Tab 1

AREHAM

& District Model Railway Club CIO

Trustee Report

31.05.2026

Simon Key

Chair of Trustees

.....0

Simon Key.....1

Chair of Trustees.....1

1. Introduction from the Trustees.....5

2. Objectives and Public Benefit.....7

Charitable Objectives.....7

Public Benefit.....7

Delivery of Public Benefit.....7

Accessibility and Inclusion.....8

Young People and Future Participation.....9

3. Activities and Achievements During the Year.....10

RailEx 2025.....10

Open Day and Local Community Engagement.....12

National Exhibition Participation.....12

Layout Development and Club Facilities.....13

Digital Engagement and Educational Outreach.....13

Accessibility and Operational Challenges.....14

Safeguarding and Younger Participation.....14

Governance and Policy Review.....16

4. Volunteer Contribution.....17

5. Financial Review.....19

Financial Position.....19

Principal Funding Sources.....19

Reserves Policy.....19

Financial Oversight and Monitoring.....20

Going Concern.....20

Independent Examination.....21

Mr Peter Nicholls PN Independent Examinations.....21

6. Risk Management.....22

Exhibition and Financial Risk.....22

Ageing Membership and Volunteer Availability.....23

Safeguarding and Youth Participation.....23

Premises, Lease and Building Risks.....25

Rising Operational Costs.....25

Governance and Operational Oversight.....27

7. Structure, Governance and Management.....28

Governing Document.....28

Governance Structure.....28

Trustee Appointment and Terms of Office.....29

Meetings and Oversight.....29

Policies, Procedures and Governance Review.....29

Trustee and Committee Information Access.....30

Safeguarding and Conduct Matters.....30

Organisational Development.....31

8. Future Plans.....32

9. Reference and Administrative Information.....34

Charity Details....34

Trustees....34

Committee Members....35

Independent Examiner....35

Governing Document....35

Bankers....35

10. Trustee Responsibilities Statement....36

11. Approval and Signatures....37

Simon Key Chair of Trustees....37

Lyndon Ford Trustee / Committee Chair....37

1. Introduction from the Trustees

The trustees of Fareham & District Model Railway Club are pleased to present their Annual Report for the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

The charity has continued to promote public education and participation in the hobby of railway modelling through exhibitions, open days, demonstrations, online engagement, and the development of modelling skills and railway heritage knowledge among both its membership and the wider community.

During the reporting period, the charity experienced one of its strongest years in recent times in terms of public engagement and exhibition attendance. RailEx 2025 proved particularly successful, attracting approximately 2,600 visitors over the exhibition weekend, with a noticeable increase in attendance among younger families and children. The trustees were encouraged by this increased community participation and by the continued public interest in railway modelling, railway heritage, and the educational and practical skills associated with the hobby.

The charity also continued to participate in exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom, with club layouts attending events ranging from Portsmouth to Scotland. Alongside this, work has continued on developing several new layouts and on improvements to existing club facilities and operational layouts within the club premises.

The trustees also continued to support the charity's growing digital presence throughout the year. Through the combined efforts of committee members, volunteers, and IT support, the charity significantly expanded its use of social media and online educational content to reach wider audiences, promote events, and provide practical information and guidance related to the hobby. The trustees believe this has helped strengthen both local and national engagement with the charity's activities.

The trustees recognise that the charity continues to operate within a challenging environment. Rising operational costs, an ageing membership base, volunteer availability, and uncertainty surrounding future lease arrangements for the club premises remain significant considerations for the charity. In addition, the trustees continue to recognise the practical challenges of improving accessibility in an older building and maintaining sustainable safeguarding arrangements in a volunteer-led organisation.

Despite these challenges, the trustees believe the charity remains financially stable and well supported by its members, volunteers and wider community. The trustees continue to maintain reserves to protect the long-term stability of the charity, support the continued operation of RailEx and other public events, and provide resilience while ongoing lease discussions with the local authority are underway. The charity recorded an overall surplus during the reporting period, largely due to the success of RailEx 2025.

The trustees are also pleased to note that the forthcoming year marks the charity's 60th anniversary. Planning is already underway to recognise this milestone through both public and member-focused activities, including efforts to further expand RailEx and a celebration event for members and their families in recognition of the charity's long-standing contribution to the modelling community.

The trustees would like to formally thank all members, volunteers, exhibitors, traders, supporters and visitors who contributed to the charity's activities during the year. Particular thanks are extended to those volunteers and committee members who dedicated significant time towards the organisation and operation of RailEx 2025, the charity's governance work, layout development, public engagement activities, and the continued running of the club.

The trustees would also like to acknowledge the long-standing contributions of Roger Key and Alister Lindford, whose continued support, experience and commitment have played an important role in the charity's operation and development over many years. As they both step down from some of the roles that they have undertaken.

2. Objectives and Public Benefit

Charitable Objectives

The objects of the charity are to advance and promote public education and foster a general interest in model railways, the history, heritage and development of railways, and the hobby of railway modelling. The charity also seeks to encourage and develop a high standard of modelling amongst members, including the ancillary skills involved in the construction and operation of model railways.

The trustees continue to pursue these aims through exhibitions, demonstrations, educational activities, public engagement, modelling projects, online educational content, and the encouragement of practical and creative skills associated with railway modelling and railway heritage.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit when planning and carrying out the charity's activities throughout the reporting period.

The trustees believe that the charity continues to provide public benefit through:

- the promotion and preservation of railway history and heritage
- the encouragement of practical modelling, engineering and creative skills
- the organisation of public exhibitions and open days
- educational demonstrations and displays
- peer learning and volunteering opportunities
- online educational content and community engagement
- participation in exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom
- the development and exhibition of model railway layouts designed to educate and engage the public

The charity's activities remain open to the wider public wherever reasonably practicable, with the trustees continuing to consider affordability, accessibility and inclusion when planning events and activities.

Delivery of Public Benefit

The charity delivers public benefit primarily through the organisation of exhibitions, open days and educational displays which provide opportunities for members of the public to learn about railway modelling, railway heritage, railway operations, and the wide range of practical and creative skills associated with the hobby.

During the reporting period, RailEx 2025 represented the charity's largest public engagement activity, attracting approximately 2,600 visitors over the exhibition weekend. The trustees were particularly encouraged by increased attendance among younger families and children, reflecting continued public interest in the hobby's educational and community aspects.

The charity also continued to exhibit layouts at events throughout the country, helping to promote railway modelling and engage wider audiences beyond the local area. Layouts exhibited during the year included the Fareford group of layouts, Kiddingme, and Fairport Wharf.

The trustees also continued to support the hobby's educational aspects by developing new layouts, demonstrations, peer learning, online articles, and practical guidance, all shared through the charity's website and social media channels.

The charity's activities continue to support the development of a wide range of transferable skills, including:

- model construction
- scenery building
- painting and weathering
- carpentry
- electronics
- engineering
- research
- digital design
- problem solving
- teamwork and volunteering

The trustees believe these activities continue to provide meaningful educational, social, and community benefits to both members and the wider public.

Accessibility and Inclusion

The trustees continue to recognise the importance of accessibility and inclusion within the charity's activities.

Although the charity currently operates from an older building, which presents some practical accessibility limitations, the trustees continue to work constructively with the local authority regarding future lease arrangements and possible long-term improvements.

The trustees also continued efforts during the reporting period to improve accessibility at public events, including considering venue suitability, visitor access requirements and operational improvements following issues experienced at previous exhibitions.

The charity remains committed to encouraging participation from individuals of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities, wherever reasonably practicable, within the limitations of the organisation's available facilities.

Young People and Future Participation

The trustees remain committed to encouraging younger participation in railway modelling and recognise the importance of supporting future generations within the hobby.

The increase in attendance by younger families and children at RailEx 2025 was viewed positively by the trustees and reflects continuing efforts to make the charity's activities welcoming and accessible to wider audiences.

However, the trustees also acknowledge the practical challenges of sustaining youth engagement within a volunteer-led organisation, particularly where safeguarding responsibilities and volunteer availability impose additional operational demands on the charity.

The trustees will continue exploring proportionate and sustainable opportunities to encourage younger participation in future years.

3. Activities and Achievements During the Year

RailEx 2025

RailEx 2025 represented the charity's largest public engagement activity during the reporting period and proved to be the most successful exhibition the charity has organised for several years.

The exhibition attracted approximately 2,600 visitors across the event weekend and continued to provide significant educational and community benefit through the display of model railway layouts, demonstrations, historical interpretation, and practical modelling techniques. The trustees were particularly encouraged by the increase in attendance among younger families and children, which they believe reflects continuing public interest in railway heritage, modelling, and associated creative and technical skills.

The exhibition featured layouts and exhibitors from across the country and provided visitors with opportunities to learn more about railway history, engineering, scenery construction, electronics, operations, weathering techniques and other practical aspects of the hobby.

The trustees continued to focus on improving the visitor experience and the exhibition's operational effectiveness during the reporting period. Additional technology was introduced to support the event, including Raspberry Pi-based systems that provided multiple ticketing positions and visitor survey facilities. These systems assisted with visitor management, accessibility of ticket purchasing, and collection of attendance information, intended to help the charity better understand and engage with the audiences attending its events.

The trustees also continued to consider accessibility carefully when planning the exhibition. Following operational difficulties experienced at previous events involving venue lift access, additional planning and contingency considerations were implemented during the reporting period. The trustees also explored alternative venues offering fully level-access accommodation, although no suitable venue was secured during the year due to operational limitations and availability constraints.

RailEx remains one of the charity's principal fundraising activities and one of its most significant means of delivering public benefit and engaging with the wider community.

Open Day and Local Community Engagement

The charity also held its annual open day during the reporting period, which was again well attended by members of the public and local supporters.

The open day provided opportunities for visitors to:

- view working layouts
- engage directly with members
- learn about railway modelling techniques
- understand more about railway heritage and operations
- explore opportunities for participation within the hobby

The trustees continued efforts to encourage new membership through these activities and were pleased that a number of new members joined the charity during the year. However, the trustees also recognise the ongoing challenges of maintaining membership levels in an ageing hobby community.

The charity continues to view these local engagement activities as an important part of its educational and community role within the local area.

National Exhibition Participation

During the reporting period, the charity's layouts attended major exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom, ranging from Portsmouth to Scotland.

Layouts exhibited during the year included:

- The Fareford group of layouts
- Kiddingme
- Fairport Wharf

Participation in these events enabled the charity to:

- promote railway modelling to wider audiences
- engage with other modelling groups and exhibitors
- share modelling techniques and educational information
- support the wider exhibition community
- promote the charity nationally

The trustees believe that participation in external exhibitions continues to provide significant educational and collaborative value for both members and the wider modelling community.

Layout Development and Club Facilities

The charity continued work on several new layout projects during the reporting period.

Projects currently under development include:

- “Snow Idea”, an N-gauge layout
- “Little Fareham”, a representation of Fareham railway station

The trustees believe that these projects continue to support the charity's educational and heritage aims by encouraging research, modelling development, practical skill-sharing, and collaboration among members.

In addition to new projects, the charity also continued improvements to the permanent running layouts installed around the club premises in O gauge, OO gauge and N gauge. These improvements were intended to improve operational reliability, increase member participation, and enhance the overall experience for members and visitors attending the club premises.

The trustees recognise that the development and maintenance of layouts continues to form a significant part of the charity’s educational and practical activities throughout the year.

Digital Engagement and Educational Outreach

The charity’s digital presence increased substantially during the reporting period through the combined efforts of trustees, committee members, volunteers and IT support.

The trustees continued to expand the charity’s use of:

- social media
- online educational content
- website articles

- event promotion
- digital communication

The charity has increasingly focused on producing educational and informative content to answer common questions about railway modelling and related skills. The trustees believe this has helped extend the charity's reach well beyond its immediate local area and has contributed positively to public engagement with the hobby.

Increased digital engagement also contributed to greater visibility for the charity's exhibitions and public activities, helping direct additional visitors to the charity's website and public events.

During the reporting period, plans were also developed for a major redevelopment of the charity's website infrastructure. The trustees recognised that the existing website platform is approximately six years old and requires significant modernisation to improve accessibility, maintainability, security, and long-term sustainability.

The trustees believe this redevelopment will help future-proof the charity's digital outreach activities and improve accessibility for both members and the wider public.

Accessibility and Operational Challenges

The trustees continue to recognise the importance of accessibility and inclusion within the charity's activities.

The charity currently operates from an older building that was not originally designed to meet modern accessibility standards. While this presents practical limitations, the trustees continue to work constructively with the local authority regarding future lease arrangements and possible long-term improvements to the premises.

The trustees also continued to consider accessibility carefully during the planning and operation of public events throughout the year. Particular attention was given to visitor movement, lift access contingencies, steward support and venue suitability.

While the trustees remain committed to improving accessibility wherever reasonably practicable, they also recognise that some limitations remain due to the age and configuration of both the club premises and externally hired exhibition venues.

Safeguarding and Younger Participation

The trustees remain committed to encouraging younger participation within railway modelling and related educational activities.

The increased attendance of younger families and children at RailEx 2025 was viewed positively by the trustees and reflects continuing efforts to make the charity's activities welcoming and accessible to wider audiences.

However, the trustees also recognise the practical challenges of sustaining youth participation within a volunteer-led organisation, particularly where safeguarding responsibilities and volunteer availability impose additional operational demands.

The trustees continue to monitor this area carefully and will continue exploring proportionate and sustainable opportunities to encourage younger participation in future years.

Governance and Policy Review

During the reporting period, the trustees instructed the committee to review and update the charity's policy documentation.

This work was completed during the year and formed part of the trustees' continuing commitment to maintaining appropriate governance standards and ensuring that the charity's operational procedures remain fit for purpose.

The trustees continue to review governance, safeguarding, accessibility, and operational policies on an ongoing basis to support the charity's charitable objectives and public benefit activities.

4. Volunteer Contribution

The trustees recognise that the charity's activities and continued operation would not be possible without the substantial contribution made by its volunteers, committee members and trustees throughout the reporting period.

As a volunteer-led organisation, the charity relies heavily on the time, experience, practical skills, and commitment of its members to organise exhibitions, maintain layouts and facilities, support governance activities, and deliver public benefit through educational and community engagement activities.

During the reporting period, volunteers contributed significant time towards:

- the planning, organisation and operation of RailEx 2025
- transportation, installation and operation of exhibition layouts
- stewarding and visitor support
- ticketing and admission management
- exhibition setup and dismantling
- layout construction, maintenance and operation
- website management and IT support
- social media and digital outreach
- governance and policy review work
- club maintenance and operational support
- educational demonstrations and modelling guidance

The trustees particularly recognise the considerable effort involved in the successful delivery of RailEx 2025, which was a substantial operational undertaking that required extensive planning and coordination by volunteers over a prolonged period.

The trustees were also pleased to see increased collaboration among members on digital engagement, educational content, and exhibition operations during the year. The continued expansion of the charity's online presence and educational outreach was made possible largely by volunteer effort and technical support from members of the charity.

The trustees also acknowledge the ongoing contributions of members involved in the development, operation, and exhibition of the charity's layouts, both locally and nationally. Participation in exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom required

significant volunteer commitment in transportation, setup, operation, and public engagement.

In addition to operational activities, volunteers also contributed considerable time towards governance and organisational development during the reporting period. This included the review and updating of policy documentation, improvements to operational procedures, and continued work on accessibility, safeguarding, and organisational resilience.

The trustees would particularly like to thank those volunteers and committee members who contributed significant time and effort towards the continued running of the charity during the year, especially in relation to exhibition organisation, club operations and governance work.

The trustees would also like to formally recognise the long-standing contribution of Roger Key and Alister Lindford, whose commitment, experience and support have played an important role in the development and operation of the charity over many years.

The trustees remain extremely grateful for the continued support of all volunteers, members, exhibitors, traders, supporters, and visitors who contributed to the charity's activities throughout the reporting period.

5. Financial Review

Financial Position

The trustees consider the charity to remain financially stable at the end of the reporting period.

During the year ending 31 March 2026, the charity recorded an overall surplus of £6,783.28, primarily due to the successful performance of RailEx 2025 and continued support from members, exhibitors, traders and visitors.

The trustees were pleased with the overall financial performance of the charity during the reporting period, particularly in light of continuing increases in operational and exhibition-related costs affecting many volunteer-led organisations and public events.

The charity's financial position remained stable, with total funds of £51,052.79 recorded at year-end.

Principal Funding Sources

The charity's principal sources of income during the reporting period were:

- membership subscriptions
- RailEx exhibition admissions
- trader stand fees
- open day activities

The trustees recognise that RailEx continues to represent both one of the charity's principal public benefit activities and one of its most significant sources of income.

The trustees also recognise that the exhibition's scale and operational complexity create a corresponding level of financial exposure and operational risk for the charity.

Reserves Policy

The trustees continue to maintain reserves to support the charity's long-term financial stability and operational resilience.

A significant proportion of reserves is maintained to mitigate the financial risks associated with organising major public exhibitions such as RailEx. These events involve

substantial upfront expenditure and operational commitments, including venue hire, infrastructure, equipment, insurance and event management costs.

The trustees also continue to maintain reserves in response to ongoing uncertainty regarding future lease arrangements and rental liabilities associated with the charity's premises, while discussions with the local authority progress.

In addition, designated reserves are maintained to support future repairs, operational continuity and the long-term sustainability of the charity's facilities and activities.

The trustees believe that maintaining appropriate reserves represents prudent financial management in light of the operational risks and financial commitments associated with the charity's activities.

Financial Oversight and Monitoring

The trustees continue to actively monitor the charity's financial position throughout the year.

Financial performance, expenditure, reserves, and operational commitments are reviewed regularly at committee and trustee meetings. Particular attention is given to:

- exhibition performance
- rising operational costs
- reserve levels
- major expenditure commitments
- lease-related uncertainty
- long-term operational sustainability

The trustees believe that these ongoing monitoring arrangements provide appropriate financial oversight for the scale and nature of the charity's activities.

Going Concern

The trustees consider the charity to remain a going concern for the foreseeable future.

While the trustees recognise the ongoing challenges associated with rising operational costs, volunteer availability, ageing facilities and exhibition-related financial exposure, they believe that the charity remains financially stable and operationally sustainable

due to its current reserves, continued public support, active membership and ongoing programme of activities.

Independent Examination

Although the charity remains below the statutory threshold requiring independent examination, the trustees have voluntarily continued to appoint an Independent Examiner in the interests of transparency, accountability and good financial governance.

The trustees believe that independent examination provides additional reassurance to members, supporters and the wider public regarding the charity's financial management and reporting arrangements.

The Independent Examiner for the reporting period was:

Mr Peter Nicholls
PN Independent Examinations

6. Risk Management

The trustees recognise that effective risk management is an important part of the charity's governance and long-term sustainability.

The trustees continue to review operational, financial and organisational risks regularly through both committee meetings and trustee meetings. The trustees believe that maintaining appropriate reserves, active oversight, and ongoing operational review processes helps support the continued stability of the charity and its activities.

The principal risks currently identified by the trustees are outlined below.

Exhibition and Financial Risk

The trustees recognise that RailEx represents both one of the charity's largest public benefit activities and one of its most significant financial risks.

The organisation of a large public exhibition involves substantial upfront expenditure and operational commitments, including:

- venue hire
- infrastructure costs
- insurance
- equipment
- transport
- operational support
- visitor management

The trustees recognise that exhibition attendance can be affected by factors outside the charity's direct control, including economic conditions, rising costs, accessibility issues and wider public attendance trends.

In response to these risks, the trustees continue to:

- maintain designated reserves
- Closely monitor exhibition budgets
- review operational costs
- increase publicity and public engagement
- utilise online ticketing systems
- gather visitor feedback and survey information

- review venue suitability and accessibility
- undertake long-term planning for future exhibitions

The trustees believe these measures help improve the long-term resilience and sustainability of the charity's exhibition programme.

Ageing Membership and Volunteer Availability

The trustees recognise that the charity, like many specialist hobby and heritage organisations, faces ongoing challenges associated with an ageing membership profile and volunteer availability.

The continued operation of the charity depends heavily upon the time, experience and commitment of volunteers and committee members. The trustees also recognise the risks associated with dependence on a relatively small number of key volunteers with specialist operational knowledge and technical skills.

The trustees continue to seek to address these challenges through:

- public engagement activities
- promotion at exhibitions and open days
- encouraging membership applications
- maintaining a visible public profile
- increasing digital engagement
- collaboration with other clubs and organisations
- encouraging participation from wider audiences

The trustees remain encouraged by the increased attendance of younger families and children at RailEx 2025, although they recognise that attracting and retaining younger long-term members remains an ongoing challenge.

Safeguarding and Youth Participation

The trustees recognise the importance of safeguarding within any activities involving younger participants and visitors.

As a volunteer-led organisation, the trustees acknowledge the practical challenges of maintaining sustainable safeguarding arrangements while encouraging younger participation in the hobby.

The trustees continue to monitor safeguarding requirements carefully and seek proportionate and practical approaches which support both public safety and continued educational engagement.

Premises, Lease and Building Risks

The charity currently operates from an older building, which presents a number of ongoing operational and maintenance challenges.

The trustees recognise that the age and configuration of the premises create limitations in relation to:

- accessibility
- maintenance requirements
- long-term operational sustainability
- infrastructure improvements

In addition, uncertainty remains regarding future lease arrangements and rental liabilities associated with the premises while ongoing discussions with the local authority continue.

The trustees continue to:

- engage constructively with the local authority
- participate in ongoing lease discussions
- monitor operational requirements and repair needs
- consider contingency arrangements where appropriate

The trustees continue to maintain reserves, in part, in response to these uncertainties and operational risks.

Rising Operational Costs

The trustees recognise that rising operational and exhibition-related costs continue to place pressure upon the charity's activities and long-term financial planning.

Particular areas of concern include:

- venue hire costs
- transport costs
- utilities and premises costs
- exhibition infrastructure costs
- maintenance and repair costs

The trustees continue to monitor expenditure carefully and review financial performance regularly in order to maintain the charity's financial stability and operational resilience.

Governance and Operational Oversight

The trustees continue to review governance arrangements, operational procedures and policy documentation on an ongoing basis.

During the reporting period, the trustees instructed the committee to undertake a review and update of the charity's policy documentation in order to help ensure that procedures remain appropriate, proportionate and fit for purpose.

The trustees believe that continued governance review and active operational oversight remain important to the long-term stability and effective management of the charity.

7. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Fareham & District Model Railway Club is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a CIO Constitution. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission under the registered charity number 1188533.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity continues to operate in accordance with its charitable objects and governing document.

Governance Structure

The charity operates through a structure consisting of trustees and a management committee.

The committee is responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the charity, including:

- exhibition organisation
- membership administration
- operational planning
- building and layout maintenance
- website and social media activities
- implementation of policies and procedures
- routine financial oversight
- general administration

The trustees provide strategic oversight of the charity and are responsible for:

- high-level governance decisions
- oversight of charitable objectives
- policy review and approval
- long-term organisational planning
- management of significant governance concerns
- resolution of disputes where required
- safeguarding oversight
- ensuring that the charity operates in accordance with its governing document and legal obligations

The trustees and committee continue to work collaboratively in support of the charity's activities and long-term sustainability.

Trustee Appointment and Terms of Office

Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the charity's CIO Constitution.

Trustees serve fixed terms as defined within the governing document and may stand for re-election at the conclusion of their term, where eligible.

The trustees believe that election by the membership helps maintain accountability and supports the charity's democratic operation.

Meetings and Oversight

Committee meetings are generally held monthly to oversee the charity's operational activities and monitor ongoing projects, events, and organisational matters.

Trustee meetings are normally held every six months, with additional meetings held as required in response to significant governance, operational, or financial matters.

Financial performance, operational risks, governance matters and strategic issues are regularly reviewed through both committee and trustee oversight arrangements.

Policies, Procedures and Governance Review

During the reporting period, the trustees instructed the committee to review and update the charity's policy documentation.

This work formed part of the trustees' continuing commitment to maintaining appropriate governance standards and ensuring that policies and procedures remain proportionate, accessible and fit for purpose.

The trustees continue to review governance arrangements, safeguarding requirements, accessibility considerations and operational procedures on an ongoing basis.

Trustee and Committee Information Access

The charity maintains operational and governance documentation in shared digital storage systems, with access controlled by member permission groups.

This structure allows trustees and authorised committee members appropriate access to:

- governance documentation
- operational policies
- procedures
- organisational records
- relevant committee information

The trustees believe this arrangement supports both operational efficiency and appropriate governance oversight while helping ensure that sensitive information is managed responsibly.

Safeguarding and Conduct Matters

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining appropriate safeguarding, behavioural and governance standards within a volunteer-led organisation.

The trustees retain oversight responsibility for significant governance concerns, safeguarding matters and serious conduct issues where escalation beyond routine committee management is required.

The trustees continue to seek proportionate and practical approaches to safeguarding and member welfare which remain appropriate for the scale and nature of the charity's activities.

Organisational Development

The trustees recognise that the charity continues to evolve in response to changing operational, financial and community requirements.

During the reporting period, particular attention was given to:

- governance review
- operational resilience
- accessibility considerations
- digital engagement
- public outreach
- long-term sustainability planning

The trustees believe that continued organisational development will remain important to supporting the charity's future stability and effectiveness.

8. Future Plans

The trustees remain committed to supporting the long-term sustainability, public benefit and continued development of the charity.

A significant focus for the forthcoming reporting period will be the charity's 60th anniversary year. The trustees recognise this as an important milestone in the organisation's history and an opportunity to both celebrate the charity's long-standing contribution to railway modelling and further strengthen public engagement with the hobby.

As part of these celebrations, the trustees intend to continue developing and expanding RailEx, with particular focus on:

- increasing the number and variety of layouts attending the exhibition
- further strengthening collaboration with other clubs and exhibitors
- improving engagement with families and younger visitors
- continuing to improve the visitor experience wherever reasonably practicable

The trustees also intend to hold a small anniversary celebration for members and their families, in recognition of the contributions made by generations of volunteers and supporters throughout the charity's history.

The trustees continue to recognise the importance of encouraging future generations into the hobby and will continue efforts to attract and retain new members through:

- exhibitions
- open days
- digital engagement
- educational outreach
- increased public visibility

The trustees also intend to continue developing the charity's online educational presence through additional website articles, modelling guidance and digital engagement activities intended to support both existing hobbyists and members of the wider public seeking information about railway modelling and railway heritage.

During the forthcoming year, the charity also intends to begin a major redevelopment of its website infrastructure. The trustees believe this work is necessary to modernise

the platform, improve accessibility, enhance long-term maintainability, and ensure that the charity's digital resources remain sustainable and accessible in future years.

The trustees also intend to continue developing current layout projects and supporting the construction of new layouts within the charity. This includes the continued development of "Snow Idea" and "Little Fareham," as well as improvements to existing club layouts and operational facilities.

Securing the long-term stability of the charity's premises also remains an important priority for the trustees. The trustees intend to continue working constructively with the local authority on lease arrangements while also considering longer-term improvements to the club premises where reasonably practicable.

Financial resilience will also remain a significant focus for the trustees during the forthcoming year. The trustees will continue to monitor operational costs, maintain appropriate reserves and review the long-term sustainability of the charity's activities in response to continuing financial and operational pressures affecting volunteer-led organisations and public exhibitions.

The trustees believe that continued investment in public engagement, governance, digital outreach, exhibitions and member participation will help support the long-term future of the charity and its educational and community objectives.

9. Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Details

Charity Name
Fareham & District Model Railway Club

Registered Charity Number
1188533

Principal Address
Harbour View
Portchester

Website
Fareham & District Model Railway Club

Main Contact Email
secretary@fareham-mrc.org.uk

Trustees

Simon Key - Chair of Trustees

Lyndon Ford - Trustee

Alister Lindford - Trustee

Roger Key - Trustee / Secretary

Committee Members

Lyndon Ford - Committee Chair

Simon Key - Committee Member

Roger Key - Secretary

Colin Skinner - Treasurer

Derek Underwood - Committee Member

Alister Lindford - Committee Member

Andy Baily - Committee Member

Independent Examiner

Mr Peter Nicholls
PN Independent Examinations

Governing Document

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is governed by a CIO Constitution.

Bankers

Lloyds Bank

10. Trustee Responsibilities Statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report in accordance with applicable law and the governing document of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and to disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the charity's financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity operates in furtherance of its charitable objectives and in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act, the charity's governing document and relevant guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The trustees confirm that:

- the charity's funds have been applied solely towards the charity's objects
- the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit
- appropriate governance and oversight arrangements are maintained
- the trustees continue to review operational, financial and safeguarding risks affecting the charity

The trustees approved this report and authorised it to be signed on their behalf.

11. Approval and Signatures

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the trustees on:

_____

and signed on their behalf by:

_____

Simon Key
Chair of Trustees

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Lyndon Ford
Trustee / Committee Chair

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Tab 1

AREHAM

& District Model Railway Club CIO

Trustee Report

31.05.2026

Simon Key

Chair of Trustees

.....0

Simon Key.....1

Chair of Trustees.....1

1. Introduction from the Trustees.....5

2. Objectives and Public Benefit.....7

Charitable Objectives.....7

Public Benefit.....7

Delivery of Public Benefit.....7

Accessibility and Inclusion.....8

Young People and Future Participation.....9

3. Activities and Achievements During the Year.....10

RailEx 2025.....10

Open Day and Local Community Engagement.....12

National Exhibition Participation.....12

Layout Development and Club Facilities.....13

Digital Engagement and Educational Outreach.....13

Accessibility and Operational Challenges.....14

Safeguarding and Younger Participation.....14

Governance and Policy Review.....16

4. Volunteer Contribution.....17

5. Financial Review.....19

Financial Position.....19

Principal Funding Sources.....19

Reserves Policy.....19

Financial Oversight and Monitoring.....20

Going Concern.....20

Independent Examination.....21

Mr Peter Nicholls PN Independent Examinations.....21

6. Risk Management.....22

Exhibition and Financial Risk.....22

Ageing Membership and Volunteer Availability.....23

Safeguarding and Youth Participation.....23

Premises, Lease and Building Risks.....25

Rising Operational Costs.....25

Governance and Operational Oversight.....27

7. Structure, Governance and Management.....28

Governing Document.....28

Governance Structure.....28

Trustee Appointment and Terms of Office.....29

Meetings and Oversight.....29

Policies, Procedures and Governance Review.....29

Trustee and Committee Information Access.....30

Safeguarding and Conduct Matters.....30

Organisational Development.....31

8. Future Plans.....32

9. Reference and Administrative Information.....34

Charity Details....34

Trustees....34

Committee Members....35

Independent Examiner....35

Governing Document....35

Bankers....35

10. Trustee Responsibilities Statement....36

11. Approval and Signatures....37

Simon Key Chair of Trustees....37

Lyndon Ford Trustee / Committee Chair....37

1. Introduction from the Trustees

The trustees of Fareham & District Model Railway Club are pleased to present their Annual Report for the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

The charity has continued to promote public education and participation in the hobby of railway modelling through exhibitions, open days, demonstrations, online engagement, and the development of modelling skills and railway heritage knowledge among both its membership and the wider community.

During the reporting period, the charity experienced one of its strongest years in recent times in terms of public engagement and exhibition attendance. RailEx 2025 proved particularly successful, attracting approximately 2,600 visitors over the exhibition weekend, with a noticeable increase in attendance among younger families and children. The trustees were encouraged by this increased community participation and by the continued public interest in railway modelling, railway heritage, and the educational and practical skills associated with the hobby.

The charity also continued to participate in exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom, with club layouts attending events ranging from Portsmouth to Scotland. Alongside this, work has continued on developing several new layouts and on improvements to existing club facilities and operational layouts within the club premises.

The trustees also continued to support the charity's growing digital presence throughout the year. Through the combined efforts of committee members, volunteers, and IT support, the charity significantly expanded its use of social media and online educational content to reach wider audiences, promote events, and provide practical information and guidance related to the hobby. The trustees believe this has helped strengthen both local and national engagement with the charity's activities.

The trustees recognise that the charity continues to operate within a challenging environment. Rising operational costs, an ageing membership base, volunteer availability, and uncertainty surrounding future lease arrangements for the club premises remain significant considerations for the charity. In addition, the trustees continue to recognise the practical challenges of improving accessibility in an older building and maintaining sustainable safeguarding arrangements in a volunteer-led organisation.

Despite these challenges, the trustees believe the charity remains financially stable and well supported by its members, volunteers and wider community. The trustees continue to maintain reserves to protect the long-term stability of the charity, support the continued operation of RailEx and other public events, and provide resilience while ongoing lease discussions with the local authority are underway. The charity recorded an overall surplus during the reporting period, largely due to the success of RailEx 2025.

The trustees are also pleased to note that the forthcoming year marks the charity's 60th anniversary. Planning is already underway to recognise this milestone through both public and member-focused activities, including efforts to further expand RailEx and a celebration event for members and their families in recognition of the charity's long-standing contribution to the modelling community.

The trustees would like to formally thank all members, volunteers, exhibitors, traders, supporters and visitors who contributed to the charity's activities during the year. Particular thanks are extended to those volunteers and committee members who dedicated significant time towards the organisation and operation of RailEx 2025, the charity's governance work, layout development, public engagement activities, and the continued running of the club.

The trustees would also like to acknowledge the long-standing contributions of Roger Key and Alister Lindford, whose continued support, experience and commitment have played an important role in the charity's operation and development over many years. As they both step down from some of the roles that they have undertaken.

2. Objectives and Public Benefit

Charitable Objectives

The objects of the charity are to advance and promote public education and foster a general interest in model railways, the history, heritage and development of railways, and the hobby of railway modelling. The charity also seeks to encourage and develop a high standard of modelling amongst members, including the ancillary skills involved in the construction and operation of model railways.

The trustees continue to pursue these aims through exhibitions, demonstrations, educational activities, public engagement, modelling projects, online educational content, and the encouragement of practical and creative skills associated with railway modelling and railway heritage.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit when planning and carrying out the charity's activities throughout the reporting period.

The trustees believe that the charity continues to provide public benefit through:

- the promotion and preservation of railway history and heritage
- the encouragement of practical modelling, engineering and creative skills
- the organisation of public exhibitions and open days
- educational demonstrations and displays
- peer learning and volunteering opportunities
- online educational content and community engagement
- participation in exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom
- the development and exhibition of model railway layouts designed to educate and engage the public

The charity's activities remain open to the wider public wherever reasonably practicable, with the trustees continuing to consider affordability, accessibility and inclusion when planning events and activities.

Delivery of Public Benefit

The charity delivers public benefit primarily through the organisation of exhibitions, open days and educational displays which provide opportunities for members of the public to learn about railway modelling, railway heritage, railway operations, and the wide range of practical and creative skills associated with the hobby.

During the reporting period, RailEx 2025 represented the charity's largest public engagement activity, attracting approximately 2,600 visitors over the exhibition weekend. The trustees were particularly encouraged by increased attendance among younger families and children, reflecting continued public interest in the hobby's educational and community aspects.

The charity also continued to exhibit layouts at events throughout the country, helping to promote railway modelling and engage wider audiences beyond the local area. Layouts exhibited during the year included the Fareford group of layouts, Kiddingme, and Fairport Wharf.

The trustees also continued to support the hobby's educational aspects by developing new layouts, demonstrations, peer learning, online articles, and practical guidance, all shared through the charity's website and social media channels.

The charity's activities continue to support the development of a wide range of transferable skills, including:

- model construction
- scenery building
- painting and weathering
- carpentry
- electronics
- engineering
- research
- digital design
- problem solving
- teamwork and volunteering

The trustees believe these activities continue to provide meaningful educational, social, and community benefits to both members and the wider public.

Accessibility and Inclusion

The trustees continue to recognise the importance of accessibility and inclusion within the charity's activities.

Although the charity currently operates from an older building, which presents some practical accessibility limitations, the trustees continue to work constructively with the local authority regarding future lease arrangements and possible long-term improvements.

The trustees also continued efforts during the reporting period to improve accessibility at public events, including considering venue suitability, visitor access requirements and operational improvements following issues experienced at previous exhibitions.

The charity remains committed to encouraging participation from individuals of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities, wherever reasonably practicable, within the limitations of the organisation's available facilities.

Young People and Future Participation

The trustees remain committed to encouraging younger participation in railway modelling and recognise the importance of supporting future generations within the hobby.

The increase in attendance by younger families and children at RailEx 2025 was viewed positively by the trustees and reflects continuing efforts to make the charity's activities welcoming and accessible to wider audiences.

However, the trustees also acknowledge the practical challenges of sustaining youth engagement within a volunteer-led organisation, particularly where safeguarding responsibilities and volunteer availability impose additional operational demands on the charity.

The trustees will continue exploring proportionate and sustainable opportunities to encourage younger participation in future years.

3. Activities and Achievements During the Year

RailEx 2025

RailEx 2025 represented the charity's largest public engagement activity during the reporting period and proved to be the most successful exhibition the charity has organised for several years.

The exhibition attracted approximately 2,600 visitors across the event weekend and continued to provide significant educational and community benefit through the display of model railway layouts, demonstrations, historical interpretation, and practical modelling techniques. The trustees were particularly encouraged by the increase in attendance among younger families and children, which they believe reflects continuing public interest in railway heritage, modelling, and associated creative and technical skills.

The exhibition featured layouts and exhibitors from across the country and provided visitors with opportunities to learn more about railway history, engineering, scenery construction, electronics, operations, weathering techniques and other practical aspects of the hobby.

The trustees continued to focus on improving the visitor experience and the exhibition's operational effectiveness during the reporting period. Additional technology was introduced to support the event, including Raspberry Pi-based systems that provided multiple ticketing positions and visitor survey facilities. These systems assisted with visitor management, accessibility of ticket purchasing, and collection of attendance information, intended to help the charity better understand and engage with the audiences attending its events.

The trustees also continued to consider accessibility carefully when planning the exhibition. Following operational difficulties experienced at previous events involving venue lift access, additional planning and contingency considerations were implemented during the reporting period. The trustees also explored alternative venues offering fully level-access accommodation, although no suitable venue was secured during the year due to operational limitations and availability constraints.

RailEx remains one of the charity's principal fundraising activities and one of its most significant means of delivering public benefit and engaging with the wider community.

Open Day and Local Community Engagement

The charity also held its annual open day during the reporting period, which was again well attended by members of the public and local supporters.

The open day provided opportunities for visitors to:

- view working layouts
- engage directly with members
- learn about railway modelling techniques
- understand more about railway heritage and operations
- explore opportunities for participation within the hobby

The trustees continued efforts to encourage new membership through these activities and were pleased that a number of new members joined the charity during the year. However, the trustees also recognise the ongoing challenges of maintaining membership levels in an ageing hobby community.

The charity continues to view these local engagement activities as an important part of its educational and community role within the local area.

National Exhibition Participation

During the reporting period, the charity's layouts attended major exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom, ranging from Portsmouth to Scotland.

Layouts exhibited during the year included:

- The Fareford group of layouts
- Kiddingme
- Fairport Wharf

Participation in these events enabled the charity to:

- promote railway modelling to wider audiences
- engage with other modelling groups and exhibitors
- share modelling techniques and educational information
- support the wider exhibition community
- promote the charity nationally

The trustees believe that participation in external exhibitions continues to provide significant educational and collaborative value for both members and the wider modelling community.

Layout Development and Club Facilities

The charity continued work on several new layout projects during the reporting period.

Projects currently under development include:

- “Snow Idea”, an N-gauge layout
- “Little Fareham”, a representation of Fareham railway station

The trustees believe that these projects continue to support the charity's educational and heritage aims by encouraging research, modelling development, practical skill-sharing, and collaboration among members.

In addition to new projects, the charity also continued improvements to the permanent running layouts installed around the club premises in O gauge, OO gauge and N gauge. These improvements were intended to improve operational reliability, increase member participation, and enhance the overall experience for members and visitors attending the club premises.

The trustees recognise that the development and maintenance of layouts continues to form a significant part of the charity’s educational and practical activities throughout the year.

Digital Engagement and Educational Outreach

The charity’s digital presence increased substantially during the reporting period through the combined efforts of trustees, committee members, volunteers and IT support.

The trustees continued to expand the charity’s use of:

- social media
- online educational content
- website articles

- event promotion
- digital communication

The charity has increasingly focused on producing educational and informative content to answer common questions about railway modelling and related skills. The trustees believe this has helped extend the charity's reach well beyond its immediate local area and has contributed positively to public engagement with the hobby.

Increased digital engagement also contributed to greater visibility for the charity's exhibitions and public activities, helping direct additional visitors to the charity's website and public events.

During the reporting period, plans were also developed for a major redevelopment of the charity's website infrastructure. The trustees recognised that the existing website platform is approximately six years old and requires significant modernisation to improve accessibility, maintainability, security, and long-term sustainability.

The trustees believe this redevelopment will help future-proof the charity's digital outreach activities and improve accessibility for both members and the wider public.

Accessibility and Operational Challenges

The trustees continue to recognise the importance of accessibility and inclusion within the charity's activities.

The charity currently operates from an older building that was not originally designed to meet modern accessibility standards. While this presents practical limitations, the trustees continue to work constructively with the local authority regarding future lease arrangements and possible long-term improvements to the premises.

The trustees also continued to consider accessibility carefully during the planning and operation of public events throughout the year. Particular attention was given to visitor movement, lift access contingencies, steward support and venue suitability.

While the trustees remain committed to improving accessibility wherever reasonably practicable, they also recognise that some limitations remain due to the age and configuration of both the club premises and externally hired exhibition venues.

Safeguarding and Younger Participation

The trustees remain committed to encouraging younger participation within railway modelling and related educational activities.

The increased attendance of younger families and children at RailEx 2025 was viewed positively by the trustees and reflects continuing efforts to make the charity's activities welcoming and accessible to wider audiences.

However, the trustees also recognise the practical challenges of sustaining youth participation within a volunteer-led organisation, particularly where safeguarding responsibilities and volunteer availability impose additional operational demands.

The trustees continue to monitor this area carefully and will continue exploring proportionate and sustainable opportunities to encourage younger participation in future years.

Governance and Policy Review

During the reporting period, the trustees instructed the committee to review and update the charity's policy documentation.

This work was completed during the year and formed part of the trustees' continuing commitment to maintaining appropriate governance standards and ensuring that the charity's operational procedures remain fit for purpose.

The trustees continue to review governance, safeguarding, accessibility, and operational policies on an ongoing basis to support the charity's charitable objectives and public benefit activities.

4. Volunteer Contribution

The trustees recognise that the charity's activities and continued operation would not be possible without the substantial contribution made by its volunteers, committee members and trustees throughout the reporting period.

As a volunteer-led organisation, the charity relies heavily on the time, experience, practical skills, and commitment of its members to organise exhibitions, maintain layouts and facilities, support governance activities, and deliver public benefit through educational and community engagement activities.

During the reporting period, volunteers contributed significant time towards:

- the planning, organisation and operation of RailEx 2025
- transportation, installation and operation of exhibition layouts
- stewarding and visitor support
- ticketing and admission management
- exhibition setup and dismantling
- layout construction, maintenance and operation
- website management and IT support
- social media and digital outreach
- governance and policy review work
- club maintenance and operational support
- educational demonstrations and modelling guidance

The trustees particularly recognise the considerable effort involved in the successful delivery of RailEx 2025, which was a substantial operational undertaking that required extensive planning and coordination by volunteers over a prolonged period.

The trustees were also pleased to see increased collaboration among members on digital engagement, educational content, and exhibition operations during the year. The continued expansion of the charity's online presence and educational outreach was made possible largely by volunteer effort and technical support from members of the charity.

The trustees also acknowledge the ongoing contributions of members involved in the development, operation, and exhibition of the charity's layouts, both locally and nationally. Participation in exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom required

significant volunteer commitment in transportation, setup, operation, and public engagement.

In addition to operational activities, volunteers also contributed considerable time towards governance and organisational development during the reporting period. This included the review and updating of policy documentation, improvements to operational procedures, and continued work on accessibility, safeguarding, and organisational resilience.

The trustees would particularly like to thank those volunteers and committee members who contributed significant time and effort towards the continued running of the charity during the year, especially in relation to exhibition organisation, club operations and governance work.

The trustees would also like to formally recognise the long-standing contribution of Roger Key and Alister Lindford, whose commitment, experience and support have played an important role in the development and operation of the charity over many years.

The trustees remain extremely grateful for the continued support of all volunteers, members, exhibitors, traders, supporters, and visitors who contributed to the charity's activities throughout the reporting period.

5. Financial Review

Financial Position

The trustees consider the charity to remain financially stable at the end of the reporting period.

During the year ending 31 March 2026, the charity recorded an overall surplus of £6,783.28, primarily due to the successful performance of RailEx 2025 and continued support from members, exhibitors, traders and visitors.

The trustees were pleased with the overall financial performance of the charity during the reporting period, particularly in light of continuing increases in operational and exhibition-related costs affecting many volunteer-led organisations and public events.

The charity's financial position remained stable, with total funds of £51,052.79 recorded at year-end.

Principal Funding Sources

The charity's principal sources of income during the reporting period were:

- membership subscriptions
- RailEx exhibition admissions
- trader stand fees
- open day activities

The trustees recognise that RailEx continues to represent both one of the charity's principal public benefit activities and one of its most significant sources of income.

The trustees also recognise that the exhibition's scale and operational complexity create a corresponding level of financial exposure and operational risk for the charity.

Reserves Policy

The trustees continue to maintain reserves to support the charity's long-term financial stability and operational resilience.

A significant proportion of reserves is maintained to mitigate the financial risks associated with organising major public exhibitions such as RailEx. These events involve

substantial upfront expenditure and operational commitments, including venue hire, infrastructure, equipment, insurance and event management costs.

The trustees also continue to maintain reserves in response to ongoing uncertainty regarding future lease arrangements and rental liabilities associated with the charity's premises, while discussions with the local authority progress.

In addition, designated reserves are maintained to support future repairs, operational continuity and the long-term sustainability of the charity's facilities and activities.

The trustees believe that maintaining appropriate reserves represents prudent financial management in light of the operational risks and financial commitments associated with the charity's activities.

Financial Oversight and Monitoring

The trustees continue to actively monitor the charity's financial position throughout the year.

Financial performance, expenditure, reserves, and operational commitments are reviewed regularly at committee and trustee meetings. Particular attention is given to:

- exhibition performance
- rising operational costs
- reserve levels
- major expenditure commitments
- lease-related uncertainty
- long-term operational sustainability

The trustees believe that these ongoing monitoring arrangements provide appropriate financial oversight for the scale and nature of the charity's activities.

Going Concern

The trustees consider the charity to remain a going concern for the foreseeable future.

While the trustees recognise the ongoing challenges associated with rising operational costs, volunteer availability, ageing facilities and exhibition-related financial exposure, they believe that the charity remains financially stable and operationally sustainable

due to its current reserves, continued public support, active membership and ongoing programme of activities.

Independent Examination

Although the charity remains below the statutory threshold requiring independent examination, the trustees have voluntarily continued to appoint an Independent Examiner in the interests of transparency, accountability and good financial governance.

The trustees believe that independent examination provides additional reassurance to members, supporters and the wider public regarding the charity's financial management and reporting arrangements.

The Independent Examiner for the reporting period was:

Mr Peter Nicholls
PN Independent Examinations

6. Risk Management

The trustees recognise that effective risk management is an important part of the charity's governance and long-term sustainability.

The trustees continue to review operational, financial and organisational risks regularly through both committee meetings and trustee meetings. The trustees believe that maintaining appropriate reserves, active oversight, and ongoing operational review processes helps support the continued stability of the charity and its activities.

The principal risks currently identified by the trustees are outlined below.

Exhibition and Financial Risk

The trustees recognise that RailEx represents both one of the charity's largest public benefit activities and one of its most significant financial risks.

The organisation of a large public exhibition involves substantial upfront expenditure and operational commitments, including:

- venue hire
- infrastructure costs
- insurance
- equipment
- transport
- operational support
- visitor management

The trustees recognise that exhibition attendance can be affected by factors outside the charity's direct control, including economic conditions, rising costs, accessibility issues and wider public attendance trends.

In response to these risks, the trustees continue to:

- maintain designated reserves
- Closely monitor exhibition budgets
- review operational costs
- increase publicity and public engagement
- utilise online ticketing systems
- gather visitor feedback and survey information

- review venue suitability and accessibility
- undertake long-term planning for future exhibitions

The trustees believe these measures help improve the long-term resilience and sustainability of the charity's exhibition programme.

Ageing Membership and Volunteer Availability

The trustees recognise that the charity, like many specialist hobby and heritage organisations, faces ongoing challenges associated with an ageing membership profile and volunteer availability.

The continued operation of the charity depends heavily upon the time, experience and commitment of volunteers and committee members. The trustees also recognise the risks associated with dependence on a relatively small number of key volunteers with specialist operational knowledge and technical skills.

The trustees continue to seek to address these challenges through:

- public engagement activities
- promotion at exhibitions and open days
- encouraging membership applications
- maintaining a visible public profile
- increasing digital engagement
- collaboration with other clubs and organisations
- encouraging participation from wider audiences

The trustees remain encouraged by the increased attendance of younger families and children at RailEx 2025, although they recognise that attracting and retaining younger long-term members remains an ongoing challenge.

Safeguarding and Youth Participation

The trustees recognise the importance of safeguarding within any activities involving younger participants and visitors.

As a volunteer-led organisation, the trustees acknowledge the practical challenges of maintaining sustainable safeguarding arrangements while encouraging younger participation in the hobby.

The trustees continue to monitor safeguarding requirements carefully and seek proportionate and practical approaches which support both public safety and continued educational engagement.

Premises, Lease and Building Risks

The charity currently operates from an older building, which presents a number of ongoing operational and maintenance challenges.

The trustees recognise that the age and configuration of the premises create limitations in relation to:

- accessibility
- maintenance requirements
- long-term operational sustainability
- infrastructure improvements

In addition, uncertainty remains regarding future lease arrangements and rental liabilities associated with the premises while ongoing discussions with the local authority continue.

The trustees continue to:

- engage constructively with the local authority
- participate in ongoing lease discussions
- monitor operational requirements and repair needs
- consider contingency arrangements where appropriate

The trustees continue to maintain reserves, in part, in response to these uncertainties and operational risks.

Rising Operational Costs

The trustees recognise that rising operational and exhibition-related costs continue to place pressure upon the charity's activities and long-term financial planning.

Particular areas of concern include:

- venue hire costs
- transport costs
- utilities and premises costs
- exhibition infrastructure costs
- maintenance and repair costs

The trustees continue to monitor expenditure carefully and review financial performance regularly in order to maintain the charity's financial stability and operational resilience.

Governance and Operational Oversight

The trustees continue to review governance arrangements, operational procedures and policy documentation on an ongoing basis.

During the reporting period, the trustees instructed the committee to undertake a review and update of the charity's policy documentation in order to help ensure that procedures remain appropriate, proportionate and fit for purpose.

The trustees believe that continued governance review and active operational oversight remain important to the long-term stability and effective management of the charity.

7. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Fareham & District Model Railway Club is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a CIO Constitution. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission under the registered charity number 1188533.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity continues to operate in accordance with its charitable objects and governing document.

Governance Structure

The charity operates through a structure consisting of trustees and a management committee.

The committee is responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the charity, including:

- exhibition organisation
- membership administration
- operational planning
- building and layout maintenance
- website and social media activities
- implementation of policies and procedures
- routine financial oversight
- general administration

The trustees provide strategic oversight of the charity and are responsible for:

- high-level governance decisions
- oversight of charitable objectives
- policy review and approval
- long-term organisational planning
- management of significant governance concerns
- resolution of disputes where required
- safeguarding oversight
- ensuring that the charity operates in accordance with its governing document and legal obligations

The trustees and committee continue to work collaboratively in support of the charity's activities and long-term sustainability.

Trustee Appointment and Terms of Office

Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the charity's CIO Constitution.

Trustees serve fixed terms as defined within the governing document and may stand for re-election at the conclusion of their term, where eligible.

The trustees believe that election by the membership helps maintain accountability and supports the charity's democratic operation.

Meetings and Oversight

Committee meetings are generally held monthly to oversee the charity's operational activities and monitor ongoing projects, events, and organisational matters.

Trustee meetings are normally held every six months, with additional meetings held as required in response to significant governance, operational, or financial matters.

Financial performance, operational risks, governance matters and strategic issues are regularly reviewed through both committee and trustee oversight arrangements.

Policies, Procedures and Governance Review

During the reporting period, the trustees instructed the committee to review and update the charity's policy documentation.

This work formed part of the trustees' continuing commitment to maintaining appropriate governance standards and ensuring that policies and procedures remain proportionate, accessible and fit for purpose.

The trustees continue to review governance arrangements, safeguarding requirements, accessibility considerations and operational procedures on an ongoing basis.

Trustee and Committee Information Access

The charity maintains operational and governance documentation in shared digital storage systems, with access controlled by member permission groups.

This structure allows trustees and authorised committee members appropriate access to:

- governance documentation
- operational policies
- procedures
- organisational records
- relevant committee information

The trustees believe this arrangement supports both operational efficiency and appropriate governance oversight while helping ensure that sensitive information is managed responsibly.

Safeguarding and Conduct Matters

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining appropriate safeguarding, behavioural and governance standards within a volunteer-led organisation.

The trustees retain oversight responsibility for significant governance concerns, safeguarding matters and serious conduct issues where escalation beyond routine committee management is required.

The trustees continue to seek proportionate and practical approaches to safeguarding and member welfare which remain appropriate for the scale and nature of the charity's activities.

Organisational Development

The trustees recognise that the charity continues to evolve in response to changing operational, financial and community requirements.

During the reporting period, particular attention was given to:

- governance review
- operational resilience
- accessibility considerations
- digital engagement
- public outreach
- long-term sustainability planning

The trustees believe that continued organisational development will remain important to supporting the charity's future stability and effectiveness.

8. Future Plans

The trustees remain committed to supporting the long-term sustainability, public benefit and continued development of the charity.

A significant focus for the forthcoming reporting period will be the charity's 60th anniversary year. The trustees recognise this as an important milestone in the organisation's history and an opportunity to both celebrate the charity's long-standing contribution to railway modelling and further strengthen public engagement with the hobby.

As part of these celebrations, the trustees intend to continue developing and expanding RailEx, with particular focus on:

- increasing the number and variety of layouts attending the exhibition
- further strengthening collaboration with other clubs and exhibitors
- improving engagement with families and younger visitors
- continuing to improve the visitor experience wherever reasonably practicable

The trustees also intend to hold a small anniversary celebration for members and their families, in recognition of the contributions made by generations of volunteers and supporters throughout the charity's history.

The trustees continue to recognise the importance of encouraging future generations into the hobby and will continue efforts to attract and retain new members through:

- exhibitions
- open days
- digital engagement
- educational outreach
- increased public visibility

The trustees also intend to continue developing the charity's online educational presence through additional website articles, modelling guidance and digital engagement activities intended to support both existing hobbyists and members of the wider public seeking information about railway modelling and railway heritage.

During the forthcoming year, the charity also intends to begin a major redevelopment of its website infrastructure. The trustees believe this work is necessary to modernise

the platform, improve accessibility, enhance long-term maintainability, and ensure that the charity's digital resources remain sustainable and accessible in future years.

The trustees also intend to continue developing current layout projects and supporting the construction of new layouts within the charity. This includes the continued development of "Snow Idea" and "Little Fareham," as well as improvements to existing club layouts and operational facilities.

Securing the long-term stability of the charity's premises also remains an important priority for the trustees. The trustees intend to continue working constructively with the local authority on lease arrangements while also considering longer-term improvements to the club premises where reasonably practicable.

Financial resilience will also remain a significant focus for the trustees during the forthcoming year. The trustees will continue to monitor operational costs, maintain appropriate reserves and review the long-term sustainability of the charity's activities in response to continuing financial and operational pressures affecting volunteer-led organisations and public exhibitions.

The trustees believe that continued investment in public engagement, governance, digital outreach, exhibitions and member participation will help support the long-term future of the charity and its educational and community objectives.

9. Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Details

Charity Name
Fareham & District Model Railway Club

Registered Charity Number
1188533

Principal Address
Harbour View
Portchester

Website
Fareham & District Model Railway Club

Main Contact Email
secretary@fareham-mrc.org.uk

Trustees

Simon Key - Chair of Trustees

Lyndon Ford - Trustee

Alister Lindford - Trustee

Roger Key - Trustee / Secretary

Committee Members

Lyndon Ford - Committee Chair

Simon Key - Committee Member

Roger Key - Secretary

Colin Skinner - Treasurer

Derek Underwood - Committee Member

Alister Lindford - Committee Member

Andy Baily - Committee Member

Independent Examiner

Mr Peter Nicholls
PN Independent Examinations

Governing Document

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is governed by a CIO Constitution.

Bankers

Lloyds Bank

10. Trustee Responsibilities Statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report in accordance with applicable law and the governing document of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and to disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the charity's financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity operates in furtherance of its charitable objectives and in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act, the charity's governing document and relevant guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The trustees confirm that:

- the charity's funds have been applied solely towards the charity's objects
- the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit
- appropriate governance and oversight arrangements are maintained
- the trustees continue to review operational, financial and safeguarding risks affecting the charity

The trustees approved this report and authorised it to be signed on their behalf.

11. Approval and Signatures

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the trustees on:

_____

and signed on their behalf by:

_____

Simon Key
Chair of Trustees

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Lyndon Ford
Trustee / Committee Chair

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Tab 1

AREHAM

& District Model Railway Club CIO

Trustee Report

31.05.2026

Simon Key

Chair of Trustees

.....0

Simon Key.....1

Chair of Trustees.....1

1. Introduction from the Trustees.....5

2. Objectives and Public Benefit.....7

Charitable Objectives.....7

Public Benefit.....7

Delivery of Public Benefit.....7

Accessibility and Inclusion.....8

Young People and Future Participation.....9

3. Activities and Achievements During the Year.....10

RailEx 2025.....10

Open Day and Local Community Engagement.....12

National Exhibition Participation.....12

Layout Development and Club Facilities.....13

Digital Engagement and Educational Outreach.....13

Accessibility and Operational Challenges.....14

Safeguarding and Younger Participation.....14

Governance and Policy Review.....16

4. Volunteer Contribution.....17

5. Financial Review.....19

Financial Position.....19

Principal Funding Sources.....19

Reserves Policy.....19

Financial Oversight and Monitoring.....20

Going Concern.....20

Independent Examination.....21

Mr Peter Nicholls PN Independent Examinations.....21

6. Risk Management.....22

Exhibition and Financial Risk.....22

Ageing Membership and Volunteer Availability.....23

Safeguarding and Youth Participation.....23

Premises, Lease and Building Risks.....25

Rising Operational Costs.....25

Governance and Operational Oversight.....27

7. Structure, Governance and Management.....28

Governing Document.....28

Governance Structure.....28

Trustee Appointment and Terms of Office.....29

Meetings and Oversight.....29

Policies, Procedures and Governance Review.....29

Trustee and Committee Information Access.....30

Safeguarding and Conduct Matters.....30

Organisational Development.....31

8. Future Plans.....32

9. Reference and Administrative Information.....34

Charity Details....34

Trustees....34

Committee Members....35

Independent Examiner....35

Governing Document....35

Bankers....35

10. Trustee Responsibilities Statement....36

11. Approval and Signatures....37

Simon Key Chair of Trustees....37

Lyndon Ford Trustee / Committee Chair....37

1. Introduction from the Trustees

The trustees of Fareham & District Model Railway Club are pleased to present their Annual Report for the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

The charity has continued to promote public education and participation in the hobby of railway modelling through exhibitions, open days, demonstrations, online engagement, and the development of modelling skills and railway heritage knowledge among both its membership and the wider community.

During the reporting period, the charity experienced one of its strongest years in recent times in terms of public engagement and exhibition attendance. RailEx 2025 proved particularly successful, attracting approximately 2,600 visitors over the exhibition weekend, with a noticeable increase in attendance among younger families and children. The trustees were encouraged by this increased community participation and by the continued public interest in railway modelling, railway heritage, and the educational and practical skills associated with the hobby.

The charity also continued to participate in exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom, with club layouts attending events ranging from Portsmouth to Scotland. Alongside this, work has continued on developing several new layouts and on improvements to existing club facilities and operational layouts within the club premises.

The trustees also continued to support the charity's growing digital presence throughout the year. Through the combined efforts of committee members, volunteers, and IT support, the charity significantly expanded its use of social media and online educational content to reach wider audiences, promote events, and provide practical information and guidance related to the hobby. The trustees believe this has helped strengthen both local and national engagement with the charity's activities.

The trustees recognise that the charity continues to operate within a challenging environment. Rising operational costs, an ageing membership base, volunteer availability, and uncertainty surrounding future lease arrangements for the club premises remain significant considerations for the charity. In addition, the trustees continue to recognise the practical challenges of improving accessibility in an older building and maintaining sustainable safeguarding arrangements in a volunteer-led organisation.

Despite these challenges, the trustees believe the charity remains financially stable and well supported by its members, volunteers and wider community. The trustees continue to maintain reserves to protect the long-term stability of the charity, support the continued operation of RailEx and other public events, and provide resilience while ongoing lease discussions with the local authority are underway. The charity recorded an overall surplus during the reporting period, largely due to the success of RailEx 2025.

The trustees are also pleased to note that the forthcoming year marks the charity's 60th anniversary. Planning is already underway to recognise this milestone through both public and member-focused activities, including efforts to further expand RailEx and a celebration event for members and their families in recognition of the charity's long-standing contribution to the modelling community.

The trustees would like to formally thank all members, volunteers, exhibitors, traders, supporters and visitors who contributed to the charity's activities during the year. Particular thanks are extended to those volunteers and committee members who dedicated significant time towards the organisation and operation of RailEx 2025, the charity's governance work, layout development, public engagement activities, and the continued running of the club.

The trustees would also like to acknowledge the long-standing contributions of Roger Key and Alister Lindford, whose continued support, experience and commitment have played an important role in the charity's operation and development over many years. As they both step down from some of the roles that they have undertaken.

2. Objectives and Public Benefit

Charitable Objectives

The objects of the charity are to advance and promote public education and foster a general interest in model railways, the history, heritage and development of railways, and the hobby of railway modelling. The charity also seeks to encourage and develop a high standard of modelling amongst members, including the ancillary skills involved in the construction and operation of model railways.

The trustees continue to pursue these aims through exhibitions, demonstrations, educational activities, public engagement, modelling projects, online educational content, and the encouragement of practical and creative skills associated with railway modelling and railway heritage.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit when planning and carrying out the charity's activities throughout the reporting period.

The trustees believe that the charity continues to provide public benefit through:

- the promotion and preservation of railway history and heritage
- the encouragement of practical modelling, engineering and creative skills
- the organisation of public exhibitions and open days
- educational demonstrations and displays
- peer learning and volunteering opportunities
- online educational content and community engagement
- participation in exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom
- the development and exhibition of model railway layouts designed to educate and engage the public

The charity's activities remain open to the wider public wherever reasonably practicable, with the trustees continuing to consider affordability, accessibility and inclusion when planning events and activities.

Delivery of Public Benefit

The charity delivers public benefit primarily through the organisation of exhibitions, open days and educational displays which provide opportunities for members of the public to learn about railway modelling, railway heritage, railway operations, and the wide range of practical and creative skills associated with the hobby.

During the reporting period, RailEx 2025 represented the charity's largest public engagement activity, attracting approximately 2,600 visitors over the exhibition weekend. The trustees were particularly encouraged by increased attendance among younger families and children, reflecting continued public interest in the hobby's educational and community aspects.

The charity also continued to exhibit layouts at events throughout the country, helping to promote railway modelling and engage wider audiences beyond the local area. Layouts exhibited during the year included the Fareford group of layouts, Kiddingme, and Fairport Wharf.

The trustees also continued to support the hobby's educational aspects by developing new layouts, demonstrations, peer learning, online articles, and practical guidance, all shared through the charity's website and social media channels.

The charity's activities continue to support the development of a wide range of transferable skills, including:

- model construction
- scenery building
- painting and weathering
- carpentry
- electronics
- engineering
- research
- digital design
- problem solving
- teamwork and volunteering

The trustees believe these activities continue to provide meaningful educational, social, and community benefits to both members and the wider public.

Accessibility and Inclusion

The trustees continue to recognise the importance of accessibility and inclusion within the charity's activities.

Although the charity currently operates from an older building, which presents some practical accessibility limitations, the trustees continue to work constructively with the local authority regarding future lease arrangements and possible long-term improvements.

The trustees also continued efforts during the reporting period to improve accessibility at public events, including considering venue suitability, visitor access requirements and operational improvements following issues experienced at previous exhibitions.

The charity remains committed to encouraging participation from individuals of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities, wherever reasonably practicable, within the limitations of the organisation's available facilities.

Young People and Future Participation

The trustees remain committed to encouraging younger participation in railway modelling and recognise the importance of supporting future generations within the hobby.

The increase in attendance by younger families and children at RailEx 2025 was viewed positively by the trustees and reflects continuing efforts to make the charity's activities welcoming and accessible to wider audiences.

However, the trustees also acknowledge the practical challenges of sustaining youth engagement within a volunteer-led organisation, particularly where safeguarding responsibilities and volunteer availability impose additional operational demands on the charity.

The trustees will continue exploring proportionate and sustainable opportunities to encourage younger participation in future years.

3. Activities and Achievements During the Year

RailEx 2025

RailEx 2025 represented the charity's largest public engagement activity during the reporting period and proved to be the most successful exhibition the charity has organised for several years.

The exhibition attracted approximately 2,600 visitors across the event weekend and continued to provide significant educational and community benefit through the display of model railway layouts, demonstrations, historical interpretation, and practical modelling techniques. The trustees were particularly encouraged by the increase in attendance among younger families and children, which they believe reflects continuing public interest in railway heritage, modelling, and associated creative and technical skills.

The exhibition featured layouts and exhibitors from across the country and provided visitors with opportunities to learn more about railway history, engineering, scenery construction, electronics, operations, weathering techniques and other practical aspects of the hobby.

The trustees continued to focus on improving the visitor experience and the exhibition's operational effectiveness during the reporting period. Additional technology was introduced to support the event, including Raspberry Pi-based systems that provided multiple ticketing positions and visitor survey facilities. These systems assisted with visitor management, accessibility of ticket purchasing, and collection of attendance information, intended to help the charity better understand and engage with the audiences attending its events.

The trustees also continued to consider accessibility carefully when planning the exhibition. Following operational difficulties experienced at previous events involving venue lift access, additional planning and contingency considerations were implemented during the reporting period. The trustees also explored alternative venues offering fully level-access accommodation, although no suitable venue was secured during the year due to operational limitations and availability constraints.

RailEx remains one of the charity's principal fundraising activities and one of its most significant means of delivering public benefit and engaging with the wider community.

Open Day and Local Community Engagement

The charity also held its annual open day during the reporting period, which was again well attended by members of the public and local supporters.

The open day provided opportunities for visitors to:

- view working layouts
- engage directly with members
- learn about railway modelling techniques
- understand more about railway heritage and operations
- explore opportunities for participation within the hobby

The trustees continued efforts to encourage new membership through these activities and were pleased that a number of new members joined the charity during the year. However, the trustees also recognise the ongoing challenges of maintaining membership levels in an ageing hobby community.

The charity continues to view these local engagement activities as an important part of its educational and community role within the local area.

National Exhibition Participation

During the reporting period, the charity's layouts attended major exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom, ranging from Portsmouth to Scotland.

Layouts exhibited during the year included:

- The Fareford group of layouts
- Kiddingme
- Fairport Wharf

Participation in these events enabled the charity to:

- promote railway modelling to wider audiences
- engage with other modelling groups and exhibitors
- share modelling techniques and educational information
- support the wider exhibition community
- promote the charity nationally

The trustees believe that participation in external exhibitions continues to provide significant educational and collaborative value for both members and the wider modelling community.

Layout Development and Club Facilities

The charity continued work on several new layout projects during the reporting period.

Projects currently under development include:

- “Snow Idea”, an N-gauge layout
- “Little Fareham”, a representation of Fareham railway station

The trustees believe that these projects continue to support the charity's educational and heritage aims by encouraging research, modelling development, practical skill-sharing, and collaboration among members.

In addition to new projects, the charity also continued improvements to the permanent running layouts installed around the club premises in O gauge, OO gauge and N gauge. These improvements were intended to improve operational reliability, increase member participation, and enhance the overall experience for members and visitors attending the club premises.

The trustees recognise that the development and maintenance of layouts continues to form a significant part of the charity’s educational and practical activities throughout the year.

Digital Engagement and Educational Outreach

The charity’s digital presence increased substantially during the reporting period through the combined efforts of trustees, committee members, volunteers and IT support.

The trustees continued to expand the charity’s use of:

- social media
- online educational content
- website articles

- event promotion
- digital communication

The charity has increasingly focused on producing educational and informative content to answer common questions about railway modelling and related skills. The trustees believe this has helped extend the charity's reach well beyond its immediate local area and has contributed positively to public engagement with the hobby.

Increased digital engagement also contributed to greater visibility for the charity's exhibitions and public activities, helping direct additional visitors to the charity's website and public events.

During the reporting period, plans were also developed for a major redevelopment of the charity's website infrastructure. The trustees recognised that the existing website platform is approximately six years old and requires significant modernisation to improve accessibility, maintainability, security, and long-term sustainability.

The trustees believe this redevelopment will help future-proof the charity's digital outreach activities and improve accessibility for both members and the wider public.

Accessibility and Operational Challenges

The trustees continue to recognise the importance of accessibility and inclusion within the charity's activities.

The charity currently operates from an older building that was not originally designed to meet modern accessibility standards. While this presents practical limitations, the trustees continue to work constructively with the local authority regarding future lease arrangements and possible long-term improvements to the premises.

The trustees also continued to consider accessibility carefully during the planning and operation of public events throughout the year. Particular attention was given to visitor movement, lift access contingencies, steward support and venue suitability.

While the trustees remain committed to improving accessibility wherever reasonably practicable, they also recognise that some limitations remain due to the age and configuration of both the club premises and externally hired exhibition venues.

Safeguarding and Younger Participation

The trustees remain committed to encouraging younger participation within railway modelling and related educational activities.

The increased attendance of younger families and children at RailEx 2025 was viewed positively by the trustees and reflects continuing efforts to make the charity's activities welcoming and accessible to wider audiences.

However, the trustees also recognise the practical challenges of sustaining youth participation within a volunteer-led organisation, particularly where safeguarding responsibilities and volunteer availability impose additional operational demands.

The trustees continue to monitor this area carefully and will continue exploring proportionate and sustainable opportunities to encourage younger participation in future years.

Governance and Policy Review

During the reporting period, the trustees instructed the committee to review and update the charity's policy documentation.

This work was completed during the year and formed part of the trustees' continuing commitment to maintaining appropriate governance standards and ensuring that the charity's operational procedures remain fit for purpose.

The trustees continue to review governance, safeguarding, accessibility, and operational policies on an ongoing basis to support the charity's charitable objectives and public benefit activities.

4. Volunteer Contribution

The trustees recognise that the charity's activities and continued operation would not be possible without the substantial contribution made by its volunteers, committee members and trustees throughout the reporting period.

As a volunteer-led organisation, the charity relies heavily on the time, experience, practical skills, and commitment of its members to organise exhibitions, maintain layouts and facilities, support governance activities, and deliver public benefit through educational and community engagement activities.

During the reporting period, volunteers contributed significant time towards:

- the planning, organisation and operation of RailEx 2025
- transportation, installation and operation of exhibition layouts
- stewarding and visitor support
- ticketing and admission management
- exhibition setup and dismantling
- layout construction, maintenance and operation
- website management and IT support
- social media and digital outreach
- governance and policy review work
- club maintenance and operational support
- educational demonstrations and modelling guidance

The trustees particularly recognise the considerable effort involved in the successful delivery of RailEx 2025, which was a substantial operational undertaking that required extensive planning and coordination by volunteers over a prolonged period.

The trustees were also pleased to see increased collaboration among members on digital engagement, educational content, and exhibition operations during the year. The continued expansion of the charity's online presence and educational outreach was made possible largely by volunteer effort and technical support from members of the charity.

The trustees also acknowledge the ongoing contributions of members involved in the development, operation, and exhibition of the charity's layouts, both locally and nationally. Participation in exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom required

significant volunteer commitment in transportation, setup, operation, and public engagement.

In addition to operational activities, volunteers also contributed considerable time towards governance and organisational development during the reporting period. This included the review and updating of policy documentation, improvements to operational procedures, and continued work on accessibility, safeguarding, and organisational resilience.

The trustees would particularly like to thank those volunteers and committee members who contributed significant time and effort towards the continued running of the charity during the year, especially in relation to exhibition organisation, club operations and governance work.

The trustees would also like to formally recognise the long-standing contribution of Roger Key and Alister Lindford, whose commitment, experience and support have played an important role in the development and operation of the charity over many years.

The trustees remain extremely grateful for the continued support of all volunteers, members, exhibitors, traders, supporters, and visitors who contributed to the charity's activities throughout the reporting period.

5. Financial Review

Financial Position

The trustees consider the charity to remain financially stable at the end of the reporting period.

During the year ending 31 March 2026, the charity recorded an overall surplus of £6,783.28, primarily due to the successful performance of RailEx 2025 and continued support from members, exhibitors, traders and visitors.

The trustees were pleased with the overall financial performance of the charity during the reporting period, particularly in light of continuing increases in operational and exhibition-related costs affecting many volunteer-led organisations and public events.

The charity's financial position remained stable, with total funds of £51,052.79 recorded at year-end.

Principal Funding Sources

The charity's principal sources of income during the reporting period were:

- membership subscriptions
- RailEx exhibition admissions
- trader stand fees
- open day activities

The trustees recognise that RailEx continues to represent both one of the charity's principal public benefit activities and one of its most significant sources of income.

The trustees also recognise that the exhibition's scale and operational complexity create a corresponding level of financial exposure and operational risk for the charity.

Reserves Policy

The trustees continue to maintain reserves to support the charity's long-term financial stability and operational resilience.

A significant proportion of reserves is maintained to mitigate the financial risks associated with organising major public exhibitions such as RailEx. These events involve

substantial upfront expenditure and operational commitments, including venue hire, infrastructure, equipment, insurance and event management costs.

The trustees also continue to maintain reserves in response to ongoing uncertainty regarding future lease arrangements and rental liabilities associated with the charity's premises, while discussions with the local authority progress.

In addition, designated reserves are maintained to support future repairs, operational continuity and the long-term sustainability of the charity's facilities and activities.

The trustees believe that maintaining appropriate reserves represents prudent financial management in light of the operational risks and financial commitments associated with the charity's activities.

Financial Oversight and Monitoring

The trustees continue to actively monitor the charity's financial position throughout the year.

Financial performance, expenditure, reserves, and operational commitments are reviewed regularly at committee and trustee meetings. Particular attention is given to:

- exhibition performance
- rising operational costs
- reserve levels
- major expenditure commitments
- lease-related uncertainty
- long-term operational sustainability

The trustees believe that these ongoing monitoring arrangements provide appropriate financial oversight for the scale and nature of the charity's activities.

Going Concern

The trustees consider the charity to remain a going concern for the foreseeable future.

While the trustees recognise the ongoing challenges associated with rising operational costs, volunteer availability, ageing facilities and exhibition-related financial exposure, they believe that the charity remains financially stable and operationally sustainable

due to its current reserves, continued public support, active membership and ongoing programme of activities.

Independent Examination

Although the charity remains below the statutory threshold requiring independent examination, the trustees have voluntarily continued to appoint an Independent Examiner in the interests of transparency, accountability and good financial governance.

The trustees believe that independent examination provides additional reassurance to members, supporters and the wider public regarding the charity's financial management and reporting arrangements.

The Independent Examiner for the reporting period was:

Mr Peter Nicholls
PN Independent Examinations

6. Risk Management

The trustees recognise that effective risk management is an important part of the charity's governance and long-term sustainability.

The trustees continue to review operational, financial and organisational risks regularly through both committee meetings and trustee meetings. The trustees believe that maintaining appropriate reserves, active oversight, and ongoing operational review processes helps support the continued stability of the charity and its activities.

The principal risks currently identified by the trustees are outlined below.

Exhibition and Financial Risk

The trustees recognise that RailEx represents both one of the charity's largest public benefit activities and one of its most significant financial risks.

The organisation of a large public exhibition involves substantial upfront expenditure and operational commitments, including:

- venue hire
- infrastructure costs
- insurance
- equipment
- transport
- operational support
- visitor management

The trustees recognise that exhibition attendance can be affected by factors outside the charity's direct control, including economic conditions, rising costs, accessibility issues and wider public attendance trends.

In response to these risks, the trustees continue to:

- maintain designated reserves
- Closely monitor exhibition budgets
- review operational costs
- increase publicity and public engagement
- utilise online ticketing systems
- gather visitor feedback and survey information

- review venue suitability and accessibility
- undertake long-term planning for future exhibitions

The trustees believe these measures help improve the long-term resilience and sustainability of the charity's exhibition programme.

Ageing Membership and Volunteer Availability

The trustees recognise that the charity, like many specialist hobby and heritage organisations, faces ongoing challenges associated with an ageing membership profile and volunteer availability.

The continued operation of the charity depends heavily upon the time, experience and commitment of volunteers and committee members. The trustees also recognise the risks associated with dependence on a relatively small number of key volunteers with specialist operational knowledge and technical skills.

The trustees continue to seek to address these challenges through:

- public engagement activities
- promotion at exhibitions and open days
- encouraging membership applications
- maintaining a visible public profile
- increasing digital engagement
- collaboration with other clubs and organisations
- encouraging participation from wider audiences

The trustees remain encouraged by the increased attendance of younger families and children at RailEx 2025, although they recognise that attracting and retaining younger long-term members remains an ongoing challenge.

Safeguarding and Youth Participation

The trustees recognise the importance of safeguarding within any activities involving younger participants and visitors.

As a volunteer-led organisation, the trustees acknowledge the practical challenges of maintaining sustainable safeguarding arrangements while encouraging younger participation in the hobby.

The trustees continue to monitor safeguarding requirements carefully and seek proportionate and practical approaches which support both public safety and continued educational engagement.

Premises, Lease and Building Risks

The charity currently operates from an older building, which presents a number of ongoing operational and maintenance challenges.

The trustees recognise that the age and configuration of the premises create limitations in relation to:

- accessibility
- maintenance requirements
- long-term operational sustainability
- infrastructure improvements

In addition, uncertainty remains regarding future lease arrangements and rental liabilities associated with the premises while ongoing discussions with the local authority continue.

The trustees continue to:

- engage constructively with the local authority
- participate in ongoing lease discussions
- monitor operational requirements and repair needs
- consider contingency arrangements where appropriate

The trustees continue to maintain reserves, in part, in response to these uncertainties and operational risks.

Rising Operational Costs

The trustees recognise that rising operational and exhibition-related costs continue to place pressure upon the charity's activities and long-term financial planning.

Particular areas of concern include:

- venue hire costs
- transport costs
- utilities and premises costs
- exhibition infrastructure costs
- maintenance and repair costs

The trustees continue to monitor expenditure carefully and review financial performance regularly in order to maintain the charity's financial stability and operational resilience.

Governance and Operational Oversight

The trustees continue to review governance arrangements, operational procedures and policy documentation on an ongoing basis.

During the reporting period, the trustees instructed the committee to undertake a review and update of the charity's policy documentation in order to help ensure that procedures remain appropriate, proportionate and fit for purpose.

The trustees believe that continued governance review and active operational oversight remain important to the long-term stability and effective management of the charity.

7. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Fareham & District Model Railway Club is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a CIO Constitution. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission under the registered charity number 1188533.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity continues to operate in accordance with its charitable objects and governing document.

Governance Structure

The charity operates through a structure consisting of trustees and a management committee.

The committee is responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the charity, including:

- exhibition organisation
- membership administration
- operational planning
- building and layout maintenance
- website and social media activities
- implementation of policies and procedures
- routine financial oversight
- general administration

The trustees provide strategic oversight of the charity and are responsible for:

- high-level governance decisions
- oversight of charitable objectives
- policy review and approval
- long-term organisational planning
- management of significant governance concerns
- resolution of disputes where required
- safeguarding oversight
- ensuring that the charity operates in accordance with its governing document and legal obligations

The trustees and committee continue to work collaboratively in support of the charity's activities and long-term sustainability.

Trustee Appointment and Terms of Office

Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the charity's CIO Constitution.

Trustees serve fixed terms as defined within the governing document and may stand for re-election at the conclusion of their term, where eligible.

The trustees believe that election by the membership helps maintain accountability and supports the charity's democratic operation.

Meetings and Oversight

Committee meetings are generally held monthly to oversee the charity's operational activities and monitor ongoing projects, events, and organisational matters.

Trustee meetings are normally held every six months, with additional meetings held as required in response to significant governance, operational, or financial matters.

Financial performance, operational risks, governance matters and strategic issues are regularly reviewed through both committee and trustee oversight arrangements.

Policies, Procedures and Governance Review

During the reporting period, the trustees instructed the committee to review and update the charity's policy documentation.

This work formed part of the trustees' continuing commitment to maintaining appropriate governance standards and ensuring that policies and procedures remain proportionate, accessible and fit for purpose.

The trustees continue to review governance arrangements, safeguarding requirements, accessibility considerations and operational procedures on an ongoing basis.

Trustee and Committee Information Access

The charity maintains operational and governance documentation in shared digital storage systems, with access controlled by member permission groups.

This structure allows trustees and authorised committee members appropriate access to:

- governance documentation
- operational policies
- procedures
- organisational records
- relevant committee information

The trustees believe this arrangement supports both operational efficiency and appropriate governance oversight while helping ensure that sensitive information is managed responsibly.

Safeguarding and Conduct Matters

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining appropriate safeguarding, behavioural and governance standards within a volunteer-led organisation.

The trustees retain oversight responsibility for significant governance concerns, safeguarding matters and serious conduct issues where escalation beyond routine committee management is required.

The trustees continue to seek proportionate and practical approaches to safeguarding and member welfare which remain appropriate for the scale and nature of the charity's activities.

Organisational Development

The trustees recognise that the charity continues to evolve in response to changing operational, financial and community requirements.

During the reporting period, particular attention was given to:

- governance review
- operational resilience
- accessibility considerations
- digital engagement
- public outreach
- long-term sustainability planning

The trustees believe that continued organisational development will remain important to supporting the charity's future stability and effectiveness.

8. Future Plans

The trustees remain committed to supporting the long-term sustainability, public benefit and continued development of the charity.

A significant focus for the forthcoming reporting period will be the charity's 60th anniversary year. The trustees recognise this as an important milestone in the organisation's history and an opportunity to both celebrate the charity's long-standing contribution to railway modelling and further strengthen public engagement with the hobby.

As part of these celebrations, the trustees intend to continue developing and expanding RailEx, with particular focus on:

- increasing the number and variety of layouts attending the exhibition
- further strengthening collaboration with other clubs and exhibitors
- improving engagement with families and younger visitors
- continuing to improve the visitor experience wherever reasonably practicable

The trustees also intend to hold a small anniversary celebration for members and their families, in recognition of the contributions made by generations of volunteers and supporters throughout the charity's history.

The trustees continue to recognise the importance of encouraging future generations into the hobby and will continue efforts to attract and retain new members through:

- exhibitions
- open days
- digital engagement
- educational outreach
- increased public visibility

The trustees also intend to continue developing the charity's online educational presence through additional website articles, modelling guidance and digital engagement activities intended to support both existing hobbyists and members of the wider public seeking information about railway modelling and railway heritage.

During the forthcoming year, the charity also intends to begin a major redevelopment of its website infrastructure. The trustees believe this work is necessary to modernise

the platform, improve accessibility, enhance long-term maintainability, and ensure that the charity's digital resources remain sustainable and accessible in future years.

The trustees also intend to continue developing current layout projects and supporting the construction of new layouts within the charity. This includes the continued development of "Snow Idea" and "Little Fareham," as well as improvements to existing club layouts and operational facilities.

Securing the long-term stability of the charity's premises also remains an important priority for the trustees. The trustees intend to continue working constructively with the local authority on lease arrangements while also considering longer-term improvements to the club premises where reasonably practicable.

Financial resilience will also remain a significant focus for the trustees during the forthcoming year. The trustees will continue to monitor operational costs, maintain appropriate reserves and review the long-term sustainability of the charity's activities in response to continuing financial and operational pressures affecting volunteer-led organisations and public exhibitions.

The trustees believe that continued investment in public engagement, governance, digital outreach, exhibitions and member participation will help support the long-term future of the charity and its educational and community objectives.

9. Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Details

Charity Name
Fareham & District Model Railway Club

Registered Charity Number
1188533

Principal Address
Harbour View
Portchester

Website
Fareham & District Model Railway Club

Main Contact Email
secretary@fareham-mrc.org.uk

Trustees

Simon Key - Chair of Trustees

Lyndon Ford - Trustee

Alister Lindford - Trustee

Roger Key - Trustee / Secretary

Committee Members

Lyndon Ford - Committee Chair

Simon Key - Committee Member

Roger Key - Secretary

Colin Skinner - Treasurer

Derek Underwood - Committee Member

Alister Lindford - Committee Member

Andy Baily - Committee Member

Independent Examiner

Mr Peter Nicholls
PN Independent Examinations

Governing Document

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is governed by a CIO Constitution.

Bankers

Lloyds Bank

10. Trustee Responsibilities Statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report in accordance with applicable law and the governing document of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and to disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the charity's financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity operates in furtherance of its charitable objectives and in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act, the charity's governing document and relevant guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The trustees confirm that:

- the charity's funds have been applied solely towards the charity's objects
- the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit
- appropriate governance and oversight arrangements are maintained
- the trustees continue to review operational, financial and safeguarding risks affecting the charity

The trustees approved this report and authorised it to be signed on their behalf.

11. Approval and Signatures

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the trustees on:

_____

and signed on their behalf by:

_____

Simon Key
Chair of Trustees

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Lyndon Ford
Trustee / Committee Chair

Signature: _____

Date: _____