

LOUGHGIEL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LTD

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

All charity trustees have read and understand the ARR02. Charity reporting and accounting: the essentials guidance produced by the Charity Commission Northern Ireland (NI). This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Loughgiel Community Association Ltd
Charity registration number	NIC103422
Company registration number	NI037243
Registered office	Loughgiel Millennium Centre Lough Road, Loughgiel, Ballymena, County Antrim, BT44 9JN

The trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024 were as follows:

Sheree Connolly (Appointed 16 August 2023)
Nicole Laverty (Appointed 20 September 2023)
Anthony Barclay (Appointed 11 September 2024, Resigned 19 January 2025)
Simone Christie (Appointed 25 October 2023, Resigned 20 January 2025)
John McKeown (Appointed 20 July 2023, Resigned 13 November 2024)
Joanne McKeown (Resigned 27 September 2023)
Jeanette McCarry (Resigned 24 May 2023)
Denise Dobbin (Resigned 18 September 2023)
Patrick McCullough (Resigned 23 September 2023)
George Robert Baker (Resigned 18 September 2023)

Management: Provided externally (Due to ongoing recruitment for an operations manager)

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Auditor AAB Group Accountants Limited
1-3 Arthur Street
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT1 4GA

Solicitors: Worthington Solicitors,
24-38 Gordon St,
Belfast BT1 2LG

Bank Bank of Ireland
2 The Diamond
Coleraine
BT52 1DE

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The contents of this report follow the requirements of the trustees' annual report for charities that prepare accruals accounts which are set out in the Charities statement of recommended Practice (Charities SORP) (FRS102).

Loughgiel Community Association's Work

Loughgiel Community Association is a company limited by guarantee whose objects are recognised as charitable by HM Revenue and Customs.

Vision and Mission:

To relieve poverty, sickness and the aged and to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parishes of Loughgiel, Co Antrim and environs without distinction or age, sex, race, political, religious or other opinion, by association the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation of other leisure time occupation, with the objective of improving the conditions of the said inhabitants. To maintain our established Community Centre and manage/cooperate with any local statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the Association.

Our activities:

Advice/advocacy/Information

Community development

Community enterprise

Education/training

Environment/sustainable development/conservation

General charitable purposes

Rural development

Volunteer development

Youth development

Governance and management structure:

Loughgiel Community Association became a company limited by guarantee in 1999 with Memorandum & Articles of Association whose objects have been recognised as charitable by HM Revenue & Customs.

On the date of approval of this report each of the persons who is a trustee were actively working on updating governance documents, policies and training. An external provider for governance training has been engaged with and the organisation will ensure training is provided as appropriate. A full governance health review is actively being worked on with the principles referred to using the Code of Good Governance document.

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In addition, work is continuing in the following areas with external expertise:

Legal compliance:

Comply with the legal framework governing charities in Northern Ireland, including the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, and any other relevant legislation or regulations. The Charity reported as legally required to the Charity Commission for NI under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 law. This law introduced in 2022 legally requires LCA to report to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on an annual basis for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2022, which Loughgiel Community Association has complied with.

Governing Document:

Our Governing document has been reviewed by BlueMoss Consulting and training is set to commence January 2025 to look at updating this document to a current and relevant state that best serves the current activities of Loughgiel Community Association Ltd.

Board of Trustees:

The board of trustees established and had reviewed a trustee induction pack. Training was provided for all trustees this year. A complete induction pack has been put together with support and documentation that provides emotional wellbeing support to the board of trustees. The board actively and tried to recruit new board members by holding an information session and directly reaching out to members of the community, using local bulletins, other community groups and social media in an attempted to recruit new board members.

Financial Management:

The board are actively implementing robust financial management systems and controls to ensure transparency, accountability and proper stewardship of the charity's resources. This includes the implementation bookkeeping software that staff have been trained on. We have engaged with third party professionals to provide a financial overview for the organisation.

Policies and Procedures:

The current trustees inherited a significant library of policies and procedures created by the former trustees and are actively working through these seeking additional third-party review where is necessary to update all current policies and procedures. All policies have been reviewed in the childcare centre and reviewed by third party statutory bodies as required.

Reporting and accountability:

This financial year reporting has been ongoing and regular updates provided to the Charity Commission for NI on the status of the organisation. A site visit to update the Charity Commission will be facilitated early January 2025.

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Continuous improvement:

The board of LCA will, going forward, regularly review and evaluate the charity's governance and management practices. Recruiting a successful operations manager is expected in February 2025 and is key to the continuous improvement of the organisation. In the absence of an operations manager the current trustees have utilised the skills of the board and other external community groups, working closely with Causeway Coast and Glens Community Development officer. LCA will continue to meet funders, stakeholders to maintain effect relationships which will be vital for the continuous improvement of the organisation. LCA will continue to consult externally when the skillset is not available internally.

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Public Benefit

The objects of the charity and its principal activity continue to be the charitable purposes of relieving poverty and promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Loughgiel and its environs. All the charity's assets are used for charitable purposes in support of this object. The Board members do not receive any monetary benefit for their role in governing the charity and as members; they are not eligible for any financial benefit from membership. In the event of any winding up of the charity its remaining assets shall be transferred to another charitable body with similar objects.

The Role of the Board of Management

The Board of Directors meets at least ten times during the year usually monthly.

The role of the Board is:

- Strategic Direction: Setting and maintaining strategy with reference to the Corporate Plan; holding the Management team to account;
- Financial Control: Approving the annual budget; monitoring expenditure with reference to the budget; adopting financial statements;
- Support: Making individual skills and experience available within the Board to the senior staff;
- Advocacy: Acting as ambassadors for the organisations and supporting the Manager in securing project funding.

Achievements and Performance

A stable management team within the childcare centre and strong employee workforce was an immediate priority of the board. The board successfully recruited a fully qualified Childcare centre Leader and appointment an appropriate Childcare Deputy Leader.

Gym2K became Hyrox affiliated as a Hyrox affiliated gym the benefits from this are increased revenue from increase in members, access to training resources and networking opportunities. It also has created a small community and support group of fellow Hyrox competitors.

The link was reestablished with Healthy Living alliance, this incoming year the centre will focus on bringing more projects and initiatives to the centre.

The walking path around the perimeter of the building is well used and continues to be utilised as a safe environment to walk and exercise. Use of this was encouraged to get community residents to participate in a daily mile programme.

Throughout the year the Education Authority continued to provide funding for Loughgiel Youth Club to assist with running costs, salaries, maintenance and equipment. The funding ensures that we can continue to provide a vital service to children from 5 – 21 years old to keep active and be involved in services in evenings during the week.

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Future Plans

The future for the Loughgiel Community Association will focus on stabilising the organisation at an overall operations level with the appointment of an operations manager. This will help foster community engagement and provided much needed operational consistency to all employees. Future plans will also focus on rebuilding the organisation following the departure of former employees. The past year, we have focused on building organisational knowledge and clarifying the responsibilities of our current staff. Significant groundwork has been carried out in taking the organisation back to the foundations, this allowed us to define the role of our future operations manager more clearly.

Future plans include reopening of the cafe. The cafe underwent an electrical panel replacement, following the panel replacement several other issues were identified and rectified. After months of diagnostic work by several professional tradesmen the Gas panel was identified as needing replaced in addition to the electrical panel. This work followed gas works where total replacement of gas piping was required following a gas certificate inspection (requested by the Board of Directors) where it was identified there were several gas leaks. The cafe is now signed off with an appropriate gas certificate and fully functional, opportunities have been explored to reopen the cafe. The revenue generated will contribute towards running cost of the centre and building a reserve.

Reserves Policy and going concern

From Year end March 2022 Loughgiel Community Association Ltd were in a position to develop a reserves policy to help with future projects, for the first time in several consecutive years.

During the Covid19 lockdowns LCA were running at a reduced capacity which allowed the organisation to build a reserve this was to help setup a redundancy reserve as well as a future project reserve. A reserves policy has since been created and is actively being worked on.

This policy is closely monitored by the Board of Trustees. Any call upon the use of reserves will be at the approval of the board of trustees which will examine the rationale for doing so and agree on an amount as appropriate.

At 31 March 2024, the charity had total funds of £1,824,243 of which £1,664,899 were designated and not available for general purposes. The charity had free reserves of £159,344 at the year end.

Disclosure of information to auditors

The Directors who held office at the date of approval of this report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charitable Company's auditors are unaware; and each Director has taken all the steps they ought to have taken as a Director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charitable Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Trustees Responsibilities statement:

The trustees (who are also the directors of Loughgiel Community Association Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

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Company law required the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the situation of the charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

Financial Review

During the year the charity had a net deficit of £112,652 (2023: £158,412). The total funds of the charity were £1,824,243 (2023: £1,936,895). Of these funds, £100,259 were classified as restricted and not available for general purposes.

- Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:
- So far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- Each trustee has taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORJ; .
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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AUDITOR

AAB Group Accountants Limited (formally FPM Accountants Ltd) are deemed to be re-appointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

On the date of approval of this report each of the persons who is a trustee can confirm that:

- The trustees are aware that relevant audit information sought by the auditors remains outstanding; and
- Each trustee has taken all reasonable steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Sheree Connolly
Director

Date: 23 January 2025

Sheree Connolly

Nicole Lavery
Director

Date: 23 January 2025

Nicole Lavery