

St Columb's Park Reconciliation Trust

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The Directors are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ending 31 March 2024 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act (NI) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (NI) 2015, Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019.)

Directors and trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are the trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees during the year and at the 31 March 2024 were as follows:

Ms Laura Canavan	
Mr Martin Doherty	
Ms Emma Johnston	(Resigned 30 May 2023)
Ms Mary McKinney	
Mr Dominic Bonner	(Appointed 25 January 2024)
Mr Stephen McCrudden	(Appointed 25 January 2024)
Ms Sarah Quilty	
Ms Eimear Willis	(Resigned 7 January 2023)
Mr Robin Young	

Objects and Activities

The Company's objects are the advancement of education and of other charitable purposes beneficial to the community in Northern Ireland (the area of benefit) and in particular, but not so as to limit the generality of the foregoing, the advancement of education in and the understanding of the different cultural traditions of the peoples of the area of benefit and the improvement of community relations in the area of benefit.

Achievements, Activities, Performance and Future Plans

The year ended 31 March 2024 has been a very busy and productive year for the Trust and House. We continue to look for new ways to build a more peaceful and shared society where everyone in our community can thrive.

Our programmes included:

- IgnYte funded by The International Fund for Ireland,
- Bloom Project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund,
- The REA Project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund,
- Fight for Myself programme based at HMP Magilligan funded by the Triangle Trust,
- Connecting Communities at the Interface based in Currynierin funded by the Rank Foundation,
- Future Leaders funded by Co-operation Ireland,
- Back Lanes Project funded by the Asset Recovery Fund,
- Moving Peace Forward funded by the International Fund for Ireland.

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Our core aims of People Place and Peace represented in all of these programmes and have made significant positive impact within our communities and for many individuals. The use of the outdoors as the platform for many of our programmes provides us with the perfect way to engage a wide range of people from across the City in a shared space. We are grateful for the support from all our funders, who entrust us with their grants to make a positive difference to the lives of the people in our communities. The work of the Trust furthers the advancement of education in and the understanding of the different cultural traditions of local people and contributes to the improvement in community relations in the local area.

Partnership building is increasingly important in these challenging times. We welcome the positive partnership we have with Derry City & Strabane District Council, as well as the many community and voluntary organisations we collaborate with. We have spent the last 12 months growing our volunteer base and it is their hard work that supports our staff team in realising our mission 'to empower local citizens to become changemakers, peace builders and community leaders'. We are indebted to this group of dedicated and committed volunteers who give so willingly of their time and energy in the development of the walled garden and wider grounds as a community green hub.

The Trust continue to develop and deliver our 5 year Strategic Plan, following on from extensive consultation and research. The Strategic Plan encapsulates much of the rich reconciliation journey travelled by the Trust to date and broadens this to incorporate a new sustainable vision where every individual who takes part in our projects embarks on a journey where they can start to realise their potential as changemakers, peacebuilders and valued citizens.

Related Parties

St. Columb's Park Reconciliation Trust Limited has a wholly owned subsidiary company (St. Columb's Park House Limited) which operates and runs the St. Columb's Park Centre for and on behalf of the Trust. It covenants all profits to St. Columb's Park Reconciliation Trust Limited for the pursuit of its charitable aims.

Results and review of the business

The company is a non-profit making organisation. The results are set out in detail on pages 10 to 29. The company returned a net movement in funds of £4,752 (2023: £3,918) after other recognised gains and

Reserves policy

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves of the company. This review encompassed the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the balance and nature of the reserves themselves. St Columb's Park Reconciliation Trust aims to maintain adequate reserves to enable us to manage financial risk and deliver on our commitments. Our Reserves Policy is to ensure that there is no disruption to our services at short notice, due to lack of funds, an unforeseen reduction in income or an increase in expenditure, while at the same time ensuring that reserves are no higher than necessary and not retained for longer than required. This gives time in the event of a drop in funding to seek alternative funds, restructure and cut costs whilst continuing to provide a service, and our aim is to maintain a level of general reserves to meet the ongoing working capital requirements of the organisation.

The Trustees have forecast the level of free reserves (that is those funds not tied up in fixed assets, and designated and restricted funds) that the charity will require to sustain its operations and meet its financial obligations over future periods.

They are satisfied that the reserves held are more than adequate for these purposes and will continue to monitor and review the funds held to ensure that the existing and future charitable activities of the organisation can be funded from its resources.

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Designated funds (unrestricted) for the group - are those unrestricted funds that have been allocated by the Trustees for specific purposes. The Trustees have designated £150,000 (2023: £135,000) of the free reserves to cover a 6 month working capital buffer facility, for potential redundancy costs and pending essential capital repair works.

Risk management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that the systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The charity trustees (who are also the Directors of the St Columb's Park Reconciliation Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the profit or loss of the company for that In preparing these the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other

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Auditors

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirm that:

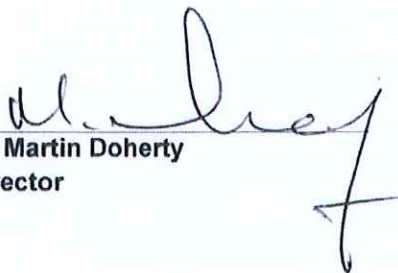
- so far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

These Financial Statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 30 September 2024 and are signed on behalf of the board by:


Mr Martin Doherty
Director