

Charity Registration No. 1069672

**THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

B Patel
M Whatmore
L Paskin
A Whitehouse
J Dawson
L Whitehouse
M Turner
M Whitehouse

Charity number

1069672

Independent examiner

AGS Accountants & Business Advisors Limited
Unit 1
Castle Court 2
Castlegate Way
Dudley
DY1 4RH

THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

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THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Structure, governance and management

The trustees who served during the year were:

B Patel
M Whatmore
L Paskin
A Whitehouse
J Dawson
L Whitehouse
M Turner
M Whitehouse

Trustees

The Trustees of the Great Bridge Community Forum have been with us for a number of years and are committed to helping provide a good, structured service for our local community. They are also the main members of the Management Committee of our base which is Farley Park Lodge.

Objectives and activities

Our basic aims remain what they have always been i.e. to welcome all members of the community with information, expertise and contact with partner organisations where necessary and to provide a safer and friendly environment for all young people.

We continue to build our groups and support our service users. We have seen an increase in numbers at our Place of Welcome and had service users asking us for advice regarding the current cost-of-living crisis. We have been able to signpost them to organisations who can help them during this difficult time. For us, this has highlighted the importance of continuing to grow our Place of Welcome group, encourage the attendance of new members and we aim to develop this further.

This year we have been able to provide 24 sessions (the maximum allowed) of holiday playscheme funded by Sandwell Council's 'Holiday, Activities and Food programme'. This has enabled us to offer children and families opportunities and provisions they may not have been able to access if it weren't for these services. We are extremely grateful to Sandwell Council and the Department of Education for this funding, as it has given our families memories to last a life time. We will be applying for this program next year, as it is the final year that this funding will be available from Sandwell Council, under the current Holiday, Activities and Food guidelines and we know how important it is to our families.

'Creating a Playable Sandwell' funding gave us the opportunity to provide children activities during the half term holidays. Parent feedback informed us that they rely on our services, during the holidays, to keep the children active and off the streets. The children tell us they feel safe and comfortable at our centre.

We had 2 young volunteers work with us during the holidays giving them experience and input for their C.V's.

THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

We were excited to be approached by two local mums who wanted to run a Stay and Play baby group. This was a great addition to our program for local families who struggled to find an affordable provision. We are looking to build on this group further and apply for funding to support the group.

In January we ran our first Digi-Comm Power up course delivered by SCIPS consisting of face to face digital and confidence building sessions to digitally excluded and disadvantaged individuals including the elderly. The course was supplemented and underpinned by a tablet loan scheme for anyone that needed a device. Three of our volunteers undertook a 'train the trainer' programme enabling them to be guided and supported to deliver the basic digital training to ensure sustainability of support for our community going forward.

Healthy eating and exercise continue to be at the centre of some of our provision. Staff have been trained and are knowledgeable on other issues impacting our community i.e. information of local food banks and how to access them. Staff are also aware of Sandwell Councils website and the information listed on the Route2wellbeing site (warm spaces, help with energy costs etc).

Training for our employees has taken place, where possible, face to face but also online. We continue to be flexible and open to new ideas and ways in which we can serve our community.

We continue to build on our relationship with Sandwell Leisure Trust, SCVO & Newtown Primary School. We have welcomed new partnerships this year which include Older Adult Therapy Services (NHS), Caretech care providers (based in Furnace Parade) and Sandwell Community Information and Participation Service (SCIPS.)

It is important to us to continue to serve as much of our community as possible with new ideas and new opportunities. Many thanks to our supporters and funders who help us to provide these services to our community and enable us to employ local people and thus contribute to our local economy.

Finally we would like to thank staff for their endless support, enthusiasm and willingness to go the extra mile.

On behalf of the board of trustees



M Whitehouse

Trustee

Dated: 20 December 2024

THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 4 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

AGS Accountants & Business Advisors Limited

Unit 1
Castle Court 2
Castlegate Way
Dudley
DY1 4RH

Dated: 20 December 2024

THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Incoming resources from generated funds</u>					
Funding	2	5,041	-	5,041	20,861
Grants Receivable	3	-	53,466	53,466	70,687
Total incoming resources		5,041	53,466	58,507	91,548
<u>Resources expended</u>					
4					
Charitable activities					
After school and volunteer costs		-	12,098	12,098	19,739
Activities, events and trips		-	9,198	9,198	18,639
Total charitable expenditure		-	21,296	21,296	38,378
Governance costs		21,578	47,648	69,226	74,959
Total resources expended		21,578	68,944	90,522	113,337
Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds		(16,537)	(15,478)	(32,015)	(21,789)
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		44,531	24,327	68,858	90,647
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		27,994	8,849	36,843	68,858


THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		3,467		4,128
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		34,877		68,598	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(1,501)		(3,868)	
Net current assets			33,376		64,730
Total assets less current liabilities			36,843		68,858
Income funds					
Restricted funds			8,849		24,327
Unrestricted funds			27,994		44,531
			36,843		68,858

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 20 December 2024


M Whitehouse
Trustee

THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Plant and machinery	33% PA
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20% PA

2 Funding

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations and gifts	5,041	20,861

3 Grants Receivable

	2024	2023
	£	£
SMBC	52,366	46,537
Baron Davenports	600	600
SVCO	500	-
Other Grants Receivable	-	23,550
	53,466	70,687

THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4	Total resources expended	Staff costs £	Depreciation £	Other costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	Charitable activities					
	<u>After school and volunteer costs</u>					
	Activities undertaken directly	-	-	12,098	12,098	19,739
	Activities, events and trips					
	Activities undertaken directly	-	-	9,198	9,198	18,639
		-	-	21,296	21,296	38,378
	Governance costs	47,648	661	20,917	69,226	74,959
		47,648	661	42,213	90,522	113,337

5 Trustees

The trustees do not draw any emoluments from the charity.

6 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Employees	5	7
Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	47,648	56,856

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

THE GREAT BRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7	Tangible fixed assets	Plant and machinery	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
		£	£	£
	Cost			
	At 1 April 2023 and at 31 March 2024	24,787	31,395	56,182
	Depreciation			
	Transfers	164	497	661
	At 1 April 2023 and at 31 March 2024	23,309	29,406	52,715
	Net book value			
	At 31 March 2024	1,478	1,989	3,467
	At 31 March 2023	1,642	2,486	4,128
8	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2024	2023
			£	£
	Wages Control		-	2,445
	Accruals		1,501	1,423
			1,501	3,868
9	Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
		£	£	£
	Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:			
	Tangible fixed assets	4,128	(661)	3,467
	Current assets	25,447	9,430	34,877
	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,581)	80	(1,501)
		27,994	8,849	36,843