

Registered number: 03320404
Charity number: 1061531

Rural Action Derbyshire

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2023



Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

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Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Trustees	Mr M J Haynes, Treasurer Ms J Hirst (resigned 23 November 2022) Mr S G Taylor, Chair (resigned as Chair 25/04/2023) Mr R N E Walsh Mr P H Coates (resigned 23 November 2022) Mrs A W Montacute, Vice Chair (appointed Chair 25/04/2023) Mrs A Wheelton Ms V E Broom Mr R A Bennett Ms F J Brookes Mr W Tudor Jones, Vice Chair (appointed 25/04/2023)
Company registered number	03320404
Charity registered number	1061531
Registered office	Town Hall Bank Road Matlock DE4 3NN
Chief executive officer	Ms B Parker
Accountants	Dains Audit Limited Suite 2, Albion House 2 Etruria Office Village Forge Lane Stoke on Trent Staffordshire ST1 5RQ

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

Rural Action Derbyshire's aim is to ensure the well-being of the people who live and work in rural Derbyshire and that they are not unduly disadvantaged.

Their mission statement is:

We believe that no-one should be unfairly disadvantaged because they live in a rural area.

Their strategic objectives are:

- To help remove barriers that prevent people from taking up opportunities, living well and participating in daily life.
- To enable communities to develop more control, protect and develop community assets, and build resilience and community spirit.
- To address rural disadvantage, particularly for vulnerable or low-income groups.
- To support rural economic development and sustainable rural communities.
- To grow and develop Rural Action Derbyshire to secure its future sustainability.

It does this:

- By providing direct services to help people and groups in rural communities.
- By raising awareness of the issues faced by rural communities.

Rural Action Derbyshire is one of 38 rural community councils in England and is a member of Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE).

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

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Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Chair's Statement

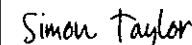
Rural Action Derbyshire's (RAD's) financial year to March 2023 was against a backdrop of severe pressures on the cost of living across the UK. These stresses on household budgets were laid bare in a report from the Office for National Statistics for that month. For the year to March 2023, CPI was 10.1%, food inflation was the highest in 45 years at 19.2% and energy prices had increased by 40.5% over the year.

One very positive aspect for RAD is that these challenges, specifically food availability, fuel poverty and the access to services have been at the heart of what we do for many years. For example, our work leading the Feeding Derbyshire project across the county; running the Oil Buying Scheme or rolling out the Financial and Digital Inclusion projects all address these social issues head-on. In addition, our work around community buildings, Wheels to Work, rural domestic abuse and suicide awareness, all buttress the resilience of individuals and communities to the challenges.

As I said in my comments in last year's annual report, RAD's mantra is to keep focussed on these issues and make sure that we give the highest quality support to the individuals and organisations with which we have contact.

Despite being well positioned and punching above our weight, the negative aspect for RAD of the current economic landscape is that we are facing huge growth in the need for our services.

I stepped down as Chair of trustees in March 2023 after 4 years and, I am pleased to say, remain a trustee. I am delighted that the former vice-chair, Angela Montacute, was voted by the trustees to replace me and is joined by Will Tudor Jones as vice-chair. Between them, they have executive level experience in, respectively, international finance and the NHS so are a perfect combination to lead the Board in supporting the ethos, operation and development of RAD.


DocuSigned by:

305733598338467...
Simon Taylor
Chair

Chief Executive's Report

It has been a year of much change within the staffing team and whilst it is sad to see people leaving for pastures new, every person who joins us brings new skills and experience to the team. We said goodbye to Skye Peat, Samantha Mumby-Harrison, Laura Mitchell and Sally Salisbury during the year. Helena Stubbs, our long-standing Community Buildings Adviser, retired in March 2023 after more than 20 years' service. We thank them all for their contribution and wish them every success for the future.

We were joined by Iona Peat and Kevin Fleming in early 2022 and five new staff were recruited to join in April/May 23. Two trustees stood down during the year - Julie Hirst, who left after 14 year service and Phil Coates. We will be recruiting for new trustees and look forward to welcoming new members to the Board.

The staff team have faced many challenges during the year and have worked so hard to help as many people as possible. Whilst it is heartening to be able to offer support to families and individuals at difficult times in their life, we recognise that it can be hard to hear their stories and not be emotionally affected. I join the Board in saluting them for their kindness, strength and expertise, and thank them for their loyalty and service to the rural community in Derbyshire.

DocuSigned by:

50EPEE58307474
Beverley Parker
CEO

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit

Aim: To help remove barriers that prevent people from taking up opportunities, living well and participating in daily life.

Wheels to Work

Lack of rail & bus provision between key destinations and no subsidies in rural areas means access to work, apprenticeships and training is significantly more expensive than in urban areas and makes rural residents more reliant on cars. The Department for Transport found that 50% of rural people live in areas with the poorest accessibility to services.

Now in its 19th year, Wheels to Work breaks down barriers through providing bicycles, e-bikes and mopeds for those in need. The demand for this support is arguably higher than ever. Over the past year, we have helped 50 new beneficiaries - averaging 4 per month.

We are consistently increasing our presence within the community - with the Wheels to Work team attending 20 face-to-face events in the last 12 months, up significantly from the year before.

Further to this, we launched the Peaks & Dales E-Bike Holiday Hire Scheme in July 2022, which offers green transport options for those on holiday in our county - helping to make tourism in Derbyshire more sustainable and raise extra funds for our crucial transport work.

Our most recent survey of programme leavers found that:

- 81% of beneficiaries felt happier and less isolated
- 72% of beneficiaries felt more independent.
- 100% were still in work or education.

Digital Support Derbyshire

Whether it's accessing your bank account, chatting to friends or family, or getting the supermarket shop delivered to your door, we're living in an increasingly digital world. This is especially the case after the COVID pandemic, which, as Citizens Online puts it, caused "more services to move online and become 'digital by default'". In short, if you're not connected, you're missing out.

Yet this remains the reality for many across rural Derbyshire. Poor access to reliable broadband and a lack of information on how to get started with technology continue to act as barriers to accessing the opportunities the virtual sphere can provide. In fact, as many as 62,000 residents in Derbyshire have still never used the internet.

Digital Support Derbyshire aims to reduce the county's digital divide by creating a network dedicated to helping people connect safely with their communities. This network now consists of over 190 individuals committed in some way to tackling this divide, including our Digital Champions - who have received training to provide the necessary guidance to get more than 70 people online.

We have also launched an interactive Digital Inclusion Referral Map alongside Citizens Online, which shows the venues that enable residents to get online cheaply and easily - making it simple for referral agencies, community organisations, and the general public to discover the range of support currently available across the county.

And, for those who are already online, we offer useful tools to protect against viruses, scams and everything in between.

"It is wonderful to have someone who can help me out with the internet."

Louise, Digital Inclusion Derbyshire Beneficiary

Rural Action Derbyshire
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Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Aim: To enable communities to develop more control, protect and develop community assets and build resilience and community spirit.

Community Buildings Advisory Service

For over a century, community buildings have acted as vital social hubs for rural people. In fact, research by ACRE has found that in 60% of villages, community halls are the only place for people to meet in the area. Yet these hubs are facing growing challenges post-covid, with volunteers finding it difficult to deal with the financial and operational impacts of such a difficult period.

We provide vital advice, guidance and resources through our long-running Community Buildings Advisory Service - making sure village halls can continue to act as pillars within their communities.

In the past year alone, we have assisted village hall committees with 132 enquiries, providing advice on everything from funding applications to policy regulations. Further to this, we have provided regular updates on the issues affecting community buildings, sending out 19 informative e- bulletins.

"Thank you for all your bulletins and information, it has been invaluable."
Christine, Community Building Committee Member

Suicide Awareness

Mental health issues affect people of all ages in Derbyshire - with over 128,000 adults suffering with anxiety. Sometimes, these issues can prove too challenging, with the latest figures recording 80* suicides across the county in 2021 (not including Derby city). 78% of suicides were men.

Relationships breaking down, separation from children, job loss, addiction, lack of close friendships loneliness and being unable to open up can be factors that lead to suicidal thoughts.

We have provided suicide awareness training to 185 people over the past year, with the aim of building groups and individuals' awareness and understanding of suicide, addressing stigma, and providing details of resources and services available to those in need. This has equipped participants with the necessary skills to support people at risk of suicide, or those who have been affected by death by suicide.

In total, we have trained 1,774 individuals, covering every district of the county - including the hardest-to-reach areas with the highest levels of social isolation. This includes many working in the agricultural sector, which has a disproportionately high rate of suicide.

While Rural Action Derbyshire will no longer oversee Derbyshire County Council's suicide awareness work going forward, our partnership has been an incredibly fruitful one.

100% of participants rated our suicide awareness training courses as "good" or "very good".

Aim: To address rural disadvantage particularly for vulnerable, marginalised or low-income groups.

The Willow Project

Domestic abuse is still alarmingly prevalent throughout the country. Every year, 2.4 million adults experience abuse across the UK, according to The Crime Survey for England and Wales. In rural areas, this abuse can last 25% longer than in cities, as many victims are isolated and cut off from support services, and are living in "traditional, patriarchal communities that control and subjugate women", according to the National Rural Crime Network.

Our domestic abuse awareness training informs participants of the signs of the abuse and provides advice on how to help those who may be in need. In the past year, we have trained over 200 people across the county both online and face-to-face.

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Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Further to this, we have a network of 25 Willow Project Champions, who use their compassion and empathy to raise awareness of issues around domestic abuse in their local areas. We have also attended 4 shows and have a bi-weekly presence at Bakewell Market, helping to make sure that we are consistently active and visible within rural communities.

Finally, through digital channels and social media such as Instagram and Twitter we are reaching new, younger audiences to inform them of support networks available for victims - with our Twitter account alone attracting over 1,300 followers.

"The training was engaging, thought-provoking, and carefully thought through."
Jenny - Willow Project Champion

Feeding Derbyshire

With the cost of groceries rising by just under 20% in the past year, according to Government figures, an increasing number have been forced to rely on food banks for their weekly meals. This challenge is even more pressing in rural communities, where there is often a lack of budget supermarkets and cheaper alternatives. As a result, in some areas of Derbyshire, food bank demand more than doubled in the year.

Our Feeding Derbyshire team have established an Affordable Food Network, which consists of 8 community pantries across the county. These are community-run, member-based stores selling nutritious food and groceries for a fraction of the cost of a supermarket shop. We have welcomed 4 new pantries to the Network in 2022/23, with our membership almost tripling - from 874 to 2,327. A further 3 pantries are set to join imminently.

One of our community pantries, Gussie's Kitchen in Chesterfield, has 120 members. If they were to use the pantry for their weekly shop, the collective saving would be £180,000 per year.

Fuel Poverty

Rising energy bills have affected people across the country, but they have proven even more challenging for the 67,000 Derbyshire households living off the mains gas grid - with as many as 40% of properties in the Derbyshire Dales relying on oil, coal, or liquid petroleum gas (LPG) to warm their homes.

For those off mains gas, there are no price protections, meaning costs could climb to unsustainable heights; in some cases, bills soared by over 200% in just over a year.

While there may be no formal methods for protecting off-gas households, RAD's collective bargaining power through our Community Oil Buying Scheme helps to drive down costs to more manageable levels.

Last year, we saved our 797 customers up to 25 pence per litre on their oil by negotiating with supplier. 159 new members joined the scheme, and we ordered 495,234 litres of oil, collectively saving £50,000. We helped 11 households with an emergency delivery of oil through our Oil Bank.

This emergency support extended further through several key channels: Supported by the British Gas Energy Fund, RAD offered one-off sums of up to £150 towards cost of oil, LPG, wood or coal; and thanks to the generosity of Homefire and Feeding Britain, we were able to provide supplies of smokeless coal to those relying on solid fuel.

We also raised the issue of energy poverty through the likes of BBC Radio 4 and the national BBC News - reaching audiences of over 6 million. This helped to grow the membership of our Community Oil Buying Scheme by 32%.

Our work around fuel poverty was recognised at the countrywide level, with our oil buying lead, Emma Simpson, receiving a prize at National Energy Action's Energy Crisis Recognition Awards.

Rural Action Derbyshire
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Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Aim: To support rural economic and community development

Derbyshire is a predominantly rural county with 77% of the area classed as rural. Rural areas present particular challenges from an economic development perspective and Rural Action Derbyshire understands these challenges well. We are a key partner with statutory and private sector economic partnerships and a source of knowledge and insight into rural communities. New government funding targeted at rural areas as part of Shared Prosperity Funds was awarded to five district councils in the county through the Rural England Prosperity Fund. The CEO has been invited to serve on grant decision making panels in Derbyshire Dales, South Derbyshire and Bolsover. This new funding will support rural businesses and social enterprises to grow and develop. We have been working with local authority partners to promote opportunities and encourage applications. This is important as a diverse and sustainable rural economy is vital to address issues such as low wages, high cost of living and divided communities.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

Unrestricted Funds

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted reserves, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level that equates to approximately three months of total expenditure. As at 31 March 2023 free reserves amount to £141,339 (2022: £197,185). The charity has carried higher levels of unrestricted funds due to a property sale in previous years. The majority of the funds are set aside as designated funds to cover future redundancy liability and to cover the pension liability risk outlined in note 19.

Restricted Funds

Sufficient reserves should be retained under each of the restricted reserves to meet the company's obligations under that fund.

Quarterly management information is presented to the Management Board and there are four formal board meetings each year. Sub-committees are called between the Board Meetings to consider issues as and when they arise. In addition, the Chairperson has regular contact with the Chief Executive Officer, the Treasurer and the Finance Manager.

Grant Making

Rural Action Derbyshire is not a grant-making body but sometimes it is asked to administer small grant funds on behalf of funders.

Funders

The company directors wish to thank all those who contributed to the company's income in 2022/23. A list of the principal funders may be found on the last page of this report. Their support is greatly valued.

Rural Action Derbyshire
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Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Established in 1924, Rural Action Derbyshire, formerly Derbyshire Rural Community Council, is an independent organisation and registered charity operating across the county. Its legal name is Rural Action Derbyshire which is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act, and is also registered as a charity. The company was formed to take over the charitable activities of Derbyshire Rural Community Council and did so with effect from 1 April 1997.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The company's Articles of Association require the Board to consist of such honorary officers and other members as shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

All the company directors (Trustees) hold office for a minimum term of three years to a maximum term of nine years. Any member of Rural Action Derbyshire can also stand for election as a company director provided he/she is properly nominated and seconded by other members.

Company directors (Trustees) holding office during the period are listed on page 1 of this report. None of the company directors has a service contract with the company.

c. Financial risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees have implemented a risk management strategy which comprises:

- A quarterly review of the risks which the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise potential impact on the charity should any of the risks materialise.

Rural Action Derbyshire
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Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

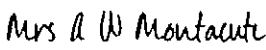
The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

B88910198C99411...
Mrs A W Montacute
Chair of Trustees
Date: 13.11.23

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent examiner's report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Rural Action Derbyshire ('the charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rural Action Derbyshire
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Independent examiner's report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Use of this report

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.



Signed:

Dated: 13-11-23

Simon Hawkins FCA

Dains Audit Limited
Suite, Albion House
2 Etruria Village
Forge Lane
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 5RQ

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,865	5,122	6,987	51,623
Charitable activities	4	83,128	642,269	725,397	885,913
Investments	5	2,844	-	2,844	1,446
Total income		87,837	647,391	735,228	938,982
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	161,132	630,392	791,524	931,219
Total expenditure		161,132	630,392	791,524	931,219
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		(73,295)	16,999	(56,296)	7,763
Other recognised gains:					
Other gains	19	17,449	-	17,449	-
Net movement in funds		(55,846)	16,999	(38,847)	7,763
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		197,185	437,784	634,969	627,206
Net movement in funds		(55,846)	16,999	(38,847)	7,763
Total funds carried forward		141,339	454,783	596,122	634,969

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 16 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

Rural Action Derbyshire
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Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors	11	49,376	33,434
Cash at bank and in hand		666,490	696,001
		<u>715,866</u>	<u>729,435</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(84,379)	(28,623)
Net current assets		<u>631,487</u>	<u>700,812</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>631,487</u>	<u>700,812</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(30,747)	(41,022)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>600,740</u>	<u>659,790</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	(4,618)	(24,821)
Total net assets		<u><u>596,122</u></u>	<u><u>634,969</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	14	454,783	437,784
Unrestricted funds	14	141,339	197,185
Total funds		<u><u>596,122</u></u>	<u><u>634,969</u></u>

Registered number: 03320404

Rural Action Derbyshire
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Balance sheet (continued)
As at 31 March 2023

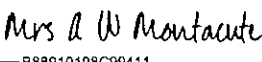
The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

B88910198C99411...
Mrs A W Montacute
Chair of Trustees
Date: 13.11.23

Registered number: 03320404

The notes on pages 16 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(21,622)	(17,229)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	2,844	1,446
Net cash provided by investing activities	2,844	1,446
Cash flows from financing activities		
Repayments of borrowing	(10,733)	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities	(10,733)	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(29,511)	(15,783)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	696,001	711,784
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	666,490	696,001

The notes on pages 16 to 32 form part of these financial statements

Rural Action Derbyshire
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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. General information

Rural Action Derbyshire is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. Its registered office is Town Hall, Bank Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3NN.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Rural Action Derbyshire meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from the signing of these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfillment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2.7 Pensions

The company makes pension contributions to The Pension Trust's Growth Plan, a multi-employer defined benefits scheme, the assets of which are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. Normal contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) in the period in which they are payable to the scheme. The pension liability is the responsibility of the Pensions Trust which has identified the assets/liabilities of the scheme that are attributable to the charity. The pension surplus/(deficit) is calculated based on the net present value of future deficit payments over a set term which is currently 9 years as required by FRS 102.

The unwinding of the discount is treated as an interest expense within the SOFA and gains/losses on re-measurement of the surplus/deficit are shown within the SOFA under other recognised gains and losses.

The company also makes pension contributions to personal pension plans as appropriate to the employee. Contributions are charged to the SOFA when due.

2.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.9 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.11 Liabilities

Liabilities and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

2.12 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	1,865	5,122	6,987

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	1,997	49,626	51,623

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Project income, funding agreements and grants	75,806	641,605	717,411
Earned income	7,322	664	7,986
	83,128	642,269	725,397

Included in restricted funds for 2023 is an amount of £nil received from the Big Lottery Fund for Rural Accessibility.

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Project income, funding agreements and grants	96,586	770,546	867,132
Earned income	18,746	35	18,781
	115,332	770,581	885,913

Included in restricted funds for 2022 is an amount of £52,926 received from the Big Lottery Fund for Rural Accessibility.

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Notes to the financial statements
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5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Bank interest received	2,844	2,844

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank interest received	1,446	1,446

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Charitable activities	161,132	630,392	791,524

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Charitable activities	117,926	813,293	931,219

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Notes to the financial statements
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7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Charitable activities	695,188	96,336	791,524

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Charitable activities	851,929	79,290	931,219

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	413,616	314,308
Rural Accessibility	120,035	135,930
Grants & Donations	78,501	264,977
Travel	2,632	3,739
Freelance & Consultancy fees	46,944	52,604
Affiliation fees	7,728	20,594
Publicity	13,570	15,779
Community Development	12,162	43,998
	695,188	851,929

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Notes to the financial statements
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7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Premises and office costs	22,307	22,639
Staff Training	2,541	1,507
Bank charges and interest	1,391	283
Insurance	4,233	3,608
Irrecoverable VAT	14,911	6,136
IT & Professional Fees	45,926	37,442
Governance costs	5,027	7,675
	<u>96,336</u>	<u>79,290</u>

8. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the charity's annual accounts	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,350</u>

9. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	368,244	281,568
Social security costs	25,632	18,182
Contribution to defined benefit pension schemes	19,740	14,558
	<u>413,616</u>	<u>314,308</u>

During the year, redundancy payments totalling £16,923 (2022: £nil) were made to 2 individuals.

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

2023 No.	2022 No.
<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

9. Staff costs (continued)

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Key Management Remuneration

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employment benefits of the key management personnel were £49,528 (2022: £47,017).

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

11. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	5,113	5,045
Other debtors	172	-
Prepayments and accrued income	44,091	28,389
	<u>49,376</u>	<u>33,434</u>

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	9,747	8,978
Trade creditors	48,760	3,532
Other taxation and social security	-	512
Other creditors	10,321	7,512
Accruals and deferred income	15,551	8,089
	<u>84,379</u>	<u>28,623</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans	30,747	41,022
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

Included within the above are amounts falling due as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Between one and five years		
Bank loans	30,747	41,022
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	197,185	87,837	(161,132)	17,449	141,339
Restricted funds					
Suicide and self-harm awareness	14,746	18,229	(20,917)	-	12,058
3D	412	-	(89)	-	323
Wheels 2 Work	279,004	145,377	(280,562)	-	143,819
Rural Poverty	148,610	328,604	(233,393)	-	243,821
Rural Chaplaincy	129	144	(273)	-	-
Digital Champions	3,483	65,011	(39,647)	-	28,847
Willow Project	(10,732)	60,775	(45,880)	-	4,163
Hardship Fund	2,132	27,214	(9,615)	-	19,731
Oil Bank	-	2,037	(16)	-	2,021
	437,784	647,391	(630,392)	-	454,783
Total of funds	634,969	735,228	(791,524)	17,449	596,122

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Notes to the financial statements
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14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	196,336	118,775	(117,926)	197,185
Restricted funds				
Suicide and self-harm awareness	12,110	20,562	(17,926)	14,746
3D	472	-	(60)	412
Wheels 2 Work	336,637	194,902	(252,535)	279,004
Rural Poverty	23,267	540,338	(414,995)	148,610
Rural Chaplaincy	29,840	41,878	(71,589)	129
Digital Champions	5,323	-	(1,840)	3,483
Willow Project	6,970	20,050	(37,752)	(10,732)
Hardship Fund	16,251	2,477	(16,596)	2,132
	<u>430,870</u>	<u>820,207</u>	<u>(813,293)</u>	<u>437,784</u>
Total of funds	<u>627,206</u>	<u>938,982</u>	<u>(931,219)</u>	<u>634,969</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
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14. Statement of funds (continued)

Unrestricted Funds

General Funds

The general funds represent the unrestricted funds of the charity that are not designated for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds

Suicide and self-harm awareness

Funding to raise awareness surrounding suicide and self-harm.

3D

Support for Derbyshire Voluntary sector infrastructure.

Wheels 2 Work

Funding to support access to transport.

Rural Poverty

Funding to help deliver agreed financial inclusion and food poverty projects.

Rural Chaplaincy

Funding to promote rural Chaplaincy support in Derbyshire.

Digital Champions

Funding to support communities in becoming more digitally inclusive.

Willow Project

To deliver rural domestic abuse awareness training and events in Derbyshire.

Hardship Fund

Rural hardship fund provides one-off small grants to people in rural areas who have suffered difficulties because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Oil Bank

To provide a one-off delivery of heating oil to those in fuel crisis.

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Current assets	261,083	454,783	715,866
Creditors due within one year	(84,379)	-	(84,379)
Creditors due in more than one year	(30,747)	-	(30,747)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(4,618)	-	(4,618)
Total	141,339	454,783	596,122

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15. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Current assets	291,651	437,784	729,435
Creditors due within one year	(28,623)	-	(28,623)
Creditors due in more than one year	(41,022)	-	(41,022)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(24,821)	-	(24,821)
Total	197,185	437,784	634,969

16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(56,296)	7,763
Adjustments for:		
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(15,942)	(10,246)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	54,987	(4,838)
Interest from investments	(2,844)	(1,446)
Loan interest	1,227	-
Contributions to pension deficit	(2,754)	(8,462)
Net cash used in operating activities	(21,622)	(17,229)

17. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	666,490	696,001
Total cash and cash equivalents	666,490	696,001

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18. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	Other non- cash changes	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	696,001	(29,511)	-	666,490
Debt due within 1 year	(8,978)	10,648	(11,417)	(9,747)
Debt due after 1 year	(41,022)	-	10,275	(30,747)
	<u>646,001</u>	<u>(18,863)</u>	<u>(1,142)</u>	<u>625,996</u>

19. Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined benefit pension scheme. However, the scheme is a multiple employer scheme and the charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities.

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the multiple employer scheme was carried out at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Total deficit contributions for the multiple employer scheme.
 From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Total deficit contributions for multiple employer scheme
 From 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2025: £11,243,000 per annum (payable monthly and increasing by 3% each on 1st April)

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19. Pension commitments (continued)

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

	2023 £	2022 £
Present values of provision		
Present value of provision	4,408	24,821
	<u>4,408</u>	<u>24,821</u>
	2023 £	2022 £
Reconciliation of opening and closing provision		
Provision at the start of period	24,821	33,283
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	323	-
Deficit contribution paid	(2,479)	(8,462)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	(277)	-
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	(17,980)	-
	<u>4,408</u>	<u>24,821</u>

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	2023 £	2022 £
Deficit contributions schedule		
Interest expense	323	-
Remeasurements – impact of any change in assumptions	(277)	-
Remeasurements – amendments to the contribution schedule	17,980	-
Contributions paid in respect of future service*	-	-
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

*includes defined contribution schemes and future service contributions (i.e. excluding any deficit reduction payments) to defined benefit schemes which are treated as defined contribution schemes.

Rate of discount

2023: 5.52%

2022: 2.35%

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

	2023 £	2022 £
Year 1	2,519	8,675
Year 2	2,099	8,935
Year 3	-	7,670
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	4,618	25,280
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The company must recognise a liability measured as the present value of the contributions payable that arise from the deficit recovery agreement and the resulting expense in the income and expenditure account i.e. the unwinding of the discount rate as a finance cost in the period in which it arises.

20. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2023 the charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Land and Buildings		
Not later than 1 year	4,000	12,060
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	4,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	4,000	16,060
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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21. Related party transactions

The charity has had no related party transactions during the year.

22. Main Funders 2022 - 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Action for Communities in Rural England	-	1,000
Amber Valley Borough Council	-	2,540
Bolsover District Council	2,265	2,265
Department for Environmental Food and Rural Affairs	44,200	44,700
Derbyshire County Council	412,102	635,689
Derbyshire Dales District Council	4,452	4,542
Derby & Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group	-	5,633
Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner	60,000	20,000
Donations to Covid 19 Fund	-	1,624
Donations to Hardship Fund	2,085	1,683
Donations to Food and Fuel Poverty	2,482	12,498
Donations to Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy	-	6,714
European Social Fund (University of Derby)	-	12,129
Feeding Britain	10,000	21,000
Foundation Derbyshire	2,000	19,929
Methodist Church Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire District	-	20,200
Mugginton Parochial Church Council	-	5,000
National Association for Voluntary and Community Action VCSEP	-	1,500
National Lottery Community Fund/Big Lottery Fund	-	52,926
North East Derbyshire District Council	2,000	2,000
South Derbyshire District Council	5,336	5,232
St Barnabas Church	-	1,200
Streetgames	49,664	-
British Gas Energy Trust	5,129	-
NHS Charities Together	65,011	-