

Registered number: 03327628  
Charity number: 1061538

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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<b>Trustees</b>	C Barker J M Barnes B S George P Grayson, Chair Cllr T Hill Rev S C Holroyd (resigned 29 September 2022) I J Kelly (resigned 29 September 2022) S Kooner (appointed 21 November 2022) A Lovesey E Masih B G Prickett I Riches H Shafi (resigned 9 March 2023) C J Smith (appointed 21 November 2022)
<b>Company registered number</b>	03327628
<b>Charity registered number</b>	1061538
<b>Registered office</b>	The Old School Cardington Beds MK44 3SX
<b>Company secretary</b>	Mrs T Cowan
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	Mrs T Cowan
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ  National Westminster Bank plc 81 High Street Bedford MK40 1NE  Scottish Widows PO Box 12757 67 Morrison Street Edinburgh EH3 8YJ

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND  
ADVISERS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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	Virgin Money Jubilee House Gosforth Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Mr Cliff Andrews Ms Janice Janes Mr Simon Bailes (left October 2022) Mrs Kate Ellis Mr Bill Simmons (Joined October 2022)
<b>Solicitors</b>	Woodfines LLP 16 St Cuthberts Street Bedford MK40 3JG
<b>Independent Auditors</b>	Streets Audit LLP Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors Potton House Wyboston Lakes Great North Road Wyboston Bedford MK44 3BZ



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the year from 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 group and the charitable company qualify as small under section 383 of the Companies Act 2006, the Group Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

The group and the charitable company also trade under the names Beds RCC and BRCC.

Founded in 1953 as Bedfordshire Rural Community Council, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) is a member of a national network of Rural Community Councils under an umbrella organisation, Action for Rural Communities in England (ACRE).

**Structure, governance and management**

**a. Constitution**

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity is a company limited by guarantee, having no share capital, and is a registered charity.

The charity was incorporated on 4 March 1997 and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The liability of its members in the event of the charitable company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £10 per member.

**b. Objects**

The charity's objects are:

- to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community primarily in the historic county of Bedfordshire, and in particular, the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress or sickness.
- in furtherance of that said purpose, but not otherwise, to promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the same and to that end to bring together representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities in the historic county of Bedfordshire.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**c. Governance (including appointment, induction and training of Trustees)**

The directors and senior managers of the organisation who served during the year are set out on page one. The directors of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. Members of the charity are entitled to nominate directors, from whom the Board is elected at the Annual General Meeting. All new directors are provided with an induction by the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Board.

The Board of Directors meets quarterly. Many of its responsibilities are delegated to three Board Committees: the Strategic Development Committee, the Finance Committee, and the People and Projects Committee, which also meet quarterly.

Day-to-day responsibility for the running of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive and four departmental managers (as listed on page three).

**d. Pay policy for key management personnel**

The charity uses the NJC payscales as a basis for all staff salaries, including the CEO and management team who make up the Key Management Personnel.

**e. Related party relationships**

The charity's trustees and officers are involved in a wide range of other businesses and organisations, as directors, trustees, employees and councillors.

Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council provide funding to BRCC but the trustees do not consider that any councillors who are also trustees of BRCC are able to influence the charity's relationship with those organisations.

Details of related party transactions are given in note 27 to the financial statements.

**f. Financial risk management**

The directors recognise that there are potential risks to which the charity may be exposed. The directors have identified five main areas of risk:

- governance and management of the charity
- operational risks
- financial risks
- environmental and external factors
- compliance with law and regulation

The processes for monitoring and mitigation of these risks have been identified and are recorded in a risk register. The directors have delegated the day-to-day implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the risk register to the senior management team. During the year the Board received reports from the Chief Executive and agreed actions to mitigate any serious risks.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**g. Grant making policies**

In administering grant schemes, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity will ensure that:

- it only manages funding programmes that clearly fit in with its own priorities, objectives and mission
- there is an independent and representative panel of people established as the body accountable for making decisions on grant allocation
- staff carrying out developmental work with projects are not involved in any way with decision making
- all grants funds will be promoted and advertised in ways that aim to reach the full range of target beneficiaries, and the application procedures are straightforward, transparent and clearly explained
- once awarded, expenditure of the grant and monitoring of progress is carried out at appropriate intervals to ensure that the funding is spent for the purpose for which it is given
- all conditions attached to the offer of the grant are met – in the event of this not being the case, the grant offer will be withdrawn
- final reports are submitted from the recipients of the grant outlining the outcome of the funding
- appropriate financial records are kept and reporting obligations of funders are met.

**h. Fixed Assets**

Acquisitions and disposals of fixed assets during the year are recorded in the notes forming part of the financial statements.

**Objectives and activities**

**a. Mission and role**

BRCC exists to support local community life in Bedfordshire. Its role is as follows:

- A **coordinator** of local community activity to enable communities to do more for themselves and reduce reliance on the state
- An **intermediary** between public (and private) service providers and the people in local communities they need to reach
- A **manager of partnerships** across public, private and voluntary sectors to achieve common objectives (e.g. conservation, rural economic development)
- A direct **provider of services** (e.g. community transport) that help people to participate in the community

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**Objectives and activities (continued)**

**b. Areas of benefit**

BRCC is still unquestionably the leading countywide organisation working with rural communities in Bedfordshire. However, it is not always helpful to make the distinction between urban and rural when services are delivered across whole local authority areas. While retaining its rural specialism, BRCC increasingly supports 'local community life' across all areas of the county.

Also, BRCC now operates outside Bedfordshire in some cases (e.g. where projects based in Bedfordshire have extended across county boundaries).

**c. Desired outcomes**

The high level outcomes that BRCC seeks to achieve are as follows:

- Communities are more involved in delivering local services and managing their local assets
- Potentially vulnerable and/or disadvantaged people gain more independence
- People increase their physical, mental and social well-being
- People with barriers to the labour market gain skills and employment
- Rural communities have a more thriving local economy
- Bedfordshire's built and natural environment is conserved and enhanced

**d. Public benefit**

Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 requires the Board of Directors to comply with their duty to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The Board of Directors has reviewed the organisation's mission and values (as listed above) in the context of its charitable purposes and considers that they meet the two key principles of public benefit as identified by the Charity Commission:

- there must be an identifiable benefit or benefits
- benefit must be to the public, or section of the public

BRCC has introduced a checklist for use to ensure that all of its activities are for public benefit. It is based on the two principles above and the relevant factors under each principle identified by the Charity Commission. All existing work has been assessed against the checklist, and it is used by the Strategic Development Committee to assess proposed new areas of work. As a result, all areas of the charity's work are deemed to be for the public benefit according to Charity Commission guidance.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**Achievements and performance**

**a. Review of activities**

**Overview**

During the first full year post the Covid-19 pandemic the Charity continues to grow with an expanded portfolio of activities and new staff members. In January 2023 BedsRCC started celebrating its 70th anniversary.

It was a busy year with the development of new and existing projects. In April Our Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership (MVCRP) celebrated its 15th birthday and the Marston Vale Line also continued its celebration of 175 years with a series of events.

In May we continued the development of our 'You Can Do IT!' project, which allows people to learn how to use digital technology. New groups started in Biggleswade, Putnoe and Houghton Regis.

June saw Biggleswade Good Neighbour Group awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, recognising their continued hard work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. BedsRCC continues to support a network of over 40 Good Neighbour Schemes across Bedfordshire.

In July Staff, trustees, patrons and volunteers from across BRCC's teams came together for the first time post Covid to celebrate the hard work done in the previous year.

The end of August was a key point for the Charity as we took over the Luton and Bedfordshire Youth Association. Consisting of two Halls located in the centre of Dunstable, used primarily for letting to the community and young people, it was a great opportunity to develop our services in that area of the County. It also had an added bonus of bringing assets into the Charity.

September saw the expansion and development of the Charities Green Social Prescribing initiative with family friendly seasonal walks, A Green Wellbeing Online Directory and the start of our Community Garden project.

Thanks to funding by Leighton-Linslade Town Council we were also able to create a new Community Agent post in the Leighton-Linslade area of Central Bedfordshire. In September the Charity also won Gold at the SME Luton and Bedfordshire Business Awards in the Positive Impact category.

In December, the Charity won 'Community Business of the Year' Award at the SME National Awards for the second time!

We appeared several times in the media, including when Warden Abbey Community Vineyard were invited on to BBC Three Counties Radio to talk about the work they do and their wine.

The continued hard work and commitment of our staff has been remarkable. All our staff are a credit to BedsRCC and we are very fortunate to have such a superb staff and volunteer team.

**Community and Wellbeing**

Community and Wellbeing is our largest department and has had a number of new projects this year including the ongoing development of Green Social Prescribing.

**Community Referral**

Our Community Referral (Social Prescribing) service allows GPs, nurses and other care professionals to refer people for non-medical, community based support and services via our Community Wellbeing Champions. It bridges the gap between the NHS and the community and frees up GP time.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**Achievements and performance (continued)**

During the past year our Community Wellbeing Champions received close to 3500 referrals.

***You Can Do IT!***

Within this year, we continued to develop the 'You Can Do IT!' project, which allows people to learn how to use digital technology. 17 volunteers have been recruited as Digital Health Champions to provide support within the established groups and efforts are ongoing to attract more in order to expand capacity. The project has welcomed 93 learners across all groups and delivered 740 sessions of individual tuition.

***Green Social Prescribing***

This was the first year in post for Nicola, our Green Social Prescribing Officer. Significant networks were created of organisations offering green wellbeing provision. This led to the creation of an online Green Wellbeing Directory. Other achievements included seasonal walks, work during Great Big Green Week and ongoing development of our GSP offer which focused on Community Gardens and nature based wellbeing groups.

***Village and Community Agents***

Our Village Agents operate in all the villages within Bedford Borough, primarily funded by the Bedford Borough Council. This dedicated team of part-time Agents identifies individuals in hard-to-reach rural areas and assists them in enhancing their quality of life by connecting them with mainstream services or community support networks.

Furthermore, we have three Community Agents who work with specific communities in Central Bedfordshire, thanks to local funding arrangements.

Our Agents supported 1,315 individual clients, including 684 new clients. 569 home visits were undertaken.

During this year we worked with Bedford Borough council to lay the groundwork for a brand new Town Agent post that would be based in Bedford and Kempston.

***Good Neighbour and Village Care Scheme Network***

Good Neighbour and Village Care Schemes play a vital role within their communities by facilitating access to occasional voluntary assistance, akin to the support one neighbour might offer another. This assistance serves as a crucial factor in allowing individuals to maintain their independence and continue residing in their own homes.

The ongoing coordination of the Bedfordshire network involves 37 groups, currently comprising just over 667 regularly active volunteers, with an additional 571 volunteers available for occasional assistance. Throughout Bedfordshire, these groups have collectively reported performing nearly 34,000 tasks or acts of support this year. On average, they have assisted approximately 1,275 residents each quarter, many of whom are recurring beneficiaries receiving help on a regular basis.

**Supporting Communities**

***Village Hall & Community Buildings support***

Hall committees have gradually resumed normality post-Covid. The VHA service was able to support and guide this process, helping to relieve the residual anxiety felt by many committees.

We supported 8 halls in becoming Warm Spaces, including securing LA grants. During the year we were able to offer support 240 times covering a wide range of issues. We also worked to ensure that Halls were better equipped to face the energy crisis to keep them viable.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**Achievements and performance (continued)**

***Housing and planning***

BRCC supports local communities to plan for their future through Neighbourhood and Green Infrastructure (GI) planning. During the year we supported 10 Neighbourhood Plan groups; we provided support to groups via phone and email and also through attending their Neighbourhood plan steering group meetings. We worked with 8 communities on Green Infrastructure Plans, including the identification of important sites to be designated and protected as Local Green Spaces.

In addition we help rural parishes to meet their affordable housing needs by carrying out household surveys. This year we carried out 3 housing needs surveys, working in partnership with Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Plan steering groups, Local Authorities, Housing Associations and local landowners.

We continue to work as part of Eastern Community Homes, a community led housing hub for the Eastern region – formed with our ACRE colleagues in the East of England. We continue to raise awareness of the benefits of community-led housing projects.

We facilitate the Community-led Planning and Rural Housing across Bedfordshire, offering advice and support in creating a Parish, Town, Neighbourhood or Green Infrastructure Plan, and we are part of the ACRE national network of Village Hall Advisors, we provide information, advice and support to Charitable Village Hall Committees.

***Green Infrastructure***

We also provide a range of Community and Countryside initiatives, including wildlife conservation and volunteering. We host the Upper and Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership. BRCC also leads on a number of 'Green Wheels' (linking publicly accessible green spaces and routes within and around rural towns) in the Ivel Valley area. During this year we continued to work on the Potton Green Wheels which is due to launch in summer 2023.

BRCC continues to deliver a variety of other activities that involve local people in designing, conserving and being active in their local green spaces, including our Ivel Valley Conservation Volunteers.

For over 16 years, we have run Wellbeing Walks across Bedfordshire, through which we deliver over 30 walk programmes - free and open to all.

**b. Community Transport**

***Door to Door / Greensand Country***

BRCC operates two personalised transport services, commonly known as 'dial-a-ride,' to cater to individuals facing substantial challenges in utilising conventional public transportation. These services are 'Door to Door,' which serves the entirety of Bedford Borough, and 'Greensand Country' community transport, focusing on northern Central Bedfordshire.

Together, they extend their coverage across 75% of Bedfordshire, encompassing areas from Dean & Shelton in the north to Harlington in the south. Both services are closely intertwined, often utilising the same vehicles and drivers to provide efficient transportation solutions for the community.

In July we received two contract new buses to enhance our fleet which will help reduce maintenance costs which had been rising due to the age of some of the buses that have now been sold on.



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**Achievements and performance (continued)**

***Community Rail Partnerships***

BedsRCC oversees the operations of two Community Rail Partnerships: One for the Bedford to Bletchley line, known as the Marston Vale line, and the other for the Bedford-St Albans City line, referred to as Beds & Herts. These partnerships play a crucial role in bridging the gap between the railway industry and local communities.

The past year has presented a mixture of challenges and opportunities for our engagement with the community, primarily due to the suspension of train services on the Marston Vale line since December 2022. This was caused by the unfortunate closure of a vital train maintenance company.

However, despite this setback, our dedicated team has persisted in actively engaging with the local community, ensuring they remain informed and updated on the progress and plans for the resumption of services.

Prior to the suspension of services Marston Vale CRP arranged special services for Bedford River Festival in July 2022 and continued to celebrate the 175th Anniversary Year of the Marston Vale Line with a series of events.

Marston Vale CRP worked with Beds & Herts CRP to arrange a series of Christmas Concerts at Bedford Station in December 2022 in aid of Bedford Foodbank.

Beds & Herts CRP secured funding during the year to publish a 'Days Out by Bike on a Train' leaflet.

We are also responsible for Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre, a Grade II Listed building dating back to 1846, designed by the Duke of Bedford. We restored it between 2007 and 2013. Following Covid it is now fully open to the public with a museum, gift shop, tourist information point, tea room and office & meeting space'.

**c. Finance and Business Services**

***Financial and HR management***

The finance team remained strong this year and despite losing a member of the team in September, the addition of a temporary experienced Accountant and the appointment of an Executive Assistant who took over the HR records function, really supported the team to remain positive.

***IT and Website***

The Social Prescribing Team in conjunction with the CCG and Primary care ensured that Community Wellbeing Champions were able to securely access patient records via the clinical software SystmOne. This required a significant amount of partnership work and technical support for each team member while software was installed and configured.

New websites were designed for Ridgmont Heritage Centre and Dunstable Community Halls.

***Marketing***

During the year the Marketing team continues to be very busy. Our Marketing Officer has developed her expertise and skills in a number of areas producing engaging printed, online and social material. This continues to have a huge positive impact on our brand and wider promotional activities.

***Greensand Country Landscape Partnership***

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership programme finally finished the project development and delivery phase in March 2023 and moved to the Greensand Trust for business as usual. The final BRCC staff member of GCLP moved across to the Greensand Trust and the programme is now closed.

***Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre***

We are also responsible for Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre, a Grade II listed building dating back to 1846,



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**Achievements and performance (continued)**

designed by the Duke of Bedford. We restored it between 2007 and 2013. Following covid, it is now fully open to the public with a museum, gift shop, tourist information point, tea room and office & meeting space.

**d. Rural development (paused)**

***Rural Development Programmes***

The LEADER programme whilst now closed has some small project monitoring (minimal) but this is only an ongoing tiny administrative and archive task.

**e. BRCC Trading Services Ltd**

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity operates a wholly-owned subsidiary company entitled BRCC Trading Services Ltd, the purpose of which is to raise funds to support the charity. The directors of the company are:

P Grayson  
I Kelly (resigned July 2022)  
I Riches  
T Marcus

T Cowan is the Company Secretary

The main trading activities of BRCC Services Ltd are currently:

***The Barn Cardington***

This year was extremely challenging and despite the best efforts of the Finance Director, Chief Executive along with the staff members at The Barn, the decision was taken to close the Business. The cost of living crisis, extortionate energy rates and staffing issues meant the business had become unwieldy, resource consuming and a drain on the Trading Company. The Barn ceased trading on the 28th February 2023. Huge thanks must go to the staff team that worked tirelessly above and beyond their paid duties to try and save the business and then the work involved in winding down and closing the business.

***Ridgmont Station Tea Room***

The Tearoom had a productive year and was able to start to grow. There were some themed events such as "Festive Afternoon Tea" and a successful "Beauty and the Beast" event along with some of the CRP events. There was an impact of the trains ceasing to run from December 2022 but there was a Christmas pop-up shop to encourage new visitors to the Centre. Due to the focus on The Barn, the Tearoom ran as business as usual but there are plans to develop the whole Centre and Tearoom for 2023/24 and hopefully the re-introduction of the trains will support that.

***Warden Abbey Community Vineyard***

BedsRCC manages the Warden Abbey vineyard as a community project, in order to provide rewarding volunteering opportunities locally while also continuing to make award-winning local wines. During the two harvesting days, the team picked around 3 tonnes of our grapes. As we had previously put lots of the previous harvest for sparkling wine this year's harvest would go mainly to produce our still wine with a smaller amount for sparkling. Altogether this will produce around 2000 bottles combined. Thank you to our volunteers for their continued hard work this year tending to the vines, planning and running events, harvesting grapes - among other jobs. This year we needed to replace our wonderful Vineyard Manager who decided to retire and so a new Vineyard Manager was appointed and took over in October 2022.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
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**Financial review**

**a. Reserves policy**

The trustees have identified the need for the Charity to hold unrestricted reserves for three principal reasons:

- a) To remain resilient and manage risk in an increasingly uncertain and volatile operating environment
- b) To accommodate cash flow pressures at a time when a number of BRCC's income streams involve payment in arrears
- c) To allow for significant contingency, particularly the costs incurred in the event of closing down the Charity

Its unrestricted reserves will therefore contain two elements:

- 1. Resilience funds: BRCC will hold between 1 and 3 months' total budgeted operating costs in order to provide sufficient cash flow for the organisation while enabling it to address future opportunities, threats and risks as part of its long-term financial planning, as well as sensitively managing the cessation of services to beneficiaries where required.
- 2. Designated funds: the trustees have designated a Contingency Fund (to cover the costs of winding up the organisation); a Building & Vehicles Maintenance Reserve (to cover extraordinary repairs or maintenance costs); and a Fixed Assets Reserve (reflecting the current value of its Fixed Assets). These funds will not be used day to day for the purposes outlined in 1 and 2. The trustees review the levels of these designated funds annually.

The Charity will not hold more reserves than it needs to deliver the aims of this policy, in order to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of its current beneficiaries as effectively as possible.

The level of reserves held will be monitored monthly by the Management Team and quarterly by the Finance Committee. The Board will review this reserves policy annually.

**b. Financial review**

During the year, the charity and its trading subsidiary BRCC Services Ltd raised income of £3,548,222 (2021/22 £2,888,801) to enable it to deliver a range of activities under its charitable objects. This income came principally from local and central government, Lottery distributing bodies and other funders through a range of service level agreements, grants and contracts, as well as including the value of Dunstable Community Halls on the transfer of assets from Luton and Bedfordshire Youth Association. A proportion of income also came directly from clients and beneficiaries (through fees and charges), and some from retail activities and donations.

Total expenditure during the year amounted to £2,808,071 (2022 £2,661,143), with the result that the overall net movement in funds for the year is reported as a surplus of £740,151 (2022 £227,658). However, the surplus includes the cash and property transferred from Luton and Bedfordshire Youth Association at £715,736, leaving an operating activities of £24,415 for the year.

Transfers have been made to increase the balance in the Fixed Asset Reserve to £1,150,708 (2022 £503,424) to match the total net book value of the fixed assets as at 31 March 2023. The other designated reserves (Contingency and Buildings & Vehicle Maintenance reserves) have been maintained at the same level.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
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During the year, the charity has continued to spend grants which were recognised in the previous financial year, but has also been awarded new funding for future projects. As a result, the balance held for restricted projects increased from £751,681 at 31 March 2022 to £957,139 at 31 March 2023. However, the number of grants available to support the running costs for Warden Abbey Vineyard and Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre were far below the expenses incurred, hence the surplus of £127 on the charity's General Fund has been eliminated and the General Fund was overdrawn by £25,530 at the year end. Restoring the General Fund to at least the minimum level set out in the Reserves Policy above has been identified as a priority for the trustees over the coming years.

The deficit balance on the accumulated Profit and Loss Account for the trading subsidiary, BRCC Trading Services Limited, stands at £156,037 (2022 £84,602).

**c. Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company 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.

**Plans for the future**

- The launch of the Strategic Plan 2023
- Refurbishment and launch of the Dunstable Community Halls
- Expand our Community Transport Service through increasing the range of services and projects
- Continue to develop our presence in the South of the County and Luton
- Expand our Rural Housing offer to provide the full Rural Housing Enabler service
- Continue to grow our Community and Wellbeing Service securing funding from LA's/Primary Care Networks and the Integrated Care Board, and further expand into Green Social Prescribing, Digital Isolation and Children and Young People areas
- Continue to develop the Good Neighbour and Village Care Scheme Network
- To acquire full Museum accreditation for Ridgmont Heritage Centre and develop the offer
- Continue to grow our Culture and Heritage offer
- Continue to develop collaborative relationships with other local organisations and within the ACRE Network
- Continue to look for opportunities and diversify income streams where possible

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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).

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities (CONTINUED)**

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 Group and the charitable company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their 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 Group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the charitable company 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 Group and the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

**Auditors**

The auditors, Streets Audit LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

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



**P Grayson**  
Chair of Trustees  
Date: 30 November 2023



**C Barker**  
Chair of Finance Committee

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**

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**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Charitable company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY (CONTINUED)**

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**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.



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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY (CONTINUED)**

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**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the company and sector in which it operates;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018, compliance with NHS Social Prescribing requirements and safeguarding of adults and children (including passenger assistance), requirements of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, employment and taxation legislation, anti-bribery, environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY (CONTINUED)**

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We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statements and disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of governor meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Linda J Lord BSc BFP FCA TEP (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of  
**Streets Audit LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Registered Auditors

Date: 20/12/2023



**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	26,620	718,240	744,860	23,311
Charitable activities	4	2,303,123	85,068	2,388,191	2,401,959
Other trading activities	5	-	413,064	413,064	462,179
Investments	6	-	2,107	2,107	1,352
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,329,743</b>	<b>1,218,479</b>	<b>3,548,222</b>	<b>2,888,801</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	7	-	231,049	231,049	243,271
Charitable activities	8	2,168,823	408,199	2,577,022	2,417,872
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>2,168,823</b>	<b>639,248</b>	<b>2,808,071</b>	<b>2,661,143</b>
<b>Net income</b>		<b>160,920</b>	<b>579,231</b>	<b>740,151</b>	<b>227,658</b>
Transfers between funds	20	44,538	(44,538)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>205,458</b>	<b>534,693</b>	<b>740,151</b>	<b>227,658</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		751,681	618,949	1,370,630	1,142,972
Net movement in funds		205,458	534,693	740,151	227,658
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>957,139</b>	<b>1,153,642</b>	<b>2,110,781</b>	<b>1,370,630</b>

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 23 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 03327628**

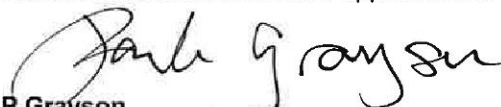
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**


	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	1,150,708	503,424
		<u>1,150,708</u>	<u>503,424</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	15	42,017	42,675
Debtors	16	532,181	275,061
Investments	17	85,999	85,000
Cash at bank and in hand		619,499	835,340
		<u>1,279,696</u>	<u>1,238,076</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(297,395)	(339,349)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>982,301</u>	<u>898,727</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(22,228)	(31,521)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>2,110,781</u></u>	<u><u>1,370,630</u></u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	20	957,139	751,681
Unrestricted funds	20	1,153,642	618,949
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>2,110,781</u></u>	<u><u>1,370,630</u></u>

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:

  
**P Grayson**  
Chair of Trustees  
Date: 30 November 2023

  
**C Barker**  
Chair of Finance Committee

The notes on pages 23 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 03327628**

**CHARITABLE COMPANY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	1,150,708	503,424
Investments		100	100
		<u>1,150,808</u>	<u>503,524</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	16	704,384	372,982
Investments	17	85,999	85,000
Cash at bank and in hand		608,437	809,225
		<u>1,398,820</u>	<u>1,267,207</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(282,810)	(315,499)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>1,116,010</u>	<u>951,708</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>2,266,818</u></u>	<u><u>1,455,232</u></u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	20	957,139	751,681
Unrestricted funds	20	1,309,679	703,551
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>2,266,818</u></u>	<u><u>1,455,232</u></u>

The charitable company's net movement in funds for the year was £811,586 (2022 - £241,118).

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:



**P Grayson**  
Chair of Trustees  
Date: 30 November 2023



**C Barker**  
Chair of Finance Committee

The notes on pages 23 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	(177,485)	343,133
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	2,107	4,565
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	5,526	202
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(35,697)	(13,800)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	(28,064)	(9,033)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Repayments of borrowing	(9,293)	(6,879)
Movement in fixed term deposit	(999)	25,093
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities</b>	(10,292)	18,214
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	(215,841)	352,314
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	835,340	483,026
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	619,499	835,340

The notes on pages 23 to 49 form part of these financial statements

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**1. General information**

As set out in the trustees' report, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity is an unincorporated charity registered in England and Wales. The address of their registered office is The Old School, Cardington, Beds, MK44 3SX.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

The charity's objects are stated in the trustees' report.

**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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity 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.

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Group and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Group has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

**2.2 Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

In the application of the Charitable Company's accounting policies management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below:

Allocation of costs - Direct expenses are charged to individual cost centres wherever possible. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of those resources.

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.3 Company status**

The charitable company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page . In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charitable company.

**2.4 Going concern**

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

The trustees have reviewed the level of reserves held by the charity and are satisfied that they are sufficient to enable the charity to continue its activities for the foreseeable future and, accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

**2.5 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 Group 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 Group 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.

**2.6 Income**

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

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.7 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 Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

**2.8 Interest receivable**

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

**2.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition are included in the measurement of cost.

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)**

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- Over the remaining life of the property, assessed as 10% per annum straight line
Long-term leasehold property: Ridgmont Station improvements	Over the remaining life of the leasehold property The 99 year lease for the Ridgmont Station building and 25 year lease for the car park land both commenced March 2009
Long-term leasehold property: Other	- Over the remaining life of the leasehold property 10% or 4% per annum straight line
Short-term leasehold property	- 10% or 20% per annum straight line
Motor vehicles	- 25% per annum straight line
Office equipment	- 25% or 33% per annum straight line

**2.10 Investments**

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

**2.11 Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

**2.12 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.

**2.13 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.

**2.14 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities 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.



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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.15 Financial instruments**

The Group 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.

**2.16 Pensions**

The charity provides a workplace pension scheme, compliant with Auto-enrolment procedures. The charity also continues to contribute to the previous stakeholder pension scheme for those staff who are eligible for membership under the terms of their contracts of employment. Pension contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable.

**3. Income from donations and legacies**

	<b>Restricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
<b>Donations</b>				
Transfer of cash assets from LuBYA	-	32,736	<b>32,736</b>	-
Transfer of property from LuBYA (at valuation)	-	683,000	<b>683,000</b>	-
<b>Subtotal detailed disclosure</b>	-	715,736	<b>715,736</b>	-
Donations	26,620	2,504	<b>29,124</b>	23,311
	26,620	718,240	<b>744,860</b>	23,311
<i>Total 2022</i>	21,254	2,057	23,311	

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**4. Income from charitable activities**

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from charitable activities	2,303,123	85,068	2,388,191	2,401,959
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>2,273,697</i>	<i>128,262</i>	<i>2,401,959</i>	

**5. Income from other trading activities**

**Income from fundraising events**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Rent received	27,339	27,339	3,213
Sundry income	76	76	668
	<u>27,415</u>	<u>27,415</u>	<u>3,881</u>

**Income from non charitable trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Sales	376,732	376,732	420,608
Rent receivable	6,250	6,250	11,900
Other income	2,667	2,667	25,790
	<u>385,649</u>	<u>385,649</u>	<u>458,298</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>458,298</i>	<i>458,298</i>	

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**6. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Bank interest	2,107	2,107	1,352
	<u>2,107</u>	<u>2,107</u>	
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>1,352</u>	<u>1,352</u>	

**7. Expenditure on raising funds**

**Other trading expenses**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Cost of sales	221,739	221,739	216,587
Administration expenses	8,380	8,380	25,596
Interest payable	930	930	1,088
	<u>231,049</u>	<u>231,049</u>	<u>243,271</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>243,271</u>	<u>243,271</u>	

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Restricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<i>Total 2022 £</i>
Charitable Activities	2,168,823	408,199	<b>2,577,022</b>	2,417,872
	<u>2,168,823</u>	<u>408,199</u>	<u>2,577,022</u>	
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>2,095,656</i>	<i>322,216</i>	<i>2,417,872</i>	
	<u>2,095,656</u>	<u>322,216</u>	<u>2,417,872</u>	

**9. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2023 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Charitable Activities	2,192,545	384,477	<b>2,577,022</b>	2,417,872
	<u>2,192,545</u>	<u>384,477</u>	<u>2,577,022</u>	
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>2,132,107</i>	<i>285,765</i>	<i>2,417,872</i>	
	<u>2,132,107</u>	<u>285,765</u>	<u>2,417,872</u>	

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	<b>1,532,525</b>	<i>1,405,274</i>
Room hire, meetings and conferences	<b>20,745</b>	<i>8,183</i>
Publicity, publications and subscriptions	<b>32,210</b>	<i>58,522</i>
Printing, postage, stationery and telephone	<b>60,806</b>	<i>68,108</i>
Repairs and renewals	<b>67,220</b>	<i>37,642</i>
Contractors fees	<b>123,127</b>	<i>112,180</i>
Travel and subsistence	<b>11,612</b>	<i>7,061</i>
Recruitment and other staff costs	<b>13,039</b>	<i>5,568</i>
Volunteer's expenses	<b>1,913</b>	<i>2,056</i>
Rent, rates and service charges	<b>90,454</b>	<i>60,277</i>
Legal and professional fees	<b>22,004</b>	<i>4,974</i>
Grants paid	<b>156,923</b>	<i>317,165</i>
Vehicle costs	<b>44,524</b>	<i>44,867</i>
Lease costs	<b>15,443</b>	<i>230</i>
	<b>2,192,545</b>	<i>2,132,107</i>

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	218,035	170,343
Depreciation	62,978	33,452
VAT lost on partial exemption	8,664	5,062
Premises costs	80,775	61,868
Bank charges	2,159	1,406
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	7,235	1,467
Bad debts	4,138	2,953
Governance costs	493	9,214
	<b>384,477</b>	<b>285,765</b>

**10. Auditors' remuneration**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<i>2022 £</i>
Fees payable to the charitable company's auditor for the audit of the charitable company's annual accounts	12,000	9,200
Fees payable to the charitable company's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	<b>4,000</b>	<b>3,600</b>

**11. Staff costs**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	<b>Charity 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 2022 £</i>
Wages and salaries	1,586,031	1,431,078	1,586,031	1,431,078
Social security costs	132,141	114,955	132,141	114,955
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	32,388	29,584	32,388	29,584
	<b>1,750,560</b>	<b>1,575,617</b>	<b>1,750,560</b>	<b>1,575,617</b>

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**11. Staff costs (continued)**

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

	<b>Group 2023 No.</b>	<i>Group 2022 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2023 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2022 No.</i>
Project staff	<b>91</b>	<i>86</i>	<b>91</b>	<i>86</i>
Administration and governance	<b>3</b>	<i>3</i>	<b>3</b>	<i>3</i>
	<b>94</b>	<i>89</i>	<b>94</b>	<i>89</i>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>Group 2023 No.</b>	<i>Group 2022 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2023 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2022 No.</i>
Project staff	<b>52</b>	<i>51</i>	<b>52</b>	<i>51</i>
Administration and governance	<b>3</b>	<i>3</i>	<b>3</b>	<i>3</i>
	<b>55</b>	<i>54</i>	<b>55</b>	<i>54</i>

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

The key management personnel of the charity are the trustees (who all give their time voluntarily), the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team. A total of £158,877 was paid to 3 members of staff for their roles as key management personnel (2022 £164,947 was paid to 4 members of staff, one of whom retired during the year).

**12. 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).

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**13. Tangible fixed assets**  
**Group and Charity**

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property - Ridgmont Station £	Long-term leasehold property - Other £	Short-term leasehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Office equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>							
At 1 April 2022	-	509,045	82,120	35,535	162,722	87,910	877,332
Additions	709,568	-	-	-	-	9,129	718,697
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(7,500)	(34,566)	(42,066)
At 31 March 2023	709,568	509,045	82,120	35,535	155,222	62,473	1,553,963
<b>Depreciation</b>							
At 1 April 2022	-	59,175	51,151	35,535	147,279	80,768	373,908
Charge for the year	37,151	6,850	2,828	-	10,718	5,431	62,978
On disposals	-	-	-	-	(7,500)	(26,131)	(33,631)
At 31 March 2023	37,151	66,025	53,979	35,535	150,497	60,068	403,255



**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

**Group and Charity (continued)**

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property - Ridgmont Station £	Long-term leasehold property - Other £	Short-term leasehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Office equipment £	Total £
<b>Net book value</b>							
<i>At 31 March 2023</i>	672,417	443,020	28,141	-	4,725	2,405	1,150,708
<i>At 31 March 2022</i>	-	449,870	30,969	-	15,443	7,142	503,424

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**14. Subsidiary Undertakings**

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the charitable company:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Company number</b>	<b>Registered office or principal place of business</b>	<b>Principal activity</b>	<b>Class of shares</b>	<b>Holding</b>	<b>Included in consolidation</b>
BRCC Trading Services Ltd	4475077	England and Wales	Operation of farm shop, wine production and other commercial activities	Ordinary	100%	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Profit/(Loss) / Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year £</b>	<b>Net assets £</b>
BRCC Trading Services Ltd	419,836	(491,271)	(71,435)	(155,937)

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**15. Stocks**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2022 £</i>
Goods for resale	<b>42,017</b>	42,675

**16. Debtors**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	<b>Charity 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 2022 £</i>
<b>Due within one year</b>				
Trade debtors	<b>495,973</b>	203,366	<b>482,937</b>	202,907
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	<b>185,239</b>	102,500
Other debtors	<b>27,446</b>	3,485	<b>27,446</b>	-
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>8,762</b>	68,210	<b>8,762</b>	67,575
	<b>532,181</b>	275,061	<b>704,384</b>	372,982

**17. Current asset investments**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	<b>Charity 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 2022 £</i>
Bank deposit (over 90 days)	<b>85,999</b>	85,000	<b>85,999</b>	85,000

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**18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	<b>Charity 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 2022 £</i>
Bank loans	9,600	9,600	-	-
Trade creditors	28,582	67,900	28,090	57,042
Other taxation and social security	64,877	43,392	63,384	43,300
Other creditors	14,075	13,053	14,075	13,053
Accruals and deferred income	180,261	205,404	177,261	202,104
	<u>297,395</u>	<u>339,349</u>	<u>282,810</u>	<u>315,499</u>

The trading subsidiary received a Bounce Back Loan which is guaranteed by the UK government and repayable in instalments.

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	<b>Charity 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 2022 £</i>
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	127,144	61,031	127,144	61,031
Resources deferred during the year	138,266	127,144	138,266	127,144
Amounts released from previous periods	(127,144)	(61,031)	(127,144)	(61,031)
	<u>138,266</u>	<u>127,144</u>	<u>138,266</u>	<u>127,144</u>

The charity receives some funding which has performance related criteria and is recognised when the income has been earned. Any income received in advance of the performance related criteria being met is deferred at the reporting date.

**19. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2022 £</i>
Bank loans	<u>22,228</u>	<u>31,521</u>

The trading subsidiary received a Bounce Back Loan which is guaranteed by the UK government, repayable in instalments and is due for repayment within 5 years. At 31 March 2022 £2,000 of the bank loans were due for repayment after 5 years from the reporting date.

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**20. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Fixed Asset Reserve	503,424	-	(71,413)	718,697	1,150,708
Contingency Fund	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Building and Vehicle Maintenance Fund	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
	<u>678,424</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(71,413)</u>	<u>718,697</u>	<u>1,325,708</u>
<b>General funds</b>					
General Fund	127	44,381	(269,651)	199,613	(25,530)
BRCC Trading Services Ltd	(84,602)	385,649	(231,048)	(226,036)	(156,037)
LuBYA	-	770,953	(34,141)	(736,812)	-
VCSE funds	25,000	17,496	(32,995)	-	9,501
	<u>(59,475)</u>	<u>1,218,479</u>	<u>(567,835)</u>	<u>(763,235)</u>	<u>(172,066)</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>618,949</u>	<u>1,218,479</u>	<u>(639,248)</u>	<u>(44,538)</u>	<u>1,153,642</u>

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Care in Bedford Borough	-	96,967	(76,726)	-	20,241
Care in Central Bedfordshire	94,813	92,504	(116,787)	-	70,530
Green Infrastructure	41,833	293,469	(188,047)	-	147,255
CBC Infrastructure	4,330	32,885	(21,299)	-	15,916
Warden Abbey Vineyard	-	18,483	(44,907)	26,424	-
Community Rail Partnerships	94,784	101,762	(104,305)	-	92,241
Ridgmont Station	-	2,813	(26,532)	23,719	-
Dunstable Consortium	19,667	56,250	(25,962)	-	49,955
Door to Door	67,136	316,721	(371,915)	-	11,942
CAB Timebank	21,226	111,969	(92,023)	-	41,172
Community Connectors	-	150,000	-	-	150,000
Mental Health Social Prescribing	7,377	108,801	(80,289)	-	35,889
Primary Care Networks	45,099	232,624	(239,942)	(1,860)	35,921
Social Prescribing CBC	131,902	248,342	(244,991)	(1,860)	133,393
Social Prescribing BBC	30,580	219,947	(243,412)	(1,860)	5,255
GCLP Projects	81,900	211,687	(234,923)	(25)	58,639
You Can Do It	111,034	34,519	(56,763)	-	88,790
	<u>751,681</u>	<u>2,329,743</u>	<u>(2,168,823)</u>	<u>44,538</u>	<u>957,139</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u>1,370,630</u>	<u>3,548,222</u>	<u>(2,808,071)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,110,781</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2022 £</i>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Fixed Asset Reserve	524,745	-	(35,121)	13,800	503,424
Contingency Fund	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Building and Vehicle Maintenance Fund	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
	<u>699,745</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(35,121)</u>	<u>13,800</u>	<u>678,424</u>
<b>General funds</b>					
General Fund	(6,879)	102,623	(249,585)	153,968	127
LuBYA	-	7,928	(7,928)	-	-
VCSE funds	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
BRCC Trading Service Ltd	(71,142)	458,299	(243,271)	(228,488)	(84,602)
	<u>(78,021)</u>	<u>593,850</u>	<u>(500,784)</u>	<u>(74,520)</u>	<u>(59,475)</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>621,724</u>	<u>593,850</u>	<u>(535,905)</u>	<u>(60,720)</u>	<u>618,949</u>

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2021</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2022</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Care in Bedford Borough	-	51,253	(61,253)	23,152	13,152
Care in Central Bedfordshire	31,198	133,734	(80,119)	(3,152)	81,661
Green Infrastructure	18,516	113,904	(90,587)	-	41,833
CBC Infrastructure	-	29,000	(24,670)	-	4,330
Warden Abbey Vineyard	-	10,172	(27,050)	16,878	-
Community Rail Partnerships	75,771	148,128	(129,115)	-	94,784
Ridgmont Station	-	3,209	(32,792)	29,583	-
Dunstable Consortium	-	25,000	(5,333)	-	19,667
Greensand Country Community Transport	1,507	103,559	(108,873)	3,807	-
Door to Door	91,905	198,623	(211,085)	(12,307)	67,136
CAB Timebank	-	88,290	(67,064)	-	21,226
Mental Health Social Prescribing	-	53,333	(45,956)	-	7,377
Primary Care Networks	-	362,599	(317,500)	-	45,099
Social Prescribing CBC	125,042	227,970	(221,110)	-	131,902
Social Prescribing BBC	37,620	195,369	(202,409)	-	30,580
GCLP Projects	139,689	429,854	(490,402)	2,759	81,900
You Can Do It	-	120,954	(9,920)	-	111,034
	<u>521,248</u>	<u>2,294,951</u>	<u>(2,125,238)</u>	<u>60,720</u>	<u>751,681</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u>1,142,972</u>	<u>2,888,801</u>	<u>(2,661,143)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,370,630</u>



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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Designated Funds:**

Fixed Asset Reserve

This fund represents the total net book value of the Charity's Tangible Fixed Assets which comprise: Freehold Property (transferred from Luton and Bedfordshire Youth Association), Leasehold Land & Buildings, Renovation at Ridgmont Station, Improvements made to the Cardington office, Motor vehicles and Fixtures, fittings & equipment. Transfers to the fund represent the value of assets purchased or donated during the year and depreciation is charged as an expense of the fund.

Contingency Reserve

This fund represents the Trustees' calculation of the likely costs that would be incurred in the event of having to wind up the Charity. It comprises staff redundancy payments and commitments on leases.

Building & Vehicles Maintenance Reserve

This fund has been designated to cover any extraordinary repairs and maintenance that may be required to the Cardington office and the Charity's vehicles.

**Restricted Funds:**

Care in Bedford Borough:

This fund was established in April 2009, following the formation of the two new Unitary Authorities in the county. Funding from the Borough Council (Adult Services) has been received to continue support for the Carers Short Break Bureau; the Good Neighbours Schemes and the Village Agents "Just Ask" initiative. Income and costs associated with the services provided have been charged to the project with £10,000 of unrestricted funding being allocated towards the cost of providing these services.

Care in Central Bedfordshire:

The charity provides care for adults in Central Bedfordshire through the Village Care Scheme.

Green Infrastructure:

This fund comprises several funding streams that are ring fenced for the provision of services and the purchase of capital items and/or payments to contractors in respect of the various environmental sites that are managed by the RCC's Green Infrastructure Team. Costs are charged to the fund as and when the various projects are delivered, in partnership with local authorities.

CBC Infrastructure Grant:

In 2016/17, the charity became the lead body in administering the Central Bedfordshire Council's Voluntary and Community Sector funding. The agreement was initially for a 3-year period to 2019 but has been subsequently been extended. Costs are charged to the fund as and when projects are delivered, in partnership with local authority.

Warden Abbey Vineyard:

The charity continued to receive grant income and donations to assist with the costs of managing the Warden Abbey Vineyard, which provides opportunities for volunteering. The vineyard management costs have been charged to the restricted fund and a transfer of £26,424 (2022 £16,878) has been made from general funds to support the project.

Community Rail Partnerships

Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership (MVCRP):

BRCC employs the MVCRP Officer, which is funded primarily through a Service Level Agreement with London Midland Trains, West Midlands Trains Ltd and Milton Keynes Borough Councils. MVCRP seeks to publicise and promote increased usage of the Marston Vale Community Rail Line.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership (ALCRP):

BRCC employs the ALCRP Officer, funded primarily through a Service Level Agreement with London Midland Trains and West Midlands Trains Ltd. ALCRP seeks to publicise and promote increased usage of the Abbey Line Community Rail Line.

Beds and Herts CRP (formerly Bedford to St Albans CRP):

BRCC continues to receive funding from Greater Thameslink Railway to employ a community rail officer on the Bedford to St Albans Line.

Ridgmont Station:

The charity completed the refurbishment of Ridgmont Station in 2014 and continues to receive specific donations for the ongoing development of the facility. The restricted funding, together with a transfer of £23,719 (2022 £29,583) from unrestricted funds, is used to cover the maintenance and upkeep of the station building.

Dunstable Consortium:

In 2021/22 the charity received a grant from Historic England as part of the High Streets Heritage Action Zones ("HS HAZ") Programme, a nationwide initiative designed to secure lasting improvements to historic high streets for the communities who use them.

Door to Door:

The charity took over the assets and activities of North Bedfordshire Community Transport on 1 April 2013 and now provides community transport services for individuals with special needs.

CAB Timebank:

In 2021/22 the charity took over the Timebank activities from Community Action Bedfordshire (CAB). Funds have been provided to encourage and support the development of new Timebanks, across Central Bedfordshire, where people can help their neighbours and those within their community by sharing their time, interests and skills.

Community Connectors:

In February 2023, the charity received £150,000 to fund two community connectors in Bedford Borough and in Central Bedfordshire. The project has commenced in the new financial year.

Primary Care Networks and Social Prescribing:

BRCC has been commissioned by Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council to provide Social Prescribing services to Primary Care Networks and GP surgeries across Bedfordshire. The programme supports patients with social, emotional or practical needs by finding non-clinical solutions that will improve their health and wellbeing.

Greensand Country Landscape Programme (GCLP):

BRCC was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, on behalf of the Greensand Ridge Landscape Partnership, to establish the Greensand Ridge area of Bedfordshire as a living and working landscape. Landscape Partnership scheme started in July 2016 and was expected to run until December 2020 but was subsequently extended and BRCC's involvement has been concluded since the end of the financial year.

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**21. Summary of funds**

**Summary of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Designated funds	678,424	-	(71,413)	718,697	1,325,708
General funds	(59,475)	1,218,479	(567,835)	(763,235)	(172,066)
Restricted funds	751,681	2,329,743	(2,168,823)	44,538	957,139
	<u>1,370,630</u>	<u>3,548,222</u>	<u>(2,808,071)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,110,781</u>

**Summary of funds - prior year**

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Designated funds	699,745	-	(35,121)	13,800	678,424
General funds	(78,021)	593,850	(500,784)	(74,520)	(59,475)
Restricted funds	521,248	2,294,951	(2,125,238)	60,720	751,681
	<u>1,142,972</u>	<u>2,888,801</u>	<u>(2,661,143)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,370,630</u>

**22. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,150,708	1,150,708
Current assets	957,139	322,557	1,279,696
Creditors due within one year	-	(297,395)	(297,395)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(22,228)	(22,228)
<b>Total</b>	<u>957,139</u>	<u>1,153,642</u>	<u>2,110,781</u>

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**22. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	503,424	503,424
Current assets	751,681	486,395	1,238,076
Creditors due within one year	-	(339,349)	(339,349)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(31,521)	(31,521)
<b>Total</b>	<b>751,681</b>	<b>618,949</b>	<b>1,370,630</b>

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

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<b>Group 2022 £</b>
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>740,151</b>	227,658
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>62,978</b>	33,452
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>(2,107)</b>	(4,565)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	<b>2,909</b>	1,467
Decrease in stocks	<b>658</b>	6,891
Increase in debtors	<b>(257,120)</b>	(8,778)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<b>(41,954)</b>	87,008
Gift in kind - transfer of property from LuBYA	<b>(683,000)</b>	-
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(177,485)</b>	343,133

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2022 £</i>
Cash in hand	<b>619,499</b>	<i>835,340</i>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>619,499</b>	<i>835,340</i>

**25. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 April 2022 £</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2023 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>835,340</b>	<b>(215,841)</b>	<b>619,499</b>
Debt due within 1 year	<b>(9,600)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(9,600)</b>
Debt due after 1 year	<b>(31,521)</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>(22,228)</b>
Liquid investments	<b>85,000</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>85,999</b>
	<b>879,219</b>	<b>(205,549)</b>	<b>673,670</b>

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**26. Operating lease commitments**

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

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	<b>Charity 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 2022 £</i>
Not later than 1 year	<b>14,352</b>	17,534	<b>14,352</b>	17,534
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<b>47,840</b>	28,704	<b>47,840</b>	28,704
Later than 5 years	-	2,392	-	2,392
	<b>62,192</b>	48,630	<b>62,192</b>	48,630

The following lease payments and changes in lease payments have been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	<b>Charity 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 2022 £</i>
Operating lease rentals	<b>54,384</b>	43,432	<b>54,384</b>	43,432
Changes in lease payments arising from COVID-19 related rent concessions	-	3,400	-	3,400

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**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
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**27. Related party transactions**

The charity's wholly owned subsidiary company, BRCC Trading Services Limited, operates from the Cardington Office and is managed by staff employed by the parent charity. Staff costs and overhead costs totalling £172,013 (2022 £172,222) were recharged to BRCC Trading Services Limited during the year, together with rent and rates £25,216 (2022 £26,386) and recharged expenses of £55,182 (2022 £29,880). BRCC Trading Services Limited reported a loss of £71,435 (2022 loss of £14,339) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The charity advanced a loan of £30,000 to the subsidiary company in previous years. Interest of £1,591 (2022 £953) has been charged on the loan at a rate of 3.0% above the bank base rate. At the balance sheet date, BRCC Trading Services Limited owed the charity a total of £185,239 (2022 £102,500) in respect of the loans and staff recharges which remained unpaid at the balance sheet date.

The charity took over the activities and net assets of Luton and Bedfordshire Youth Association (LuBYA) in August 2022 before the LuBYA charity was closed. BRCC recognised the transfer as a donation of property at a value of £683,000 and net cash reserves at cost of £32,736. At the reporting date, £2,736 of the cash reserves and £1,070 of hal hire generated since the transfer remained in the LuBYA bank account and has been included in debtors. Mrs T Cowan's father-in-law was a trustee of LuBYA.

The charity also worked with the following organisations:

- Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council - organisations where some trustees and their close family members are employed, or where trustees serve as local or borough councillors,
- Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation where E Masih is a trustee

No one person is considered to be in a position to exercise significant influence over these organisations and consequently no details of the related party transactions are disclosed in these financial statements.

**28. Taxation**

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income or gains derived from its charitable activities, as they fall within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

**29. Members' liability**

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

