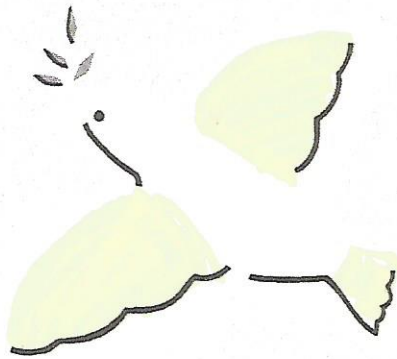


AMBER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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26th ANNUAL REPORT 2023



"GOD IS LOVE"

Summer 2023

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CHAIRPERSON'S REMARK'S
DR CAROLINE BINGHAM PH.D

Welcome to the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Amber Community Development Agency. We were formed and constituted on the 26th June 1996. In 5 days we are 27 years operating on the peaceline in the Roden Street/West Link area of South/West Belfast. During that time we have embraced community development projects in a prayerful way. We have won awards for our work. The most prestigious one being the NICCI American award for the best community group in Northern Ireland. Our awards are in the glass case in Amber House. Part of Roden Street has been rebuilt in recent years and our first after schools members have become adults, some are parents themselves. Our Inagural Meeting was in the Railway Mission Donegall Road. The 'Eurospar' stands where the mission was for many years. Pastor Robin Hunniford was our first chairperson of the agency. He has since gone to the Glory Land.

We carried out youth work, community work/ development inatitives along with counselling and advice surgeries etc for over 20 years and then funding started drying up about 5 – 6 years ago. Then the pandemic happened and we had to firstly downsize and secondly start working from home. We don't have any paid staff but myself and our long term volunteer carry out sign posting and payer support along with visits (if requested). We are seeking Gods will for this next year. Thank you.

Caroline Bingham

CHAIRPERSON

2.0

SECRETARY'S REMARK'S
MRS EILEEN DONAGHY

As the Chairperson has said we have for over a quarter of a century been based in the Roden Street area. We have seen rebuilding and road works carried out. Our bus trips used to be able to drive unto the Westlink Motorway but that is closed off. We have seen a lot of people needing prayer and visits following the impact that the Covid 19 pandemic has had everywhere it hit. What we sometimes overlook is that the Covid 19 germ was a world-wide pandemic which took lives and also caused dreadful side effects. An article (in a magazine) recently stated that there has been a lot of long term covid conditions endured by some people who were severly affected by the virus.

A lot of people find that although we are not wearing face masks in the community that they find people reluctant to stand too close to other people in shops etc. Doctors surgeries still encourage face-mask wearing (as do clinic and out patients) and seats are well spaced out in waiting areas. We have found out that a lot of elderly are wanting it to go back to "NORMAL". Others feel it will never be normal again. The doctor and dentist appointment system appears to be causing the most concern because of the difficulty even getting through on the phone to surgeries. Then there is the long waiting periods to secure and appointment. Lets hope during the next year this will improve

Mrs Eileen Donaghy
SECRETARY

3.0

TREASURER'S REMARK'S

MRS MANDY DIXON

The situation our community (and others) find themselves in is one which due to the high cost of gas and electricity, they must decide if its heat or food that takes priority. Our area has many elderly who are not getting as nutritional a diet as they should. This is also due to the rate of inflation which is at 10.1%. We have heard people say that basic items of shopping have doubled in this last year. The government food parcels and help towards gas and electric has been very welcome. We need the government to continue this support until gas, electricity, food comes down in price.

As our assembly is still not sitting a lot of the decisions they could make have fallen onto the senior civil servants. It is strange in this democracy that waged civil servants are being made to decide what pensioners and unemployed groups of people need to live on. Existstance for pension aged, disable people appears to be the norm. Luxuries are becoming a thing of the past. The mandates that people voted for are not in effect being enforced because the politician that were voted into the assembly are not meeting.

A huge increase in the "Block Grant" from Westminster is needed to increase the benefits that people are asked to try to exist on. Hopefully when the "Executive" sits again in Stormont a realistic budget will come on stream Thank You.

Mrs Mandy Dixon

TREASURER

4.0

**VOLUNTEER'S REMARK'S
MISS ELIZABETH JOAN BINGHAM DIP.I.T.**

It has been a very quiet year as we are still recovering 3 years from the coronavirus "Pandemic" and Covid 19 vaccines. In March I compiled the accounts for 2023 then in June it is that time of the year again when we run our Annual General Meeting. I compile Agendas and Minutes in relation to the meetings. The Annual Report also gets compiled and typed. Then at the end of the year we do our yearly return to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. They also get a copy of our Annual Accounts together with a copy of the Annual Report. These are tasks that need to be done every year in March, June and December. There are still people working from home 3 plus days a week. Conor Building are still doing monthly signing on days and times for people claiming Job Seeker's Allowance. Work has began to extent the local Eurospar.

Life is very slowly getting back to the way we are used to living. Our lives (on a daily basis) returning in relation to services resuming to the way they were before the coronavirus in 2020. I believe some peoples health feels bad still that maybe had the covid virus and the vaccine. I would like to take this opportunity to praise all the chartiable and voluntary groups in the area that kept on going when times were rough due to the pandemic. All their help and support working in the community helping the people with food parcels gas and electric. We hope and pray that the bad times are behind us and the good times are ahead.

**Elizabeth Joan Bingham (Miss)
Volunteer Administrator**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee wish to thank the following people/agencies who have supported our efforts in the Westlink Interface South-West Belfast.

- (a) Elizabeth Joan Bingham Dip.I.T.
(Administrator Volunteer for 23 years)*

- (b) Trevor A Aitkenhead B.A. (HONS) P.G.C.E.
(Formulating our Accounts)*

- (c) Paul James Bingham H.N.Dip
(Computer Support Volunteer 20 years)*

- (d) Northern Ireland Council Voluntary Action
(For always being there for us)*

- (e) Ministries who pray for Caroline (our Chairperson daily)*

Jesse Duplantis Ministries

Kenneth Copeland Ministries

Daniel Kolendo Christ for all Nations

David Hathaway Eurovision Ministry

David Cerullo Morris Cerullo World Evangelism Ministry

6.0

Amber Community Development Agency

List of Management Committee

Chairperson

Dr Caroline Bingham Ph.D.

Secretary

Eileen Donaghy

Treasurer

Mandy Dixon

Address

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Honoury Auditor

*Trevor A Aitkenhead
B.A. (Hons) P.G.C.E.*

Principal Bankers

*First Trust Bank
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Belfast
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Charity Number

NIC103302