SUSTAINABLE TENTERDEN
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
For the Period 2nd January 2025 to 1st January 2026

Section A: Reference and administration details

Sustainable Tenterden
Registered Charity No: 1206629
Principal Address
Woodacre, Ingleton Park Road, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6NS

Names of Trustees
J M Colvin, Chair
P J Auden, Secretary
A C Wright, Treasurer
C D Nicholson
S J Robinson

Section B: Structure Governance and Management

Sustainable Tenterden ("The Charity") is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the only voting members of which are its charity Trustees. The Charity uses the "Foundation" model of constitution, and new Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees.
The Charity is managed and governed by its trustees. During the year, no trustees resigned or joined. Shortly after the end of the year, S J Robinson was appointed by the Board as an additional trustee.
The Charity operates using volunteers and has no paid employees.

Section C: Objectives and activities

The objects of the Charity are set out in its governing document.
Our Mission
To promote for the public benefit in Tenterden (Kent) and the surrounding area, the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources by reducing carbon emissions and other sources of environmental degradation.

Our Vision
Sustainable Tenterden is a local charity formed with the objective of creating meaningful projects that move Tenterden towards a more resilient and sustainable future.

Our Values
We make a difference
We focus our energy and capacity on practical projects that are helpful and enabling for families and individuals in our community and surrounding area. Our projects are designed to benefit people and the environment together.
We respect each other
We recognise and value each other's skills, expertise and experience. Our respect for each other builds an inclusive, non-judgmental and cooperative environment in which to develop our projects.
We are collaborative
We support each other and are keen to develop networks with other groups, organisations and individuals who share our aims. Collaborating with others allows us to work in new and creative ways extending what we do.

Our Objectives

As stated in our governing document, the Charity exists to pursue this in particular by means of the following:

a) engaging the community and providing focused enabling information.

b) working with local schools to foster an understanding of actions that benefit nature which surrounds us.

c) providing community services to facilitate re-use, repair, re-purposing, and recycling as appropriate.

d) the provision and support of community resource sharing.

Section D: Review of achievements, performance and outlook

During the year the trustees carried out a review of the Charity's strategy and agreed the following:

Core initiatives:

1. Building the capacity of the charity (recruitment & funding)
2. Repair Cafe
3. Junior Repair initiatives
4. School assemblies

Initiatives for future consideration:

5. Green Fun Day 2.0
6. Library of Things

Messaging & Tone of Voice

Our established tone of voice is enabling, inclusive, engaging and friendly.

While sustainability is our core value and is in our name, it is not a word we lead with in our public-facing communications. We can mention sustainability, but we need to present it as an outcome, benefiting the environment while at the same time benefiting people.

Why?

We need to meet people where they are, often amid busy lives with limited time, money and energy. We want to position our initiatives as helpful enablers in the community.

1. Community benefit first

Our repair cafe is a shining example of this - providing a free, valuable service for the community. We lead with a message of helping people easily fix their belongings for free, positioning us as a valuable service provider to the community. The environmental impact is a natural outcome.

2. We speak to people's priorities

People don't tend to change habits for abstract environmental reasons, but they do for tangible personal benefits. An effective motivator is saving money (or, on the flip side, highlighting where it is being wasted).

Formula: Save, Save, Save – People, Stuff, Planet PSP
Saving money + saving stuff = saving the earth

1. Tenterden Repair Café

Tenterden Repair Café is a free monthly pop-up repair shop and cafe in the heart of Tenterden organised by Sustainable Tenterden and continues to achieve successful outcomes. During 2025 ST held 12 Repair Café events.

By repairing goods of all sorts, The Repair Café makes a substantial positive contribution to sustainability by:

- Decreasing the amount of waste processed.
- Decreasing overall carbon emissions.
- Reducing demand on new material production.

More than 360 items were received for repair, and over 250 (69%) of these were successfully repaired. This resulted in an estimated 823 kg of prevented waste and more than 2619kg of carbon savings. These figures show a considerable increase on 2024 figures - 40% plus items received and 70% items repaired

The Repair Café involves around 20+ regular volunteers and makes an important contribution to the social and material well-being of the community.

The charity will be looking for a volunteer to be trained and act as our qualified First Aider early in 2026

Suez recycling were in attendance with WEEE Pink bin in October and talked to visitors about (electronic) e-waste recycling

We planned to hold a “Thank you' event for volunteers in Jan after the session

2. **Working with Local Schools**

Our ongoing work with local schools involves a school assembly – Date agreed for Wed 12th March 2026 at both the junior school and the infant school.

The charity is also planning a Junior Repair Workshop activity for all Year 6 children. These hands-on workshops are designed to inspire and nurture curiosity and problem-solving mindsets through repair. They could sow seeds which will unlock careers in repair, design or materials management that could help with longer-term carbon and waste reduction through attitude shifts and application in diverse ways.

3. Green Fun Day

In April 2025, Sustainable Tenterden organised another successful Green Fun Day, based at the premises of the Kent and East Sussex Railway (K&ESR). As with the Repair Café participation was up on 2024’s event.

- Up to 500 visitors
- 400 water-saving devices given out by South East Water
- Over 100 children took part in craft sessions
- Over 50 green pledges made by visitors
- 11 participating organisations

The aim is both to inform and educate the community about sustainability and to encourage engagement with local initiatives.

Looking Ahead

Our ongoing priorities continue to include:

- Building the capacity of the Charity, which will require a focus on the recruitment of new volunteer**s** and additional sources of income.
- Maintaining the success of the Repair Cafe focused on monthly events, adding additional features as and when opportunities arise.
- Building on our activities with schools. Including expansion of the Junior Repair initiatives and further school assemblies.
- Consider a re-vamped version of the Green Fun Day, oriented to generate greater lasting impact to match the enjoyment and success of the day.
- Consider launching a "Library of Things" to complement the success of the Repair Café in reducing waste, reducing carbon emissions and unnecessary use of materials.

Section E: Financial review

Sustainable Tenterden's income is derived mostly from donations from individuals, corporate and local governments sources. This income roughly matched our costs in the year, although around £1,000 of the retained reserves at the end of 2024 were represented by donations specifically earmarked for the Green Fun Day, which took place in April 2025. There were no such earmarked reserves at the end of 2025. Taking account of this movement in earmarked reserves, our income would have comfortably exceeded our expenditure.

Income (previous year in brackets)

Total income for the year: £4,595 (£3,950)

Sources of Income:

- Local government grants: £800 (£1,424)
- Individual donations: £1,822 (£1,129)
- Businesses, charities and foundations: £1,408 (£1,108)
- Income from activities: £565 (£289)

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year: £4,659 (£2,667)

How We Spent Our Funds:

- Repair Café Costs: £1,327 (£868) 28% (32%)
- Events, including the Green Fun Day: £2,958 (£1,454) 63% (55%)
- Cost of activities: £50 (£6) 1% (0%)
- Administration and governance: £324 (£348) 7% (13%)

Reserves

At the end of the financial year, our reserves stood at £2,160 (£2,223). None of these reserves were earmarked. The larger part of these reserves at the end of last year (£1,010) represented donations prior to the year-end to support the following year's Green Fun Day, which took place in April 2025. Net of this, there has been an increase of just under £1,000 in the reserves.

During the year, the Charity did not operate a formal reserves policy. However, we hold reserves either ear-marked for specific planned events or to support the reasonable working capital requirements of the Repair Café and other activities of the Charity.

The Charity plans to adopt a written reserves policy in the coming year.

Financial Sustainability

The charity has adequate reserves to cover its foreseeable working capital requirements. The Repair Café is its main ongoing activity. In general, the repair café generates sufficient income in donations to cover its running costs. The charity would not commit itself to significant expenditure for other activities without good visibility of income (usually via donations) to cover the cost.

Section F: Declaration
The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees report above.
Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Jayne Colvin Chair of the Board of Trustees **14 November 2025**

