

MERVILLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Report of the Trustees for year ended 31 December 2023

The Management Committee present their Report together with unaudited accounts for year ended 31 December 2023.

Reference and Administrative Details

Merville House
Merville Garden Villages
Whitehouse
Newtownabbey
BT37 9TH

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 101797)

Charity Trustees/Directors

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were

Anna Douglas (Treasurer)
Gavan Rafferty (Secretary)
Lorraine Duncan (Chairperson)
Robert Browne
Clifford Duncan
Margaret Gearty
Laura Mallon
Angus McCuaig
Louise Mitchell
Katherine McKinney
Ruth Robinson
Emma Goodall

Status

The Charity is registered with the NI Charities Commission under reference NIC101797. The Charity has also been accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue under reference XN48639 and as such no provision for taxation has been made

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Structure & Management

Merville Residents Association is a charity which is governed by its Constitution. The organisation is primarily managed by a Management Committee made up of Office bearers and other committee members. There is currently one employee.

Description & Purpose

The principal activity of the Charity is to promote the benefit and equality of opportunity to the residents of Merville Garden Village without distinction between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; between men and women generally; between persons with a disability and persons without; and between persons with dependants and persons without; and to assist local authorities, voluntary organisations and residents in a common effort to advance respect, mutual understanding and education; and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said residents; and to assist in the maintenance and management, and to facilitate and/or co-operate with any statutory or non-statutory authority for the betterment of the physical environments of Merville House, Merville Garden Village, and neighboring communities, for activities promoted by the Association and its constituent bodies in the furtherance of the above object.

Activities & Objectives

The objective of Merville Residents Association is to maintain the character of Merville Garden Village and to continue to build a community which is attractive, vibrant, and inclusive in which everyone has the opportunity to participate in all of the Associations activities. We aim to achieve this through engaging with the local community to identify needs and gaps in the provision and creating events, activities, programmes and services to meet these needs. All our activities encourage the community to engage with each other. We address social inclusion and continue to encourage particularly our local senior citizens to engage with others addressing loneliness of the elderly. Our community live in a connected, safe, clean and vibrant Village, our welcoming and familiar to all residents. Our citizens achieve their full potential at many of our activities and celebrations, they are safe in a familiar environment our members are on hand to assist and encourage all our visitors. We promote all our beneficial activities to all residents of Merville Garden Village without distinction between persons different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age marital status or sexual orientation, between persons with a disability and persons without and between persons with dependents and person without.

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Achievements & Performance

Merville House is situated within the Valley 1 social output area. The majority of people living in this area are aged 16-39 and 40-64. This population pattern is reflective of the activities and achievements delivered within Merville House. Our achievements have reached out to an inter-generational age groups. Merville Residents Association main achievement has been to bring together a community through the positive impact of all our activities. We have continued to promote the activities of the Charity and encouraged the local and wider community to use and continue to use Merville House. We have promoted a feel good factor for everyone, our activities instill confidence in those who attend and encourage networking and engagement. We have addressed social inclusion through performance of all our activities. We have encouraged our local senior citizens and those from the wider community to engage with each other. We will continue to achieve good working relations with all members of our community.

Public Benefit Statement

Merville Residents' Association believe that our purposes satisfy both elements of the public benefit requirement. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an appreciation of civic values, social inclusion for all and the provision of recreation, a beneficial use of leisure time and the improvement of conditions of life for local residents. All of our activities are open and accessible to everyone. We take into considerations when planning our public activities, that they are planned irrespective of the beliefs or views of all those who may attend. We welcome all regardless of religious or political beliefs, regardless of race or age, marital status, sexual orientation, dependents, gender or disability.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Financial Review

The Financial Statements show a deficit for the period of £5,004 (2022: surplus £4,802).

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Reserves Policy

The Trustees of the charity have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should amount to between 2 and 6 months worth of the resources expended which equates to between £6,435 and £19,305 in general funds. At this level, the Trustees feel that they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding; however, it would obviously be necessary to consider how the funding would be replaced or activities changed. At present the free reserves (which exclude designated funds), amount to £38,385 and is above the Trustees' target range. The Trustees continue to work towards maintaining their free reserves target.

Plans for the future

The charity plans to continue the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements. There are no similar activities held within the surrounding area that address social isolation in particular for our senior residents of the community. We will continue to welcome all residents of Merville Garden Village and the wider community to Merville House with Merville Residents Association guiding, advising and welcoming. We strive to continue to support and encourage our residents through the activities and workshops we provide.

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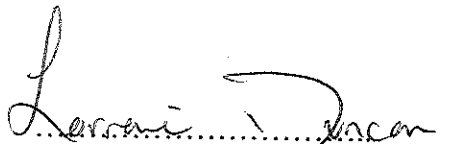
Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of Financial Statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the surplus or deficit arising in the period and of the assets and liabilities of the Charity as at the end of the financial period.


The Financial Statements are to be prepared on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Charity will continue in operation for at least 12 months following the period end date.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance of proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity at any given time. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking all necessary steps for the prevention or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:


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(Lorraine Duncan: Chairperson)

Dated: 24/10/24


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(Anna Douglas: Treasurer)

Dated: 24/10/24