Bells Lane Community Association

(Registered charity, number 1195948)

Financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2025

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caPLUS COMMUNITY ACCOUNTING

Bells Lane Community Association
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 December 2025

Full name Bells Lane Community Association

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1195948

Principal address
194 Amesbury Circus
Cinderhill
Nottingham
NG8 6DD

Trustees
Natasha Elaine Bryan, Chairperson
Sarah Wright, Secretary from 17/05/25
Kelvin Ugwonna, Treasurer from 01/10/25

Independent examiner
Eva Stevens, employee of Community Accounting Plus
Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Governance and management
The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 28 September 2021.

New trustees of Bells Lane Community Centre are recruited from individuals who use the centre, as well as people who are actively involved in and volunteer within the local community. We seek to attract individuals who are committed to the centre's charitable aims and objectives and who are willing to contribute their time, skills and experience to support its ongoing development.

Potential trustees are identified through their involvement with the centre and their contribution to local community activities. When considering new appointments, we look for people who share our commitment to improving the quality of life for local residents, promoting inclusion and ensuring that the centre continues to meet the needs of the community.

New trustees are appointed in accordance with the centre's governing document and relevant charity law requirements. This approach helps ensure that the trustees understand the needs of the community they serve and are committed to the effective management and long-term sustainability of Bells Lane Community Centre.

Bells Lane Community Association

Objectives and activities

To further or benefit the residents of the Bells Lane area of Nottingham and the neighbourhood without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents. In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power: to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Bells Lane Community Centre exists to benefit the residents of the Bells Lane area of Nottingham and the surrounding neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race, disability, nationality, or political, religious or other opinions. Our aim is to bring people together and strengthen the local community by providing an inclusive, welcoming and accessible environment where residents, community groups, voluntary organisations and local authorities can meet, work together and participate in activities that promote education, social welfare, recreation and leisure.

We provide facilities for local community organisations to hire for meetings, activities and events that benefit local people. We also make our premises available for hire by members of the public for social gatherings, celebrations and other community occasions. In addition to providing facilities for hire, Bells Lane Community Centre organises and delivers its own activities and initiatives to support the needs and wellbeing of the local community. These include a food bank to help people experiencing food insecurity, together with special events, celebrations and activities that are open to everyone.

Through these services and activities, we seek to reduce social isolation, encourage community participation, promote inclusion and equality, support those in need, and create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together. The centre works collaboratively with residents, community groups, voluntary organisations and relevant statutory authorities to promote community development and improve the quality of life for people living in the Bells Lane area and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Our overall purpose is to maintain and develop Bells Lane Community Centre as a valued community resource, providing facilities, activities and opportunities that advance education, promote social welfare, support recreation and leisure, and contribute to improving the conditions of life for the local community.

Bells Lane Community Association

Bells Lane Community Centre provides significant public benefit to residents of the Bells Lane area of Nottingham and the surrounding neighbourhood by offering facilities, activities and services that support education, social welfare, recreation, health and community cohesion.

Children and young people benefit from the activities delivered by youth and children's organisations that hire the centre. These include Girl Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, a nursery, a teenage youth club and an after-school club. These organisations provide opportunities for learning, personal development, social interaction and recreation in a safe and supportive environment.

Older members of the community and those with health needs benefit from the long-term presence of NHS services at the centre, which provide support to local people experiencing cardiac-related health issues. Aspley Mentors also use the centre to provide support to members of the local community, helping to address individual needs and improve wellbeing.

The wider community benefits from the presence of three churches based at the centre, which provide opportunities for worship, fellowship, mutual support and community engagement. The centre also makes its premises available for hire by local residents for parties, celebrations and other social functions, enabling people to come together and maintain social connections.

In addition, Bells Lane Community Centre organises its own activities and special events throughout the year, including initiatives such as a food bank. These activities help support people in need, encourage participation, reduce social isolation and bring residents from different backgrounds together.

The centre is open to all members of the community without discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, race, disability, religion, political opinion or other personal characteristics. Its facilities and activities are intended to benefit the public, particularly residents of Bells Lane and the surrounding neighbourhood.

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that the centre's purposes and activities are consistent with its principles. The benefits provided are intended to be available to the public or a sufficient section of the public, and any private benefit arising from the centre's activities is incidental to the achievement of its charitable purposes.

Through the provision of community facilities, support services, educational and recreational opportunities, health-related activities and social events, Bells Lane Community Centre seeks to improve the conditions of life, promote wellbeing and strengthen community relationships for local residents.

Bells Lane Community Association

Summary of main achievements during the period
During the period, Bells Lane Community Centre continued to provide a valuable resource for residents of the Bells Lane area of Nottingham and the surrounding neighbourhood. The centre supported a wide range of community activities by making its facilities available to local organisations, charities, health services, faith groups and members of the public.

The centre hosted a variety of activities for children and young people, including sessions run by Girl Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, a nursery, a teenage youth club and an after-school club. These activities provided opportunities for learning, recreation, personal development and social interaction.

We continued to support the health and wellbeing of older residents and other members of the community through the ongoing use of the centre by NHS services providing support to people with cardiac-related health issues. Aspley Mentors also used the premises to offer support to local people.

The centre provided a base for three churches, helping to create opportunities for worship, fellowship, mutual support and community engagement. Our facilities were also available for hire for private parties, family celebrations and other social occasions, enabling residents to celebrate important events and strengthen relationships within the community.

We continued to organise our own community initiatives, including our food bank, which helps support people experiencing food insecurity. We also held special events and celebrations designed to bring local people together, encourage participation and reduce social isolation.

Through these activities, Bells Lane Community Centre continued to promote inclusion, community spirit and social wellbeing. By providing an affordable and accessible venue for a wide range of organisations and individuals, we helped ensure that local residents could benefit from services, activities and opportunities that might otherwise be less accessible to them.

Our main achievement during the period was maintaining the centre as an active and welcoming community facility, supporting people of different ages and backgrounds and contributing to the quality of life of residents in Bells Lane and the surrounding neighbourhood.

<u>AKA Youth Project</u>
The AKA Youth Project at Bells Lane Community Centre ran from January 2025 to August 2025, providing a weekly youth programme for young people aged 13–17 years. Sessions took place every Tuesday from 7pm to 9pm, offering a safe, welcoming and enjoyable environment where young people could socialise, learn new skills and develop their confidence and wellbeing.

Bells Lane Community Association

The programme offered a varied range of structured and recreational activities, including arts and crafts, team games, football, other sports, computer games, music, dance, group challenges and free-play opportunities. Refreshments were also available through the centre's tuck shop, helping to create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

The project welcomed approximately 40 young people per session and recorded a reported total of 1,080 attendances over the year. Participants engaged enthusiastically in the activities, developed new skills, formed friendships and built positive relationships with their peers and the staff supporting the sessions.

The project helped promote teamwork, creativity, communication, confidence and social development. It also provided young people with a positive way to spend their leisure time in a safe and supportive setting. Feedback from parents and members of the community indicated that the group offered a much-needed space where young people could feel welcome, supported and included.

Funding for the project included a £1,000 grant from local councilors, which contributed towards project activities. The AKA group also funded the sessions, demonstrating its commitment to providing ongoing opportunities and support for young people in the local community.

Overall, the AKA Youth Project made a positive contribution to the lives of local young people by providing opportunities for recreation, personal development and social interaction. It also supported the wider aims of Bells Lane Community Centre by strengthening community connections and helping young people to thrive in a safe and inclusive environment.

Food Bank Project

Bells Lane Community Centre operated a weekly food bank to support local families experiencing food insecurity and financial hardship. The service ran every Wednesday from 10am to 12pm, providing essential food supplies in a welcoming, respectful and confidential environment.

The food bank supported between 41 and 53 families each week, demonstrating the significant need for this service within the local community. By providing access to essential food supplies, the project helped families manage financial pressures and meet their basic needs.

In addition to food provision, the sessions offered opportunities for families to access wider support and advice. Nottingham City Council (NCC) and other partner organisations provided information and guidance on wellbeing, benefits and available community services. Families could also access information and support through the adjoining nursery, health visitors and the NHS heart health team. These connections helped families access relevant health, early-years and wellbeing services.

Bells Lane Community Association

The project aimed not only to address immediate food needs but also to reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and strengthen links between local residents and support organisations. By bringing families and service providers together in a friendly community setting, the food bank helped raise awareness of available services and encouraged people to seek further assistance when needed.

The project was considered successful, with consistent weekly attendance reflecting the importance of the service to local families. Feedback indicated that the food bank helped ease financial pressures and improved access to information, advice and wider support. The project therefore made a valuable contribution to reducing hardship and promoting community wellbeing.

The food bank was funded through HIMA, with food collected by Diversify Education. The weekly sessions were organised and delivered by the centre's volunteer committee, whose commitment and hard work helped ensure that the service continued to support families in need.

Overall, the Bells Lane Community Centre Food Bank provided essential practical assistance while also helping families connect with wider support networks. It demonstrated the value of community-led initiatives in responding to local needs, promoting dignity and inclusion, and improving the quality of life for residents in Bells Lane and the surrounding neighbourhood.

The British Chanfa Defence

The British Chanfa Defence Group provides Kung Fu training sessions for children aged 9 years and above, teenagers, and adults. The sessions aim to promote physical fitness, self-discipline, confidence, and personal development through the practice of martial arts.

Participants have the opportunity to learn Kung Fu techniques, improve their strength, flexibility, balance, coordination, and fitness, and develop essential self-defence skills. The training also encourages respect, focus, perseverance, and self-control, helping participants build confidence both inside and outside the training environment.

The group provides an opportunity for people of different ages and abilities to take part in physical activity, learn new skills, and work towards personal goals in a structured and supportive setting. Through regular training, participants are encouraged to develop a positive attitude, respect others, and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

The British Chanfa Defence Group is committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of the community by providing opportunities for people to learn martial arts, improve their physical and mental wellbeing, and develop valuable life skills.

Church groups using our centre

Our community centre provides a welcoming and accessible space for three local church groups to hold their regular church services and religious gatherings. The groups that use our facilities are the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, the International Pentecostal Christian Church (IPCC), and Omega Fire Ministries (OFM).

The centre supports these congregations by providing a suitable environment for worship, prayer, fellowship, and spiritual development. The church groups offer their members opportunities to come together in faith, build relationships, support one another, and strengthen their sense of community and belonging.

By accommodating different Christian denominations, our centre promotes inclusivity, respect for religious beliefs, and community engagement. The use of our facilities by these groups also helps strengthen connections between individuals and families, providing opportunities for social interaction, mutual support, and participation in community life.

We are committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where faith groups and members of the wider community can gather, worship, and maintain meaningful connections.

Day Trip to Blackpool

In August 2025, Bells Lane Community Centre organised a trip to Blackpool during the summer holidays for young people who attend our Young Group Programme.

The aim of the trip was to provide the young people with an opportunity to enjoy a fun and memorable day out, socialise with their peers, and take part in activities outside their usual community setting. The trip also helped to encourage friendship, build confidence, promote positive relationships, and create lasting memories during the summer break.

Bells Lane Community Centre is committed to providing positive opportunities and experiences for young people in our community. Organising trips such as this supports their social development, wellbeing, and sense of belonging, while giving them the chance to enjoy new experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

The Blackpool trip was part of our ongoing commitment to engaging young people, supporting their development, and bringing the community together through meaningful activities.

Thriving Nottingham Project

Thriving Nottingham Group provides health and wellbeing chair exercise sessions to support members of the community in maintaining an active, healthy, and independent lifestyle.

The sessions are designed to encourage gentle physical activity in a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment. Chair-based exercises help participants improve their mobility, flexibility, balance, strength, and overall physical wellbeing, while allowing individuals to take part at a pace that suits their abilities.

In addition to the physical benefits, the sessions provide opportunities for social interaction, helping to reduce isolation, build friendships, and promote positive mental wellbeing. Participants are encouraged to come together, stay active, and enjoy the benefits of being part of a supportive community group.

Bells Lane Community Association

Thriving Nottingham Group is committed to promoting healthier lifestyles, improving wellbeing, and supporting people in the community to remain active, connected, and engaged.

The Brownies Guides

The Brownies is a youth group that provides girls and young people with opportunities to learn new skills, develop their confidence, build friendships, and participate in a wide range of fun and educational activities. The programme supports girls aged 9 to 17 years through different sections, including Brownies, Guides, and Rangers, with Rainbows providing activities for younger girls.

Through regular group sessions, participants take part in a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, practical skills, creative projects, teamwork, and other engaging learning experiences. These activities encourage creativity, independence, problem-solving, and cooperation while helping the girls discover their interests and develop their abilities.

The group provides a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where girls can socialise, support one another, learn from shared experiences, and grow in confidence. By participating in group activities and challenges, they are encouraged to develop leadership skills, respect others, and become active members of their community.

The Brownies and associated sections play an important role in supporting the personal, social, and emotional development of girls and young people, helping them build valuable life skills and create lasting friendships.

Community Events

Our community centre provides a welcoming and flexible space for a wide range of community events and activities throughout the year. The centre hosts various celebrations and social gatherings, including birthday parties, wedding anniversaries, workshops, training sessions, and other events that bring people together.

By providing a suitable venue for these activities, the centre creates opportunities for individuals, families, community groups, and organisations to meet, celebrate special occasions, share knowledge, and develop new skills. Our workshops and training sessions also support learning, personal development, and the sharing of experiences within the community.

The centre plays an important role in promoting community cohesion, encouraging social interaction, and strengthening relationships among people from different backgrounds and age groups. These events help reduce social isolation, foster a sense of belonging, and provide opportunities for people to connect, collaborate, and support one another.

We are committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment where community members can come together to celebrate milestones, participate in learning opportunities, organise activities, and build lasting relationships. Through these events, our centre continues to serve as a valuable hub for community engagement, social connection, and personal development.

Financial review

Bells Lane Community Centre has continued to receive income through the hire of its facilities by community groups, voluntary organisations and members of the public. This income is an important source of financial support, helping the centre to maintain its premises, provide facilities for local activities and continue serving the needs of the community.

We are encouraged by the continued use of our facilities and the income generated through room hire, which reflects the centre's value as a local community resource. This income, alongside grants and other funding received for specific projects, helps us deliver activities and services that benefit residents of Bells Lane and the surrounding neighbourhood.

We remain mindful of the need to manage our finances responsibly, control costs and make the best use of the resources available to us. Our aim is to maintain the centre's financial sustainability so that we can continue providing a welcoming space for community organisations, families and individuals.

Overall, we are pleased with the progress made in generating income through facility hire and remain committed to strengthening our financial position to support the centre's ongoing activities and long-term future.

The charity's policy on reserves

Bells Lane Community Centre recognises the importance of maintaining appropriate financial reserves to ensure the continued operation of the centre and to protect its long-term financial sustainability.

Why we need reserves

Our reserves provide a financial safety net to help cover unexpected costs, essential repairs and maintenance, periods of reduced income, and other unforeseen circumstances. They also help ensure that the centre can continue to meet its ongoing commitments and provide facilities and activities for the benefit of the local community.

Target level of reserves

The trustees aim to maintain sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover approximately three to six months of essential operating expenditure, subject to the centre's financial circumstances and future needs. The target will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains appropriate for the size and activities of the organisation.

Our current position

The trustees monitor the centre's income and expenditure to assess its financial position and the level of reserves available. Income generated through the hire of facilities by community organisations and members of the public, together with grants and other funding, contributes to the centre's ability to meet its running costs and maintain its services.

The trustees will compare the centre's available unrestricted reserves against the agreed target when reviewing the annual accounts and financial forecasts.

Plans to increase or use reserves

Where reserves are below the agreed target, the trustees will seek to strengthen the centre's financial position through responsible financial management, increasing income from facility hire where possible, and applying for suitable grants and funding opportunities.

Reserves may be used when necessary to cover unexpected expenditure, essential repairs, temporary shortfalls in income or other costs required to maintain the centre's operations and charitable activities. Any use of reserves will be carefully considered by the trustees to ensure that expenditure is appropriate and that the centre's long-term financial stability is protected.

Review of the policy

The trustees will review this reserves policy at least annually as part of the financial planning and budgeting process, and sooner if there are significant changes to the centre's financial circumstances, operating costs or funding arrangements.

The policy is intended to help Bells Lane Community Centre manage its resources responsibly, respond to unforeseen challenges and continue providing valuable facilities and services to the local community.

Financial risks

Bells Lane Community Centre faces a number of financial risks that could affect its ability to maintain the premises and continue providing services and activities for the local community.

One of our main financial risks is a reduction in income from hiring our facilities to community groups, voluntary organisations and members of the public. Changes in demand, rising living costs or the loss of regular hirers could affect our ability to cover the centre's day-to-day running costs.

We also face the risk of increasing operating expenses, including utilities, insurance, cleaning, repairs and general maintenance. Unexpected building repairs or essential improvements could place additional pressure on our finances, particularly if they arise at short notice.

Another risk is uncertainty around grant funding and donations. Some of our community projects rely on external funding, and if grants are reduced, delayed or discontinued, we may have limited resources to continue delivering particular activities and services.

We also recognise the risk of insufficient financial reserves to manage unexpected expenditure or temporary shortfalls in income. To reduce this risk, the trustees monitor income and expenditure, review the centre's financial position and aim to maintain appropriate reserves.

The trustees seek to manage these risks through careful budgeting, monitoring facility-hire income, controlling expenditure, maintaining the building responsibly and exploring opportunities to increase income and secure additional funding. We also aim to maintain good relationships with our regular hirers, community partners and funders.

By reviewing our finances regularly and planning ahead, we aim to protect the long-term sustainability of Bells Lane Community Centre and ensure that it can continue to provide valuable facilities, activities and support for residents of Bells Lane and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Additional information

Our community centre plays an important role in supporting local residents by providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space for people of all ages and backgrounds. Through our various community programmes, activities, workshops, training sessions, faith groups, and social events, we aim to improve wellbeing, encourage learning, reduce social isolation, and strengthen community relationships.

We are grateful to our funders, supporters, volunteers, community partners, and local organisations whose contributions and support help us continue providing valuable services and opportunities to the community. Their support enables us to make our facilities available to a wide range of groups and to respond to the needs and interests of local residents.

We are committed to using our resources responsibly and ensuring that our activities provide meaningful benefits to the community. We continually seek opportunities to develop our services, build new partnerships, and secure additional funding to sustain and expand our work.

Looking ahead, we aim to continue improving our facilities, increasing community participation, and develop activities that promote health and wellbeing, education, skills development, inclusion, and community cohesion. We welcome opportunities to work with funders, partners, and other organisations that share our commitment to creating a stronger, healthier, and more connected community.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____ Date _____
Natasha Elaine Bryan, Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bells Lane Community Association for the year ended 31 December 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bells Lane Community Association (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed _____ Date _____

Eva Stevens BSc, CPFA

Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Bells Lane Community Association
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2025

2024 £		Note	***2025*** **£**
	Receipts		
17825	Grants & donations	**2**	7000
28458	Rents and room hire		20648
17	Tuck shop		30
737	Trip income		525
15	Sundry receipts		-
47052	**Total receipts**		**28203**
	Payments		
1101	Cleaning		1194
-	Consultancy		2320
1630	Equipment, repairs & renewals		4787
1900	Events		200
1265	Facilitator fees		300
7715	Gardening		410
764	Insurance		801
-	IT & phone costs		574
-	Loan disbursed		2000
305	Office costs		1340
454	Payroll, accounting & bookkeeping		627
564	Professional fees		99
907	Refreshments		582
824	Refunds		-
85	Training		195
1790	Travel costs		1013
-	Tuck shop		576
15038	Utilities and rates		5520
290	Volunteer expenses		1605
15433	Wages		11204
80	Sundry payments		-
50145	**Total payments**		**35347**
(3093)	**Net receipts/(payments)**		**(7144)**
21200	Cash funds at start of this period		18107
18107	**Cash funds at end of this period**		**10963**

Bells Lane Community Association
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 December 2025

2024			***2025***
£	**Cash assets**	**Note**	**£**
18107	Bank accounts		10702
-	Cash in hand		261
18107			**10963**
	Other monetary assets		
232	Prepayments - Insurance		244
-	Debtors - Loan		2000
232			**2244**
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	General equipment.		
	details,cost date etc		
	Liabilities		
(1049)	Creditors	**3**	(780)
(1049)			**(780)**

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed _____ Date _____
Natasha Elaine Bryan, Trustee

Bells Lane Community Association
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. **Receipts & payments accounts**
   Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. **Grants & donations**

	£
Nottingham City Council	5500
Charitable Giving	1500
	7000

3. **Creditors**

	£
Independent examination fee	780
	780

4. **Premises & staff**
   The premises are provided by the local authority.

5. **Trustees' remuneration**
   Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

6. **Related party transactions**
   There were no related party transactions during the period.

7. **Glossary of terms**
   Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

   Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

   Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.