

Souldern United Charity Village Consultation, 2026

Registered No. 1002942

Following the recent Souldern United Charity (SUC) newsletter, the trustees want to ensure that the Charity’s aims remain relevant to Souldern village life and so are asking the residents of Souldern to contribute to the future direction of the charity by completing this consultation questionnaire.

Souldern United Charity current purpose

SUC was formed in 2001 when several older village charities, some dating back hundreds of years, were brought together with the purpose to provide relief to those in Souldern suffering financial hardship.

Currently the Charity has three main activities:

Housing – SUC owns two historic one-bedroom cottages in Souldern, Mount Pleasant and Hill View.

These are almshouses which are let on social housing rates on ‘a needs basis’.

Land – SUC owns land in Souldern that is currently used as two allotment plots. These are Gibbs Close, on Foxhill Lane, and Bowling Leys, on the south side of The Hill. It also owns the Pound/Secret Garden at the bottom of Bates Lane, used for village recreation.

Grants – SUC makes various charitable donations to individuals, projects and causes in the village.

Consultation

SUC is governed by a constitution (or ‘Scheme’) that sets out our purpose and is regulated by the Charities Commission. The Scheme is now 25 years old, and the trustees need to keep it up to date to enable the charity to meet the changing future requirements of the village.

SUC would welcome your views, and with your input the Charity can ensure it continues to support Souldern Village in ways that are meaningful and relevant today.

Examples of potential changes would be: providing more affordable housing, helping residents with emergency/unexpected costs, financial contributions to community activities or facilities that can improve life and benefit the whole village, alternative uses for SUC’s existing land.

Have Your Say, Get Involved

The trustees encourage you to answer the following questions and make suggestions, even if they may fall outside of the scope of the Charity. If they fall outside of the Charity’s scope they will be passed on to other relevant village organisations as matters that could benefit the village.

In addition, if you wish to be considered as a potential trustee for the charity, either now as there is a current vacancy or in the future, please use the contact details on the back page of this questionnaire.

Grants

Historically the charity has provided charitable donations to individuals and causes within the village on a needs basis.

Did you know that SUC provided grants to residents and the community? Yes / No

Do you think that grants should only be awarded on a ‘needs’ basis? Yes / No

If No, please suggest a criteria for awarding grants : _____

Which of the following grants do you think the SUC should support? Please tick all that apply

- Educational courses (online or residential)
- Educational equipment (books & materials)
- Vouchers at Christmas (help with heating costs/ groceries for elderly villagers)
- Funeral expenses (assist with costs)
- Community events (Jubilee celebration, Christmas party etc)
- Welfare (home support costs such as stairlifts or hospital visits)
- Community infrastructure (eg Playground support)

What other areas of grants not mentioned above should the SUC support?

Please comment : _____

Charities Priorities

Given that the charity does not have unlimited funds please rank the following areas of funding support by their importance (High/Medium/Low) and then please priority rank them from 1 (most important) to 8 (least important).

Importance
(please circle)

Priority
(number in order)

H	M	L	Housing at affordable rates	
H	M	L	Housing as a property investment to raise funds	
H	M	L	Provision of allotments	
H	M	L	Welfare/hardship grants	
H	M	L	Individual grants	
H	M	L	Community grants	
H	M	L	Community events	
H	M	L	Community facilities/infrastructure	

Souldern United Charity aims

Historically the aims of the charity have been to provide relief to those in Souldern suffering financial hardship.

Should SUC's aim only be to support financial hardship? Yes / No

If No, what should it aim to support? Please comment

Should SUC contribute to community events? Yes / No

If Yes, what type of events should it support? Please comment

Housing

Historically the charity has provided 2 almshouses/charity houses at less than commercial rent on a needs basis

Did you know that SUC provided almshouses/charity houses within the village?
Yes / No

Do you feel that Souldern needs more low cost housing?
Yes / No

What type of housing do you think the Charity should offer and to who? Please comment : _____

Land

Historically the charity has owned two allotment sites with 47 plots and other land used for village recreation.

Did you know that SUC provided allotments and other public land? Yes / No

Do you think that the land is best used as allotments? Yes / No

If No, please suggest how else it could be used : _____

What uses could the Pound/Secret Garden be put to? Please comment

If there are any other areas that the Charity could support, but which are not mentioned on Page 3, that you feel the charity should be focussed on the please add them here.

Other areas of support

Please use the space below to add any additional comments that you feel are relevant to enhancing the aims and purpose of SUC in supporting the village in the 21st century.



This questionnaire is anonymous, and all communication will be held confidentially. However, if you are happy to be contacted for more discussion on your answers and ideas then please fill in your name and address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

We welcome answers from *all* individual residents and not just one response per household. We have distributed 2 copies of the questionnaire to each home but if more are required then please feel free to photocopy this questionnaire, download additional copies from the Souldern Village website (under United Charity) or contact Katy or Alan (contact details below).

**** Once all responses have been collated and processed the charity will host a open village meeting to share and discuss the findings of the Consultation.**

If you require further information about Souldern United Charity, being a SUC trustee or this Village Consultation process, then please feel free to make contact by email, telephone or in person.

- Katy Draper (SUC Chair) katydraper@outlook.com 07753 376163
- Alan Smith (SUC Secretary) alansmith39@hotmail.com 07400 464401

A trustee will call round to collect any completed questionnaires in the next 1-2 weeks, or you can return questionnaire(s) to : Alan Smith at Westend House, Bates Lane, OX27 7JU or by leaving them in the Village Hall post box, next to the entrance.

THANK YOU