

# Marsh Farm Futures

working for all the community



ANNUAL REPORT  
2012/2013



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**Dr Muhammed Azam Roomi**  
**April 2013**

I am delighted to present you the 2012/13 Annual Report from Marsh Farm Futures (MFF). It has been a very busy year for us. I am pleased to say despite economic climate, associated pressures and austerity measures, MFF has performed well. Overall MFF has had growth in income, number of businesses in Futures House and the number of people using services. The footfall into the building reached over 96,000 during the period April 2012 to March 2013. This is a terrific achievement, for which we owe a tremendous vote of thanks to our users, providers and funders.

We have continued to make the best use of our partners and various service providers. These have included Job Centre Plus, CAB, Relate, BROOK, Bedfordshire Police, University of Bedfordshire, Luton Borough Council's economic development team, Activ Luton and others. I have no doubt it has been beneficial for all organisations to have had the opportunity to be part of 'delivering services at resident's door step'. We are particularly grateful to all of them for their delivery of service from Futures House.

Futures House has also attracted a number of new businesses take space during the year. Some of the existing businesses have expanded due to demand for their product/services. This can only help enhance local economy leading to job creation and confidence. Further details of these are in the report.

In February 2013, MFF successfully held first ever Jobs, skills and training fair. The event sponsored by University of Bedfordshire, National Apprenticeship Service and Luton Borough Council, attended over sixty local employers/exhibitors that attracted over 1600 visitors. This again demonstrated the power of partnership working and tackling issues collectively.

The Annual Summer Festival and the Christmas events were further excellent examples of communities sharing, coming together and celebrating. Marsh Farm Futures partly funded and supported these important events for the benefits of the whole community.

I would like to thank my fellow directors/trustees, the staff team, our volunteers and business tenants for their huge contribution in the delivery of programme to residents of North Luton area.

I wish everyone involved with Marsh Farm Futures all the very best for next year.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S WELCOME



**Rafi Mohammed**  
**April 2013**

Marsh Farm Futures is doing an important job in these difficult times, when many of the local residents, who live in one of the most deprived areas in Luton and also in the country are facing intense hardship and abject poverty. With Luton Borough Council's budgets tightening even more than last year and unemployment at an all time high, the community is faced with further poverty and a major dent in their quality of daily life. In order to meet these challenges facing local residents Marsh Farm Futures are adamant that we will refocus our efforts throughout all strands of our work to ensure that we provide joined up services through partners based at Futures House.

We have faced some major challenges over the last year or so with the building and its defects and aim to work harder in reaching our vision, while we concentrate to ensure that the building stays open and our partners continue to provide the services that are vital to the local community. Despite these challenges, the continued austerity and related pressures with ensuring that Futures House is compliant, our income has been steady over the last twelve months.

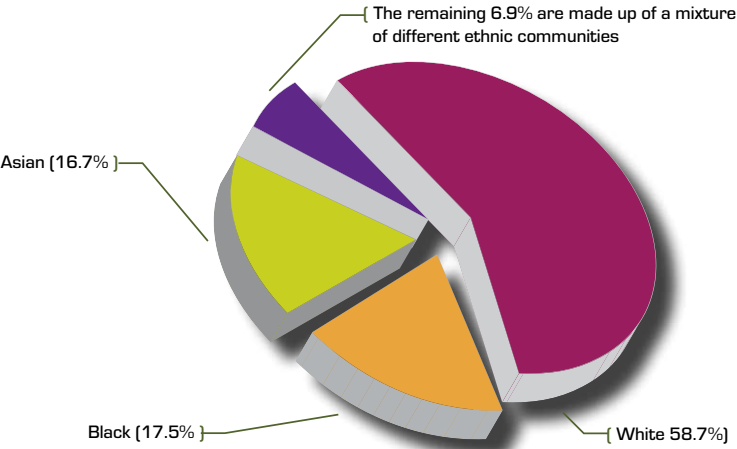
As we look to the future and encourage more tenants to take up space in the building, with increase in our income and the use of the building continues to grow, we aim to support even a greater number of local people than we have done in the past year. Even though times are tough, reaching our stated vision is paramount for us and we will continue to strive for it. Working with the Board of directors/trustees, staff and volunteers, we recognise the enormous challenge that lies ahead for all of us to turn around an area that has consistently been recognised for deprivation and negativity. We will do everything we possibly can with tenacity, to bring about this change.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for all your support in the past year.



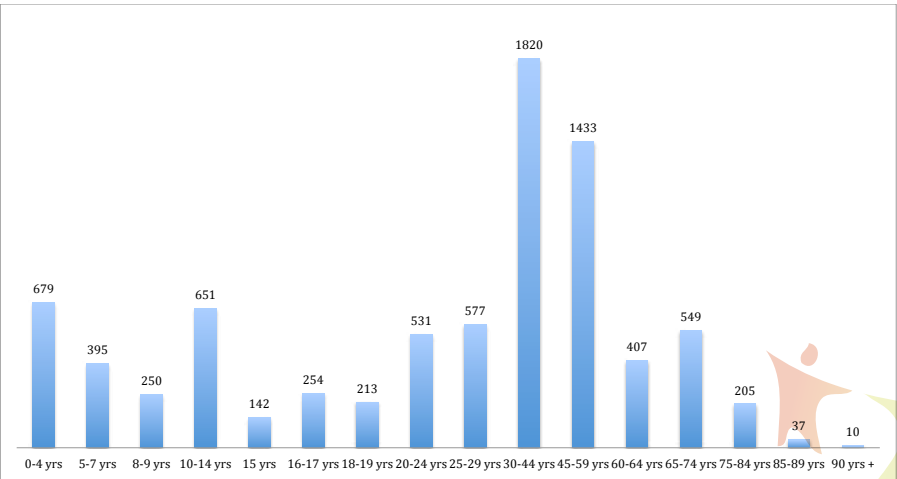
## ABOUT MARSH FARM - NORTHWELL WARD

Marsh Farm, part of Northwell ward is a well known area in the North of Luton. It has 3077 households with a population of 8250. The area has a diverse community made up of 58.7% White, 17.5% Black, 16.7% Asian and 6.9% other



## Socio-Economic profile of Northwell Ward:

### Ages

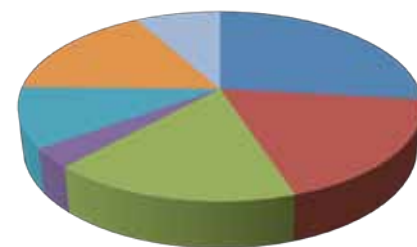


Source Census 2011



## QUALIFICATION LEVELS

| Highest qualification, all residents aged 16+ | Number – Northwell | % Northwell | % Luton | % England and Wales |
|---|--------------------|-------------|---------|---------------------|
| No Qualifications                             | 1,615              | 26.8%       | 23.6%   | 22.7%               |
| Level 1                                       | 1,099              | 18.2%       | 14.6%   | 13.3%               |
| Level 2                                       | 1,015              | 16.8%       | 14.5%   | 15.3%               |
| Apprenticeship                                | 200                | 3.3%        | 3.3%    | 3.6%                |
| Level 3                                       | 618                | 10.2%       | 11.1%   | 12.3%               |
| Level 4 plus                                  | 1,000              | 16.6%       | 22.3%   | 27.2%               |
| Other/Level Unknown                           | 489                | 8.1%        | 10.7%   | 5.7%                |



■ No qualification ■ Level 1 ■ Level 2  
 ■ Apprenticeship ■ Level 3 ■ Level 4 +  
 ■ Other

## EMPLOYMENT LEVELS

| ECONOMIC POSITION – all residents aged 16-74 | Number – Northwell | % Northwell | % Luton | % England and Wales |
|--|--------------------|-------------|---------|---------------------|
| <b>Economically Active:</b>                  | 3,920              | 67.8%       | 69.1%   | 69.7%               |
| Full Time Employed                           | 2,018              | 34.9%       | 36.7%   | 38.5%               |
| Part Time Employed                           | 773                | 13.4%       | 12.7%   | 13.7%               |
| Self Employed                                | 398                | 6.9%        | 8.4%    | 9.7%                |
| Full Time Student                            | 263                | 4.5%        | 5.5%    | 3.4%                |
| Unemployed                                   | 468                | 8.1%        | 5.7%    | 4.4%                |
| <b>Economically Inactive:</b>                | 1,864              | 32.2%       | 30.9%   | 30.3%               |
| Students                                     | 350                | 6.1%        | 7.4%    | 5.8%                |
| Long Term Sick/Disabled                      | 309                | 5.3%        | 3.8%    | 4.2%                |
| Looking After Home/Family                    | 371                | 6.4%        | 6.7%    | 4.3%                |
| Retired                                      | 638                | 11.0%       | 9.9%    | 13.8%               |
| Other Inactive                               | 196                | 3.4%        | 3.3%    | 2.2%                |

## UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS

| UNEMPLOYED– all unemployed residents who: | Number – Northwell | % Northwell | % Luton | % England |
|---|--------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Are Aged 16 – 24 years                    | 107                | 1.8%        | 1.4%    | 1.2%      |
| Are Aged 50 – 74                          | 91                 | 1.6%        | 0.9%    | 0.8%      |
| Have Never Worked                         | 83                 | 1.4%        | 1.1%    | 0.7%      |
| Are Long Term Unemployed                  | 188                | 3.3%        | 2.2%    | 1.7%      |





## ABOUT MARSH FARM FUTURES

Marsh Farm Futures (MFF) is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a Charity. It is an independent and financially self-sustaining anchor organisation for the area. Marsh Farm Futures works with the local community organisations and businesses, to understand their needs, maintain their interest, and enable them to play a role in initiating and delivering new services and community activities in the area.



### Aims & Objectives

The objectives of the Charity are to promote the regeneration in this area of social and economic deprivation to benefit the public. The key aims and activities of the Charity include the following:

- **Provide affordable, well-managed and sustainable facilities for enterprise and community activities.**
- **Develop a vibrant local economy where businesses can prosper and community enterprise can flourish, through building a skilled competitive workforce and creating jobs.**
- **Improve educational standards through a wide range of learning opportunities and experiences, and to support local schools and education providers to improve educational standards.**
- **Support local youth programmes which develop skills and confidence, to engage young people as active decision makers.**
- **Encourage a healthy, confident community who feel safe, and have a range of accessible facilities.**
- **Promote effective partnerships working between all sectors to build capacity and create a sustainable community 'anchor' organisation to ensure that the needs of the community are understood and addressed.**





## FUTURES HOUSE AND ITS TENANTS

Futures House, a fantastic 65,000 square foot building, has now been operational since March 2011. A wide variety of occupants with short and long term leases enjoy the facility on two floors. The building layout offers multi-purpose use. Some of the tenants include:



A leading independent supplier, importer and distributor of industrial electrical goods.



Providing qualified nurses and health care assistants to nursing homes and hospitals.



Providing a day care at Futures House to young adults with learning difficulties and additional needs.



A workforce development specialist supporting businesses and individuals in the area.



A leading supplier of personalised number plates in the UK.



Provides a professional door-to-door service offering sea and air freight and air tickets to Ghana.



Offers an integrated and holistic approach to help organizations achieve their marketing objectives.



Specialists in electrical security equipment and all types of electrical jobs.



Offers a drop in service from Futures house to the local community.



Health visiting, pre-School feeding, school nursing, childrens community nurses.



The Bedfordshire Police team for the North and West of Luton are both located in Futures House.



An indoor playground for teens, toddlers and babies, open 7 days a week.



Brings low cost land-line and broadband internet to customers at the fastest speed available in the UK.



Luton Borough Council provides childrens services at Futures House. Offer a varied programme of events including a baby clinic and halls available to hire for social events.



## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

We celebrated the Queens Jubilee on 2nd June 2012 with a good old fashioned tea party. 200 guests from the local community and around 30 local volunteers enjoyed a cream tea complimented by mismatched china and cake stands. With can-can dancers and an olden times themed quiz it was one of the best attended events we have held.



## SUMMER FESTIVAL 2012

Marsh Farm Summer Festival is held every year to encourage community cohesion and achievements and to build a stronger community. The Festival was held on 23 June 2012 and was attended by children, families, supporters and partners. The 2012 Festival covered a much larger area of North Luton covering six wards attracting a wider audience. The Festival was organised jointly by Luton Borough Council and Marsh Farm Events Committee, chaired by Dave Crean MBE and supported collectively by many local organisations including Marsh Farm Outreach, Marsh Farm Futures, local businesses and many individuals and sponsors.



Luton's Mayor Syd Knight opening the Festival



Local residents participating and enjoying the Festival

## MBE AWARD FOR MARSH FARMER

Dave Crean was presented with the MBE award at the Luton Irish Centre on 20th September 2012, in front of family and friends, some of whom travelled from Ireland without his knowledge to surprise him. The award for his outstanding services to the community was presented by Helen Nellis, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Bedfordshire.

...“the surprise element [was] organised by friends and colleagues from Luton Borough Council”, a colleague from Community Development Service said. “We applaud and commend Dave for this massive achievement”, commented Mohammed Rafi, Marsh Farm Futures CEO. Dave, a resident at Marsh Farm for the last 24 years, remains a community activist and is instrumental in organising annual Marsh Farm Festival, Christmas Party for 50+ and of course Marsh Farm Fireworks. Dave continues to be the Chair of MFCDT residual Board and a Director of Marsh Farm Futures Board.



Dave Crean, MFF Board Member, celebrates his MBE

## CHRISTMAS PARTY AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS



On Friday 14th December 2012, 150 people from the local 50+ community joined us for Christmas festivities. The event started with a fantastic carol service provided by choirs from Wauluds, Whitefields, Lea Manor and Bramingham schools, as well as the Bramingham Singing Stars and our very own Heywood House. Festivities continued in the community halls with a three course Christmas meal – provided by Ian and Tracey from the local bakery The Bakers Dozen and with fun and games including a quiz, a raffle and entertainment from local artist Paula Kay. The event was attended by over 350 guests alongside dignitaries, community volunteers and schools.

Residents enjoying festivities

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## **JOBS SKILLS & TRAINING FAIR 2013**

More than 1600 people attended the 'Jobs, Skills and Training Fair' held at Marsh Farm Futures on 27th February 2013. The Jobs Fair, organised by Marsh Farm Futures in partnership with Job Centre Plus and Luton Borough Council, was set up to help improve employment prospects of local residents.



A group of young people helped in making the Jobs, Training and Apprenticeship Fair a huge success. The Volunteers on Dame Kelly Holmes "Get on Track programme", run by Luton Borough Council's Community Development Service, played a critical role in welcoming, registering and guiding visitors to the fair.

## **ST PATRICKS DAY AND ST GEORGES DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Both Saints Days events in 2013 were well attended, with over 100 people at each. St Patricks Day was celebrated with Irish stew, Colcannon, Mash and Irish coffees. For St Georges Day guests feasted on either pie and mash or bangers and mash and shandy! With entertainment and a raffle, a good day was had by all.



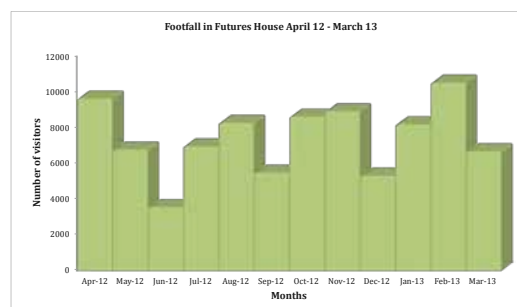
| Service Provider                          | Type of Service   | Time/ Day of the week   |
|---|---|---|
| CAB                                       | Advice on legal matters, personal debt, welfare benefits  | Every Monday PM   |
| RELATE                                    | Confidential Counselling and Support to individuals and couples   | Every Tuesday<br>5.00pm – 9.00pm  |
| Job Club<br>MFF & LBC                     | Targeted support to 16-19 year olds who are NEET (not in employment, education or training)                         | Every Tuesday<br>2.00pm- 4.00pm   |
| Crafty Carers<br>MFF & LBC                | Self-help group for parents/carers of disabled children – Craft related activities provided.                        | Every Tuesday<br>10.00am – 12.00pm  |
| Enterprise Club<br>MFF & WENTA            | Business Networking, business advice and support to those running/ starting own business                            | Last Wednesday of the month 9.30am – 11.00 am                               |
| Job Centre Plus<br>Employability          | Employment support, benefit advice, job searching<br>Weekly drop-in service   | 9.00am – 3.00pm<br>Every Thursdays  |
| BROOK<br>Sexual Health<br>Advice          | <u>CONFIDENTIAL</u> advice, information, support, Contraception, pregnancy tests<br>FREE Service to anyone under 25 | 3.00pm - 6.00pm<br>Every Thursdays  |
| Luton Borough<br>Council                  | Council tax, Housing Benefit, Advice on Council services  | 8.30am to 5.30pm<br>Mon - Friday  |
| Community<br>Development<br>Services      | Community Support, Room Hire<br>to community/self help groups, partners   | Monday – Friday<br>day & evenings   |
| Councillors<br>Roy Davis<br>Don Worloding | Surgeries for residents to raise their issues with elected members  | 10.00 – 12.00am<br>1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month |

## MFF PARTNERSHIP AND SERVICES AT FUTURES HOUSE

The Services below are organised by MFF in partnership with providers

## FOOTFALL IN FUTURES HOUSE

Futures House has seen a footfall of over 96,000 during the period April 2012 to March 2013 as shown below.



## ENTERPRISE CLUB LAUNCHED BY MARSH FARM FUTURES

Budding entrepreneurs gathered on 30 May 2012 at Futures House to launch the Enterprise Club at Marsh Farm Futures. More than a dozen local businesses and potential entrepreneurs attended and made a commitment to participate in the Club. The Enterprise Club was organised and facilitated jointly by Marsh Farm Futures and WENTA. The Enterprise Club meets on the last Wednesday of every month and is facilitated by WENTA's Shahida Parkar. It offers:

- Help in working through business ideas
- Networking opportunities with other entrepreneurs
- Access to professional business advice
- Support with writing business plans and starting up.



Enterprise Club delegates sharing their thoughts and ideas

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## JOB CLUB FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Luton Borough Council's Prevention and Early Intervention Team, and Marsh Farm Futures launched a brand new Job Club for 16 -19 year olds in July 2012 at Futures House, Marsh Farm, Luton.

The Job Club runs every Tuesday from 2pm – 4pm at Futures House and delivers practical support to all young people wanting to get into full time and part time work, apprenticeships or training. They receive help at every step from exploring career ideas, finding vacancies or opportunities, and through the application and interview stages and beyond.



Luton North MP Kelvin Hopkins and MFF CEO  
Mohammed Rafi launching Job Club

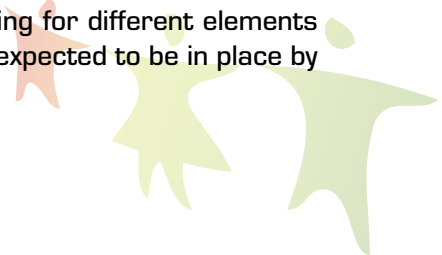
## CENTRAL AREA DEVELOPMENT

Following wide consultation with residents and discussions with traders a planning application was submitted for the central area redevelopment which includes new shops and new housing with improved pedestrian access between the public buildings (Lea Manor School and Leisure Centre and Futures



Residents attending the consultation and viewing Central Area Plans

House) through changed road layouts. The area will have dedicated car parking for different elements and the market is likely to move to the piazza/shops area. Planning approval expected to be in place by October 2013.



## MARSH FARM FUTURES STAFF TEAM

### Rafi Mohammed

#### Chief Executive



An urban regeneration specialist with more than twenty year's experience of project and programme management. Rafi has previously worked as director for a management consultancy and Chief Executive with a north London regeneration partnership. He has a successful track record of organisational development and impact delivery in the private, public and not for profit sectors, delivering major joined up regeneration programmes across borough boundaries and organisations.

### Ishaq Kazi - MBA, FCIM

#### Programme Manager



Ishaq joined MFF in January 2010 and has responsibility for developing partnerships, projects, marketing Futures House, and providing support to community groups.

### Robbie Herrick

#### Facilities Officer



Robbie joined MFF in March 2012 after spending 10 years with a local Leisure Trust. Robbie's key responsibilities are to manage the buildings facilities and ensure health & safety policy and procedures are implemented and maintained by all occupants.

He is also responsible for building repairs and maintenance, liaising with contractors and dealing with building tenants and visitors.

## MARSH FARM FUTURES BOARD

The function of the Board is to set policy and direct the organisation. They have overall responsibility for:

- **All organisational actions.**
- **Compliance with the governance framework as required by the Charities Commission and Companies House.**
- **Developing, agreeing and implementing the annual business plan.**
- **Defining strategy, policies and establishing objectives.**
- **Prioritising programmes and initiatives.**
- **Allocating resources.**
- **Monitoring performance and results.**

Marsh Farm Futures Board is made up of:

- **4 resident directors including a local young persons representative.**
- **3 local stakeholders.**
- **2 business representatives.**
- **2 local councillors.**

Marsh Farm Futures has appointed its directors on the basis of merit including skills, knowledge and competence. The board has a strong balance of gender, ethnicity, age and experience. A skills survey of the directors is undertaken on appointment to identify any training needed to allow them to fulfill their roles.

The Chair may be from within the appointed directors but could also be co-opted. Two Vice Chairs can be appointed annually and the board of directors are selected and appointed to act as directors under company law.

Luton Borough Council has a special role as a partner with Marsh Farm Futures. This is for a number of reasons including having statutory powers, and in providing many of the solutions across Marsh Farm and the town.





## MEET THE BOARD...

### Muhammad Azam Roomi • Local Stakeholder



Muhammad is the Chair of MFF. He is a principal lecturer at the University of Bedfordshire's Business School and is also the Director of Research for the Centre for Women's Enterprise. Muhammad also lives locally to Marsh Farm.

### Abdur Rahman Khan • Local Stakeholder



Abdur Rahman is the Vice Chair and has been involved with the local voluntary and community sector for many years. He has a wealth of experience in community development and education.

### Glenn Jenkins • Resident



Glenn has been a resident of Marsh Farm for more than 20 years and has more than 17 years dedicated experience in community development, self management and empowering housing cooperatives.

### Roy Davis • Councillor



Roy has been a Borough Councillor for 25 years. He is Executive Member responsible for regeneration, major capital projects and strategic planning and transport infrastructure and is Vice-Chair of the Joint Planning Committee.

### Dave Crean MBE • Resident



Dave Crean MBE was the Chair of Marsh Farm Community Development Trust and has lived in Marsh Farm since 1990. He is committed to positive change and a brighter future for all the residents of Marsh Farm.

### Helen Barnett • Business representative



Helen is CEO of Active Luton a successful non profit making organisation. She has extensive knowledge and experience of schools and education and has a passion for making a difference to the lives of people in the community.

### Bina Briggs • Local Stakeholder



Bina has extensive experience in Human Resources management, recruitment, employment legislation and training. She has lived in Luton for more than 37 years and is committed to the future development of Marsh Farm.

### Syd Knight • Councillor



Syd Knight member of the Luton Borough Council and a former Mayor of Luton. A qualified social worker since 1992. Cllr Knight went on to complete his Masters in Mental Health at the University of Hertfordshire in 2008.

## APPROVED BY TRUSTEES

12th SEPTEMBER 2013

*Muhammad Azam Roomi*  
Chair of Trustees  
12/09/2012

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2012 /13

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

|  | 2012/13        | 2011/2012      |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                | <b>301,484</b> | <b>307,960</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                           | <b>290,851</b> | <b>323,906</b> |
| <b>NET INCOMING AND OUTGOINGS</b>            | <b>10,633</b>  | <b>-15,946</b> |
| <b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST MARCH</b> | <b>227,276</b> | <b>216,643</b> |

### BALANCE SHEET

|  | 2012/13        | 2011/2012      |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| <b>CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b>                      | <b>302,095</b> | <b>274,004</b> |
| <b>DEBTORS</b>                                       | <b>5,765</b>   | <b>0</b>       |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                                | <b>307,860</b> | <b>274,004</b> |
| <b>CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b> | <b>-80,584</b> | <b>57,361</b>  |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                    | <b>227,276</b> | <b>216,643</b> |
| <b>BROUGHT FORWARD</b>                               | <b>216,643</b> | <b>232,589</b> |
| <b>NET GAIN/LOSS</b>                                 | <b>10,633</b>  | <b>-15,946</b> |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>                                   | <b>227,276</b> | <b>216,643</b> |

The Income and Expenditure account gives information on the income we have received and how that has been spent over the period. The Balance Sheet presents a picture of what the organisation is worth and how its funded

The Trustees consider that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 March 2013 and of its net resources expended for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and 395 of the Act and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the financial statements so far applicable to the company.







GALLERY



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## Contact Us

For Further information or if you have any comments  
or suggestions please contact the Marsh Farm  
Futures Team on 01582 512555

Website: [www.marshfarmfutures.co.uk](http://www.marshfarmfutures.co.uk)

Email: [info@marshfarmfutures.co.uk](mailto:info@marshfarmfutures.co.uk)

## Registered Office :

Marsh Farm Futures  
Futures House  
The Moakes  
Marsh Farm  
Luton  
LU3 3QB

Registered Charity Number . 1138854  
Company Registered Number. 6853242

With Special thanks to  
Marsh Farm Residents,  
Board Members , Partners  
& Dedicated Volunteers.

