

RPLC

Richmond Parish Lands Charity

Report of the Trustees

Year ended

30 June 2015

Charity Number: 20069

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 June 2015

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 June 2015. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's Scheme, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2005.

The Charity

The Richmond Parish Lands Charity (RPLC) administers a royal gift made in 1786 to help the community in Richmond. Through grant-giving and charitable housing trustees seek to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged people within our benefit area which comprises the London postal code districts: TW9, TW10 and SW14. The Charity is governed by a Charity Commission Scheme sealed on 13 May 1991 as amended in 2006 and 2014, and is a Registered Charity (No. 200069). Amendments to the Scheme, approved by the Charity Commission in 2014 limit appointments to the Trustees Board to two from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and one from The Richmond Society. All other trustees are recruited openly through advertisement and interview.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed for a period of four years and can be reappointed for a second term. Given the range of grant-giving, property and financial matters administered by the Charity, care is taken to ensure that new members of the Board, whether recruited by the RPLC or appointed, have the appropriate skills needed at the time. Two Trustees retired at the end of the financial year. Susan Goddard, former Chairman of the Property Committee and Rita Biddulph Chairman of the Education Committee, both gave up significant amounts of time to assist the Trustee Board in making strategic decisions around Property and Education. Their clear thinking and specialist knowledge and experience will be missed. Paul Lawrence, Rachel Holmes and Owen Carew Jones have been appointed as Trustees from 1 July 2015.

Induction and training of Trustees

All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of related party transactions are disclosed in note 17 to the accounts. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Director annually. It is customary for a Trustee to withdraw from discussions and decisions where a conflict of interest arises. Neither the Charity nor any of the Trustees have interests in the Charity's investment vehicles or properties, but any such interests would be disclosed. The Charity Scheme provides for a minimum of 9 Trustees, to a maximum of 15 Trustees.

All new Trustees are given the opportunity to meet the office team and to visit some of our investment and residential properties. New Trustees are provided with briefing material, including a copy of the Charity Scheme, key policy documents and minutes from the Board Meetings and the Committees to introduce and explain their role and the full remit of the Charity.

The year ahead is sure to present fresh challenges and the Trustee Board will continue to do all it can to respond to need within the Benefit Area while at the same time preserving the endowment for future generations.

Organisation

The full Board of Trustees meets at least 6 times a year. Four other committees of Trustees: Finance & Investment, Grants, Property and Education review the financial and charitable activities of the Charity in greater detail.

Objects of the Charity

The objects of the Charity under the Charity Scheme are to further all or any of the following purposes within the Benefit Area, the London post code districts of TW9, TW10 and SW14:

1. The support of the elderly and those in need
2. The care of those suffering ill health or hardship
3. The provision of recreational facilities and support for leisure activities
4. The promotion of education and helping people to undertake courses and training.
5. Any other charitable purposes for the benefit of the local community.

Our Values

We aim to: -

Optimise the relief of need
Consider all our stakeholders
Be rigorous in everything we do
Monitor effectiveness of our grant-making and work

We seek to be: -

Progressive in our appraisal of and our approach to need;
Responsive to need with a generosity of spirit and without prejudice;
Open, accountable and transparent in our activity;
Compassionate in our dealings with people;
Fair, independent and balanced in our approach

By: -

Researching and understanding the causes of deprivation in Richmond
Providing support to the needy and deprived
Responding promptly to voluntary organisations seeking support
Helping individuals in our area to live independently
Managing our social housing properties for our tenants

Main charitable activities for the public benefit

Trustees have complied with the duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers. The identifiable public benefit provided by the RPLC is found principally in the making of grants for the relief of poverty amongst those resident within the area of benefit who meet our eligibility criteria; secondly with advancing the education of beneficiaries in such ways as are likely to permanently improve their prospects and to break cycles of deprivation and finally in the provision of community facilities and charitable housing.

Introduction

Hardship and need in Richmond has become more evident in the last year. Increased numbers of applications have been received from charities and from individuals seeking assistance for education programmes, housing and utility bills. The challenge faced by trustees has been how best to distribute income in an effective and equitable way while maximising impact and ensuring the funds are available for future generations.

Poverty is a reality in Richmond. Limited employment opportunities, few affordable housing options and widespread social isolation result in many people struggling to contribute to, or participate in, community life locally. Richmond is fortunate however to have a vibrant voluntary sector. There are numerous local community groups and charities managed by dedicated staff,

trustees and volunteers. Increased demand from service users alongside reduced levels of available funding puts many charities in a difficult position and as a consequence extra demand on the RPLC as a grant making charity.

The Council's move towards commissioning of services has helped some charities work closely together on specific areas of interest across the Borough. This collaboration is positive, however there are also charities that have been unable to get involved in the commissioning process and yet still have a valuable role to play in the community.

Sharon La Ronde was recruited as Grants Director in September 2014. During the year she has visited a number of local organisations interested in applying for funding. She initiated a particularly successful programme of Development Grants which gave charities a chance to receive funding for one-off projects – such as websites, databases or telecoms - which they had wanted to do for some time but had had insufficient resources to complete.

Barbara Gilgallon has left RPLC after 24 years of dedicated service managing education and grant giving. Her sensitivity and understanding of the pressures on young people as they seek to further their education was of real value. She will be sorely missed by all at the RPLC and those she has helped over the years – both local charities and individuals. We also said farewell to Helen Aloof, secretary at RPLC for 17 years. Helen worked previously as Secretary at the Cambrian Community Centre for 3 years. We wish them both a happy retirement.

Finally Trustees have approved a new Strategic Plan covering the period from July 2015 – June 2020. With a new administrative team in place, the plan reflects a desire for the RPLC to be a proactive, agile and responsive organisation serving the needs of vulnerable people in Richmond and the people who serve them.

Charity Priorities for 2014-2015

- Core funding to 41 local charities
39 charities were supported to a total of £422k against a budget of £432k.
- Funding for organisations helping Older People
Grants were made to 16 charities in support of projects providing assistance to older people. Grants totalled £210k. A forum was held in September 2014 for representatives of organisations working with older people.
- Strategic Funding
As there were surplus funds available following the grants made in support of older people it was agreed that Development Grants should be offered as one-off funding for activities or projects that charities had always wished to undertake but for which funding was difficult to obtain. 60 expressions of interest were received from 38 charities. £210k of awards were made.
- Increase level of Grant-Making
£1.37m was awarded in grants compared to £1.32m in 2014. This is the highest level of grant-making awarded by the RPLC in any one year.
- Allocate 25% of available funding to education projects
£312k (23%) was awarded to education initiatives compared to £257k (22%) in 2014
- Progress the redevelopment of Dickson House
Trustees had wished to make progress in renewing its property assets on the junction of Queen's Road with the Cambrian Road. Plans to turn eight workshops into 13 affordable units were refused on the grounds that the loss of employment space outweighed the need for housing.

- On appointment of the new Grants Director evaluate the impact of grant-giving
The changeover of staff in-house has meant that resources have not been available to carry this forward. The Grants Director is aware of impact evaluation as a priority and will be putting forward proposals to the Trustees in due course.
- Carry out a survey of our charitable housing tenants
The tenant survey was completed in March / April of 2015. A 94% response rate showed that more of RPLC tenants were in employment and part time work, though there was also a small increase in the number in receipt of housing benefit.

General Grant-Making

Development Grants

A new initiative for grant-making was introduced in March 2014/15 with the introduction of Development Grants designed to offer organisations support through unrestricted funding. 60 applications for funding for a wide range of purposes were made and 20 organisations were successful in receiving 22 grants totalling £209,828. Grants were for premises, IT, training, transport, counselling, community support, capacity building and business development.

Project Funding

13 organisations received One-Off Project Funding for a total of £85,904, with 4 organisations new to RPLC funded in 2014/15 including one start-up. Grants were made to support a wide range of projects including: ethnic minorities, family support, youth work, community, arts, disability access, mental health, sports and premises.

Regularly Funded Organisations

36 organisations benefitting residents within the Benefit Area received grants totaling £421,532 out of a budget of £427,300 for core administration costs. Variations to the budget were due to The Alzheimer's Society rescinding their RFO status due to success in attracting alternative funding through success in commissioning bids, Richmond Legal Aid Services' request for a small raise due to a rent increase and CAB requesting a figure below budget.

Small Grants

Small Grants offer a fast response to crisis situations where people cannot access statutory funding. These grants are made to individuals in extreme need following a referral from a local agency. A total of 357 crisis grants up to £300 per claim were awarded to residents in the RPLC Benefit Area for a total spend of £87,117 against a budget of £92,000. The average claim was £244. The 3 major issues driving applications were poverty, mental health and resettlement, together representing 74% of all small grants in this period. 61% of grants originated from residents in Ham, Mortlake and North Sheen.

55% of applications were made through 4 main local Referral Agencies:

1. CAB (18%)
2. Richmond Community Health Team (14%)
3. LBRuT Resettlement Team (14%)
4. Richmond Aid (9%)

The top 5 reasons for grants requested and accounting for 53% of all small grants were:

- a) Household Goods (19%)
- b) Living Expenses (11%)
- c) Fuel Costs (9%)
- d) Furniture (8%)
- e) Fridge Freezers (6%)

Strategic Funding

The theme for Strategic Funding in 2014/15 was the Elderly with 17 organisations including one new start-up receiving grants totalling £204,087. Projects supported ranged from £40k for My Life Films for people affected by Dementia to £2,000 for the Bold Balladiers who stage musical performances for older people in care homes.

Winter Fuel Grants

Fuel grants of £100 to assist with energy bills were awarded in 2014/15 under the Warm Campaign heading. Grants are made to pensioners in receipt of Benefits resident in the RPLC Benefit Area or residents in receipt of Benefits within the area with evidence of a medical condition requiring additional heating. Winter fuel forms were distributed through local agencies including GP surgeries. A total of 505 grants were made.

Education and Training

The Education Committee has supported several new and innovative projects in the past year. These have been delivered in primary and secondary schools by a variety of organisations and share the common purpose of enriching the teaching and learning that local children experience.

As a three year grant to support family based therapy in Clarendon school came to a close, its proven success in raising levels of attendance and attainment encouraged trustees to fund similar programmes at St Richard's Primary in Ham (£9,000) and Christ's School (£3,000). Partnership with the Smallpeice Trust has again created opportunities for secondary school students to participate in day long sessions designed to expand and develop technical and engineering skills through a 'hands on' programme for Year 9s. Several older pupils experienced a 3 day residential on the theme of Cyber Security at Royal Holloway which gave an insight into possible STEM based career opportunities. (£13,050). One young person wrote:

'I loved every minute of this course and I would recommend it to anyone interested in computer science or cyber security'

The Museum of Richmond devised a Young Curators' scheme which offered an insight into a different sort of career and challenged students to create some documentary film making based on World War 1 (£2,350). Young people at risk were invited to take part in a challenging programme offered by the London Fire Brigade to develop leadership and resilience. (£7,000) The Charity also targeted the needs of ex -offenders housed at Kew approved premises by awarding a grant designed to support literacy and employment training (£5,000). This was much appreciated by the Probation service:

'without that our jobs would have been so much more difficult and our residents would not have the opportunities they have now been given'

Confidence can be the key to education success and a grant was made to support a thriving volunteer force in the benefit area. Learn English at Home pairs volunteers with individuals who struggle with English and empowers them to talk to their child's teacher, visit the doctor or complete a form (£10,000). In the primary sector children with social communication issues have taken part in On the Ball programmes at Action Attainments which combine sport with practical advice for parents and children (£2,101). NA Fashion clubs employ sewing and design as a means of raising self-esteem, team work and leadership skills with young people (£2,665). Straight Talking took its peer education programmes into schools to demonstrate the challenge of teenage parenthood (£4,670)

Parents and school associations have received grants to improve facilities not covered by the school budget at Darell, Kew Riverside, Marshgate and the Russell schools during the course of the year and the ongoing Child Poverty grant is distributed to 15 schools to allow children from

low income families to access curriculum opportunities such as residential trips, sporting events and educational visits.

The Orange Tree Theatre has received a grant for many years to support its education and community programmes. An unexpected cut in its Arts Council grant threatened this valued resource and an interim education grant (£31,000) was awarded while the OTT seeks alternative sources of funding.

It has been a busy and stimulating year. Representatives of a wide variety of organisations have welcomed visits and the opportunity to discuss potential ideas with the Charity. As one recipient commented

‘...sometimes it is not just the cash we need but a sympathetic ear to bounce our ideas off ‘

Grants to Individuals for Education

93 grants totaling £106,785 were made in 2014/15 to enable individuals to fulfil their aspirations and acquire qualifications in a wide variety of disciplines. The majority of grants assisted local residents to pursue vocational courses. Gas fitters and hairdressers, electricians and engineers completed courses which gave accredited qualifications and the means to obtain secure employment. Sector training grants (£16,378) are available to people who work or volunteer for local voluntary organisations. Many of these have addressed the need for trained therapeutic counsellors to work with vulnerable members of the community. The River Thames Boat Project received a £2,035 grant which enabled their employees and volunteers to receive training and thus ensure the safety and well-being of its client group.

Several students have completed their courses this year and have graduated after years of determined effort. It has been good to receive their letters and emails telling the Charity of their success.

“My life has been transformed thanks to the RPLC”

BA Fashion Design student London College of Fashion

“I have been able to achieve so many things I would never have thought possible...it has been the best experience of my life so far. I have added to my learning greatly in my time here and have achieved a lifelong aspiration.”

BA Film Roehampton University – Study trip to Nebraska

“Thank you so much for funding my course and giving me this opportunity to further my career”

L’Oreal Colour specialism course student

“My confidence grows week by week and it is wonderful; to be training in something I am so completely passionate about.”

Counselling Diploma student at RACC

Public Benefit and the Impact of Grant-making

The effect of the council becoming a ‘commissioning council’ has continued to impact upon voluntary organisations within the Borough this year with varying results. Some have been successful in the commissioning process, growing in staff numbers and increasing their range of services with some extending into new areas of service delivery beyond their area of specialism. Many of these organisations have achieved this through partnership bids with multiple organisations. Other have fared less well either through being excluded from bidding due to size and lack of resources or through losing contracts to larger organisations from outside of the borough. In addition, some contracts have proven somewhat ambitious or vague in practice in terms of scope and aims for the monies available and some organisations have found it difficult

to meet the requirements. The cost for lead organisations has also been high in terms of time and resources in managing sub-contractors and fulfilling requirements for monitoring and evaluation. Premises are also an issue in the borough with a reduction in subsidised rents and loss of subsidised meeting rooms.

The impact on budget cuts for LBRuT coupled with the reported increase in demand for services and of far more complex cases to deal with by voluntary organisations plus the impact of Acts such as the Care Act 2014 and Children & Families Act 2014 locally is shaping RPLC's approach to grant-making in 2015/16.

RPLC's aim over the coming year is to address these concerns in part through new headings for grant making offering support to start-up, small and medium sized organisations and also a focus on specialism and premises. In addition, organisations and projects benefitting children and young people from 0 to 25 years will also be a focus for grant making in the RPLC grants portfolio alongside the current Regularly Funded Organisations, One-off Project Grants and Crisis and Fuel Grants for individuals.

Achievements and performance

Monitoring & Evaluation

Every recipient of a grant in excess of £500 is required to complete a monitoring and evaluation form. The completion of monitoring and evaluation forms help both the RPLC and the recipient organisation to provide a more effective service to stakeholders and service users. Questions on the form include: 'What unexpected issues did your organisation encounter in the past 12 months?' and 'How will your organisation make any changes as a result of your evaluation?'

Funding for local charities

During the year the RPLC made 117 grants to organisations. 37 charities are regularly funded, receiving annual grants to assist with core operational costs.

Numbers of Grants Made	2014-2015	2013-2014
Grants to individuals	1,023	1,000
Grants to organisations	<u>127</u>	<u>106</u>
Total number of grants	1,150	1,106
Total amount of grants paid	£1,365,840	£1,324,874

RPLC GRANTS 2014-2015

Achieving for Children	500	Marshgate After School Club	2,062
Action Attainments	2,101	MiD Mediation & Counselling	9,000
Addiction Support and Care Agency	12,800	Mortlake Community Association	11,035
Age UK, Richmond (4)	86,540	Museum of Richmond (2)	7,350
Alzheimer's Society	13,698	My Life Films	40,000
Art & Soul	5,900	NA Fashion	2,665
Bold Balladiers	2,000	Off the Record (2)	14,500
Cambrian Centre (2)	24,365	Orange Tree Theatre (2)	47,000
Care Leavers Support	10,000	Marble Hill Play Centre	4,400
Careline Rentals	1,680	Orleans House Gallery	8,500
Cassell Hospital	4,738	Otaker Kraus Music Therapy	12,800
Central & Cecil Housing	8,300	Pictologue	7,250
Christ's C of E School	3,000	Queen's Road Hostel	400
Citizens Advice Bureau (4)	81,200	RB Mind (2)	21,500
Crossroads Care (3)	46,755	Relate (2)	14,150
Crossway Pregnancy Advice	5,000	Richmond Accessible Transport	5,500
Cruse Bereavement (2)	20,100	Richmond Adult Community College (3)	26,000
Darell Primary School	4,950	Richmond AID	11,500
Embracing Age	12,874	Richmond Carers (2)	15,907
Empowering Youth	7,000	Richmond Council for Voluntary Service	5,580
Ethnic Minority Advisory Group (4)	19,420	Richmond EAL Friendship Group	3,000
FiSH, Barnes & Mortlake	5,500	Richmond Foodbank	4,000
Fitzherbert Residents Association	500	Richmond Good Neighbours	12,300
Friends of Meadlands School	5,000	Richmond Legal Advice	3,187
Furniture Scheme (3)	10,800	Richmond Mencap (3)	24,926
Ham & Petersham SOS	11,100	Richmond Music Trust	15,000
Ham Youth Centre	5,500	Richmond Users Independent Living	8,000
Home Start (2)	22,900	River Thames Boat Project (3)	11,535
In the Bag Performance	6,000	Russell School PTA	5,861
Integrated Neurological Services (2)	37,715	Sandycombe Centre (SPEAR)	17,000
Iris Trust	450	Sheen Day Centre	4,000
Isabella Court Residents Association	300	Smallpeice Trust	13,050
Kew & Ham Sports Association	13,000	SPEAR (3)	53,100
Kew Approved Premises	5,000	SSAFA	500
Kew Community Trust (2)	21,800	St. John's Ambulance	5,000
Kew Gardens - Foundation & Friends	17,666	St Richard's Primary School	9,000
Kew Neighbourhood Association (2)	16,880	Still Building Bridges	2,000
Kew Riverside PTA	1,500	Stonham Housing Association	500
Learning English at Home	10,000	Straight Talking Project	4,670
Library & Information Service	1,500	The Conservation Volunteers	3,400
London Fire Brigade Emergency Plan.	7,000	Vineyard Centre & Life Church (3)	32,585
Macular Society, Richmond	450	Woodville Centre	4,000
Sub Total	573,482	Sub Total	503,713

Education awards to individuals	122,409	Listed Organisations Total	1,077,195
Crisis Grants	87,117		
Winter Fuel Grants	51,000	Child poverty grants to schools	36,815
Total Grants to Individuals	261,780	Total Grants to Organisations	1,114,010
		Total Grants	1,375,290
		Adjustments – Returned grant (Three Wings Trust)	-9,450
		Total Grants Awarded 2014-15	1,365,840

Property

Charitable Housing

During the course of the year the RPLC sold one of its older residential properties on the Cambrian Road. Funds from the sale proceeds will be used either in the redevelopment of some of the RPLC's property holdings at the junction of the Queen's Road and the Cambrian Road, or used to purchase additional residential, commercial or charitable properties within the benefit area.

A survey of all the RPLC's tenants was carried out in the Spring. There was a 94% response rate with 76 surveys returned from the RPLC's 81 tenanted units. It revealed that 107 adults and 44 children are currently living in the charity's properties. 18 individuals receive state pensions, 12 are out of work, 35 are in part time work and 43 are in full time employment. 25 households are in receipt of housing benefit.

Some tenants expressed concern that the recent rent increases were putting more pressure on them and that they would struggle to meet their obligations. Current rent levels remain at 50% of the Local Housing Allowance. Trustees need to ensure that the income from rents is sufficient to cover the costs of maintenance on all the properties.

"RPLC have offered us great support during the time we have been tenants."
RPLC Tenant

What has been noticeable this year has been the reduction in the numbers of families moving to new properties or being nominated to houses on the Queen's Road Estate. This is probably a result of the rapid rise in the cost of housing in Richmond together with the rapid rise in residential rents managed by private landlords. Only two families were allocated RPLC residential housing. Alongside its own properties the RPLC has nomination rights to 35% of allocations on the Queens Road Estate. One family was nominated to a Queen's Road property.

During the last year the total estimated rent support offered to tenants in charitable properties is estimated at £752k or about £9.3k per household. General maintenance and improvements were carried out on 46 tenanted units.

There continues to be a great demand for subsidised housing in our benefit area and there are currently 25 families or individuals on our waiting lists. The waiting lists are all closed at the moment because of the limited availability of appropriate properties. Notification of any change to the status of the waiting lists, together with application procedures, are posted on our website (www.rplc.org.uk) and are obtainable from the RPLC office.

Other Properties

1. **The Vestry House** on Paradise Road in Richmond is where the RPLC has its administrative offices. 4 other suites of offices are let out commercially and net income received is distributed in grants. During the year a TV monitor was installed in the Board Room, which is occasionally hired out to local organisations, in order to make it easier for users to give presentations.

2. **Dickson House** is a block of 8 studios on the Queens Road. Following the refusal of the planning appeals RPLC Trustees have been working with Brookes Architects to draft a block plan for the whole of Queen's Road/Dickson House area. Meetings have taken place with the Trustees and manager of the Cambrian Centre to carry out a public consultation relating to the Centre, Dickson House and the Recreation Area. The consultation will be completed by mid-July.
3. **The Vestry Hall** continues to be a popular venue for local charities and some commercial meetings. It has a capacity of about 70 and further details can be found on the RPLC website at www.rplc.org.uk. An overhead projector and improved lighting has recently been installed.
4. **The Cambrian Centre** has had a busy year with an increased range of activities for local residents and voluntary organisations. The Cambrian Centre Gym continues to attract a large number of users many of whom benefit from the specialist cardiac care skills of the gym staff.

Financial Review (2014 figures in brackets)

Context

The year which ended on 30 June 2015 was a good year for the Charity as Trustees continued to support local voluntary sector activity in the benefit area. With healthy reserves Trustees continued with the recent policy of drawing down on the reserves to provide additional support to local charitable projects serving vulnerable people in our benefit area. At 30 June 2015 the total value of the investment portfolio of the Endowment Fund was £31,493,229 (£28,730,292) which represents a 9.6% increase of £2,762,937. The total value of the Income Fund was £1,809,777 (£1,961,076) which resulted from the withdrawal of £200,000 for operating costs and an increase in valuation at year end of £48,701.

Income

Income for the year amounted to £2,065,238 (£1,860,587). The Charity is reliant principally on the income from its investments which amounted to £1,235,327 (£1,067,153). The remaining income, £829,910 (£793,434), derives from rental income from our residential and investment properties.

Expenditure

Expenditure during the year £2,180,791 (£2,013,426) prior to grant-giving, amounted to £814,951 (£688,552). During the course of the year £501,369 (£409,076) was spent on residential properties. A further £74,840 (£51,535) was spent on non-residential properties. Expenditure on administration amounted to £238,742 (£227,941). The net deficit for the year was -£115,533 (-£152,839). This figure includes an £89k written off for Dickson House development expenditure.

Investments

The Charity's investment strategy is essentially an income strategy, with the overall aim of generating sufficient funds to support our grant giving to the current generation while at the same time enabling future generations to benefit from the Permanent Endowment. The core, long-term endowment portfolio seeks to protect the capital and income in real terms through a diversified portfolio of equity, fixed interest and cash investments which are actively managed in a discretionary manner by Sarasin & Partners LLP, within clearly defined parameters agreed by the trustees. The targeted level of total return is CPI +4% after costs. There are smaller and more conservatively invested portfolios where our shorter term reserves and money set aside for spending are held.

Performance

Over the last 12 months, the core long-term endowment portfolio produced a total return of 6.5%, in-line with the benchmark return of 6.6%. Investments produced more than expected level of income and, when combined with Trustees' decision to draw down on reserves, this allowed for an increased level of grant-giving.

Investment performance on the Endowment Fund for the year to 30 June 2015 was positive at 3% against a benchmark of 2.4%. Investments produced more than expected income and, when combined with Trustees' decision to draw down on reserves, allowed for an increased level of grant-giving.

Property

Freehold land and investment properties are valued at £52,946,878 (£51,804,097). During the course of the year one of the older properties on the Cambrian Road was sold. Funds are being retained while plans are finalised in relation to the Queen's Road land at the junction with the Cambrian Road.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the level of reserves and the reserves policy on a regular basis. Trustees seek to retain sufficient general reserves to enable the Charity to meet expected recurring demands, together with exceptional requests in response to emergency need, during periods of falling investment income. The current policy is to retain £300k - £900k in reserves. The actual level of general reserves at 30 June 2015 was £2,117,847 (£2,197,151). In June 2014, Trustees agreed that budgets in the coming four years should be drafted that will lead to a draw down on the reserve by £200k year by year, through the processing of additional grant giving. A Repairs Reserve is held to provide for the ongoing maintenance of the RPLC's residential properties. The level of the Repairs Reserve in June 2015 was £233,195 (£221,507).

Plans for the future

a) Strategic Plan

Trustees, aware of their responsibility in setting a way forward for the RPLC that is responsive to the changing needs of vulnerable people and voluntary sector organisations in Richmond, drafted a new 5 year Strategic Plan. The new Strategic Plan covers the period from July 2015 until June 2020. Trustees want the RPLC to be outward looking and proactive with a positive and active profile, agile in meeting local needs. Working closely with local business, charities and voluntary organisations the RPLC will identify unmet need, and will try to ensure that funding is effective. The charity will do all it can to continue to support the local community through effective grant-making, educational support and commercial and charitable properties. The priority for the current year is to identify unmet need, and develop funding strategies that have a positive and sustainable impact.

b) 2016 Budget

The Trustees have decided to set the grant-giving budget for 2016 at £1,474,000 (£1,427,000) – the highest budget figure set by Trustees. During the year applications will be sought from small/medium sized charities, organisations working with young people and charities needing assistance with costs associated with premises. £369,000 has been set aside to support individuals requiring assistance with tertiary education courses and organisations offering education and training.

c) Queen's Road Estate

Following the completion in July of the consultation regarding options for the future of some of the RPLC property on the junction of the Queen's Road and the Cambrian Road, Trustees will determine how best to ensure the area serves the needs of the local community. Further discussion will take place with interested parties before initial approaches are made to planning officials.

d) New Office Team

New Finance and Education Directors will be taking up their posts in the current financial year to June 2016. The Education Director, Nancy Van den Broeck will undertake a review of the education support offered by the RPLC and will identify ways of measuring the impact of RPLC funding through contact with previous recipients of assistance from

the RPLC. The new Finance Director, Tony Simkin, replacing Frank Galea in September, will assist trustees in review the financial needs of the charity, the level of reserves required and how best to meet the needs of the grants, property and education committees.

Public Benefit

The Charity has paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when examining its activities. The identifiable benefits and how they are achieved have been outlined within this report – especially with regard to support of the local voluntary sector, education initiatives, strategic and local development grants and the support provided to tenants living in the RPLC's charitable housing.

Risk management

During the year the Trustees reviewed the major risks which the Charity faces and believe that its various policies including the annual review of the control over key financial systems, and the level of reserves will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which the Charity faces and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks, including an annual risk assessment.

Trustees consider the variability of investment returns on the permanent endowment to constitute the charity's major risk to its ability to support the voluntary sector in Richmond as all grant giving comes from the income received from the investments. The Charity currently operates an income strategy rather than a total return approach in relation to investments. Trustees consider this to be the best approach in order to ensure that the Charity is able to offer a continuous service to this generation and to future generations in perpetuity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for the year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made there-under. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 23th September 2015 and signed on their behalf by:

Rosalind Sweeting Chairman, RPLC

Administration

TRUSTEES

Ex Officio (LBRuT Mayor)

Nominated

Lisa Blakemore, Cllr. LBRuT
Peter Buckwell, Cllr LBRuT (*from November 2014*)
Paul Velluet Richmond Society
Sue Jones LBRuT (*to November 2014*)

Appointed

Ros Sweeting, Chairman

Ashley Casson
Gill Moffett
Ian Durant
Kate Ellis
Owen Carew-Jones (*from July 2015*)
Paul Cole
Paul Lawrence (*from July 2015*)
Rachel Holmes (*from July 2015*)
Rita Biddulph (*to June 2015*)
Roger Clark
Rosie Dalzell
Susan Goddard (*to June 2015*)
Tim Sketchley

OFFICERS

Jonathan Monckton *Director*
Barbara Gilgallon *Education Director (to June 2015)*
Clare Stanton *Administrator (from June 2015)*
Frank Galea *Accountant (to September 2015)*
Helen Aloof *Secretary (to June 2015)*
Nancy Van den Broeck *Education Director (from June 2015)*
Sharon La Ronde *Grants Director*
Tony Simkin *Finance Director (from September 2015)*

RPLC OFFICE

RPLC, The Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SA
Telephone: 020 8948 5701 Facsimile: 020 8332 6792 Web Address: www.rplc.org.uk

ADVISERS

Auditors

BDO LLP, 31 Chertsey Street, Guildford, GU1 4HD

Bank

Barclays Bank, PO Box 385, Onslow Hall, The Little Green, Richmond, BX3 2BB

Fund Management

Sarasin & Partners, Juxon House, 100 St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8BU

Property Management

HML Shaw & Company, 9 – 11 The Quadrant, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1BP

Solicitors

Dixon Ward, 16 The Green, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1QD