Speen Allotment Association CIO

Charity Number 1191276

Trustees' Annual Report

Speen Allotment Association (SAA) became a CIO on 14 September 2020. This is the Charity's Annual Report covering the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Objectives and activities

To further or benefit the residents of the parish of Speen**,** Newbury, West Berkshire and the surrounding area, without distinction of gender, race, sexual orientation, disability, political or religious persuasion, by providing allotment facilities in the interests of social welfare, a sense of community, positive recreational leisure time with the objective of improving many aspects of life including physical and mental well-being. Naturally, adopting a healthy lifestyle by growing vegetables and fruit remains paramount.

Public benefit

The Trustees are made aware of the Consttuton and the three Charity Commission guideline documents on public benefit PB1, PB2 and PB3.

Trustees

John Headland - Chair
Nicola (Nicky) Jenkins - Secretary
Johnathan Fitch - Treasurer
Becky Jenkins - Website & Juniors
Martin Wiltshire
Lynne Roberts
Colin Mansell - co-opted Trustee
Tom Howard

Governance The CIO Consttuton is that of an association with voting members other than the Trustees. The Board of Trustees is elected by the members and comprises the CIO's management team. The Consttuton provides for up to nine Trustees. There is currently one vacancy.

Each Trustee is made aware of the contents of the Charity's Consttuton and their terms of office, holding their posts for at least two years before retiring and offering themselves for re-election.

Since the last report there have been two changes. Namely, the addition of Becky Jenkins to the panel of Trustees. Becky manages our SAA website, helps with communications and has an overview of our junior 'allotmenteers.' Johnathan Fitch has taken over the role of Treasurer, from Colin Mansell, who has given sterling support to the Trustees over thirteen years.

The Trustees meet formally on a quarterly basis, sometimes more, at minuted meetings. Individually, Trustees are involved informally dealing with day-to-day issues on site or picking up on any SAA matters affecting our membership, both positive and negative.

Background

SAA has a seventy year lease in place for the site in Staton Road, Speen, Newbury. The land bordering the allotments on its southern and western sides is now owned by David Wilson Homes (DWH) who are developing the site for approximately 110 houses plus an emergency vehicle access road (EVAR) adjacent to our southern aspect. Planning conditions are set by West Berkshire Council (WBC), our Local Planning Authority.

Former Treasurer, Colin Mansell, has diligently monitored planning applications and amendments to gauge any impact for SAA. The building works are ongoing and SAA Trustees have established open and transparent communication links with DWH. Whilst DWH's aim is compliance with the relevant WBC planning conditions, these conditions and a range of other planning and development issues require further challenges from SAA to safeguard our members' interests and welfare, particularly during the construction phases. For example:

- The materials and finish in between the proposed EVAR kerbs and our green fence;
- The overhanging trees bordering EVAR and SAA, which may have tree preservation orders on them;
- The finish along our western fence - DWH to erect wooden fencing, lay weed suppressant material and top with gravel. DWH site staff top maintain in the longer term;
- The changes to Staton Road kerbs needed for emergency vehicle access;
- The impact of EVAR work by our site entrance;
- The potential changes to our spring-fed water supply running north through our site, at right angles to the EVAR build;
- The possibility of alterations to existing bus stops along Staton Road removing parking space directly in front of SAA site and the associated potential parking difficulties for members.

Trustees were represented at the most recent site meeting on the allotments in July 2025. Led by DWH, Speen Parish Council (SPC) , WBC Planning Officers, residents and SAA, had the opportunity to raise any concerns. The outcomes for SAA were, in theory, positive in terms of DWH undertaking a commitment to:

- Levelling the site entrance and matching levels with the EVAR;
- Continuing the hard surfacing into the allotments;
- Helping with design and construction of our 'accessible' plot B1, for those in the local community that use wheelchairs and who wish to garden, e.g. raised beds, hard standing, turning space, sensory planting. etc;
- Erect a six-foot high wooden fence along our western boundary between the new housing and SAA. Finish with weed suppressant material and gravel. Maintained by the DWH site-maintenance contractor going forward.

2025 saw improvements made to our water supply system and structures. Larger storage tanks were installed across the site and large empty containers were set up along A row plots. Allowing for greater distribution and connectivity.

The water supply remained fairly consistent throughout the year. This was especially welcome during the dry spells encountered this year. Mains water was used sparingly keeping costs down. However, with the EVAR effectively cutting across the direction of the spring flow into our site at right angles, this will have to be monitored and assessed by Trustees closely going forward. Any disruption, indeed collapse of the supply, will need to be made good. The Trustees hope that this is merely the ground and spring settling after the disturbance and before long our supply will be back to normal.

Activities and achievements

The past year has seen us make strides forward on several fronts, despite the ever-changing weather patterns keeping us all on our toes. Even though one of our annual fund-raisers, Speen Fete, was cancelled in 2025, we had an excellent response to the SAA summer raffle. With a run of 1000 tickets and very generous donations of prizes from the local community ensuring success.

- Plot judging was again a highlight of the summer season with very strong entries in the 'best newcomer' category. Indeed, SAA has benefited from an influx of new plot-holders, young families and couples bringing their energy and enthusiasm. All trophies went to plots showing great skills, hard work and creativity;

- All plots are now fully allocated with a healthy waiting list and plot fees remained stable this year. Trustees will review this early Spring 2026;

- We ran weekly supplies of surplus produce kindly donated by members to WBC's Food Bank, our summer BBQ and working partes which were well attended and helped to develop friendships and links across the membership;

- Trustees met on number of occasions to help the SAA look ahead, planning and communicating what is important to our membership. We have in place a suggestion box for comments, but in truth word of mouth is far the best means of sharing ideas and concerns. Mindful, naturally, of impact from DWH's work schedule;

- Members were again encouraged to harvest water on their plots or sheds. Storing harvested water remains a priority for all 'allotmenteers' now and for the future;

- SAA successfully applied for Greenham Trust's Tree project grant aid, organised and implemented by Trustee Lynne Roberts;

- Positive relations were maintained with SPC and WBC this year, too. We look forward to applying for grant funding in 2026 to help fund our 'accessible plot' project;

- Our Secretary, Nicky Jenkins, has organised our waiting list and plot allocation effectively and efficiently yet again, giving her time generously in order to meet prospective members on site and fielding any enquiries. It is pleasing to note that some members are bringing family and friends to help work on their plots. Thereby promoting our core objective.

Brief finance notes

Jon Fitch has taken over the Treasurer role from Colin Mansell.

Our financial accounts for 2025 reflect that SAA had a small surplus from our activities. For 2026 the Trustees have earmarked funds for developing the accessible plot B1. This requires hard-standing, raised beds, turning space for wheelchairs, appropriate planting and tools. DWH has committed its resources to facilitating the design and construction of the accessible plot which we have welcomed heartily.

John Headland

Chair of Trustees

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Speen Allotment Association CIO	1191276

Receipts and payments accounts — CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2025	To	Period end date 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership fees	158	-	-	158	175
Allotment rents	1,058	-	-	1,058	1,081
Refundable deposits	-	175	-	175	275
Shed rents	-	140	-	140	80
Fundraising	753	-	-	753	1,168
Manure	368	-	-	368	1,901
Donations	35	-	-	35	52
NWB interest	69			69	89
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	2,441	315	-	2,756	4,821
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,441	315	-	2,756	4,821
A3 Payments					
Insurance	336	-	-	336	355
Rent	103	-	-	103	103
Site maintenance	270	-	-	270	1,460
Administration	144	-	-	144	169
Equipment service	-	-	-	-	-
Manure	-	-	-	-	2,280
Tree project	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising costs	84			84	224
Competition expenses	80			80	20
Annual BBQ	63			63	120

Equipment purchase	256			256	-
Water project	-	165	-	165	143
Othemniscellaneous expenditure	337	-	-	337	2
Sub total	1,673	165	-	1,838	4,876

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,673	165	-	1,838	4,876
Net of receipts/(payments)	768	150	-	918	- 55
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	768	150	-	918	- 55

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	General fund	2,355	-	-
	Accessible plot B1		2,000	
	Water project		-	
	Tree project		450	
	Refundable deposits	-	1,175	-
	Shed rents	-	380	-
	Total cash funds	2,355	4,005	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

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

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset	Cost (optional)	Current value
Sheds	Restricted	600	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

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

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	J Fitch	27/03/2026
	C Mansell	27/03/2026