

AMBER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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27th ANNUAL REPORT 2024



"GOD IS LOVE"

Summer 2024

CONTENT'S

- 1.0 *CHAIRPERSON'S REMARK'S
DR CAROLINE BINGHAM Ph.D.*

- 2.0 *SECRETARY'S REMARK'S
MRS EILEEN DONAGHY*

- 3.0 *TREASURER'S REMARK'S
MRS MANDY DIXON*

- 4.0 *VOLUNTEER'S REMARK'S
MISS ELIZABETH JOAN BINGHAM Dip.I.T.*

- 5.0 *ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

- 6.0 *LIST OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE*

- 7.0 *FISCAL REPORT AUDITED 14/04/24*

AMBER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday 26th June 2024

- 1.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REMARK'S (enclosed in report)

- 2.0 SECRETARY'S REMARK'S (enclosed in report)

- 3.0 TREASURER'S REMARK'S (enclosed in report)

- 4.0 VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARK'S (enclosed in report)

- 5.0 THE FISCAL STATEMENT WAS PASSED (enclosed in report)

- 6.0 THE PRESENT COMMITTEE HAS JUST CONCLUDED YEAR THREE OF A THREE YEAR OFFICE, AND HAVE AGREED TO ACT FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS.

Welcome to the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Amber Community Development Agency. The agency was initiated on the 26th June 1996 in the Railway Christian Fellowship Church (Railway Mission) on the Donegall Road. The 26th June being our 28th Anniversary. I recall that five weeks later we got the keys of 209 Roden Street and Pastor Robin Hunniford prayed that God would bless the work which we were about to commence on the Westlink "Peace-Line" / Roden Street. The area has always sadly been overlooked for large scale funding. Pastor Hunniford said to me "run a pilot for 1 year and if we can keep it going for a second year that will be good Caroline".

Now although there is no specially designated funding for Christian community development entities we are still operating, (albeit from home) 28 years later. In Gods word it says He is going to do a "new thing" shall we not know it. In faith and with very meagre finance we trust God that this "New Thing" will make a way for us and take us through to a 30th Anniversary one day! The worldwide pandemic with multible deaths and long term side-effects on communities played havoc with community development projects. There was lock-down and face-masks, side effects of vaccinations and such. Economic development has been badly effected also with hundreds of cafes/restuarants and such all closed down. Our trust is in God for our future.

*Dr Caroline Bingham Ph.D.
(Chairperson)*

Not a lot has changed from last years in relation to health issues. Dental appointments are still very difficult to secure for emergency treatment. In relation to doctors surgery appointments there appears to be a two to three week waiting time for the appointment unless it is an emergency and only a few of them can be seen each day. We are hearing about hospital appointments being drawn out and in some cases there is a waiting time of as long as two years for certain health issues.

A Chiropodist is another medical field that a lot of elderly in the community find extremely difficult to access on the national health service. Most senior people then have to go privately to a Chiropodist and this (in one entity alone) charges £45 to trim nails and much more for other treatments. We have read recently about the situation in the hospitals due to people not turning up for their appointments. The health minister Robin Swann had decided to resign and stand for election as a member of parliament. The Northern Ireland Assembly have asked the Treasury for a much needed increase to the Northern Ireland budget but are aware they don't ever receive the amount needed to put things right.

Mrs Eileen Donaghy
SECRETARY

TREASURER'S REMARK'S

I have read in the Belfast Telegraph recently about the number of businesses in Belfast alone that have closed down since the Covid 19/Pandemic attacked Northern Ireland. Literally hundreds and hundreds of small businesses (in particular coffee shops/cafes/resturants) have all shut up shop. On a world wide scale the cost of securing items such as sunflower oil and wheat products have risen astronomically. Then of course the dreadful cost of gas, electricity, oil and such that effects every home and commercial entity have been named as the main reason that small local shops have had to close down and this causes unemployment.

In the city centre there are many small businesses closed down and are looking unsightly. The Belfast City Council have commissioned murals to be painted over the front of the premises. As you probably have noticed we also on the Donegall Road have a few shops/derelect buildings that have had murals painted on the front of them. I don't know if in the forseable future any of the vacant premises will be brought back into use. The cost of living has reached an all time high recently and this led the government in parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly to issue cost of living grants to certain categories of people on certain benefits. Although this is much welcomed in the community it does not cover the cost of gas, petrol, oil, electricity with them being very high. Lets hope things improve soon.

Mrs Mandy Dixon
TREASURER

It seems strange to be working from home, along with my monthly visit to Amber House. However thousands of civil servants are doing the same thing. Unfortunatley there is no funding for salaries etc for entities such as the Amber Community Development Agency grass root community input from a Christian caring ethos.

We were successful in applying to St Annes Cathedral Black Santa Sit out for much needed office items grant. We have gone digital via our phone and broadband provider Virgin Media. In tandem with that our gas company fitted us with a new gas meter. We also got our host on-line provider Avec Solutions to stream line our web page. We increased our yearly insurance through Marsh.

Regards to our charity commission annual return we always's pride ourselves in submitting our data 4-6 weeks early. My thanks to Trevor Aikenhead of the Methodist Church for our annual audit compilation. As we don't operate on July and August we hope in September to have our boiler maintenanced. We are again exempt from house rates but pay water rates even though we are a charity. We thank God for His protection on this West-Link peace-line for 27 years to date.

*Elizabeth Joan Bingham Dip.I.T.
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 24 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 and the project.*
 - 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 *209 Roden Street
Belfast
BT12 5QB*

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

Principal Bankers *First Trust Bank
35 University Road
Belfast
BT7 1ND*

Charity Number *NIC103302*

The Office Bearers have agreed to be in office for the next three full years from Summer 2024 – Summer 2027 which will (God Willing) be the 30th Anniversary of Amber Community Development Agency's Amber House Initiative.