

CUSHENDALL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

For the Year ended 31 March 2023

Trustees Annual Report

Charity Name:- Cushendall Development Group – NIC 101601

Charity Address:- Old Schoolhouse
25 Mill Street
CUSHENDALL
Co Antrim
BT44 0RR

Trustees:-

The following served as trustees during the year and up to the date of this report

Bernadette Delargy (Chairperson)
Bernadette Harvey (Secretary)
Francis McCurry (Treasurer)
Andrew McAlister
Liam O'Hagan
Ann McLaughlin
Eamon Gillan
Donal Kearney
Hazel Imrie
Maeve McAlister

Accountants:- Park McKillop and Company
51 Springwell Street
Ballymena
Co. Antrim
BT43 6AT

Structure, Governance and Management:-

Cushendall Development Group (known as CDG) was formed in October 1990 in response to a growing realisation that locally based initiatives were needed to stimulate development in the village. Membership of the group is open to anyone living, working or interested in the area and presently there are over 140 members, made up of individuals, businesses and voluntary groups

The Committee shall meet at least 10 times in the year and shall consist of not less than 5 members and no more than 15 members as per election at AGM.

Cushendall Development Group employs and pays any person(s), not being a member of Committee to supervise, organise and carry on the work of the group and make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of remuneration to employees.

The Hon Treasurer keeps proper accounts of the finances of the group. The financial year of the group runs from 1 April – 31 March annually.

The accounts are audited by an auditor/s as appointed at the Annual General Meeting. This year the auditor was Park McKillop & Co.

Purposes and Objectives of Cushendall Development Group

Provide or secure the provision of social services, educational and recreational facilities and practical assistance for elderly people, people with disabilities, people within the area of benefit.

Promote and carry out, or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys and investigations and publish the useful results thereof.

Organise or assist in organising meetings, lectures, classes and exhibitions and publish or assist in publishing reports, periodicals, recordings, books or other documents or information.

Obtain, collect and receive money by way of grants, donations, bequests, legacies or other lawful method, provided that the Association shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law

Recruit and train volunteers with relevant skills to carry out the objectives of the group.

Promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above objectives and to that end to work in association with local authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above objectives in the area of benefit.

Establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the above objectives.

Do all such other lawful things as may be necessary for the attainment of the above objectives or any of them.

Promote, encourage and advise community and individual development initiatives.
Seek to highlight issues of importance to people in the area.

To encourage more people to become involved in community development, particularly socially excluded groups

To support and promote the creation of additional employment

To encourage, social, recreational cultural and educational activities.

To support new and existing groups that are for the benefit of the community

Statement of Compliance:-

In setting out our objectives and carrying out our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission NI's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to its beneficiaries.

Achievements and Performance:-

Cushendall Development Group (CDG) has worked hard to facilitate activities and events for the Cushendall Community. Cushendall Development Group continuously assess the needs of the local community and try hard to address these needs. CDG work closely with other community groups providing administration assistance to these groups and the wider community. CDG liaise with local government agencies for the needs of the local community.

Cushendall Focus continues to be produced during the year, which keeps the community updated on events that have just happened or planned for the near future.

The Environment Group continue to work tirelessly to plant and maintain flowers throughout the village.

The conference room in the Old Schoolhouse is now being used again by local businesses and community groups. Outside agencies are also using the room to engage with the community at local level.

Necessary training is held throughout the year for the benefit of the community, which helps provide volunteers and support to others.

Financial Review: -

All monies raised by or on behalf of the group are applied to further the objects of the group and for no other purpose, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment of legitimate out-of-pocket expenses to members of the group engaged upon the approved business of the Cushendall Development Group.

Grants Applied and Received 2022-23

Community Dev Support Grant - £3500

These monies were provided by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to assist in the overheads involved in running the community building, e.g. Rates, Electric and heating etc.

Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme - £1286.36

This enabled the group to purchase a new Defibrillator for the village and electric table top Hobs for future classes.

Live Smart Grant -£500

This money was secured to purchase new Litter pickers and gloves for the community and facilitate classes that benefit the environment.

Northern Area Community Network – Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Community Development Model - £1000

This money was secured to facilitate Art, Craft and other recreational activities.

Northern Area Community Network NICHI Programme - £2000

This money enabled the group to purchase a heated box to safely store the new village Defibrillator. The group also were able to facilitate health and wellbeing courses.

Total income for this year end was £44,334

Total Expenditure for this year end was £48,977

Funds are held in reserve to cover any unexpected expenses.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 23rd October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed Bernadette E Delargy
Bernadette Delargy
Chairperson

Signed Francis M. Curry
Francis McCurry
Hon Treasurer

