Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date		
From	01	April	2025	31	March	2026

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Community Support in the Countryside (CSC)
Other names charity is known by	Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT)
Registered charity number (if any)	1171175
Charity's principal address	28 Oakdene Road, Brockham, Surrey
Postcode	RH3 7JX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Robert James Thomas		Whole year	N/A
2	Trevor John Anderson	Treasurer	Whole year	N/A
3	Simon Budd		Whole year	N/A
4	Isobel Fiona Heppenstall		Whole year	N/A
5	Trevor Hizzard		Whole Year	N/A
6	Daved Robert Shanks		Whole year	N/A
7	Ann Went		Whole year	N/A
8	Michael Philip Went	Chairman (interim)	Whole year	N/A
9	Alessandra F N Truran	Secretary	Whole year	N/A
10				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	N/A

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
N/A		

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

N/A

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	CSC is governed by a constitution document, which was set out when the charity was incorporated on 18 January 2017, updated in February 2024, and further reviewed in August 2025.
How the charity is constituted	CSC is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by the Foundation Constitution document.
Trustee selection methods	The original trustees were appointed from the people who had historically helped in similar activities, were willing and able to act as trustees, and were able to give an appropriate range of knowledge and skills to cover the legal, financial, technical, operational, promotional and other needs of CSC/BERT as a charity. New trustees are appointed following existing trustees' approval and follow the same principle of creating a group with an appropriate knowledge and experience to run the charity effectively.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about: • policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; • the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; • relationship with any related parties; • trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.	The formal business of CSC/BERT is conducted through trustee meetings, which are usually held quarterly. Progress of agreed actions is managed through regular follow up. CSC/BERT carries out operational tasks with the support of volunteer team leaders. These are typically long-standing BERT volunteers who have been committed to our activities and been willing to undertake the training necessary for the role. CSC/BERT has adopted a set of policies, which are reviewed regularly, to cover the health and safety, safeguarding, and the protection of personal data of trustees and volunteers. CSC/BERT regularly engages with Brockham Parish Council, Mole Valley District Council, Surrey County Council and with relevant government bodies to manage flood risks, to report incidents or concerns, and to support the local community.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of CSC/BERT, as set out in the founding document, are:

To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of a natural or other disaster or emergency, to promote public safety and to protect the lives and property of residents of Brockham in particular but not exclusively by:

1. developing the capacity of residents with the aim to prevent and reduce the likelihood and consequences of local flooding, particularly from drainage ditches and surface water;

2. recruiting and training volunteers to enable Brockham Emergency Response Team to provide assistance and undertake preventive activities when the village of Brockham is threatened by severe weather, its consequences or other local emergency or disruption;

3. assisting the Brockham community in setting up and organising community information and awareness raising events using Brockham Emergency Response Team's expertise, volunteers and equipment for the benefit of local residents and

4. developing technology or systems to enhance the capacity of rural communities to monitor and warn local residents of the risk of flooding from rivers, streams or significant drainage ditches.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

1 June 2025

BERT training session Recreation Ground Brockham

BERT delivered a training session for volunteers and local residents on the safe use of pumps, strimmers, throw lines, and other safety equipment. More than 30 attendees took part in the event.







18 July 2025

Thunderstorm warning preparations



Heavy rainfall had been forecast, with some isolated areas within the wider amber warning region potentially receiving a month's worth of rain in less than an hour. In anticipation of the severe weather, BERT volunteers took a number of precautionary measures, including relocating signage to both the north and south sides of the river, confirming volunteer availability, and ensuring that sandbags were readily accessible. Fortunately, the forecasted intense rainfall did not materialise.



14 September 2025

Annual Ditch Clear

The Ditch Party was a successful community event, attracting approximately 40 volunteers of all ages. Before activities commenced, the Chairman delivered a briefing covering equipment use and safety procedures. Volunteers who were underage were assigned to and supervised by DBS-checked leaders throughout the event.

All objectives were successfully achieved, and vegetation cleared from the ditches was collected and disposed of on the Brockham bonfire. The ditches targeted included Oakdene, the Pavilion, Blind Lane, and Glenfield. The event made a valuable contribution to maintaining local drainage channels while fostering community involvement and teamwork.

At the briefing:



Blind Lane ditch:



Oakdene Road ditch:



Pavillion ditch:



Glenfield ditch:



Some of the vegetation collected by the volunteers:



4 October 2025

Preventative work

Concerns were raised that recent footpath works carried out by the council could have damaged the culvert pipe beneath Blind Lane. In response, BERT volunteers attended the site and carried out an inspection using a remote camera system. The survey confirmed that the culvert was in good condition, providing reassurance to local residents that no damage had occurred as a result of the works.



Camera view of the two culvert pipes:



25 December 2025

Blocked footpath

On Christmas morning, a group of BERT volunteers responded to a fallen tree that had blocked the footpath along Coach Road. The volunteers quickly cleared the obstruction, restoring safe access for pedestrians and demonstrating the team's ongoing commitment to supporting the local community, even during the holiday period.

Before:



After:



7 January 2026

Heavy Frost

Following a period of severe frost, overnight rainfall created hazardous conditions, resulting in patches of black ice on local roads and footpaths. After receiving a report from Wheelers Lane regarding the danger to the public, BERT volunteers attended the area and promptly deployed appropriate warning signs to alert road users and pedestrians, helping to reduce the risk of accidents.



12 January 2026

Call to action: Vicarage Cottage drainage cleaning

The drainage grills near the church lay-by and Vicarage Cottage became blocked after litter, including crisp packets and plastic bottles, accumulated amongst fallen leaves and debris. The blockage was restricting the flow of water and required prompt attention.

A call for assistance was circulated to BERT volunteers, and a volunteer responded to clear the obstruction. The grills and surrounding ditch were cleaned, restoring the free flow of water and reducing the risk of localised flooding. This swift response demonstrated the value of community vigilance and volunteer action in maintaining local drainage infrastructure.



13 January 2026

Call to action: blocked drains

Reports were received of blocked drains at the junction of Brockham Lane and Kiln Lane, as well as on The Green near the bridge. BERT volunteers attended both locations and cleared the blockages, restoring effective drainage and helping to reduce the risk of localised flooding. Their prompt response ensured that water could flow freely and that the affected areas remained safe and accessible for residents and road users.



16 January 2026

Heavy rain monitoring

Following a period of heavy rainfall, BERT trustees closely monitored local conditions and kept residents informed of river levels, as well as any bridge and footpath closures. Regular updates were provided to help the community stay aware of changing conditions and any potential risks.
Fortunately, despite the adverse weather, no significant incidents occurred and BERT was not required to respond to any emergency callouts. The monitoring activity provided reassurance to residents and ensured that the organisation remained prepared to act should conditions have deteriorated.

Old School Lane:



Monitoring the rising level of the river Mole and potential bridge flooding:



Mick Went, Interim Chairman, was interviewed by BBC Radio Surrey about local flooding and the work of BERT.



21 and 22 January 2026

Heavy Rain Monitoring and Preparedness

Following significant rainfall and with further rain forecast, contingency plans were put in place, including the pre-positioning of road closure and flood warning signs for deployment. BERT also continued to keep residents informed of the developing weather and flood risk through regular community email updates. Fortunately, no emergency response was required.

BERT continued to keep residents updated in the rain and potential flooding situation via the community email:

- *River levels are generally high and peaking.*
- *Light rain will continue over the next hour or so, with more light rain between 10 am and noon.*
- *Brockham Bridge is currently open and dry, with standing water barely touching the adjacent walking path.*
- *River levels at Brockham Bridge and Kinnersley Manor (upstream) appear to be peaking for now.*
- *The footpath by the Bowls Club is completely flooded. As yet, we have no reports of local residential property flooding.*
- *Old School Lane at Coach Road is under water. As it did last week, this spot could easily claim one or more vehicles.*

- *Betchworth bridge and Wonham Hill are deep under water.*
- *Flanchford bridge is partially flooded, with most vehicles passing.*

At 10 am on 22 January, the bridge at Brockham was holding.



25 January 2026

Footpath clearance

Some months previously, a large oak tree had been brought down during a storm on the footpath behind Glenfield Road. While the landowner and neighbouring residents removed most of the debris, a substantial section of the trunk remained, restricting water flow in a nearby ditch.

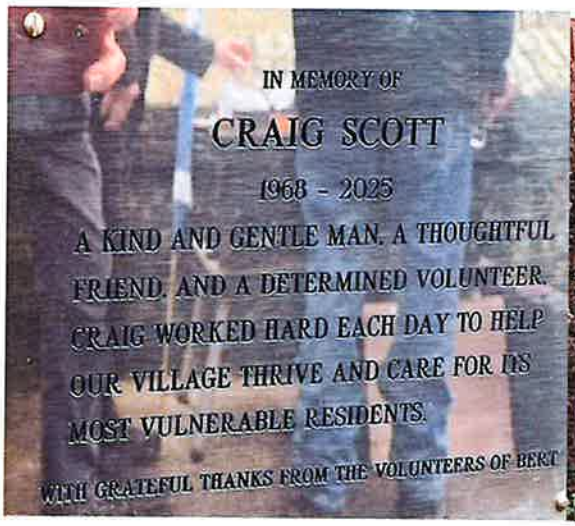
A BERT working party, including experienced chainsaw operators, attended the site and significantly reduced the remaining trunk. The resulting timber was then removed, restoring the free flow of water and improving the condition of the ditch.



8 February 2026

Memorial plaque for Craig Scott

BERT trustees gathered for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque on the bench outside the Church Hall in memory of former BERT Chairman, Craig Scott. The tribute was led by Mick Went, Interim Chairman, who reflected on Craig's significant contribution to the organisation and the local community.





24 February 2026

River Mole River Watch presentation to trustees

Simon Collins and Jess Newman gave a presentation to the trustees about the River Mole River Watch; a UK environmental charity and citizen science organisation focused on improving water quality and tackling pollution in the River Mole catchment in Surrey and Sussex. The group was formed following local concerns about sewage pollution, poor ecological health and river degradation.

Working together, River Mole River Watch and BERT can improve communication with residents, enable a more effective response to pollution incidents, and increase community awareness and preparedness through joint education and engagement activities.

1 March 2026

Vicarage Cottage ditch repairs

BERT volunteers carried out repairs to three sections of the ditch bank in front of Vicarage Cottage that had been damaged by children playing in the area. Using wooden posts and woven willow branches, they rebuilt and stabilised the banks before backfilling with soil excavated from the ditch, where it had been contributing to a blockage. The work helped restore the ditch's integrity, improve water flow, and reduce the risk of erosion.



12 March 2026

Heartstart – CPR training by

Central Surrey Community First Responders

BERT organised the first in a series of community medical awareness events at Brockham Village Hall, focusing on CPR training. Delivered by Central Surrey Community First Responders, the session was attended by 30 residents, with a further 60 people on the waiting list, demonstrating strong community interest. Two additional events were subsequently held in April and May.



Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

Additional details of activities

Constitution review

At the trustees' meeting in August 2025, the trustees approved a review of the Constitution. Key changes included:

- increasing the maximum number of trustees from 10 to 12.
- retaining three-year terms for trustees while allowing them to serve additional consecutive three-year terms.

This opportunity was taken to review formatting and to make layout improvements, making the document clearer and easier to read.

Strategy review

At the trustees' meeting in February 2026, the trustees reviewed BERT's existing strategic aim: "To become a national template for similar organisations." This vision had been established under the leadership of former Chairman Craig Scott, whose time, expertise, and commitment enabled the organisation to pursue this ambition. Following Craig's passing, the trustees recognised that the organisation's current capacity is more limited. Consequently, they agreed that BERT should refocus its efforts on local activities, while continuing to share its knowledge and expertise with similar organisations where resources and capacity permit. The update strategy is ***"To focus on local activities while sharing its expertise with similar groups if/when resources allow."***

Ponds Sub Committee

The Ponds Sub Committee was established in 2025 by a group of BERT trustees and local volunteers to explore opportunities for natural flood management in and around Brockham. Working with partner organisations including Surrey County Council, Surrey Wildlife Trust and the Southeast Rivers Trust, the group aims to improve understanding of local flood risk and develop practical, community led solutions. Potential measures include attenuation ponds, bunds, leaky dams and floodplain improvements that can help slow water flow, reduce flooding and enhance biodiversity. The next steps include discussions with local landowners. It is anticipated that this initiative will deliver positive, preventative benefits for flood management and the long term resilience of the village and wider catchment.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	As listed in Section *C – Objectives and activities* of this report.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	Trustees continue to consider the optimal 'save/spend' approach to remain aligned with the objectives of CSC as detailed in its constitution.

Details of any funds materially in deficit	None to report

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about: • the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); • how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; • investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.	The principal sources of funds are donations made by local residents and supporters. During the period April 25 to March 26 there were no grants received from government or local authority funded organisations. Detailed information on receipts and payments is available in the Annual Accounts (CC16a).

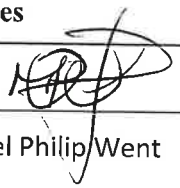
Section F Other optional information

Further to your requirement, we declare that there were no serious incidents to report.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		25/8/2026
Full name(s)	Michael Philip Went	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Interim Chairman	

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Community Support in the Countryside	1171175

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date: 01/04/2025	To	Period end 31/03/2026

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					
Donations	2,732	-	-	2,732	1,086
Gift aid reclaimed	178	-	-	178	207
Anniversary dinner	-	-	-	-	1,700
Village Fair teas	-	-	-	-	143
Other fund raising	-	-	-	-	-
Bank deposit interest	438	-	-	438	687
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	3,348	-	-	3,348	3,823
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sale surplus equipment	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,348	-	-	3,348	3,823
A3 Payments					
Insurance	1,093	-	-	1,093	1,059
General maintenance, fuel etc	543	-	-	543	1,444
Credit / Debit card fees	37	-	-	37	35
Coronavirus support	-	-	-	-	-
Donation website admin fees	216	-	-	216	216
Bank charges	33	-	-	33	32
IT costs	325	-	-	325	346
Anniversary dinner	-			-	1,700
Village Fair teas	-			-	143
Village Covid memorial bench	-			-	700
Award presentation	-			-	454
Village fair stall costs	-			-	201
Society Resilience Conference	-	-	-	-	405
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,247	-	-	2,247	6,735
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Tools	1,586	-	-	1,586	928
Protective Clothing	89			89	406
Flood alert equipment	-	-	-	-	299
Other	373			373	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,048	-	-	2,048	1,633
Total payments	4,295	-	-	4,295	8,368
Net of receipts/(payments)	(947)	-	-	(947)	(4,545)
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	27,902	-	-	27,902	32,447
Cash funds this year end	26,955	-	-	26,955	27,902

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Bank	26,955	-	-
Petty Cash	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	26,955	-	-

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Storage equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Drain scanning equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Pumps and generators	Unrestricted	-	-
Tools	Unrestricted	-	-
Safety equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Other equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
MPW	M.P. WENT	19/5/26