

SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Fields
2nd Floor
Landchard House
Victoria Street
West Bromwich
West Midlands
B70 8ER

SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY
GENERAL INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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 Business Advisors
Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors
2nd Floor
Landchard House
Victoria Street
West Bromwich
West Midlands
B70 8ER

SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2022.

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 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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 and grass cutting etc. However, there still remain some outstanding issues to be resolved after damage to the building caused by the holes in the roof and heavy rain and we continue to make slow progress due to there being a backlog of work after lockdown.

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. When Covid-19 restrictions started to ease, people were still somewhat fearful of being too close together in enclosed spaces so there was a slow increase in our weekly Eireann activities. A concert/meal in Birmingham replaced our usual St. Patrick's Day Celebrations at the Centre, with funding from the Emigrant Support Scheme repurposed with permission from Irish Embassy staff. We also arranged some outings in the first few months - Blackpool, Black Country Living Museum - which were very popular.

A decision was made not to apply for Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) funding in February 2022 (to continue after the end of the current year's funding i.e., 30th June 2022) mainly due to the planned retirement of our manager and the reluctance of the volunteer management committee members to continue with the immense responsibility of managing our organization and a new member of staff.

Unfortunately, our manager was hospitalised in July and off work for 2 months, but some work continued with the help of volunteers so that many people did not feel abandoned. Our manager subsequently retired on 31st October 2022.

Financial review

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

Now a charity without a paid member of staff, our committee and volunteers continue to provide regular opportunities for people to get together socially as well as organising trips/outings, which are always popular with our service users. Our previous manager will continue to assist the committee to finalise several things to tie up some loose ends for the next few months.

We have discussed with officers from Sandwell Council the opportunity of us continuing to manage the Centre and all that entails, we are also looking at other venues that will enable our weekly Club Eireann sessions to take place.

We realise that our organisation will be limited in what can be done solely with volunteers, but we believe our culturally sensitive activities will continue to be in demand. We also maintain good contacts with other BME service providers in Sandwell and know that we can call on them to provide some services/activities to our community members due to the good relations we have built up with some of these organisations over the years.

Approved by the Trustees on

October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs. B Hynes

SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

**INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

Comparative information by fund types

	Restricted Funds 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Irish Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme Grant	0	0	0	34,500
SHIP- Sandwell Heath Improvement Project	6,372	0	6,372	0
Sandwell MBC Voluntary Programme	0	0	0	3,414
Sandwell MBC Community Centre Grant	1,707	0	1,707	0
Sandwell MBC Covid Grants	1,500	0	1,500	0
The National Lottery Community fund grant	0	0	0	2,435
Election Polling Centre Income	0	400	400	400
U3A	0	28	28	66
Donations	0	988	988	311
Total Receipts	9,579	1,416	10,995	41,126
PAYMENTS				
Salary	15,865	12,809	28,674	24,634
PAYE/ NI	3,946	0	3,946	5,099
Accountancy/Payroll	306	0	306	1,200
Travel	2,616	1,129	3,745	527
Insurance	0	96	96	387
Telephone/Internet	500	582	1,082	1352
Postage	50	300	350	466
Projects costs	12,928	0	12,928	20,456
Office/Admin costs	569	472	1,041	4,941
Total Payments	36,780	15,388	52,168	59,062
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(27,201)	(13,972)	(41,173)	(17,936)

SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank	2	<u>14,252</u>	<u>55,425</u>
Income funds			
Unrestricted funds	3	14,252	28,224
Restricted funds	3	<u>0</u>	<u>27,201</u>
		<u>14,252</u>	<u>55,425</u>

Approved by the Trustees

October 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 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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 31st December 2022, Sandwell Irish Society did not apply for or receive any grant in 2022 (2021: £34,500) from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Emigrant Support Programme. The grant awarded in 2021 covered the period running from 1st July 2021 to 30th 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 related to the period 01/01/22 to 30/06/22 and has been spent.
 -£4,500 contributions towards costs of St. Patrick's Day Celebration project 2022, all of this has been spent at 31/12/22).

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
NatWest Bank account	<u>12,252</u>	<u>55,425</u>
	<u>12,252</u>	<u>55,425</u>

3. Funds

At beginning of period	55,425	73,361
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	<u>(41,173)</u>	<u>(17,936)</u>
At end of period	<u>12,252</u>	<u>55,425</u>

SANDWELL IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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	151
Subsistence	222
Accommodation	105

5. Employees

Number of employees

The average number of employees during the year was - **1** (2021 - 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.