CAW/NELSON DRIVE ACTION GROUP

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 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 Memorandum and Articles of Association, 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

Purposes and aims

Our charity's purposes are as set out in the objects clause contained in the company's Memorandum of Association:

- to relieve poverty, sickness and the aged and to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Caw Area, Londonderry without distinction of age, gender, sexuality, ethnic origin or political, religious or other opinions by associating with the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education;
- to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving conditions of life for the said inhabitants;
- to promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined.

Who uses and benefits from our services?

Our objects and funding focus the services we provide to the community of the Caw Area. The main areas of charitable activity are in the promotion and support of local community development activities.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries. Our aims objectives and activities are reviewed, monitored and assessed through our ongoing programme of regular committee meetings. The committee is made up of individuals within the statutory, business, voluntary and community sectors.

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

Achievements and performance

Once again funding from the Lottery, DFC, PHA and other funders has allowed us to continue to provide a wide range of services, programmes and activities throughout the year. These included Crochet Classes, Creative Crafts, Painting with Oils, Quilting & Soft Furnishings, Crescent Camera Club, Driving Theory Training, GCSE Revision Classes in English and Maths, Jo-Jingles, Caw Stay & Play, Horticultural sessions, Bums & Tums, Caw Walking Club, Kids Friday Club, Older Peoples Summer Scheme, Armchair Aerobics, Caw Women's Group, Caw Men's Breakfast Club, Winter Warmers Breakfast Club, Santa's Grotto and other themed events throughout the year.

During May 2023 we ran a series of events to celebrate the King's Coronation funded by the Lottery's Awards for All programme. These included a Coronation Dance & BBQ, Picnic in the Park, Community Fun Day and Quiz Night.

The sit-in and meals-on-wheels service through Caw Luncheon Club continued 3 days per week where just over 8,000 meals were prepared and we also continued with the daily Caw Careline ring-around service which saw over 6,000 calls to elderly residents over the year to check on their health and wellbeing.

The weekly outreach services continued with the Pink Ladies Cancer Support Group, DEEDS Dementia Support Group and Carers Event also weekly appointments were provided with Advice NW from the centre for residents needing help with benefits and other welfare issues.

We were also able to provide accredited courses through the NW Regional College and these included An Introduction to Autism Awareness and Reducing Anxiety and Using a Mindful Approach with Children and Young People.

We continued to provide support to other groups in the area including Caw Football Team, Caw Community Playgroup, Caw Community Growing Space and funding for a Summer Scheme for Caw Youth Club.

Financial review

The charity has returned an overall deficit of £55,007 for the financial year, primarily due to restricted funding received in earlier years being spent. Due to Covid programmes were unable to run for a period and therefore the National Lottery Community Fund gave the charity a one year extension to use their unspent funding. Unrestricted reserves have increased by £11,355. Project income and expenditure varies from year to year depending on funding received and activities organised as a consequence. There was a fall in the core funding of the charity awarded by the Department for Communities for the year as the previous year had included back pay in respect of a salary increase. There was a significant decrease in the other source of regular funding, the National Lottery Community Fund, as the current cycle reached its conclusion and remaining funding was spent as noted above.

The Trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The reserves are required to meet the working capital requirements of the charity. The long term strategy is to continue to build reserves through planned operating surpluses. In the short term the Trustees have also considered the extent to which existing activities and expenditure could be curtailed, should circumstances arise. It is the aim of the Trustees that the unrestricted funds held by the charity should be approximately equal to 3 months' costs for key staff and associated running costs. The current level of unrestricted reserves of £67,890 is in excess of this target.

Plans for future periods

The charity plans to continue the provision of services and projects subject to maintaining on-going funding arrangements. After the year end, following consultation with local residents, an application was submitted to the National Lottery Community Fund for a further 5 years (2024-2029). This application was successful and the funding will commence on 1 April 2024.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 6 August 2007 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and HM Revenue & Customs. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association and is governed by its Articles of Association. Member's liability in the event of the company being wound up is limited to £1.

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:
Mr Robert Thompson
Ms Rose White
Ms Mildred Garfield
Ms Mary Burton
Ms Elizabeth Fields
Mr Frederick Dalzell
Ms Maureen Hamilton
Mr Allister Gault
Ms Lesley Nicholl

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association directors are elected at an Annual General Meeting from amongst those persons nominated by the Ordinary Members. The directors have the power at any time to appoint any person to be a director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing directors. Any director so appointed serves only until the next Annual General Meeting at which directors are to be elected and are then eligible for re-election. A retiring director is eligible for re-election.

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.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities
The trustees, who are also the directors of Caw/Nelson Drive Action Group for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; 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 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.

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

Ms Mildred Garfield
Trustee

Mr Robert Thompson
Trustee

15 March 2024