



## **MIDDLETOWN MARKET HOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.**

Registered Charity No NIC106036

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT.**

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

The Trustees present their Trustees Annual Report prepared in accordance with Charities SORP accompanying the independently examined financial statement for the year ending 30 June 2024.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management.**

Middletown Market House is leased to the community by the St Patrick's Diocesan Trust. The Market House was constructed in 1829 by the Trustees of the Bishop Stearne Charities. The Original building is listed and is of historical significance. A Development Committee from the community successfully obtained funding to restore the original building and extend it. It was officially opened for community use on 27 April 2001. The Middletown Market House Management Committee is responsible for making the Market House available to the community and for its maintenance. The operation of the Market House is governed by a Constitution adopted on 12 April 2002 and amended in 2017.

#### **Trustees/Committee Members.**

Members serving during this year were: -

Mr Michael McKernan (Chairman)

Ms Frances T Lavery (Secretary)

Mr Gerald Mallon (Treasurer)

Mrs Mary Donnelly

Mrs Maureen Lappin [resigned April 2024]

Mr Paddy Lappin

Mr Eamon McDonald

Mr Aidan Mallon [appointed April 2024]

**Public Address.**

Mr Gerald Mallon, 3 The Diamond, Middletown, Armagh. BT604JE

**Objectives.**

The Objectives of the charity are:-

- (a) To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Middletown and District without distinction of age, sex, sexual orientation, race, political, religious or other opinion, by associating with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and in the interests of social welfare to provide facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.
- (b) To operate, maintain and manage the Middletown Market House (whether alone or in cooperation with any local authority or other person or body) in the furtherance of these objects.

**Key Activities in this Year.**

The Trustees operate the Market House making it available to the community for running various activities involving recreation, classes, fitness/skills training and entertainment.

During the year uses were by the following groups/clubs:-

- GAA Lotto Committee
- Friendly Club
- Hurling Club
- Camogie club
- Bowls Club
- Irish dancing class
- Speech and Drama class
- Youth Club
- Football training and indoor games.
- Karate Classes
- Children's birthday parties
- Refreshments after funerals
- Ladies Night
- Presentations to under age sports people.
- Craft Fairs.

Our records and discussions with the user group indicate that there were over 3,500 people users over the year. This is still lower than before the pandemic. Use is quite light in the summer months when users take breaks and are involved in outdoor activities.

Overall the Trustees are confident that the Public Benefit including:-

- Increased sense of wellbeing for the citizens of the Middletown area,
- The creation of opportunities for social, educational and recreational activities leading to community development and welfare,
- The maintenance of a purpose built community facility.

is being achieved.

#### **Review of Business.**

Middletown Market House Management Committee incurred a business deficit of £2,500 this year, being covered by the cash reserves. This year income was from rent received and a grant. Rent receipts were down considerably which is concerning.

The Trustees continue to operate the facility efficiently with the main expenditure being on heat and light, water, insurance, wages and caretaker costs and maintenance. Costs have decreased by approximately 24% reflecting lesser usage and more favourable fuel costs. Our policy has been to encourage greater use and avoid having to increase rental rates to cover increasing costs as this could be counterproductive.

#### **Reserves Policy.**

Middletown Market House Management Committee have a Reserves Policy which requires the maintenance of sufficient cash reserves to be able to operate during a period where rent received is reduced or nonexistent or big items of maintenance arise.

#### **Future Plans**

As the operation of the extended and refurbished Market House has passed 23 years of operation the Trustees recognise that certain maintenance needs will arise. Needs will be continuously evaluated and action taken as required bearing in mind the need for value for money and at the same time ensure the maintenance of sufficient reserves..

Feedback from users is considered by the Trustees and requests for additional use of the facilities will be accommodated where space is available.

#### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES.**

For the year ending 30 June 2024.

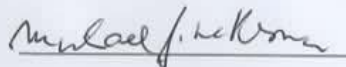
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with all appropriate regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the detection of fraud and other irregularities.

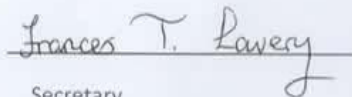
In so far as the Trustees are aware:-

- There is no relevant information (information needed by the charity's independent examiner in connection with preparing the independent examiner's report) of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware, and
- The trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant independent examiner information and to establish the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustees for submission to the Charities Commission (NI)



Chairman



Secretary