
BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|---------|
| Reference and Administrative Details of the Charitable company, its Trustees and Advisers | 1 - 2 |
| Trustees' Report | 3 - 17 |
| Independent Auditors' Report on the Financial Statements | 18 - 21 |
| Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities | 22 |
| Consolidated Balance Sheet | 23 - 24 |
| Charitable company Balance Sheet | 25 - 26 |
| Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows | 27 |
| Notes to the Financial Statements | 28 - 52 |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND
ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Trustees | C Barker J M Barnes J Carré B S George (resigned 5 August 2024) P Grayson, Chair Cllr T Hill (resigned 5 August 2024) J Kalsi (appointed 15 April 2025) A Khandelwal S Kooner M R Liddiard (resigned 1 September 2025) A Lovesey J Ridge (appointed 15 April 2025) I Riches (resigned 29 October 2024) C J Smith (resigned 31 March 2025) |
| Company registered number | 03327628 |
| Charity registered number | 1061538 |
| Registered office | The Old School Cardington Beds MK44 3SX |
| Company secretary | Mrs T Cowan (resigned 28 May 2025) C R Andrews (appointed 28 May 2025) |
| Chief executive officer | Mrs T Cowan (resigned 28 May 2025) C R Andrews (appointed 28 May 2025) |
| Bankers | 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 |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND
ADVISERS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| | Virgin Money Jubilee House Gosforth Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL |
| Senior Management Team | Mrs Tracy Cowan Mr Cliff Andrews Ms Janice Janes Mrs Kate Ellis Mr Bill Simmons |
| Solicitors | Woodfines LLP 16 St Cuthberts Street Bedford MK40 3JG |
| Independent Auditors | Streets Audit LLP Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors Potton House Wyboston Lakes Great North Road Wyboston Bedford MK44 3BZ |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. 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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 Finance Committee, the People and Projects Committee and the Strategic Development Committee, which also meet quarterly.

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

d. Pay policy for key management personnel

The charity uses the NJC paycales 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 Beds RCC but the trustees do not consider that any councillors who are also trustees of Beds RCC 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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

April 2024:

April was filled with Good Neighbour Group news and developments. New groups were launched in Milton Ernest and Pavenham. Houghton Regis Helpers (HRH) were delighted to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service at Houghton Regis Memorial Hall on Thursday 18th April. This award is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK, and receiving it is a huge honour.

May 2024:

In May the Beds RCC project Time2Connect won the Mayor's Pride of Houghton Regis Award. The Time2Connect team were amazed and delighted to receive the Mayor's Award and to hear the wonderful citations that were read alongside the presentation. The team said that "it is a wonderful thing to be appreciated and valued for the work we do and have done and we are honoured to have received this special award for our work."

June 2024:

Warden Abbey Vineyard was delighted to receive a Bronze Medal at the 2024 Decanter World Wine Awards for its 2019 Sparkling Brut. The Vineyard had a bumper harvest in 2019 – one of the best since 2010 when Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (Beds RCC) took over the vineyard and set up the Community Vineyard Project. The volunteers work throughout the year to tend the vines and we are very proud that the quality of the wine we produce has been recognised by the industry.

July 2024:

Beds RCC once again partnered with Central Bedfordshire Council to stage the annual Cheering Volunteering event on the 17th of July. Cheering Volunteering recognises and celebrates the work of our remarkable local volunteers who contribute so much to our communities. Around a hundred volunteers attended the event at Central Bedfordshire Council's Priory House with a buffet, live entertainment and raffle. Our very own Mike Fayers led a short wellbeing walk in the local woods which was joined by nearly half of those attending!

August 2024:

A volunteer work party from East West Rail joined us at Ridgmont to help out with our garden. Some of the volunteers shared their thoughts:

"It was lovely; everyone was so welcoming from the first minute."

"Thoroughly enjoyed the whole day, it was great fun!"

"The museum, tearooms and station house are fantastic – keep up the good work!"

September 2024:

Together with Bedford Borough Council we launched Wellbeing in the Wild! Weekly group nature-based activities aimed to help support the wellbeing of women who are pregnant or have a baby under the age of one. These activities encompassed the Five Ways to Wellbeing - Connection, Be Active, Learn, Take Notice and Give Back. The sessions offered a chance to meet other parents-to-be or parents with young babies. During the sessions we offered simple seasonal activities inspired by nature, including mindfulness and art.

October 2024:

Warden Abbey Vineyard mentioned in The Telegraph. Warden Abbey Vineyard was recently mentioned in a recent Telegraph article on grape harvesting. From the piece: "Grape picking is a great way to meet like-minded people, while doing something outdoors which is good for physical and mental health. There's a fun, purposeful atmosphere, and whether you're actively picking or on a break from snipping, it's sociable. You'll discover a lot about how grapes are grown and how wine is made."

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

November 2024:

Our Community Rail and Green Wellbeing Teams were busy creating great new video, showcasing the Rails to Roots wellbeing gardening group at Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre. The community garden vision was always to become a showcase for community rail, and also become a new reason for people to travel along the lovely Marston Vale line that connects Bedford to Bletchley.

December 2024:

The Good Neighbour group Leighton Linslade Helping Hands (LLHH) reached their 10th anniversary! To mark the occasion, the group held a celebratory evening at Leighton Buzzard's Ship Inn, where volunteers and clients past and present got together with other special guests to have fun and to reflect on ten years of LLHH helping out their local community. Simon Patterson, who is part of BRCC's support team for all the Good Neighbour schemes in Bedfordshire, presented a commemorative thank-you certificate to Liz, the group's chair.

January 2025:

We continued to develop our Wellbeing and Warm Spaces offer over the winter period in many different Bedfordshire locations. These spaces were for people to come to enjoy a hot drink, some company, and support, if they need it. These spaces are free, and anyone is welcome to come along. In related work we also started recruiting for Winter Warmth Agents.

February 2025:

During February our fantastic volunteers from M.E.E.T (Men. Engage. Exercise. Talk.) spoke at the Bedfordshire Mental Health Alliance event on men's mental health! They did an incredible job highlighting the impact of M.E.E.T. and the positive difference it makes for the young men who attend. We're so proud of their dedication and passion!

March 2025:

Social Prescribing Day. We finished the financial year off in March by celebrating Social Prescribing Day. Over the course of a week we promoted all the fantastic work that our Social Prescribing team does. Delivering social prescription across Bedfordshire has been a significant part of the work within Beds RCC, and we're really proud of our team and the work that we're delivering and the difference it makes to those taking part.

This year has seen a great start in delivering our Strategic Plan which was launched in March 2024. Across our broad suite of services and projects we have made significant progress in fulfilling our mission of Building, connecting and serving communities who care for each other's wellbeing and the environment. As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on this year's successes and creating even more opportunities for connection, wellbeing, community and collaboration.

As always the team of staff, volunteers, trustees and patrons support our organisation selflessly with passion and enthusiasm and for that they need a special thank you in our report.

Supporting and Engaging Communities

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.

This year we supported 44 groups within the Bedfordshire network. By March 2025 we had 1,247 volunteers who over the year have carried out more than 33,900 tasks. We ran training sessions covering Safeguarding Level 1 (via the CVS and Virtual College); Support for Carers and Powers of Attorney (via Carers in Beds and Pictons Solicitors) and BT/EE's Digital Switchover affecting those on Telecare and people reliant on landlines.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

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

Our Agents supported 1,040 individual clients, including 623 new clients. 722 home visits were undertaken.

Village Hall & Community Buildings support

We are part of the ACRE national network of Village Hall Advisors, providing information, advice and support to Charitable Village Hall Committees.

We supported 175 halls with advice and guidance this year. The newly built Potton Hall 4 All was formally opened on Friday 28th February 2025 by His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO, to which the VHA was also formally invited. The VHA service has supported this project for many years providing advice and support on issues such as funding, governance and more recently on equipment and fitting out.

Housing and planning

Beds RCC 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 4 communities on Green Infrastructure Plans.

In addition, we help rural parishes to meet their affordable housing needs by carrying out household surveys. This year we carried out 11 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. In this year we led on the establishment of the Bedfordshire Rural Housing Partnership

Health and Wellbeing

The Community and Wellbeing team is there to promote and facilitate health and wellbeing for individuals and communities.

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.

During the past year our Community Wellbeing Champions received 3,806 referrals.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

Targeted Mental Health Social Prescribing

Through our role as a key VCSE partner, in partnership with ELFT, we supported colleagues in the transformation of secondary mental health services. We have been able to embed the Community Wellbeing Champion into the new 'front door' to enable residents access support provided by Community Mental Health Teams. In the third year of this role we are seeing the benefits of this resource, supporting people to access quick and responsive care, offering holistic strategies to enable them to maintain their mental health and be independent of services.

Community Wellbeing Champions are working across clinical teams to support sustainable changes for people with serious mental health.

Jubilation Hub

In partnership with our funder BIG LOCAL, we have successfully launch the Jubilation Community Drop in to support residents to access support services, become physically active, enjoy a hot drink, soup or roll and make connections in their community.

The group runs every Monday with the support from our Community Hub Coordinator and Assistant. Our collaboration with residents who attend the session, our hub team have co-designed a variety of groups and sessions to engage everyone. Our own Community Wellbeing Champions and partner organisations regularly attend the sessions to provide support service to attendees.

During the year we launched a Jubilee Park Wellbeing Walk to run parallel with the Hub sessions.

Green Infrastructure and Sustainability

We also provide a range of Community and Countryside initiatives, including wildlife conservation and volunteering. This year we have been developing several new Green Infrastructure plans for villages including facilitated workshops, online surveys and drop in engagement sessions. We host the Upper and Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership. Beds RCC also leads on a number of 'Green Wheels' (linking publicly accessible green spaces and routes within and around rural towns) predominantly in the Ivel Valley area. During this year we were pleased to partner with Central Bedfordshire Council and The Greensand Trust to develop a Masterplan for an Ampthill & Flitwick Green Wheel.

Beds RCC 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.

Green Social Prescribing

Our Green Social Prescribing work has continued to grow, providing individuals with healthy outdoor activities to benefit their physical and mental wellbeing. We supported a number of community gardens in addition to creating gardens at our sites at Dunstable Community Halls & Ridgmont Station. We continued to coordinate over 40 Wellbeing Walks within the county, run a low-cost bike hire scheme in Biggleswade, ran taster conservation volunteer courses and led numerous natural wellbeing activities; including delivering sessions in partnership with Dunton Community Garden.

Ecology and Conservation Volunteering

Our in-house Ecologist supported landowners and Local Authorities in undertaking a number of habitat and species surveys to inform planning applications and land management decisions. Our hosting of the Upper & Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership continued our involvement in caring for the wildlife of our rivers. We support partners in the wardening and management of a number of community green spaces. Our Ivel Valley Conservation Volunteer group undertook 35 tasks including habitat creation and management; and access enhancements to countryside sites.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

Community Engagement

We supported 5 communities with the development of their Neighbourhood Plans. This support often included undertaking Housing Needs Surveys and facilitating the production of Green Infrastructure Plans. Using online and postal surveys, facilitated workshops and face to face drop-in sessions, we enabled many residents to have a voice in planning and decision making within their communities.

Dunstable Community Halls

Dunstable Community Halls provides affordably priced space for hire either to individuals, organisations or local groups. During the year we supported a range of local community activities, including children's dance classes, adult pilates and zumba, ball room dancing, line dancing, educational presentations, health and wellbeing sessions. Our community gardens have continued to develop as part of our Green Social Prescribing offer. Barclays Bank use 2 of our rooms twice a week to provide a service to local customers, following the closure of their bank.

Voluntary Sector Support

We continued to provide information, support and signposting to a range of community groups seeking assistance with funding, governance and community engagement. We supported the planning and hosting of Central Bedfordshire Council's Cheering Volunteering event.

Community Transport

Community transport plays a vital role in meeting the needs of vulnerable individuals throughout Bedfordshire. This year was a challenging year with the previous year trading loss. We were focussed on gaining additional work whilst still delivering a great service to our existing contracts. In 2024/25 we travelled 45,016 miles with 9,181 journeys.

Door to Door / Greensand Country

Beds RCC operates two personalised transport services, commonly known as 'dial-a-ride,' to cater to individuals facing substantial challenges in utilising conventional public transportation. These 'Door to Door' services cover the entirety of Bedford Borough, and the 'Greensand Country' area of 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.

The Dial-a-ride services continued to make a difference to those in our communities who needed it.

Road – Contract Work

Community Transport has needed to look at additional contract work to support sustainability and has built gradually. We will continue to look for additional work across Bedfordshire.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

Community Rail Partnerships

Beds RCC 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. Both CRPs work to engage the local community and help people get the most from their railway, promoting social inclusion and sustainable travel, working alongside Train Operating Companies to bring about improvements.

Marston Vale CRP commissioned BA Events to produce a Great Days Out Film for the Marston Vale Line as part of an extensive marketing campaign to relaunch the Line after a lengthy service suspension. The film can be viewed at <https://www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk/>

The CRP also worked with Youth Inspired in Bedford to design artwork for Bedford St Johns Station. The project was runner up in the Small Projects Award (Projects Under £500) at the 2025 Community Rail Awards. Lidlington Youth Engagement was shortlisted in the Involving Children & Young People category and Friends of Bletchley Station were shortlisted in the It's Your Station Silver category.

Beds & Herts CRP and Marston Vale CRP jointly piloted a new venture with the railway companies providing work experience for students with additional needs from Bedford College's 'Pathways' initiative at five stations on their routes. The CRP also joined in with the Scouts Association's new venture 'Platforms for Change' for the first time, where the local cub pack 'adopted' their station at Harlington for badgework opportunities.

Both CRPs are looking forward to celebrating 'Railway 200' - 2025 is the Bi-centenary of the first public train service - and a number of events have taken place.

Digital Connection

Digital connection sees us working with people in Bedfordshire to help them become more digitally included, to teach and equip them to access online services that improve their health and wellbeing helping reduce loneliness and inspire confidence.

You Can Do IT!

The 'You Can Do IT!' project, which supports people to learn how to use digital technology has transitioned from its original Health-focussed funding to delivering broader sessions across Bedford and Central Bedfordshire. 10 active volunteers continue to support us as Digital Health Champions to provide that help within our 8 established groups. The project has welcomed 107 learners across all groups and delivered 655 sessions of individual tuition. Funding has been secured to extend and expand the scheme in 2025/26.

Supporting Culture and Heritage

Supporting culture and heritage is still a relatively new area of work for us, introduced by our 2024-28 Strategic Plan. We want to support the culture and heritage of our communities to ensure the preservation of the rich history, traditions and identities of different communities and societies.

Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre

We are 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. We are open to the public with a museum, gift shop, tourist information point, tea room and office & meeting space. This year was quieter due to the lack of regular trains on the Marston Vale line but the volunteers continue to do a wonderful job manning the shop, conducting tours of the building and museum.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

Dunstable Cultural Consortium

Dunstable Cultural Consortium is a partnership supported by Beds RCC and focused on enhancing and promoting the cultural landscape of Dunstable. The consortium aims to bring together various cultural organisations, artists, historians and community groups to create a vibrant cultural scene in the town. Over this year we have supported the partnership in seeking funds for future programmes and activities.

Corporate and Community Business

This section combines our two new Strategic Plan areas of Community Business and People and Partners. This area focuses on our Corporate teams, people and partnerships and our not for profit Trading arm. This area operates across the whole organisation providing services and support to all departments, as well as our two not-for-profit businesses.

Financial and HR management

The finance team struggled this year with the long term absence of the Finance Officer and the departure of the Assistant Accountant in 2024. The Executive Assistant who took over the HR records function has continued to support the team to grow and support the organisations policies and procedures.

Marketing and IT

This was a very busy year for our Marketing and IT teams. Due to staff changes the Marketing Team has had to work with reduced staff hours.

The Marketing team continues marketing support of our Vineyard and along with lots of other internal Beds RCC projects. This has meant significant of new design work using our graphic design skills in-house. Our following across social media continues to develop and we were very lucky to win some awards with the support of the team.

Ridgmont Station Tea Room

This is covered in the review of activities for BRCC Trading Services Limited.

Warden Abbey Community Vineyard

This is covered in the review of activities for BRCC Trading Services Limited.

b. Review of activities – BRCC Trading Services Ltd

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

- P Grayson
- J Richardson (appointed 28 October 2024)
- I Riches (resigned 29 October 2024)
- A Kandelwal (appointed 1 July 2024)
- S Kooner (appointed 1 July 2024)

- T Cowan (Secretary - resigned 28 May 2025)
- C R Andrews (Secretary - appointed 28 May 2025)

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

The main trading activities of BRCC Services Ltd are currently:

Ridgmont Station Tea Room

The Tea Room had a productive 6 months within Trading Services with close to 1% sales growth on the same period in 2023/24. The decision was made by the Board to transfer the Tea Room accounts into the Charity from the 1st October 2024. There were some themed events such as "Festive Afternoon Tea, "Mother's Day Afternoon Tea" along with some of the Community Rail Partnership Heritage events.

The external area has been planted with vegetables and cared for by the BRCC Rails to Roots Group.

Warden Abbey Community Vineyard

Beds RCC 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. This year was extremely challenging. We had issues again with disease on the vines and there was also the added disappointment of bird and wildlife damage to the grapes just ahead of harvest time. During the harvesting day, the team picked around 0.5 tons of our grapes. This has been our lowest yield and will again affect us in the future in terms of new stock.

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

b. Financial review

During the year, the charity and its trading subsidiary BRCC Services Ltd raised income of £2,320,235 (2024 £2,370,069) 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. A proportion 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 £2,411,779 (2024 £2,571,804), with the result that the overall net movement in funds for the year amounted to a deficit of £91,544 (2024 deficit of £201,735).

The operating deficit evident in 2025 primarily reflects situations where income was received for the purposes of delivering specific projects and programs in previous years and the resulting expenditure fell within the current year. This is an appropriate presentation of the income and expenditure and reflects our commitment to responsibly manage and allocate resources over the duration of our projects including those which span more than one financial year.

Transfers have been made for the value of fixed assets purchased in the year, so the balance in the Fixed Asset Reserve of £1,119,185 (2024 £1,155,911) matches the total net book value of the fixed assets as at 31 March 2025. The other designated reserves (Contingency and Buildings & Vehicle Maintenance reserves) have been maintained at the same level.

As a result of this year's activity, the Charity's General Fund deficit has reduced from £68,382 to £12,156. The general fund is, therefore, still below the minimum level set out in the Reserves Policy (above) and restoring the General Fund to the minimum level continues to be a priority for the trustees over the coming years.

The trading subsidiary, BRCC Services Ltd, reported a profit of £9,250 in the year (2024 loss of £3,909) and the cumulative losses amounted to £150,696 (2024 £159,946).

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Plans for the future

- Continue to grow our Community and Wellbeing Service securing funding from LA's/ ICB and the Primary Care Networks and further expand into Green Social Prescribing, Digital Isolation and Children and Young People areas
- Expand our Community Transport Service through increasing the range of services and projects and look for greener opportunities for the fleet
- Look for opportunities to continue the refurbishment Dunstable Community Halls
- Continue to develop our presence in the South of the County and Luton
- Continue to expand our Rural Housing offer to provide the full Rural Housing Enabler service
- Continue to develop the Good Neighbour and Village Care Scheme Network
- To acquire full Museum accreditation for Ridgmont Heritage Centre and develop the offer
- Develop our Culture and Heritage offer including a feasibility study for developing a community eco-building for our Community Vineyard
- 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).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . 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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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:



C Barker
Chair of Finance Committee

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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 2025 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 2025 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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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. 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: 12 November 2025

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 2025**

| | Note | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2024 £ |
|------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income from: | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 17,957 | 9,029 | 26,986 | 23,007 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 2,000,837 | 125,795 | 2,126,632 | 2,164,950 |
| Other trading activities | 5 | 250 | 158,943 | 159,193 | 173,609 |
| Investments | 6 | - | 7,424 | 7,424 | 8,503 |
| Total income | | 2,019,044 | 301,191 | 2,320,235 | 2,370,069 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 7 | - | 40,818 | 40,818 | 53,406 |
| Charitable activities | 8 | 2,181,881 | 189,080 | 2,370,961 | 2,518,398 |
| Total expenditure | | 2,181,881 | 229,898 | 2,411,779 | 2,571,804 |
| Net (expenditure)/income | | (162,837) | 71,293 | (91,544) | (201,735) |
| Transfers between funds | 20 | 37,079 | (37,079) | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | | (125,758) | 34,214 | (91,544) | (201,735) |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 806,463 | 1,102,583 | 1,909,046 | 2,110,781 |
| Net movement in funds | | (125,758) | 34,214 | (91,544) | (201,735) |
| Total funds carried forward | | 680,705 | 1,136,797 | 1,817,502 | 1,909,046 |

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

The notes on pages 28 to 52 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 2025

| | Note | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible assets | 13 | 1,119,185 | 1,155,911 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Stocks | 15 | 34,766 | 40,320 |
| Debtors | 16 | 340,247 | 205,925 |
| Investments | 17 | 91,738 | 87,976 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 586,129 | 691,228 |
| | | <u>1,052,880</u> | <u>1,025,449</u> |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 18 | (351,622) | (259,610) |
| Net current assets | | <u>701,258</u> | <u>765,839</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | 19 | (2,941) | (12,704) |
| Total net assets | | <u><u>1,817,502</u></u> | <u><u>1,909,046</u></u> |

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

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

| | Note | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|----------------------|------|------------------|-----------|
| Charity funds | | | |
| Restricted funds | 20 | 680,705 | 806,463 |
| Unrestricted funds | 20 | 1,136,797 | 1,102,583 |
| Total funds | | 1,817,502 | 1,909,046 |

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:


C Barker
Chair of Finance Committee

The notes on pages 28 to 52 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 2025

| | Note | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|--|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible assets | 13 | 1,119,185 | 1,155,911 |
| Investments | | 100 | 100 |
| | | <u>1,119,285</u> | <u>1,156,011</u> |
| Current assets | | | |
| Stocks | 15 | 1,500 | - |
| Debtors | 16 | 513,920 | 382,583 |
| Investments | 17 | 91,738 | 87,976 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 581,072 | 688,248 |
| | | <u>1,188,230</u> | <u>1,158,807</u> |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 18 | (339,317) | (245,826) |
| | | <u>848,913</u> | <u>912,981</u> |
| Net current assets | | <u>848,913</u> | <u>912,981</u> |
| Total net assets | | <u><u>1,968,198</u></u> | <u><u>2,068,992</u></u> |

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

CHARITABLE COMPANY BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

| | Note | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|----------------------|------|------------------|-----------|
| Charity funds | | | |
| Restricted funds | 20 | 680,705 | 806,463 |
| Restricted funds | 20 | 680,705 | 806,463 |
| Unrestricted funds | 20 | 1,287,493 | 1,262,529 |
| Total funds | | 1,968,198 | 2,068,992 |

The charitable company's net movement in funds for the year was £(100,794) (2024 - £(197,826)).

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:



C Barker
Chair of Finance Committee

The notes on pages 28 to 52 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 2025

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | |
| Net cash used in operating activities | (96,378) | 114,314 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Dividends, interests and rents from investments | 7,424 | 8,503 |
| Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets | - | 6,069 |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | (2,620) | (45,656) |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities | 4,804 | (31,084) |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | |
| Repayments of borrowing | (9,763) | (9,524) |
| Movement in fixed term deposit | (3,762) | (1,977) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (13,525) | (11,501) |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year | (105,099) | 71,729 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year | 691,228 | 619,499 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year | 586,129 | 691,228 |

The notes on pages 28 to 52 form part of these financial statements

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Company status

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities upon the completion of the relevant performance-related conditions. Other grants that are not subject to performance-related conditions are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as the grant proceeds are received. Grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria being satisfied are recognised as a liability.

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 2% per annum straight line |
| Long-term leasehold property: Ridgmont Station improvements | Over the remaining life of the leasehold property being 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 being 10% or 4% per annum straight line |
| Short-term leasehold property | - 10% or 20% per annum straight line |
| Plant and machinery | - |
| Motor vehicles | - 25% per annum straight line |
| Office equipment | - 25% per annum reducing balance 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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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

| | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|-------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Other donations | 17,957 | 9,029 | 26,986 | 23,007 |
| <i>Total 2024</i> | <i>20,691</i> | <i>2,316</i> | <i>23,007</i> | |

4. Income from charitable activities

| | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Income from charitable activities | 2,000,837 | 125,795 | 2,126,632 | 2,164,950 |
| <i>Total 2024</i> | <i>2,097,184</i> | <i>67,766</i> | <i>2,164,950</i> | |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

5. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

| | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|-------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rent received | - | 84,975 | 84,975 | 62,930 |
| Sundry income | 250 | 503 | 753 | 3,163 |
| | <u>250</u> | <u>85,478</u> | <u>85,728</u> | <u>66,093</u> |
| <i>Total 2024</i> | <u>-</u> | <u>66,093</u> | <u>66,093</u> | |

Income from non charitable trading activities

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sales | 73,465 | 73,465 | 107,516 |
| | <u>73,465</u> | <u>73,465</u> | |
| <i>Total 2024</i> | <u>107,516</u> | <u>107,516</u> | |

6. Investment income

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bank interest | 7,424 | 7,424 | 8,503 |
| | <u>7,424</u> | <u>7,424</u> | |
| <i>Total 2024</i> | <u>8,503</u> | <u>8,503</u> | |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Other trading expenses

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cost of sales | 36,027 | 36,027 | 48,042 |
| Administration expenses | 4,332 | 4,332 | 4,666 |
| Interest payable | 459 | 459 | 698 |
| | <u>40,818</u> | <u>40,818</u> | <u>53,406</u> |
| <i>Total 2024</i> | <u>53,406</u> | <u>53,406</u> | |

8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

| | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total 2025 £ | <i>Total 2024 £</i> |
|-----------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Charitable Activities | <u>2,181,881</u> | <u>189,080</u> | <u>2,370,961</u> | <u>2,518,398</u> |
| <i>Total 2024</i> | <u>2,319,201</u> | <u>199,197</u> | <u>2,518,398</u> | |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

| | Activities undertaken directly 2025 £ | Support costs 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|-----------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Charitable Activities | 1,997,628 | 373,333 | 2,370,961 | 2,518,398 |
| <i>Total 2024</i> | <u>2,110,368</u> | <u>408,030</u> | <u>2,518,398</u> | |

Analysis of direct costs

| | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Staff costs | 1,638,891 | 1,620,600 |
| Room hire, meetings and conferences | 10,618 | 16,737 |
| Publicity, publications and subscriptions | 27,833 | 45,721 |
| Printing, postage, stationery and telephone | 64,756 | 62,419 |
| Repairs and renewals | 67,648 | 70,949 |
| Contractors fees | 75,751 | 111,139 |
| Travel and subsistence | 8,092 | 12,031 |
| Recruitment and other staff costs | 5,841 | 7,033 |
| Volunteer's expenses | 1,507 | 3,085 |
| Rent, rates and service charges | 20,626 | 19,053 |
| Legal and professional fees | 9,807 | 6,066 |
| Grants paid | 5,830 | 59,253 |
| Vehicle costs | 42,510 | 50,212 |
| Lease costs | 15,257 | 16,374 |
| Marketing costs | 2,661 | 9,696 |
| | <u>1,997,628</u> | <u>2,110,368</u> |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

| | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Staff costs | 229,792 | 246,939 |
| Depreciation | 39,346 | 37,851 |
| VAT lost on partial exemption | 9,128 | 13,270 |
| Premises costs | 76,450 | 92,742 |
| Bank charges | 2,190 | 2,180 |
| (Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets | - | (3,467) |
| Bad debts | 953 | 3,010 |
| Governance costs | 15,474 | 15,505 |
| | 373,333 | 408,030 |

10. Auditors' remuneration

| | 2025 £ | <i>2024 £</i> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fees payable to the charitable company's auditor for the audit of the charitable company's annual accounts | 14,000 | 12,250 |
| Fees payable to the charitable company's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above | 4,000 | 4,250 |

11. Staff costs

| | Group 2025 £ | <i>Group 2024 £</i> | Charity 2025 £ | <i>Charity 2024 £</i> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wages and salaries | 1,684,218 | 1,693,706 | 1,684,218 | 1,693,706 |
| Social security costs | 147,246 | 136,872 | 147,246 | 136,872 |
| Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes | 37,219 | 36,961 | 37,219 | 36,961 |
| | 1,868,683 | 1,867,539 | 1,868,683 | 1,867,539 |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

11. Staff costs (continued)

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

| | Group 2025 No. | <i>Group 2024 No.</i> | Charity 2025 No. | <i>Charity 2024 No.</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Project staff | 83 | <i>80</i> | 83 | <i>80</i> |
| Administration and governance | 3 | <i>3</i> | 3 | <i>3</i> |
| | 86 | <i>83</i> | 86 | <i>83</i> |

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

| | Group 2025 No. | <i>Group 2024 No.</i> | Charity 2025 No. | <i>Charity 2024 No.</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Project staff | 48 | <i>51</i> | 48 | <i>51</i> |
| Administration and governance | 3 | <i>3</i> | 3 | <i>3</i> |
| | 51 | <i>54</i> | 51 | <i>54</i> |

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

| | Group 2025 No. | <i>Group 2024 No.</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| In the band £60,001 - £70,000 | 1 | <i>1</i> |

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 £175,507 was paid to 3 members of staff for their roles as key management personnel (2024: £174,105 was paid to 3 members of staff).

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £NIL).

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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 £ |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Cost or valuation | | | | | | | |
| At 1 April 2024 | 734,950 | 509,045 | 82,120 | 35,535 | 121,027 | 78,997 | 1,561,674 |
| Additions | - | - | - | - | - | 2,620 | 2,620 |
| At 31 March 2025 | 734,950 | 509,045 | 82,120 | 35,535 | 121,027 | 81,617 | 1,564,294 |
| Depreciation | | | | | | | |
| At 1 April 2024 | 61,677 | 72,843 | 56,806 | 35,535 | 121,027 | 57,875 | 405,763 |
| Charge for the year | 23,753 | 6,789 | 2,828 | - | - | 5,976 | 39,346 |
| At 31 March 2025 | 85,430 | 79,632 | 59,634 | 35,535 | 121,027 | 63,851 | 445,109 |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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 £ |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Net book value | | | | | | | |
| <i>At 31 March 2025</i> | 649,520 | 429,413 | 22,486 | - | - | 17,766 | 1,119,185 |
| <i>At 31 March 2024</i> | 673,273 | 436,202 | 25,314 | - | - | 21,122 | 1,155,911 |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

14. Subsidiary Undertakings

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the charitable company:

| Name | Company number | Registered office or principal place of business | Principal activity | Class of shares | Holding | Included in consolidation |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 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:

| Name | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Profit/(Loss) / Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year £ | Net assets £ |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| BRCC Trading Services Ltd | 74,050 | (64,800) | 9,250 | (150,596) |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

15. Stocks

| | Group 2025 £ | Group 2024 £ | Charity 2025 £ | Charity 2024 £ |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Goods for resale | 34,766 | 40,320 | 1,500 | - |

16. Debtors

| | Group 2025 £ | Group 2024 £ | Charity 2025 £ | Charity 2024 £ |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Due within one year | | | | |
| Trade debtors | 309,424 | 178,283 | 308,646 | 176,076 |
| Amounts owed by group undertakings | - | - | 174,541 | 178,865 |
| Other debtors | 5,042 | 22,826 | 4,952 | 22,826 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 25,781 | 4,816 | 25,781 | 4,816 |
| | 340,247 | 205,925 | 513,920 | 382,583 |

17. Current asset investments

| | Group 2025 £ | Group 2024 £ | Charity 2025 £ | Charity 2024 £ |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bank deposit (over 90 days) | 91,738 | 87,976 | 91,738 | 87,976 |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

| | Group 2025 £ | Group 2024 £ | Charity 2025 £ | Charity 2024 £ |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bank loans | 9,600 | 9,600 | - | - |
| Trade creditors | 41,038 | 33,169 | 40,606 | 32,717 |
| Other taxation and social security | 42,832 | 40,054 | 42,832 | 40,037 |
| Other creditors | 13,328 | 62,518 | 13,055 | 60,803 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 244,824 | 114,269 | 242,824 | 112,269 |
| | 351,622 | 259,610 | 339,317 | 245,826 |

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

| | Group 2025 £ | Group 2024 £ | Charity 2025 £ | Charity 2024 £ |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Deferred income at 1 April 2024 | 62,478 | 138,266 | 62,478 | 138,266 |
| Resources deferred during the year | 199,954 | 62,478 | 199,954 | 62,478 |
| Amounts released from previous periods | (62,478) | (138,266) | (62,478) | (138,266) |
| | 199,954 | 62,478 | 199,954 | 62,478 |

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

| | Group 2025 £ | Group 2024 £ |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bank loans | 2,941 | 12,704 |

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

20. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

| | Balance at 1 April 2024 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers in/out £ | Balance at 31 March 2025 £ |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| Designated funds | | | | | |
| Fixed Asset Reserve | 1,155,911 | - | (39,346) | 2,620 | 1,119,185 |
| Contingency Fund | 150,000 | - | - | - | 150,000 |
| Building and Vehicle Maintenance Fund | 25,000 | - | - | - | 25,000 |
| | <u>1,330,911</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(39,346)</u> | <u>2,620</u> | <u>1,294,185</u> |
| General funds | | | | | |
| General Fund | (68,382) | 180,840 | (103,201) | (21,413) | (12,156) |
| BRCC Trading Services Ltd | (159,946) | 68,354 | (40,818) | (18,286) | (150,696) |
| VCSE funds | - | 51,997 | (46,533) | - | 5,464 |
| | <u>(228,328)</u> | <u>301,191</u> | <u>(190,552)</u> | <u>(39,699)</u> | <u>(157,388)</u> |
| Total Unrestricted funds | <u>1,102,583</u> | <u>301,191</u> | <u>(229,898)</u> | <u>(37,079)</u> | <u>1,136,797</u> |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

20. Statement of funds (continued)

| | Balance at 1 April 2024 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers in/out £ | Balance at 31 March 2025 £ |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Bedford Borough Agents & GNS | - | 132,877 | (155,850) | 22,973 | - |
| Central Bedfordshire Agents & GNS | 18,276 | 121,020 | (107,348) | (18,276) | 13,672 |
| Community Hubs | - | 65,619 | (25,038) | - | 40,581 |
| Green Infrastructure | 196,649 | 153,506 | (205,147) | - | 145,008 |
| Rural Housing Enabler | 22,014 | 51,545 | (50,778) | (4,697) | 18,084 |
| Y2A (Youth 2 Adult) | 11,417 | 14 | (4,656) | - | 6,775 |
| Community Rail Partnerships | 87,666 | 104,129 | (101,419) | (62) | 90,314 |
| Warden Abbey Vineyard | - | 14,088 | (35,938) | 21,850 | - |
| Dunstable Consortium | - | 11,694 | (68) | - | 11,626 |
| Community Transport | 5,899 | 356,260 | (377,450) | 15,291 | - |
| Timebank | 51,978 | 47,753 | (54,048) | - | 45,683 |
| Community Connectors | 148,526 | - | (88,593) | - | 59,933 |
| Mental Health Social Prescribing | 61,479 | 189,025 | (163,486) | - | 87,018 |
| Primary Care Networks | 21,139 | 256,603 | (260,018) | (13,834) | 3,890 |
| Social Prescribing CBC | 113,267 | 267,470 | (253,576) | - | 127,161 |
| CRSP LA (formerly Social Prescribing BBC) | - | 233,805 | (247,639) | 13,834 | - |
| GCLP Projects | 16,565 | - | (90) | - | 16,475 |
| You Can Do It | 51,588 | 13,636 | (50,739) | - | 14,485 |
| | <u>806,463</u> | <u>2,019,044</u> | <u>(2,181,881)</u> | <u>37,079</u> | <u>680,705</u> |
| Total of funds | <u>1,909,046</u> | <u>2,320,235</u> | <u>(2,411,779)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,817,502</u> |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

20. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

| | <i>Balance at 1 April 2023 £</i> | <i>Income £</i> | <i>Expenditure £</i> | <i>Transfers in/out £</i> | <i>Balance at 31 March 2024 £</i> |
|--|--|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| Designated funds | | | | | |
| Fixed Asset Reserve | 1,150,708 | - | (37,851) | 43,054 | 1,155,911 |
| Contingency Fund | 150,000 | - | - | - | 150,000 |
| Building and Vehicle Maintenance Fund | 25,000 | - | - | - | 25,000 |
| | <u>1,325,708</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(37,851)</u> | <u>43,054</u> | <u>1,330,911</u> |
| General funds | | | | | |
| General Fund | (25,530) | 140,412 | (132,896) | (50,368) | (68,382) |
| BRCC Trading Services Ltd | (156,037) | 107,516 | (53,406) | (58,019) | (159,946) |
| VCSE funds | 9,501 | 4,266 | (28,450) | 14,683 | - |
| | <u>(172,066)</u> | <u>252,194</u> | <u>(214,752)</u> | <u>(93,704)</u> | <u>(228,328)</u> |
| Total Unrestricted funds | <u>1,153,642</u> | <u>252,194</u> | <u>(252,603)</u> | <u>(50,650)</u> | <u>1,102,583</u> |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

20. Statement of funds (continued)

| | <i>Balance at 1 April 2023 £</i> | <i>Income £</i> | <i>Expenditure £</i> | <i>Transfers in/out £</i> | <i>Balance at 31 March 2024 £</i> |
|---|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Bedford Borough Agents & GNS | 20,241 | 135,740 | (170,122) | 14,141 | - |
| Central Bedfordshire Agents & GNS | 70,530 | 88,836 | (126,949) | (14,141) | 18,276 |
| Community Hubs | 147,255 | 288,301 | (238,907) | - | 196,649 |
| Green Infrastructure | 15,916 | 15,443 | (16,635) | (14,724) | - |
| Rural Housing Enabler | - | 23,844 | (1,830) | - | 22,014 |
| Y2A (Youth 2 Adult) | - | 24,349 | (12,932) | - | 11,417 |
| Community Rail Partnerships | 92,241 | 110,679 | (115,254) | - | 87,666 |
| Warden Abbey Vineyard | - | 17,009 | (35,689) | 18,680 | - |
| Ridgmont Station | - | 1,746 | (30,922) | 29,176 | - |
| Dunstable Consortium | 49,955 | - | (67,473) | 17,518 | - |
| Community Transport | 11,942 | 372,973 | (379,016) | - | 5,899 |
| Timebank | 41,172 | 112,712 | (101,906) | - | 51,978 |
| Community Connectors | 150,000 | - | (1,474) | - | 148,526 |
| Mental Health Social Prescribing | 35,889 | 166,304 | (140,714) | - | 61,479 |
| Primary Care Networks | 35,921 | 239,454 | (254,236) | - | 21,139 |
| Social Prescribing CBC | 133,393 | 264,957 | (284,564) | (519) | 113,267 |
| CRSP LA (formerly Social Prescribing BBC) | 5,255 | 231,903 | (237,677) | 519 | - |
| GCLP Projects | 58,639 | 30 | (42,104) | - | 16,565 |
| You Can Do It | 88,790 | 23,595 | (60,797) | - | 51,588 |
| | <u>957,139</u> | <u>2,117,875</u> | <u>(2,319,201)</u> | <u>50,650</u> | <u>806,463</u> |
| Total of funds | <u><u>2,110,781</u></u> | <u><u>2,370,069</u></u> | <u><u>(2,571,804)</u></u> | <u><u>-</u></u> | <u><u>1,909,046</u></u> |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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, Leasehold Land & Buildings, Renovation work 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:

Bedford Borough Agents & Good Neighbours Scheme:

Funding from Bedford Borough Council (Adult Services) supports the Carers Short Break Bureau; the Good Neighbours Schemes and the Village Agents "Just Ask" initiative.

Central Bedfordshire Agents & Good Neighbours Scheme:

Funding from Central Bedfordshire Council enables the charity to provide care for adults through the Village Care Scheme.

Community Hubs:

The charity has received funding to provide wellbeing spaces across Bedfordshire for vulnerable and isolated individuals to enjoy a hot drink, company and support.

Green Infrastructure:

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

Rural Housing Enabler:

Funding from Defra (administered by ACRE) has been received to expand the Rural Housing Service, appoint a Rural Housing Enabler and set up the Bedfordshire Rural Housing Partnership with the aim of increasing the provision of affordable rural housing.

Y2A (Youth 2 Adult):

Funding received from BLCF's Mental Health Collaboration Fund has enabled the charity to run a 12 month youth engagement programme, run by a newly appointed Children & Young People's Worker.

Community Rail Partnerships

- Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership (MVCRP):

The charity employs the MVCRP Officer, funded through Service Level Agreements with London Midland Trains, West Midlands Trains Ltd and Milton Keynes Borough Councils, to publicise and promote increased usage of the Marston Vale Community Rail Line.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20. Statement of funds (continued)

- Beds and Herts CRP:

The charity receives funding from Greater Thameslink Railway to employ a community rail officer on the Bedford to St Albans Line.

Warden Abbey Vineyard:

The charity receives grant income and donations to assist with the cost of managing the Warden Abbey Vineyard, used to provide opportunities for volunteering. The vineyard management costs have been charged to the restricted fund and a transfer of £21,850 (2024 £18,680) has been made from general funds to support the project.

Dunstable Consortium:

Funding from Historic England is part of a nationwide initiative to secure lasting improvements to historic high streets for the communities who use them.

Community Transport:

The charity provides community transport services under the Door to Door and Greensand Community Transport agreements, and to individuals with special needs.

Timebank:

Funds have been provided to encourage and support the development of Timebanks, across Central Bedfordshire, where people can help their neighbours and those within their community by sharing their time, interests and skills.

Community Connectors:

Funding of £150,000 was received in February 2023 to appoint community connectors in Bedford Borough and in Central Bedfordshire.

Primary Care Networks, Mental Health and Community Referral Social Prescribing (CRSP):

The charity 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):

A balance of funding remains from the Heritage Lottery Fund grant, administered on behalf of the Greensand Ridge Landscape Partnership, to establish the Greensand Ridge area of Bedfordshire as a living and working landscape.

You Can Do It:

Funding from NHS Charities Together and NHS England (via BLMK CCG) is used to develop and deliver a digital inclusion project, so individuals have the skills, devices and connectivity to access online health and wellbeing services.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

21. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

| | Balance at 1 April 2024 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers in/out £ | Balance at 31 March 2025 £ |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Designated funds | 1,330,911 | - | (39,346) | 2,620 | 1,294,185 |
| General funds | (228,328) | 301,191 | (190,552) | (39,699) | (157,388) |
| Restricted funds | 806,463 | 2,019,044 | (2,181,881) | 37,079 | 680,705 |
| | <u>1,909,046</u> | <u>2,320,235</u> | <u>(2,411,779)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,817,502</u> |

Summary of funds - prior year

| | Balance at 1 April 2023 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers in/out £ | Balance at 31 March 2024 £ |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Designated funds | 1,325,708 | - | (37,851) | 43,054 | 1,330,911 |
| General funds | (172,066) | 252,194 | (214,752) | (93,704) | (228,328) |
| Restricted funds | 957,139 | 2,117,875 | (2,319,201) | 50,650 | 806,463 |
| | <u>2,110,781</u> | <u>2,370,069</u> | <u>(2,571,804)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,909,046</u> |

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

| | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | - | 1,119,185 | 1,119,185 |
| Current assets | 947,795 | 105,085 | 1,052,880 |
| Creditors due within one year | (267,090) | (84,532) | (351,622) |
| Creditors due in more than one year | - | (2,941) | (2,941) |
| Total | <u>680,705</u> | <u>1,136,797</u> | <u>1,817,502</u> |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

22. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

| | <i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i> | <i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i> | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | - | 1,155,911 | 1,155,911 |
| Current assets | 932,386 | 93,063 | 1,025,449 |
| Creditors due within one year | (125,923) | (133,687) | (259,610) |
| Creditors due in more than one year | - | (12,704) | (12,704) |
| Total | 806,463 | 1,102,583 | 1,909,046 |

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

| | Group 2025 £ | <i>Group 2024 £</i> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities) | (91,544) | (201,735) |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Depreciation charges | 39,346 | 37,851 |
| Dividends, interests and rents from investments | (7,424) | (8,503) |
| Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets | - | (3,467) |
| Decrease in stocks | 5,554 | 1,697 |
| Decrease/(increase) in debtors | (134,322) | 326,256 |
| Increase/(decrease) in creditors | 92,012 | (37,785) |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities | (96,378) | 114,314 |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

| | Group 2025 £ | <i>Group 2024 £</i> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cash in hand | 586,129 | 691,228 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | 586,129 | 691,228 |

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

| | At 1 April 2024 £ | Cash flows £ | At 31 March 2025 £ |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cash at bank and in hand | 691,228 | (105,099) | 586,129 |
| Debt due within 1 year | (9,600) | - | (9,600) |
| Debt due after 1 year | (12,704) | 9,763 | (2,941) |
| Liquid investments | 87,976 | 3,762 | 91,738 |
| | 756,900 | (91,574) | 665,326 |

26. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2025 the Group and the charitable company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

| | Group 2025 £ | <i>Group 2024 £</i> | Charity 2025 £ | <i>Charity 2024 £</i> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Not later than 1 year | 14,352 | 14,352 | 14,352 | 14,352 |
| Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years | 16,744 | 33,488 | 16,744 | 33,488 |
| | 31,096 | 47,840 | 31,096 | 47,840 |

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 £21,141 (2024 £48,643) were recharged to BRCC Trading Services Limited during the year, together with recharged expenses of £641 (2024 £2,722). BRCC Trading Services Limited reported a profit of £9,250 for the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024 loss of £3,756).

The charity advanced a loan of £30,000 to the subsidiary company in previous years. Interest of £2,382 (2024 £1,858) 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 £174,541 (2024 £178,865) in respect of the loans and staff recharges which remained unpaid at the balance sheet date.

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.

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.