

T.A.B.B.D.A. Company Ltd.

Chairperson's Progress Report

5th December 2024

1. Introduction

The objects of TRAAD, BALLYRONAN and BALLINDERRY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION are set out in the Constitution to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of TRAAD, BALLYRONAN and BALLINDERRY district area of County Derry without distinction of sex, race or political religious or other opinions by associating with the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and provide facilities in interest of social welfare and recreation and other leisure time with the objective of improving the conditions and life for the local people.

Over the past year various activities have taken place at the Centre such as: catering for funerals, various meetings held in the Main Hall and also the upstairs Board Room by organisations including Plough On, Mid Ulster Vintage Club, LNP and MUVC. Other activities include the Pre School Play Group, Crochet Classes, Basketmaking classes, Keep Fit classes, First Aid Certificate classes, Hill Walking Club, Yoga classes, Tai Chi classes, Cross Community Carol Singing, Evangelical meetings, Bird ringing, Bird Box making, Bat Box making, Irish People, Places and Spaces and Level 2 Food Safety Certificate, Mushroom/ Foraging walks, Personal Development Classes, Baby Massage classes, Birthday Parties, Pottery Classes, Bodhran Classes, Mindfulness/Meditation Classes and there was a Drama Production, Mrs Brown's Boys" held with proceeds going to a local Autism Charity.

2. Grants awarded and applied for:

- National Lottery's People and Community Fund have funded a Ballyronan Community Covid Recovery Programme to a total of £188,971 over four years starting in May 2022. Activities include walking/hiking Club, Pilates, Irish Language, Reflexology, Bread making, Mindfulness, Basket Making, Return to Exercise, Craft classes, Pottery, Technology, Stroke Club, Indian Head Massage, Stroke Club Art Class, Flower Arranging, Emergency First Aid at work, Level 2 Food Hygiene, Bodhran Classes and Chi Me.

Clare Henry was appointed as the Project Worker but resigned in January 2023 and Liam Glavin was then appointed on 7th February 2023. Liam Glavin then resigned in December 2023 and Maire McPeake took over in early 2024.

- Mid Ulster District Council Festive Lights 2024/25 (Awarded): £2,000 for provision of Christmas lights and tree in Ballyronan. The installer of the tree and lights has informed us that they will not be able to do this again for us next year. Also there is a possibility that the lights will not be able to be turned on this year as there is a problem with the wiring to the lights. TABBDA

should reconsider whether they carry out this service on behalf of MUDC from next year on.

- Mid Ulster District Council Community Venues Grant contributed £1,500 to facilities costs in 2024. This was a reduction of £1,500 from previous years due to attendance numbers reported in the application. This will be remedied in next year's application.
- DAERA Microgrants of under £2,000. TABBDA were successful in their application to DAERA for iPads and a Laptop to be used in Community Programmes teaching the use of social media etc to help reduce social isolation in our older community.
- Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership Programme. TABBDA received funding from BCPP in 2009/2010/2013/2021/2022 and 2024 and were able to successfully establish Pharmacy Projects in the area. Over the period we were able to build on experience of running projects as we worked with many local groups. When TABBDA and Partner Pharmacist monitored and then evaluated each of the groups at the end of the projects it was agreed that the most vulnerable and needy and those who required most were older people.

During these Pharmacy Projects funded by CDHN TABBDA/Pharmacists have discovered serious inequalities in all areas of social/health providers for this vulnerable group. These inequalities are due to the geographic area, no infrastructure, isolation, loneliness causing ill health and depression therefore increasing mortality rates especially among the elderly. TABBDA ascertained that if successful in any future funding the target group would initially be solely the elderly. Also in our latest programme many of our Stroke Group attended and felt that the information gathered and practical sessions were particularly relevant to them.

There is an ongoing Programme of events which started in October 2024 where the pharmacist covers such topics as: Pain Control and Inflammatory Conditions, Food Intolerances and Gut Health, Vaccinations and Viruses, Weight Management and Smoking Cessation etc.

3. Business Units

Two of the three business units are leased with no change to occupants. The middle unit has now been equipped as a gym and has been used for exercise classes funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. The office above the Chinese Takeaway is also now leased.

4. Youth Club

The Youth Club will be reopening in late 2024 due to limited funding.

5. Summer Scheme

The Annual Summer Scheme did not take place this year due to no funding from the Education Board. Hopefully there will be a Summer Scheme next year depending on funding.

6. Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop opened very successfully from April 2024 to date. It will close over Christmas and reopen again depending on weather in February 2025.

7. Future Funding Applications

The National Lottery Community Fund grant will finish in early 2026. There are many very successful Programmes of activities and individual events which will cease to exist when this happens. The community have already expressed disappointment that this will be happening therefore it is suggested that TABBDA now explore further funding opportunities to fund the more popular activities when the Community Fund finishes.

8. Financial Arrangements

Please see accounts attached.

9. AOB