



ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017





Summer Festival - August 2016



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CHAIR'S WELCOME



Roy Davis
April 2017

I am pleased to introduce Marsh Farm Futures 2016-17 Annual Report. This year has again produced an impressive set of results, which are all the more striking given recent economic conditions. This year is an important milestone as we complete our first five years of performance based on high quality of service provided to the community of residents, businesses and partners by our first-rate staff. It is our commitment which ultimately drives the services we provide to our tenants and underpins the role we play in our communities.

I am delighted to say Futures House is almost full to its capacity, Futures Fun Factory has satisfied more customers than ever before and we have attracted new visitors and business organisations through Futures Business Voice. Futures Young Voice and Futures Community Voice have both been further exposed to residents resulting in an increased participation.

We have continued to facilitate the delivery of partner services from Jobcentre Plus, Luton Rights, BROOK, and Luton Culture. Other providers have included Foodbank, Money matters Credit Union, Shah Jalal Islamic Foundation and Luton Borough Council.

Successful business events such as Luton's Enterprise Day held in January 2016 attracted over 700 visitors and over 50 enterprises ranging from small care companies to large businesses such as Nat West, Virgin Media, Barnfield College, University of Bedfordshire and recruitment companies. Community events hosted included Area North Festival attended by over 1500 residents, annual Christmas dinner for 50+ group, Marsh Farm Fireworks, Eid and Diwali celebrations.

Futures Community Resource Room has been widely used daily by individual residents looking for support and the use of an ICT facility FREE of charge. This is also used on a weekly basis by the Job Club, Luton Rights, who provide FREE legal advice, Luton and Dunstable Hospital who give FREE sexual health advice to young people.

Futures Fun Factory provided children's birthday parties along with themed Halloween and Christmas parties. Special residents' scheme and various other deals have been offered to local schools and organisations.

I would like to conclude by recognising particular contributions made by staff and volunteers especially other Trustees and Board members who worked tirelessly to ensure Marsh Farm Futures remains successful in the delivery of its services and commitment. With their continued commitment, I am certain that we can look to the future with confidence. I wish everyone involved with Marsh Farm Futures the very best for next year.

Roy Davis
Chair
Marsh Farm Futures

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S WELCOME



Mohammed Rafi
April 2017

I have pleasure in presenting the work of Marsh Farm Futures (MFF) for the year 2016/17. Over the last twelve months the Board has consolidated its work into five objectives to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our users, local community and the tenants at Futures House.

We launched a community chest fund this year and you may well know of local causes that would benefit from this fund. Your local councillors may also know of worthy causes and may have access to other local budgets, e.g. neighbourhood participatory budget programme. I recognise that residents generally know what's best for them and their communities and we can bring about change based on your solutions. We hope you get in touch with us if you have a solution to a local issue.

On the strength of the research programme we did earlier in the year we have been successful in securing a five year programme, funded annually, to help local people establish and run community businesses in the area. We will run a number of information events, workshops, accredited training course and visits to other similar projects to help participants establish their community businesses. This is a really exciting time for this programme and for us, so do keep an eye on leaflets, our website and our newsletter dropping through your letterbox and have a conversation with us if you have a community business in mind.

We have been working with the Police and Crime Commissioner to access funds to work with the community to combat gang crime, as well as other serious crime such as drugs and violence against women in the area, especially those engaging in gang crime. We are trying to work on a holistic and partnership approach by involving young people themselves and induct local young ambassadors for the area, through a funded training programme.

MFF is in the process of setting our budget priorities for the next year and would like to hear from you about the services we deliver. Though we have financial challenges like any other Charity we would still be pleased to hear from you about the importance of local issues and services. Have your say by visiting www.marshfarmfutures.co.uk/contact-us by 10th November 2017.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to hundreds of hours of time that people across Marsh Farm give up to make a difference in our community, whether it's helping out at Futures House, representing the community at Board meetings, working for a local charity, a working group, being a local school governor or simply being a good neighbour and an active citizen. With my Board and Staff commitment and your willingness to work for the betterment of others I am sure our community is much healthier and vibrant, more than money can ever measure.

I look forward to continuing working with you in the next year.

Mohammed Rafi
Chief Executive
Marsh Farm Futures

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 to understand their needs, maintain their interest, and enable them to play a role in initiating businesses, 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 Board has agreed 5 strategic objectives for the organisation and these are;

- 1 Provision of affordable, well-managed and sustainable facilities for enterprise and community activities;**
- 2 Development of a vibrant local economy where businesses can prosper and community enterprise can flourish, creating jobs and a skilled and competitive workforce;**
- 3 Promoting effective partnership 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.**
- 4 Support local youth programmes which develop skills and confidence engaging young people as active decision makers, and encourage a healthy, confident community who feel safe, and have a range of accessible facilities**
- 5 Improvement in educational standards for all with a wide range of learning opportunities and experiences;**

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Futures House is a modern building and a community asset that contributes directly towards a vibrant local economy by offering work, business, retail and light industrial space.



Futures House is now 98% full and occupied by statutory sector organisations including Luton Borough Council, Bedfordshire Police, NHS, private sector companies including Sparta Telecom, Marsh Bears Nursery, Protect Project, Elite Day Services, Heywood House, charitable enterprises and two food outlets.

This demonstrates confidence in our business strategy of low rents, promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship and partnership between private, public and community sectors and supporting the growth of small companies' around the area. These organisations are a source of employment for at least 300 people, many who live locally.

LUTON'S WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY

Luton Women's Enterprise Day took place on Monday 30th January 2017. Supported by University of Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce, Job Centre Plus and Luton Borough Council.

The event was another resounding success. This celebration of women's achievement in the business world, was chaired by Annette White, Chief Executive of PC HelpCentre and also a Marsh Farm Futures Board Member.

The key speakers included Cheryl Smart (MBE) from Beds Chamber of Commerce and Laura Church from Luton Borough Council, a Corporate Director who gave an inspiring talk about their careers and their drive to see more women in engineering & construction. Debra Leighton, Head of Business School and Executive Dean of University of Bedfordshire, spoke about her aim to increase and forge links with undergraduates and local businesses.

In addition there were over 30 business stalls including NatWest, A Plan Insurance, Cup Cake and Avon Cosmetics.



CYBER SECURITY WORKSHOP

Futures Business Voice held a Cyber Security workshop for local businesses in Futures House, on Wednesday 8th February 2017.

Cyber security advisor Sean O'Neil from Bedfordshire Police led the workshop. He discussed different scenarios businesses need to be aware of to keep themselves safe including how hackers work, social engineering and how to protect your business from cyber-attacks which are prevalent and capable of bringing down a business. More than 20 local businesses attended the event.



FUTURES ENTERPRISE CLUB

This is organised by MFF in partnership with WENTA – (business support agency) and held on the last Wednesday of the month. An initiative to encourage business start-up and nine individuals have benefited from one-to-one sessions during the year delivered by WENTA's Business Adviser Shahida Parkar.



FUTURES FUN FACTORY



Futures Fun Factory is a soft area indoor playpark. It provides opportunities for children to have fun, play and enjoy physical exercise.

Futures Fun Factory has created employment opportunities for 8 local young residents who are members of FFF staff team. Futures Fun Factory offers reduced rates for Marsh Farm residents, child minders, after school, children's birthday parties, Halloween, Christmas, Eid and Easter parties. More than 48,000 customers have visited The Fun Factory during the year.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE ROOM

Marsh Farm Futures offers a fully equipped and comfortable IT suite with free internet access and printing facilities to the local community.

This popular service gives residents and locals who would not otherwise have access to computers, the opportunity to do job searches or other internet related work. It is available for use from Monday – Friday, except where pre booked for training or support services. On average, over 1500 local residents make use of the facility annually.

A local Resident, Alison Clark, has been using the facility regularly. She said "It is close to where I live and is available to use when I need to, the staff and people I meet are very helpful and I enjoy coming here".



FUNDRAISING

MFF successfully generated £11,000 funding from ESF/SEMLEP for employability programme; £9,975 from **Power to Change** as a Learning Grant. As part of this, consultations were held with young people and local community organisations to establish their needs. This will open the gateway to future programmes during the next 5 years.



PARTNER SERVICES

Throughout the year, Marsh Farm Futures provided a number of services to local residents through a number of partners including:

LUTON RIGHTS

Providing weekly FREE legal advice on personal debt, employment and benefits. Over 190 local residents have accessed the service.



LUTON AND DUNSTABLE HOSPITAL

Free confidential advice, information, support, contraception & pregnancy testing for young people. More than 150 young people have used the service during the year.



LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL CUSTOMER SERVICE

This is another partner service available to residents Monday – Friday from 8.30am to 5.30pm. Over 3000 people have sought help, advice and support.



LUTON CULTURAL TRUST

Provided meeting spaces, community halls to local residents and community groups. More than 26,000 people have used the facilities.

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDEN

This is an MFF initiative to support local residents who volunteer their time to help grow fresh vegetables for the local foodbank. This year 51 families were helped with produce from this initiative.

EXERCISE CLASSES

MFF provided two weekly exercise classes for the local community one of these being for the over 50's age group at an affordable price and help to improve the health of our community. Over 1200 people have participated during the year.

FUTURES YOUNG VOICE

Futures Young Voice formed a steering committee and successfully applied for small amounts of funding for their activities. These included weekly youth drop in sessions, targeted workshops on Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Gangs & Knives, Job applications, training schemes, CV's, and support with Apprenticeships.



JOB CLUB

This is aimed at supporting the local community to gain employment and training. 1:1 support is provided with job applications, CV updates and benefit applications. Young people are also supported in applying for apprenticeships. Local residents can also access the job vacancy and training board to help them find employment.

FUTURES COMMUNITY VOICE (FCV)

This is a platform for local residents to articulate their needs. The group is made up of local residents who volunteer their time. FCV identifies residents' main issues and concerns of the local community. They have successfully applied for £50,000 (over two years) funding from the Health Trust Lottery. The project is to improve four of the subways on the estate and 16 street makeovers. FCV engages with different partners and agencies including Luton Borough Council and other local community organisations.



AREA NORTH FESTIVAL

This is an annual community event hosted by MFF at Futures House, offering a great family day out and helps create a sense of togetherness, belonging and cohesion. This event attracted over 1200 people.



MARSH FARM FIREWORKS

Another annual community event that attracted over 4000 people from Marsh Farm and Luton wide. Funding and sponsorship opportunities are created for local businesses demonstrating their commitment to the local community.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

This is an annual event held for our over 50s residents. More than 70 people from the surrounding areas attended the popular party. They enjoyed music, dance and a three course meal.



GALLERY OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AT MARSH FARM FUTURES

Businesses attending Cyber Security Workshop



Womens Enterprise Day



Summer Festival



REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF MARSH FARM FUTURES

We have audited the financial statements of Marsh Farm Futures for the year ended 31 March 2017. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The comparatives are unaudited.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities set out on page nine, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Companies Act 2006. Accordingly we have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under Section 154 of that Act.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Trustees to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements ; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

FKCA Limited

Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006 Prospero House
46-48 Rothesay Road Luton
Bedfordshire LU1 1QZ

31st March 2017.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2017 Total Funds £	2016 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	33,486	9,975	43,461	37,000
Charitable activities	3	693,731	-	693,731	654,427
Investment income	4	820	-	820	630
Other income		-	-	-	16,919
Total		728,037	9,975	738,012	708,976
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	5	-	-	-	340,918
Direct spending		524,534	-	524,534	199,241
Charitable trading costs		-	-	-	-
Total		524,534	-	524,534	540,159
NET INCOME		203,503	9,975	213,478	168,817
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		1,117,538	-	1,117,538	948,717
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,321,041	9,975	1,331,016	1,117,534

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2017.

The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring and audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for


- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 31/7/17 and were signed on its behalf by :

Copy of the full accounts is available **FREE** of charge, please contact us.


 Mr R. Davis - Trustee

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017
BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2017 Total Funds £	2016 Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11	534,588	-	534,588	539,593
Investments	12	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
		538,588	-	538,588	543,593
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	11,150	-	11,150	56,826
Cash at bank and in hand		836,469	9,975	846,444	592,511
		847,619	9,975	857,594	649,337
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(65,166)	-	(65,166)	(75,396)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		782,453	9,975	792,428	573,941
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,321,041	9,975	1,331,016	1,117,534
NET ASSETS		1,321,041	9,975	1,331,016	1,117,534
FUNDS	15				
Unrestricted funds				1,321,041	1,117,534
Restricted funds				9,975	-
TOTAL FUNDS				1,331,016	1,117,534

MARSH FARM FUTURES STAFF TEAM



Mohammed Rafi
Chief Executive

Rafi has the overall responsibility for all areas of MFF work including financial management, business development and staffing. Rafi has previously worked as director for a management consultancy and Chief Executive for a number of regeneration partnerships.



Ishaq Kazi - MBA, FCIM
Programme Manager

Ishaq joined MFF in January 2010 and has overall responsibility for developing partnerships, projects, marketing of Futures House, inward investment, income generation and engaging businesses. Previously worked in London for local authorities, community and private sector for more than 20 years.



Robert Debont
Facilities Manager

Robert has over 10 years' experience in retail and private sector. He possess expertise in IT, facilities management. He has been with MFF since November 2015 and has sole responsibility for all building repairs, maintenance and tenant matters.



Cathy McShane
Community & Youth Involvement Manager

Cathy McShane joined MFF in July 2013 and has over 25 years' experience working with local authority. Cathy manages youth initiative, local community involvement and funding. She also works closely with Futures Community Voice.



Selina Okoli
Admin Officer

Selina joined MFF in August 2014 to provide admin support and manage MFF office. She has over 18 years' experience of working with Metropolitan Police Service including Customer Services, Administration, Press and Communications.



Charles Hazel
Volunteer

Charles Hazel has been a volunteer with MFF since it's inception. Charles is a great help with the running of the building, general maintenance and support to MFF team.

MEET THE BOARD

Roy Davis • Local Councillor and Chair



Roy has been a Borough Councillor for over 30 years. He is responsible for chairing Board meetings, facilitating discussion and decisions for the organisation.

Bhavesh (Barry) Patel • Local Business Representative



Barry is a local businessman who owns and runs large retail stores. His business Nisa Local employs more than 15 people – all are local residents.

Abdur Rahman Khan • Joint Vice Chair Local Stakeholder



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

Annette White • Business Representative



Annette is a local resident and a successful business woman. She has over 20 years' of sales and marketing background from a Corporate Global entity and has over 10 years of experience of running her own independent small IT business.

Dave Crean MBE • Joint Vice Chair Resident



Dave is Joint Vice Chair 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.

Aimi Rix • Resident



A local resident with 20 years' of business management experience within the building and restoration trade. Also a local artist, Aimi has worked alongside many sectors to deliver high-end installation and art works.

Anna Pederson • Resident



A local resident and a Councillor, Anna is actively involved in the community and comes with many years' experience in HR.

Louisa Boateng • Resident



A local resident with experience of working with Children Services and also a parent governor at local nursery.



MFF PICTURE GALLERY



LEARNING GRANT



MFF PICTURE GALLERY



Marsh Farm
Futures
working for all the community





Contact Us

For further information or if you have any comments or suggestions please contact Ishaq Kazi at Marsh Farm Futures on 01582 512555

Website: www.marshfarmfutures.co.uk

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Registered Office :

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Luton
LU3 3QB

Registered Charity Number . 1138854
Company Registered Number. 6853242

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

