charge annual membership fees but members and supporters are encouraged to make donations. Plant sales, some of which only require donations from the buyer, and similar activities, continue to be successful. In total, these two sources raised £5,564 (2022/2023:£8,433). No Garden Trail was held this year (2022/2023's Trail raised £1,182).

At the end of the year, the charity held cash of £ 60,426 (£47,888 at 5 April 2023), being unrestricted cash of £ 33,854 and restricted cash of £ 26,572 (2023: £30,729 and £17,159 respectively).

The restricted cash balance represents cash received in advance of providing the relevant activities (deferred income). The charity will use these funds to meet its charitable objectives in the year to 5 April 2025 or thereafter. It included the following amounts of £1,000 and over:

City Bridge Trust	6,875
Co-op 2023	1,049
GLA Final	1,039
Lottery 2024	7,516
LBN PPP	6,421
Fairy Water Trust	2,500

In the period from the end of the financial year to the end of December 2024, the FGCG has successfully obtained a further £15,000 in grants.

Independent Examiner's review

As FGCG's revenue in the year exceeded £25,000, the trustees obtained an independent scrutiny of the financial statement. Accordingly, they appointed Da-Silva & Associates. The review is less in scope than an audit and does not involve forming an opinion as to whether the accounts are 'true and fair'. The report to the trustees is included in the financial statements.

The Independent Examiner has reported that no material matters have come to their attention giving them cause to believe that, in any material respect, accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or that the accounts do not accord with those records.

They also reported that they had come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in the report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Reserves and going concern

FGCG has instituted a policy for the retention of unrestricted cash balances. It will retain the trustees' estimate of the amounts that could be needed in the next twelve months for staff costs, core costs and other committed costs, net of unutilised grants received and committed grants receivable for the payment of staff costs. This amount has been set at £15,000, the policy being subject to annual review.

Trustees

The trustees during the period were as follows:

Ms Kerena Fussell

Mr Peter Williams

Ms Hedy Richards

Mr Mark Gorman

Ms Maureen Egbe

Mr Kevin Richard Mansell

Mr David Rosenberg

Ms Georgia Lindsay (resigned on 13 July 2024)

Ms Donna Stokes (reappointed on 13 July 2024)

Ms Myanah Saunders

Laura Batatota (appointed on 13 July 2024)

Lyn Brown (appointed on 13 July 2024)

In the preparation of this report the charity trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Name: Myanah Saunders
Chair of Trustees

Date 13/12/2024

Forest Gate Community Garden
Charitable incorporated organisation

Charity number 1169500

Statement of financial activities
Year ended 5 April 2024

	Year ended 5 April 2024			Year ended 5 April 2023		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Grants	29,936		29,936	43,596		43,596
Other income			-			-
Plant sales and donations		5,564	5,564		9,616	9,616
			-			
	29,936	5,564	35,500	43,596	9,616	53,212
Expenditure						
Charitable activities	28,874		28,874	36,844		36,844
General expenses		4,993	4,993		328	328
Core expenses			-	354		354
			-			
	28,874	4,993	33,867	37,199	328	37,527
Net movement in fund:	1,062	571	1,633	6,397	9,288	15,685
Total Funds brought forward (all unrestricted)			32,890			17,205
Total funds carried forward (all unrestricted)			34,523			32,890

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Statement of financial position
Year ended 5 April 2023

	5 April 2024	5 April 2023
	£	£
Current assets		
cash at bank	60,426	47,888
deferred expenditure	669	2,161
	<u>61,095</u>	<u>50,049</u>
Creditors		
Deferred income	26,572	17,159
Reserves	34,523	32,890
	<u>61,095</u>	<u>50,049</u>

Of the cash held of £ 60,426 , £ 26,572 is restricted and £ 33,854 is unrestricted

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Name

Date



13/12/2024

Myanah Saunders

Forest Gate Community Garden
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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 5 April 2024

Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention.

Grants

Grants and donations are only included in the Statement of Financial Activities when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

In the case of performance-related grants, income is recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services, which is usually as the costs of the related activities are incurred.

Forest Gate Community Garden

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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 5 April 2024

1. Grants and donations recognised in the year

	5 April 2024	5 April 2023
	£	£
City Bridge Trust	12,708	9,738
Co-op 2023	1,225	-
Co-op 2020	-	3,158
Co-op 2021	-	2,295
GLA Green Forest Gate	733	3,000
Heritage	-	631
Flourish	200	-
Forest Gate Arts	347	338
Ashok's Vision	463	945
Our Space	1,339	1,093
London Catalyst 1	3,150	-
London Catalyst 2	1,000	-
One Newham 1	-	500
One Newham 2	1,000	-
Let's get together	1,304	-
Big Help out	500	-
Grow your Own	379	-
Spring Workshops	628	-
Groundwork/Tesco	967	-
LBN PPP	3,579	-
Tesco 21	414	-
Community Assembly Maryland and More Esta	-	1,008
Community assembly Forest Gate South	-	2,166
Evaluation Exchange	-	190
London Nature Trails	-	500

Gateway/crowdfunder

-

6,548

National lottery community fund	-	9,950
Newham conservation volunteers	-	481
Platinum Workshops	-	500
Alma Street	-	100
Big Lottery 2019/2020	-	456
	<u>29,936</u>	<u>43,596</u>

(b) Unrestricted income	5 April 2024	5 April 2023
	£	£
Garden Trail	-	1,440
Donations	5,564	8,176
	<u>5,564</u>	<u>9,616</u>

1(c) Grant income: net movement in funds	5 April 2024	5 April 2023
	£	£

The net increase in funds comprises:

contribution by grantors to administrative exp	200	2,650
plant sales to grantors and volunteer costs	-	2,300
net surpluses less deficits on completed project	862	1,447
	<u>1,062</u>	<u>6,397</u>

Contribution by grantors to administrative expenses and plant sales and volunteer costs, all included in budgets submitted to grantors, are only recognised on completion and sign off of the project.

2 Deferred income and deferred expenditure

	5 April 2024	5 April 2023
	£	£
<i>Deferred income</i>		
City Bridge Trust	6,875	8,763
<i>deferred income</i>	1,049	-
Fairy Water Trust	2,500	-
Let's Get together	46	-
GLA Green Forest Gate	1,039	2,733
Lottery 2024	7,516	-
Forest Gate Arts	708	463
Goundwork/our space	-	414
Spring Workshops	132	1,055
grow your own	121	1,339
Groundwork UK	33	750
LBN grant	132	500
LBN PPP	6,421	1,000

-	<i>132</i>
26,572	17,149

Deferred expenditure

Newham conservation volunteers	(169)	(169)	
Flourish	-	(1,633)	
London Catalyst 2	-	(359)	
One Newham 2	(500)	-	
	(669)	(2,161)	-
	25,903	14,988	

3. Core expenses

	5 April 2024	5 April 2023	
	£	£	
<i>restricted</i>			
water supply	(120)	120	
Public liability insurance		290	
<i>unrestricted</i>			
Public liability insurance	301		
LBN waste management	177	168	
Companies House	13	13	
	370	591	

4. Cash

	unrestricted	restricted	total
	£	£	£
At 5 April 2024	33,854	26,572	60,426
At 5 April 2023	32,890	17,149	47,888

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOREST GATE COMMUNITY GARDEN

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Forest Gate Community Garden (the Charity) for the year ended 5 April 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.


I report in respect of my examination of the charity's account under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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 aspect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with those records

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 proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Eileen Da-Silva FCCA
Da-Silva and Associates
14 Farm Close
Essex
RM 10 9TX

Date: 16th December 2024