

**UPPERLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LTD
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 30 September 2023.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

UPPERLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LTD

The Linenhall Centre
67 Kilrea Road
Upperlands

Company Registered by Guarantee Northern Ireland (NIC 106111)
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC032234)

TRUSTEES

D Lamont
M R O'Kane
G McIlwaine
G Kirkpatrick
A Kirkpatrick
D Leacock (Resigned 7 March 2023)
L Rowe (Resigned 15 November 2022)
W Montgomery
M McAlary (Appointed 13 June 2023)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Simon Hopper FCA
Hopper & Co
6 Doagh Road
Ballyclare
BT39 9BG

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

We work with local community, statutory authorities, voluntary and other organisations to provide services for children and young people, adults and to ensure older people are supported and socially included. To support economic activity and job creation. To improve health and wellbeing of the entire community, building cross community relations and to provide art, leisure and recreation activities for the community.

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STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The company is run by a board of Trustees who are also the directors of the company. It is governed by its Memorandum & Articles of Association.

The Trustees work with a team of dedicated volunteers and have in the past worked with the probation board, the local jobcentre and network personnel to help those who have been long term unemployed get back to work and work/train with the company to prepare them for back to work.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The principal activity of the company is to facilitate the improvement and development of social and economic conditions for the people living in the Upperlands area. The company works with local community, statutory authorities, voluntary and other organisations to provide services for children and young people, adults and ensures older people are supported and socially included. The company also aims to support economic activity and job creation, to improve health and wellbeing of the entire community, building cross community relations and to provide art, leisure and recreation activities for the community.

The company's centre includes a large hall, small hall and board room and is used by local and surrounding communities for events, classes and meetings, church groups, youth club, afterschools club etc. A weekly luncheon club for the elderly is run by the centre.

Other recent activities include set up of a mental health group, a couch to 5K fitness and wellbeing programme, Christmas tree switch on event, 4th of July cultural celebration and a visitor centre cultural programme.

Public Benefit

The direct benefits flowing from the organisations purposes are to ease the social and rural isolation that many suffer in the village locally, help the aged, help health, mental and social wellbeing, bringing everyone together, offering opportunities regardless of background. These are demonstrated in many ways throughout the year we hold events and classes where people from a wide range of backgrounds have the chance to meet and form lasting friendships.

We also allow other groups and charities to use our hall as well as locally residents to hold community events. We have a visitor centre and coffee shop that allows a central meeting place for community members regardless of background. We offer assistance and guidance to anyone who needs it and try to point them in the right direction to solve their problems if we can't. We run a weekly luncheon club for the elderly where they get a subsidised meal (some of these people are very socially isolated and this is one of the few occasions they get a chance to go out). We also hold crafts, seasonal events, healthy eating days and bus trips for this group. We run cross community bus trips locally with Granaghan Women's group in Swatragh. We offer volunteering opportunities to all regardless of background.

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There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. The charities beneficiaries are a wide range of local and neighbouring community members regardless of their background, people who are older, youth, adults, people with mental health issues, people who are socially isolated, people who are struggling to get back to work etc. There is no private benefit.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

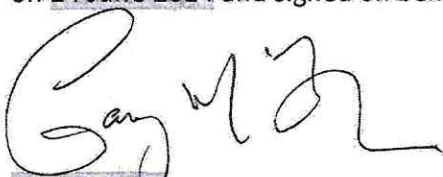
ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The company normally runs well supported community events, craft fairs, summer markets, Christmas Tree Switch on and Halloween parties etc. However due to the global pandemic all 'in person' activities ceased. UCDC were involved in delivering food parcels, meals on wheels, prescription collection and delivery, delivering craft packs for the children and a virtual Christmas light switch on. The centre also has units and industrial workshops available to rent at very competitive rates and we have helped a number of small businesses with start-up advice etc. The company also owns the Flax Coffee Shop and Flax Visitor Centre which are assets to the community and the Trustees feel that these help ease high levels of social isolation giving people central community meeting places.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity's results show an excess of expenditure over income for the year. Despite this the unrestricted reserves are still comfortably in excess of 12 months expenditure. Unrestricted reserves at 30 September 2023 amounted to £65,339. (2022 - £71,072, while restricted reserves amounted to £387,059. (2022 - £403,222).

The trustees' annual report (incorporating the directors' report) and the strategic report were approved on 24 June 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



G McIlwaine

Director & Trustee