

**SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**  
**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**Fields**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Landchard House**  
**Victoria Street**  
**West Bromwich**  
**West Midlands**  
**B70 8ER**

**SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**  
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

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**SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**TRUSTEES:**

Mrs B Hynes  
Ms M Molloy  
Ms J Walsh  
Ms L Grigg

**ADDRESS:**

Kenrick Park Community Centre  
70 Glover Street  
West Bromwich  
West Midlands  
B70 6DU

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NO:**

1116750

**BANKERS:**

National Westminster Bank Plc  
3 Church Street  
Oldbury  
West Midlands  
B69 3ND

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:**

S L Broomhall, F.C.C.A  
Fields  
Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Landchard House  
Victoria Street  
West Bromwich  
West Midlands  
B70 8ER

## **SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

#### **Legal and Administrative Information**

Sandwell Irish Society is a registered charity set up in 2002, which evolved out of an awareness that, despite the large number of people of Irish birth/descent in Sandwell, most of whom have contributed in many ways to the rich tapestry of life in the borough, there was a lack of knowledge of the community, it did not have a focal point and many of the needs and aspirations of its members went unrecognised.

Other legal and administrative information is provided on page -1.

#### **Organisational structure**

The Society has one full-time member of staff (Manager) and an active management committee made up of local Irish people. Membership is open to anyone from Sandwell and surrounding areas that support its aims and objectives. It also has 30 plus active volunteers from the community who can be called upon for help and support as the need arises.

The Society has grown steadily over the past eighteen years and its presence has been welcomed by many community members, voluntary organisations and statutory agencies. The Society has established itself as an essential source of information and representation, also as a point of contact for local authority, health and social care service professionals and others who wish to seek the views of or engage with Irish people. This has resulted in an increasing awareness of the Irish and Irish Traveller communities in Sandwell and the surrounding Black Country areas, their needs and aspirations, also in opportunities for developing partnerships and projects.

The Society continues to source appropriate funding to continue its work, also to develop and update its structures, policies and procedures, training and information for staff and volunteers on new legislation and opportunities that arise in an ever-changing funding and service delivery environment. Staff, management committee members and some volunteers are constantly working to develop their skills and knowledge in order to support the Society's progress and to identify its priorities and potential.

#### **- Method of appointment or election of trustees**

The management of the charity is responsibility of the trustees who are elected under the terms of the trust deed.

**SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT – continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the Society are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Area of Benefit, in particular but not exclusively, the Irish community, by the advancement of education and training and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of said inhabitants, and;
- to advance the education of the general public in the history, culture, arts and traditions of the Irish and Irish Traveller communities.

**Achievements and Performance**

The Society works to achieve vibrant Irish and Irish Traveller communities in Sandwell that are engaged and empowered to play an active role in society. The Society believes that this can only be achieved by improving the confidence, health, awareness and image of the communities and by ensuring that the contribution of Irish people, over many years, to the economic, social, cultural and historic richness of Sandwell is recognised and acknowledged.

The Society offers advice, information and support on a wide range of issues including welfare benefits and entitlements, health and social care, education and training, housing and homelessness, Irish passports, birth certificates and passports etc. It continues to raise awareness of its services to the Irish and Irish Traveller communities in the area, also to a wide range of other professionals and organisations. It continues to promote its services and activities, also engages particularly with older people, those people who may have mental health problems, those who are isolated through age, ill health and disability, those who have difficulties accessing statutory services and are often deemed “hard to reach” by service providers, also those who experience social exclusion for a variety of reasons. It provides regular opportunities for older people to get together socially and engage in a range of activities e.g. Irish language sessions, health walks, gentle exercises, craft sessions etc. in order to reduce loneliness and isolation and enable people to build/maintain their own social networks. It engages with schools and other community organisations to share cultural activities, which promote community cohesion and enable people of second and subsequent generation Irish to explore their heritage and identity.

The Society continues to be involved in local and national meetings and conferences and in regular contact with statutory agencies and other organisations to ensure that Irish people have opportunities to articulate and contribute their views at a local and national level. Work with other BME community organisations on the Sandwell Health Improvement Project (SHIP) continues

## **SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT – continued**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

The Society manages a local authority community centre on behalf of the local council. This provides the Society with a firm base in the borough, enables a range of activities to take place and has enabled it to extend its reach within the Irish and wider community. For part of this year, these activities could not take place at the Centre due to Covid 19 restrictions (including our St. Patrick's Day Celebration) so alternative ways of working had to be found so that the Society was able to deliver some of its services and maintain contact with most previous service users plus additional people who came to their attention. This ensured that, as far as possible, people were not left without support and it was easy for them or their families to request help. When restrictions eased, people were still fearful of being too close together in a confined space and built up confidence by arranging meals/afternoon teas.

We also delivered "goody bags" and afternoon teas, which were a lifeline for many of our community members and meant they did not feel so lonely and isolated. Many doorstep conversations took place with volunteers, which kept up and revived the spirits of many people. Our manager made regular welfare and friendship and people felt supported.

The Society's Club Eireann project, which enables smaller groups of people to come together on a regular basis and take part in a variety of activities, restarted and continues as people feel less fearful about coming together. Planned outings and events had to be cancelled.

We continue, as much as possible, to clean and maintain the building and garden/grounds, liaising with Sandwell council staff/departments re, among other issues, plumbing, heating, security lighting, alarms, tree cutting and grass cutting etc. However, there still remains some outstanding issues to be resolved after damage to the building caused by holes in the roof and heavy rain and we continue to make slow progress due to there being a backlog of work after lockdown

#### **Financial review**

##### **(a) Reserves policy and Going Concern**

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain free reserves at a level which is considered adequate to provide sufficient funds to cover ongoing management and administration costs as well as be in a position to respond to any contingencies for the next 12 months.

#### **Plans for the future**

The Society believes that its culturally sensitive services and the activities it provides will be even more in demand in the future, given how the lives of many people changed during lockdown, many critical services were paused and changed and there is a lot of catching up to do. The SHIP project seeks to address some of the emerging needs.

Uncertainty around Brexit and Northern Ireland continues to be a source of concern for many. Many service users are elderly and/or vulnerable, things are moving towards "online everything", many people struggle with this, and digital exclusion is affecting a growing number of people.

Managing our own Centre means that we are in a strong position to continue to provide a range of services and activities of interest to an increasing number of people. We need to continue work, with input from our service users and others, on our garden, which will hopefully improve their health and well-being.

Approved by the Trustees on 06 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs. B Hynes

**SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Sandwell Irish Society**

I report on the financial statements of the Sandwell Irish Society for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. 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:

- examine the financial statements (under section 145 of the 2011 Act)
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- 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 Commissioner. An examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements/accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosure in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedure undertaken does not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements 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:

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



S L Broomhall, F.C.C.A  
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B70 8ER

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

Comparative information by fund types

|   | Restricted<br>Funds 2021 | Unrestricted<br>Funds 2021 | Total Funds<br>2021 | Total Funds<br>2020 |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | £                        | £                          | £                   | £                   |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>   |                          |                            |                     |                     |
| Irish Government,<br>Department of Foreign Affairs<br>and Trade; Emigrant Support<br>Programme Grant                        | 34,500                   | 0                          | 34,500              | 30,000              |
| Irish Government, Department<br>of Foreign Affairs and Trade;<br>Emigrant Support Programme<br>Grant; St Patrick's Day 2020 | 0                        | 0                          | 0                   | 3,845               |
| Sandwell MBC Voluntary<br>Programme   | 3,414                    | 0                          | 3,414               | 3,414               |
| Birmingham Irish Association<br>Inter-generational Project 2020   | 0                        | 0                          | 0                   | 3,000               |
| Birmingham Irish Association<br>Joint Covid Response Fund   | 0                        | 0                          | 0                   | 6,645               |
| Sandwell MBC Covid Grants   | 0                        | 0                          | 0                   | 11,334              |
| The National Lottery<br>Community fund grant  | 2,435                    | 0                          | 2,435               | 0                   |
| Election Polling Centre Income  | 0                        | 400                        | 400                 | 297                 |
| U3A   | 0                        | 66                         | 66                  | 46                  |
| Donations   | 0                        | 311                        | 311                 | 250                 |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>   | <b>40,349</b>            | <b>777</b>                 | <b>41,126</b>       | <b>58,831</b>       |
| <b>PAYMENTS</b>   |                          |                            |                     |                     |
| Salary  | 24,634                   | 0                          | 24,634              | 24,016              |
| PAYE/ NI  | 5,099                    | 0                          | 5,099               | 3,780               |
| Accountancy/Payroll   | 1,200                    | 0                          | 1,200               | 192                 |
| Travel  | 527                      | 0                          | 527                 | 1,295               |
| Insurance   | 387                      | 0                          | 387                 | 0                   |
| Utilities   | 0                        | 0                          | 0                   | 1,792               |
| Telephone/Internet  | 1,352                    | 0                          | 1,352               | 1,025               |
| Postage   | 466                      | 0                          | 466                 | 459                 |
| Projects costs  | 20,456                   | 0                          | 20,456              | 7,795               |
| Office/Admin costs  | 4,941                    | 0                          | 4,941               | 2,492               |
| <b>Total Payments</b>   | <b>59,062</b>            | <b>0</b>                   | <b>59,062</b>       | <b>42,846</b>       |
| <b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the year</b>   | <b>(18,713)</b>          | <b>777</b>                 | <b>(17,936)</b>     | <b>15,985</b>       |



**SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

|                       | Notes | 2021<br>£     | 2020<br>£     |
|-----------------------|-------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Current assets</b> |       |               |               |
| Cash at bank          | 2     | <u>55,425</u> | <u>73,361</u> |
| <b>Income funds</b>   |       |               |               |
| Unrestricted funds    | 3     | 28,224        | 27,447        |
| Restricted funds      | 3     | <u>27,201</u> | <u>45,914</u> |
|                       |       | <u>55,425</u> | <u>73,361</u> |

Approved by the Trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs B Hynes

Ms J Walsh

**SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**1. Accounting policies**

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material in relation to the accounts.

**Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

**Fund Accounting**

The charity's funds are shown within the financial statements as either restricted or unrestricted. Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity. Restricted funds can, because of the wishes of the donors, only be expended at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect of the objects of the Charity.

**Grant Income**

During the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, Sandwell Irish Society received a grant of £34,500 from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Emigrant Support Programme. The grant awarded covers the period running from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and was for the following activities:

-£30,000 contributions towards salary and running costs for Advice and Support Worker/Club Eireann project (£15,000 of this relates to the period 01/01/22 to 30/06/22 and has still to be spent at 31/12/21)

-£4,500 contributions towards costs of St. Patrick's Day Celebration project 2022, all of this is unspent at 31/12/21).

The grant awarded in the previous year for the St. Patrick's Day Celebration 2021 has been spent during this year.

**2. Cash at bank**

|                      | 2021          | 2020          |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                      | £             | £             |
| NatWest Bank account | <u>55,425</u> | <u>73,361</u> |
|                      | <u>55,425</u> | <u>73,361</u> |

**3. Funds**

|                                |                 |               |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| At beginning of period         | 73,361          | 57,376        |
| (Deficit)/Surplus for the year | <u>(17,936)</u> | <u>15,985</u> |
| At end of period               | <u>55,425</u>   | <u>73,361</u> |

**SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**4. Trustees- remuneration, benefits, and expenses**

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration.  
But one or more of the trustees had their expenses paid for by the charity for attendance at Annual General Meeting and other committee meetings as follows:

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
|               | <u>£</u> |
| Travel        | 126      |
| Subsistence   | 25       |
| Accommodation | 105      |

**5. Employees**

**Number of employees**

The average number of employees during the year was - 1 (2020 - 1)

**6. Taxation**

The Sandwell Irish Society considered to pass the tests set in the paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable trust for UK income tax purposes.