

# Rathfern Community Regeneration Group

## Trustees' 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 31 March 2023.

### Objectives and activities

#### *Objects and aims*

The charity's objective is that all residents living in the Macedon ward of Newtownabbey enjoy a high quality of life, are able to achieve their economic, social and educational goals, and are part of a strong, prosperous and caring community. In order to achieve its objectives the charity aims to:

- manage a community building which provides high quality facilities and a range of activities which are accessible to the local community
- continuously develop and update the building to meet the changing needs of the users
- develop activities that increase participation in civic life including opportunities for self-development, volunteering and involvement in local decision-making.

#### *Public benefit*

The charity has added value by increasing the quality of life for residents in Rathfern. It has developed a master plan for the area as a whole working with the community through community consultation and public meetings. Programmes are run which develop employability skills, build social cohesion, improve the general area and empower those living in the area to create a better environment in which to live. The centre is becoming the focal point for community activities and is used by a wide range of users and statutory bodies. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council contributes to the running costs of new and existing community projects in line with Council's Community Development grant aid programme.

#### **Achievements and performance**

We started this financial year with the upheaval and disturbance involved in having the new extension built. However we came through with flying colours and lost the minimum of revenue due to the reduction in room hire. We used the time to look inwardly at what our needs were and how we could change to rectify the financial situation during that financial year and what grants we could bring in to help our situation. We have received £4,655 from the Community Employment Animation Fund to fund the CSR Card training and the First Aid Course which will help people get back to work again. Another application was made to Living Spaces and Places to the value of £3,700 and was awarded in March 2023 for some remedial works outside to ensure our application for Green Flag Status can again be successful. We also received support from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council of £1,620 for a Rathfern Exploring Identity Course. We further received our Block grant of £30,000. This figure increased to £45,000 and was negotiated in a January 2023 proposal and ratified in a March 2023 Council meeting. We wish to take this opportunity to thank Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council for their ongoing Partnership and also The Local Community Fund/Big Lottery for their funding for the next three years.

We can all agree that we had a pretty successful year indeed, with further additional works to inside and outside to make sure our centre is clean and kept in good order, the members of staff are helpful & friendly and together we can deliver a very good project. We started the year off with five staff members we now have two additional reception staff and one Community Mentor for the Rathfern Junior Hill Wardens which has increased staff members to eight.

We have also had another successful year assisting our community through the Christmas Festival programme, accommodating new and emerging groups by way of providing rooms free of charge, operating the Youth Club two nights per week, the Homework Club two afternoons a week and the Art Class every Tuesday. Last but not least, our over fifties Coffee mornings continue to be a success each Monday morning and means that we comply fully to the aspirations set out by the Board of Directors.

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#### Financial review

The charity had an overall deficit of £31,233 in the year. Restricted reserves had been built up since Covid-19, with a lot of these being used during the year. The charity's principal sources of funding sources of funding in the period were:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Children in Need

#### Plans for future periods

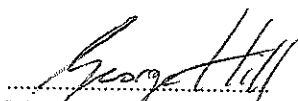
##### *Aims and key objectives for future periods*

Again we had to engage with the Local Community Fund with regards to a new application to cover the Youth Programme and Staffing our Youth Workers Team for the next three years. After months of engagement and making the necessary changes to the application we were notified on 29th March 2023 that the application for £260,840 was successful (but paid in instalments).

#### Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 19 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr George Hill  
Trustee