

LIGONIEL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Directors Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Directors present their report with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019".

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Ligoniel Improvement Association
Charity Registration number: NIC100342
Company Registration number: NI 020559
Registered Office: 148 Ligoniel Road, Belfast, BT14 8DT
Business Address: 148 Ligoniel Road, Belfast, BT14 8DT

Directors

M Mackessy Chair
J Gray (resigned 4th August 2023)
J Carmichael
L Lawlor
E Rock (appointed 9th August 2023)
M Doherty (appointed 9th August 2023)
F McCann (appointed 9th August 2023 and resigned 14th November 2023)
G Simpson (appointed 9th August 2023)
E Huynh (appointed 2nd August 2023)
J Crockard (appointed 3rd August 2023)

Secretary

M Morgan (resigned 10th August 2023)
M Doherty (appointed 10th August 2023)

Auditors

McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD, 1 Lanyon Quay, Belfast, BT1 3LG

Bankers

Danske Bank Ltd, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS

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Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Ligoniel Improvement Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12th June 1987 and is registered as a charity. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Following a review, amendments were made to LIA's Articles of Association to clarify aspects of the company's activities within the area. These amendments were ratified by the SGM of members on Thursday 13th December 2012.

Recruitment and Appointment of Directors

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the directors retire by rotation and if eligible can offer themselves for re-election.

Individuals are invited to serve as directors on the basis of their abilities and background with a view to achieving a balance between those from the business, voluntary and charity sectors.

All new directors undertake a full induction programme.

Directors Induction and Training

The directors have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements for staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the premises. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity and its legal obligations.

Organisational Structure

At present Ligoniel Improvement Association has a Board of 8 directors who meet regularly and are responsible for the strategic direction of policy of the charity.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility for the management of the organisation rests with the Chief Executive.

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Principles

The Board of LIA fully understand that they are responsible individually in law for board actions and decisions. They are collectively responsible and accountable for ensuring that the organisation is performing well, is solvent and complies with all its obligations. The Board actively seeks to ensure that the organisation understands and complies with its governing document, relevant laws, contractual obligations and the requirements of any regulatory bodies.

The Board members also understand that for the organisation to effectively meet the needs of not just the Ligoniel community but the other areas in which it delivers a service, that a collaborative/partnership approach is essential. LIA have therefore established links with a number of organisations at both a local and regional level, with representatives sitting on organisations such as the North Belfast Partnership Board, Belfast interface partnership, Belfast Hills Partnership, Advice NI, Healthy Living Centre regional Alliance and the Belfast Outcomes Group.

Objectives

The principal objectives of the company remain the stimulation and promotion of economic and social development in the Ligoniel area of Belfast.

As noted above the articles of the association changed in 2014. The objectives of LIA, therefore now include;

1. Promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of voluntary and community organisations and projects in the area by providing advice, information, education and training, administrative support and practical assistance.
2. Promoting community capacity building programmes and projects for people who have need of such assistance.
3. Delivering projects and services that will relieve poverty.
4. Advancing, promoting and preserving the conservation maintenance and protection of features of the landscape, waterways, streams and water courses with geographical, historic, physical or amenity value.
5. Promoting cooperation and networking between voluntary and community organisations in the area.
6. Supporting community development and wellbeing activities, working with partners to support community cohesion.

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Annual General Meeting Report for Ligoniel Improvement Association

Introduction: As we reflect on the past year, the journey of the Ligoniel Improvement Association (LIA) has been one marked by resilience and dedication. Emerging from the shadows of the pandemic, our community has shown remarkable strength in the face of adversity.

Supporting Families: In our mission to provide unwavering support to families in need, the Ligoniel Healthy Living Centre became a beacon of hope. We have welcomed 171 families through our doors, offering not just assistance but a sense of belonging. Collaborating with the North Belfast Community Food Bank, we extended a lifeline to 73 families through food bank referrals and distributed Christmas gifts to 136 children with new toys.

Empowering Youth and Schools: Our commitment to the next generation remained unwavering. From after-school football programs to educational initiatives promoting health and wellness, we engaged with primary and secondary school students, nurturing their potential and fostering a sense of community spirit.

Community Health and Well-being: Recognising the importance of holistic well-being, our community health promotion programs flourished. From invigorating fitness classes to therapeutic activities like fishing, yoga, and gardening, we empowered participants to embrace healthier lifestyles and fostered a sense of community pride.

Exploring History and Society: Delving into the annals of history, our programs on women's and men's history provided invaluable insights into the evolving roles and contributions of genders throughout the ages. Through study visits and facilitated sessions, participants gained a deeper understanding of our collective heritage and societal dynamics.

Celebrating Community Spirit: Throughout the year, our calendar was filled with vibrant community events, each one a testament to the resilience and spirit of Ligoniel. From the spook-tacular festivities of Halloween to the joyous celebrations of Christmas and the warmth of summer gatherings, we came together as one community, united in spirit and purpose.

Providing Guidance and Support: In our role as advisors and advocates, we fielded over 5,800 enquiries, guiding individuals through the labyrinth of bureaucracy and maximising benefits to the tune of £14,244,000. Our presence at tribunals secured over £14 million in refunds, ensuring justice and financial relief for those in need.

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Ligoniel Environment and Heritage site: Our commitment to environmental conservation and heritage preservation remains unwavering. We will continue to explore new initiatives, engage with the community, and strengthen our partnerships to ensure that the Ligoniel Environment and Heritage Site remains a beacon of beauty, history, and inspiration for generations to come.

As we reflect on our achievements and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported and contributed to our endeavours. Together, we will continue to nurture and protect the natural and cultural treasures that make Ligoniel truly special.

Looking Forward: As we set our sights on the future, our focus is firmly on the years ahead. Engaged in a thorough review of all of our services, we aim to strengthen our foundations and secure sustainable funding for the long term. Our commitment to the community remains steadfast, our determination unshakeable. LIA believe that in partnership with the community we will navigate the challenges ahead and emerge even stronger and more resilient.

In Summary: The journey of the Ligoniel Improvement Association is one of overcoming challenges, fostering community spirit, and demonstrating unwavering dedication and we eagerly anticipate the next year's challenges for the organisation.

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Financial Review

The audited accounts show the performance of the charity for the year.

Principal Funding Sources

The principle source of funding was grants from various funders.

Investment policy

Any surplus funds would be placed in deposit accounts.

Reserves Policy

The directors retain funds in the charity in order to provide sufficient working capital to facilitate the ongoing activities. The target for unrestricted fund reserves is six months support costs in cash at bank.

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Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that McCreery Turkington Stockman Ltd be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

This report was approved by the Board on 11th March 2024

M Mackessy
Director

