

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **Objectives and activities**

The Charity's objects are to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Castlerock and its environs (without distinction) by associating with the statutory authorities, voluntary and community organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to:

- advance community development by providing resources, facilities, support and information for community and voluntary groups and organisations and encouraging and assisting such organisations to cooperate to achieve their aims;
- promote culture, arts and heritage;
- advance education and training and provide information and advice to local inhabitants and to visitors of the area;
- promote good community relations, racial harmony, equality and diversity;
- relieve those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability or other disadvantage;
- provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said residents;
- advance environmental protection and improvement;
- advance health and promote participation in healthy recreation in particular cycling, hiking and walking.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

All the directors/trustees and supporters of the Association are volunteers.

#### **Achievements and performance**

A new Village Plan for the period 2023-2027 was developed, updating the previous Plan from 2018-23. The Village Plan was based extensive public consultations with local groups, residents and businesses to identify priorities and opportunities for the community for the next five years. The process was facilitated by Hummingbird NI following a tendering process.

#### **Railway Bridge**

Following continuous dialogue throughout the year and a meeting with the Chief Executive of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council it has been confirmed that the original bridge will be reinstalled in early 2024.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

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#### **Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme**

The Association continues to contribute to the ongoing work of the scheme by way of participation in the Project Board.

Work has continued to refine the options that comprise the Castlerock Tales and Trails Project:

- Railway Station Historic "Sea Shell" sign
- Wall Mural
- Public Realm Enhancement Project
- Beach Changing Shelter
- Public Signage and Interpretation

Implementation will take place during 2023-24

c4360 attended **Castlerock Community Associations (CCA) programme of activities and services** over the year. Attendance and feedback remains strong for **regular events**:

1. Talks of local interest and local issues
2. Craft Club
3. Book Club
4. Games Night
5. "Drop In" Coffee Mornings
6. Annual Easter Eggstravaganza
7. Annual Halloween Event
8. Christmas Elf Hunt

**Castlerock Walkfest** celebrated its 12th year and CCA acknowledges the support from the team of Volunteers that make the programme happen each year together with support from the National Trust, Translink and the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust.

"**Castlerock's Magical Christmas**" is a long tradition in the Village. CCA appreciates the support of Alistair Simpson and Sandra O'Neil in organising of this event and the Volunteers who steward. No matter the weather there is always a great turnout. The organising team of Volunteers really appreciate the support from Hezlett School, 1st Castlerock Scout Group and local businesses.

Support for the environmental project "**Live Here, Love Here**" whereby families/individuals/groups carry out ad-hoc and organised litter picks on the beach and promenade as well as elsewhere in the Village throughout the year.

There is a waiting list for **The Community Garden** project that promotes healthy eating/improvements to physical and mental wellbeing and engagement among existing users remains strong.

The **Village Beautiful** project in its 13th year plants up 120 baskets by Volunteers. CCA wishes to acknowledge the support from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for their contribution to the plants and the regular watering from their team.

A new event "**Winter Warmer**" was launched with support from NICHI to provide a warm place in the CCA Community and Visitor Information Centre and provides soup, coffee, tea and biscuits free of charge. The Winter Warmer initiative was a response to the issue of rising fuel costs and other costs.

June 2022 saw the celebration of the **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**. c1200 people, families and individuals turned up to watch the live screening of the concert and to enjoy the variety of food available. Many thanks to Alistair Simpson, Sandra O'Neill and all the Volunteers that were involved in the organisation of the event. Thanks also to local businesses especially the support of Coleraine Plant Hire and the Orange Hall.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

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Post COVID, CCA has been reviewing the purpose of **The Community and Visitor Information Centre**. The reason being that during COVID, enquiries for different services were being directed to the Directory of Services for the Northern Area which is a very comprehensive guide providing contact details for a huge spectrum of services. The Centre is now open Thursday to Saturday for general enquiries. Following the new Village Plan there will also be increased opportunities for the centre to be used as a Community Hub for other groups.

CCA wishes to formally thank all of the Volunteers that support the Association in its programme of activities and services. Additionally, thanks to local businesses, school, churches and groups that play a vital role in making things happen and of course those that participate in the events and activities

**Financial review**

The principal funding source for CCA continues to be the Village Draw, which was established in 2012 and contributes towards CCA's running costs. Where possible CCA reclaims tax through the Gift Aid scheme. CCA was awarded a Community Development Support

Grant of £3500 from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. There are no paid staff.

The Reserves Policy is reviewed on an annual basis as guided by the Charities Commission Northern Ireland. CCA has a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Controls are regularly reviewed and discussed.

**Structure, governance and management**

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

J Bradley

P B Corr

S J Hutchinson

C Joy

G McEwing

W King

(Deceased 9 June 2023)

Mr A J McGarvey

Caroline Marshall

Hannah Davies

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Trustee

18 September 2023