



**Muckamore
Parish
Development
Association**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: NI101010

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023
for
Muckamore Parish Development Association**

McCleary & Company Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Garvey Studios
14 Longstone Street
Lisburn
Co. Antrim
BT28 1TP



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**Muckamore Parish Development Association
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for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

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**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

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1.0. TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).



2.0 STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

2.1.

The Association was established to promote activities of benefit to the urban and rural communities in Muckamore and the larger Antrim and Newtownabbey Council area (area of benefit') without distinction of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnic identity, disability, political or religious opinion.

2.2.

By associating with the statutory authorities and other voluntary organisations it endeavors to advance education and in particular to promote or assist in promoting community capacity building programs and projects for the benefit of the people in the 'area of benefit' who have need of such assistance as a result of their youth, age, disability, or social and economic circumstances, in an effort to increase the abilities, skills and self-confidence of individuals in the 'area of benefit'.

3.0 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

3.1 To undertake Muckamore Parish Development Association's outreach program in the 'area of benefit' through the delivery of three main programs during the reporting year, namely –

- (A) The Antrim and Newtownabbey Council "Areas at Risk" programme
- (B) The Children in Need funded project and
- (C) The distribution of food packs in association with Antrim Food Bank.

3.2 To rejuvenate the site leased from the Department for Communities at 1A Limetree Avenue, Ballycraigy estate and develop the use of the new community hub to provide a safe place where people can meet to socialise and receive training leading to self- improvement, confidence, and better employment prospects.

3.3 Secure the necessary funding and resources needed to ensure the effective delivery of the agreed outreach program.



4.0 ACHIEVEMENTS DURING REPORTING YEAR

Due to the easing of COVID restrictions, MPDA were able to commence a full programme of activities and events in the 22/23 year. Some of the achievements included were, developing the Muckamore Friendship Senior Group, facilitating a Summer Scheme programme, developing MPDA's wrap around community development programme and continuing with the provision of free services to help the local community level up. MPDA's key achievements in the 22/23 year are outlined in sections 4.1 to 4.5.

4.1 Areas at risk programme

Funding from this programme supports the cost of a part-time Family Support Worker to lead a comprehensive range of activities designed to improve the wellbeing of families and individuals in the local Ballycraigy ward. Collaborations with other local organisations allowed MPDA to deliver targeted services to those most in need, e.g., Women's Aid helped to facilitate the Healthy Relationships programme to local women and the MPDA Youth group: Sure Start provided music and movement to the younger children.

Funding from this programme helped MPDA facilitate activity groups for younger children. These fun and engaging sessions developed clear improvements in the children's self-esteem and interaction with other participating children.

The 100 families and 165 children involved have built up a strong trusting relationship with the Family Support Worker, enabling them to feel safe to engage in services centered around mental health, parenting, budgeting, relationships, positive coping skills and further education. This is resulting in improved wellbeing, self-confidence and self-esteem, positive relationships and active interaction with their peers.

Community cohesion and development is evident with some of the parents willing to become volunteers and undergo training to acquire skills that they can pass on to the local community, for example, some who volunteered undertook food hygiene training and courses in the use of slow cookers and food blenders and then went on to deliver courses back to the local community. (The assistance of Antrim Foodbank in the provision of slow Cookers, blenders and food for these courses was very much appreciated).



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Due to the rising cost of living it has become increasingly important that families availing themselves of MPDA's services receive a meal while attending group sessions. Through funding from this programme, MPDA has been able to source low-cost food to provide meals to participants which in turn reduces financial pressure on the family budget.

Improving educational attainment for both adults and children is one of MPDA's key objectives. It was therefore encouraging to record that 8 parents who have benefited from MPDA services have completed a level 4 Open University module entitled People, Work and Society. The OU programme is carried out as part of the Community Partnership Project which offers individuals the opportunity to study within their local community.

All of the 20 volunteers engaged in the programmes on offer are safeguarding trained and Access NI certified. Most of them have received training in Diversity and Good relations, Playboard NI Play in a youth work setting, Parenting Teens training, Healthy Relationships, Foodbank training, Autism NI keyhole intervention training, Mental Health First Aid and SafeTalk.

A total of around 220 people now use our Community Hub weekly, a total of 30 Community Relations projects designed to increase capacity and cohesion were supported and 450 enquiries were received related to debt advice and other financial challenges.

4.2 Children in Need Project

In January 2021 MPDA was awarded a substantial grant spread over 30 months to improve the wellbeing of children in the charities "area of Benefit" and wider Antrim and Newtownabbey area. The funding allowed us to engage two part-time staff, one as a Youth Sport Development Officer using the medium of sport as a means of promoting the children's wellbeing and a Youth Development Officer to promote child engagement and mental health. The programme is led by the existing Community Support Coordinator who has overall responsibility for project development, implementation and impact assessment.



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Unfortunately, our Youth Sport Development officer left at the end of 2022 to take up full-time employment elsewhere. With the agreement of Children in Need our Youth Development Officer has taken on the full-time role of youth officer using gymnastics and multi-sports to replace football as an aid to Physical, Social, Emotional and Cognitive Development.

Three key differences were agreed with Children in Need concerning project outcomes, namely.

- **1. Improved peer relationships** (Helping children and young people to build and develop relationships with their friends and other young people within and across local communities)
- **2. Improved feelings of inclusion in communities** (increasing trust in their communities)
- **3. Better family relations** (helping children and young people to build positive relationships with their family)

There are now 165 children participating in the programme. Many of the children and young people experience adversity, ranging from reduced income impacting children, disability and community challenges.



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The children and young people were divided into three age groups, 60 in the 0 to 4 group, 60 in the 5 to 9 group, 35 in the 10 to 15 group and 10 in the 16 to 18 group. The groups meet in different groups during the week to participate in activities appropriate to their age. During the year a wide range of activities were provided, some of which involved both parents and children participating together. Most notable of these are MPDA's After Schools Activities for All Group, the Mighty Movers Toddlers group, MPDA Youth Champions and football provision for Ballycraigy Primary School.

It was estimated that 150 of the participating children showed significant progress in improved peer relationships and the remaining 15 started to experience progress.

In the second outcome – improved feelings of inclusion in communities, a total of 145 children experienced significant progress and 20 started to experience progress.

In the third outcome – better family relations, 90 children experienced significant progress, 65 started to experience progress and 10 are yet to experience progress.

While working with the children involved in the Youth Forum, we have found that their ideas are progressive and well informed. They are knowledgeable about the needs of their community and how to move on from the past. The lesson that we have learned in the past year is to never underestimate the understanding and determination that our young people have to change their future. It is important that we provide them with activities, events and education that will progress this desire to learn and improve their community.

4.3 Distribution of Food packs and vouchers

In May 2021 MPDA signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Trussell Trust UK wide Foodbank Network recognizing MPDA 's Community Hub at 1A Limetree Avenue as a distribution center for food packs in the Ballycraigy area. This arrangement further cements our close working relationship with the Antrim Food Bank



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During the reporting year April 2022 to March 2023 MPDA gave out a total of 380 food packs with 70 families benefiting. A robust system is in place to ensure that the Food Bank service is fair and accessible to those who need food support. An additional feature of our Friday morning Food Bank / drop-in session is that a member of staff from Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey is available every week to check that the families and individuals are receiving the correct financial support and also to check eligibility for longer term clients of the foodbank.

During the reporting period 100 gas / electricity vouchers, each worth £10, were given out to around 30 families. Participating families could only receive one voucher per week.

Fresh food was also received from the Fare share initiative, through which ASDA and Tesco provide MPDA with food on several occasions each week. This food enables the provision of meals for children and families in attendance at each group.

4.4 Other activities

MPDA once again received toy donations from Cash for Kids Christmas Mission. The donation of Christmas gifts helped support 250 children at Christmas. This donation is much appreciated and has been an invaluable support to local families each year.

Funding was also obtained from the Public Health Agency Short Term Funding for a Strengthening Families programme and an All Sense Sensory Project. These programmes were very well attended. The outcomes for both programmes indicated that both parents/caregivers and young people experienced positive benefits from participation in the programmes. These benefits included improved mental health and wellbeing, a reduction in anxiety, improved relaxation and sleep and improved coping skills.

MPDA also worked positively with Triangle Housing to develop a long-term football and good relations project in collaboration with Ballycraigy Primary School. From September 2023, this project will transfer from BBC Children in Need to Triangle Housing and will provide Primary 5, 6 and 7 children with football coaching provision, Sports kit, entry to the Football Primary Schools League, Football camps and Fun Events. The full cost of this programme exceeds £5,000 and support from Triangle Housing is very much appreciated.



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MPDA has been nominated for the prestigious Kings Award for Voluntary Service. This award recognises the contribution made by volunteers in delivering MPDA programmes and their impact on the local community. In the 2022/23 year our volunteers provided an estimated total of 13,400 hours without which our extensive programme could not have been delivered. The outcome of our application will not be known until November 2023.

4.5 Community Hub and site development

Plans to develop an outdoor sensory area and raised beds for children to grow vegetables got underway. Discussions with potential funders to help develop the site also started. The aim is to plant wildflower borders and trees around the perimeter of the site to increase biodiversity and create an outdoor community and sensory space.

5.0 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Funding and donations amounting to £112,429 were received in the 2022/23 year. Principal among the funders were Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (Areas at risk, Outreach, Summer scheme, Queens Jubilee, Premises, Get Active) Dormant Fund, BBC Children in Need, Community Foundation, Public Health Agency, Oasis, Muckamore and Antrim Church of Ireland Parishes, St Anne's and private donations. Total Funds at the end of the financial year were £205,480 made up of £27,404 unrestricted and £ 178,076 restricted. The Trustees and staff are conscious of the need to continue to build financial resilience through increases to Unrestricted Reserves.

The Organisation is mid-way through the Dormant Accounts Fund NI award of £100,000, which has provided a platform, through the provision of two part-time roles, to become more sustainable and less reliant on grant aid. This is a work in progress underpinned by significant training and development of staff and volunteers; improved administrative procedures; acceptance of the need for a more diverse Trustee Board and improved succession planning.



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6.0 FUTURE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Our long-term aim is to make a significant contribution in Muckamore and the greater council area of Antrim and Newtownabbey thus fulfilling the Council's Community plan of making the Borough a place where our citizens are socially responsible and where the quality of life is high.

We will endeavor to continue delivering activities that contribute to the Council's four main outcomes, namely that.

1. Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing,
2. Our citizens live in connected, safe and vibrant places,
3. Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity, and
4. Our citizens achieve their full potential.

(a) In the coming year MPDA will endeavor to deliver the objectives as described in the ANBC Areas at risk and Children in Need programmes and in so doing will aim to improve the wellbeing of 100 families and 150 children located in the Area of Benefit.

(b) Prepare a strategy and plan that will lay the groundwork for the organisation becoming more self – sufficient and less reliant on grant aid.

(c) Develop an outdoor sensory area for the benefit of local families and children.

(d) Provide the older people's group with support that helps them combat loneliness, isolation and the challenges of new technologies.

(e) To convert our existing unincorporated charity (MPDA) into a charitable not- for -profit limited company.



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7.0 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

7.1 Governing document

Muckamore Parish Development Association (MPDA) was established on 18 February 2008 at the behest of the Select Vestry of Muckamore Church of Ireland Parish. Its present Constitution was formally adopted at the first Annual General Meeting held on 26 March 2009.

The functions of MPDA are managed by an Executive Committee consisting of eight members and a chairperson, all of whom also act as Trustees of the Charity. Four of the Executive Committee members are appointed annually by the Select Vestry of Muckamore Parish Church of Ireland and the other four are elected annually at the MPDA Annual General Meeting.

The Chairperson is the Rector of the Grouped parishes of Muckamore and Killead Church of Ireland or another person nominated by the Rector.

Membership of the Association is open to persons aged 18 or over who support the objects of the Association and whose application is accepted by the Executive Committee.

7.2 Safeguarding Trust Children and Vulnerable Adults

All Trustees, Executive Committee Members, and volunteers are vetted by Access NI and trained in Safeguarding Trust to a standard that meets current best practice procedures.

7.3 Responsibilities of Trustees in relation to The Financial Statements

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make sound judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the "going concern basis" unless it is appropriate to presume that the Charity will not continue in business.



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8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chairman and Trustees wish to record their sincere thanks to all the volunteers that have worked so hard during the 2022/2023 reporting year to deliver MPDA activities.

We also wish to thank the funders for their generous support during the year.

9.0 ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

9.1 Charity Details

We are officially registered as a charity with the Northern Ireland Charities Commission. Charity number 101010. Date registered 3 June 2015.

9.2 Principal address

1A Limetree Avenue,
Ballycraigy,
Muckamore, Antrim,
Co. Antrim
BT41 1NP

Trustees

Membership of the Executive Committee during the year was as follows:

Chairperson:	Mr Andrew Stewart	(Appointed by the Rector)
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Paul Dunlop	(Elected at AGM)
Secretary:	Vacant	
Treasurer:	Mr James Moore	(Nominated by Muckamore Select Vestry)
	Mr Keith McCullagh	(Nominated by Muckamore Select Vestry)
	Ms Karen Moore	(Nominated by Muckamore Select Vestry)
	Mr Gordon Johnston	(Nominated by Muckamore Select Vestry)
	Danielle Elliot	(Elected at AGM)

The MPDA's official office is located at 1A Limetree Avenue Ballycraigy, Muckamore, Antrim, Co Antrim, BT41 1NP.

For general enquiries please contact: info@mpda.co.uk or visit our website at www.mpda.co.uk.

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Approved by order of the board of trustees on 23 August 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Andrew Stewart - Chairperson