



Data Protection Policy

Mendlesham Community Land Trust (MCLT) needs to collect and use certain types of information about individuals who come into contact with the Trust. This personal information must be dealt with properly however it is collected, recorded and used, whether on paper, in a computer, or recorded on other material.

It is important that all trustees and any employees are aware of the existence of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the principles on which it is based.

The Trust regards the lawful and correct treatment of personal information as very important and endorses the aims of the Act which are embodied in the eight Data Protection Principles.

These eight principles require that personal information be:

1. Fairly and lawfully processed.
2. Obtained for specified purposes and not further processed in a manner incompatible with those purposes.
3. Adequate, relevant and not excessive for the purposes for which it is processed.
4. Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.
5. Not kept for longer than necessary for the purposes.
6. Processed in accordance with the data subject's rights.
7. Secure.
8. Not transferred to countries without adequate protection.

The Trust will, through appropriate management and controls:

- a) Observe fully conditions regarding the fair collection and use of information.
- b) Meet its legal obligations to specify the purposes for which information is used.
- c) Collect and process appropriate information, and only to the extent that it is needed to fulfil operational needs or to comply with any legal requirements.
- d) Ensure the quality of information used.
- e) Ensure that the information is held for no longer than necessary.

- f) Ensure that the rights of people about whom information is held, can be fully exercised under the Act. (These include: the right to be informed that processing is being undertaken, the right of access to one's personal information, the right to prevent processing in certain circumstances and the right to correct, rectify, block or erase information which is regarded as wrong information).
- g) Take appropriate technical and organisational security measures to safeguard personal information.
- h) That personal information is not transferred abroad without suitable safeguards.
- i) Treat people justly and fairly whatever their age, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity when dealing with requests for information.

In addition the Trust will ensure that:

There is someone with specific responsibility for Data Protection: (*Sharon Jones: Secretary*)

- Everyone handling personal information understands that they are responsible for following good data protection practice.
- Queries about handling personal information are promptly and courteously dealt with.
- A regular review and audit is made of the way personal information is held, managed and used.
- A breach of the rules and procedures identified in this policy by a trustee or employee is a potential breach of the Code of Conduct.
- This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practice and to ensure compliance with any changes or amendments to the Data Protection Act 2018.

Agreed by Board on	March 2022 reviewed August 2025
CEO and Chair	MJ Exley
Review date	Annually