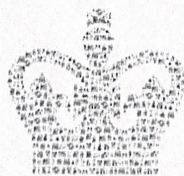


**SUFFOLK**  
COMMUNITY FORUM

## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 6.30pm  
124 Stewartstown Road, Belfast



**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

*The MBE for volunteer groups*

# **Suffolk Community Forum Annual General Meeting**

## **Agenda**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 6.30pm**

**Welcome & Apologies**

**Presentation of Annual Report**

Sammy Wilson – Interim / Outgoing Chair

**Presentation of Annual Accounts**

Neil Douglas - Outgoing Treasurer

**Nominations for new Committee**

Nominations of two reps for each group

**Election of officers will take place at next Forum meeting.**

**Any other business**



**SUFFOLK**  
COMMUNITY FORUM

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Suffolk Community Forum is pleased to present its Annual General Report for the year 2023.

This has been a difficult period for the Forum and for society in General, coming straight out of the Covid situation we have seen the much talked about cost of living, protocol issues, non-existence of local Government. All these issues have made the procurement of funding even more difficult for the Forum and for the individual groups.

Change has also taken place within the forum, with the resignation of both our Community Development Manager Carolyn, which I would like to place on record and acknowledge her massive contribution to the Forum and the estate during her period with us. Also, to our Chair Terry after many years of service and dedication to the Forum and again we wish to pass on our thanks to Terry for this.

I would like to thank each and every member of the Forum for attending meetings and the work they have committed themselves to in ensuring the work of the Forum has continued despite major challenges.

The biggest challenge over the last year has been the finalising of the deal with LIDL around providing funding for us to develop the MUGA social enterprise. There was a lot of hard work by members of the Forum on this and sometimes felt like it would never get over the line. This project will be key to the sustainability of this estate and there is much hard work to come over the coming months to get this seen through to the end, a special mention on this goes to Sara Bunting and Edwin Poots who provided much needed help on this particularly over the final stages and I know they are still very much on board with this project.

Our current core funding with DFC through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme has been extended several times, It has been agreed to April 2024 with the expectation that this will be extended to April 2025, however this has not been officially confirmed.

The access to funding from SRRP has been maintained and will continue to be maintained and this does help to keep the Forum afloat year to year.

Going forward I feel we need to keep on with the momentum built up on the MUGA, we have seen much change over the year and we now need a period of stability, we need to get our worker in place, update our policies and

procedures and every representative to work together for the good of the Forum and our Community.

I believe we have good people on the forum with good hearts for this community and together we can help to build and strengthen Suffolk.

A final thanks to anyone who contributed or helped in anyway to the work of the Forum this year.

Sammy Wilson  
Chairperson

**A Charity with the Northern Ireland Charities Commission No NIC100117**  
124124

Stewartstown Road, Belfast, BT11 9TA Tel: 028208108 Email:

#### Annual Accounts 2021-2022

Neil Douglas went through the accounts from last year with the group and asked members to read through them.

#### Updates on Projects:

An update of the projects of 2023 will be added to this report when the new Community Development Manager is in place.

#### Meetings Attended:

We have continued the following meetings throughout the year

- SRRP Board of Directors
- NIHE Housing Community Network
- Lenadoon Neighbourhood Partnership
- Housing and Community Network
- PSNI Neighbourhood Teams
- David Robinson, Chief Executive, BCC Good Relations