



**Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**

**(Registered Charity 1120494)**

**Trustees' Report and Accounts**

**31 December 2022**

# **Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**

## **2022 Report and Accounts**

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**Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**  
**Annual Report**  
**for year ended 31 December 2022**

**Legal and Administrative Details**

**Legal Status**

- company/charity name - Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd
- England & Wales Charity Commission register number 1120494
- England & Wales Registrar of Companies register number 06032000
- trading name - Cuckmere Buses

**Objects**

The object of the Company is to provide a community bus and a community transport service, including private hire, for such of the inhabitants of East and West Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove who are in need of such a service because of age, sickness or disability (mental or physical), or poverty, or because of a lack of availability of adequate and safe public passenger services.

**Trustees/Directors**

Philip Montague Ayers	Stewart Colin Fuller
Andrew John Cottingham (to 11 November 2022)	Nicholas Brian Price
Susan Olave de Angeli	Beryl Anne Smith
Kevin Patrick Fryer (from 01 February 2022)	

**Principal Address**

The Old Rectory  
Litlington  
Polegate  
East Sussex  
BN26 5RB

**Insurance Broker**

Arthur J Gallacher  
34 Tower View  
Kings Hill, West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4UY

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank plc	Co-operative Bank plc	CCLA Fund Managers
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**Independent Examiner**

Nigel Batten FCA

# **Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**

## **Annual Review**

### **for year ended 31 December 2022**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

#### **Review of Activities**

Cuckmere Buses is the trading name for Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd (CCB), a charitable limited company based in Berwick, East Sussex. It has been running for 46 years supplementing existing bus services and providing bus links for village residents throughout the Cuckmere Valley area to their nearest towns for shopping, for appointments, or for social activities.

OUR VISION is being the Community Bus service of choice in our area, and OUR MISSION is providing a safe, reliable, and courteous local bus, serving those rural and urban communities in our part of East Sussex not served by commercial companies.

CCB is run entirely by volunteers; there are no employees. We have some 40 volunteer drivers and some 8 additional volunteers who all help run the fleet of 16-seater low-floor Mercedes mini-buses. The drivers are trained to MiDAS standards (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) and are reassessed every four years. They all have D1 classification on their licence. The value of volunteers to the organisation cannot be overestimated, in terms of community support and company viability. In addition to over 20 weekly timetabled services, requiring nearly twice as many half-day shifts, the company operates summer leisure services and offers private hire facilities. We also provide special annual services for the International Tennis in Eastbourne, and the Charleston festivals.

CCB remains a busy voluntary organisation and always needs new volunteers. The recruitment programme scheduled for the year has resulted in only a small increase in drivers. Some new drivers joined but others left. However, the Department for Transport's review of the changing need for D1 licence requirements for minibuses is a positive move and may result in us being able to access a broader driver pool. We await the outcome of the consultation.

2022 showed a slow recovery of passenger numbers following the pandemic and by the year-end the numbers were some 25% below the 2019 pre-pandemic levels. For the year, we catered for some 60,900 passenger journeys (2021, 38,700), and ran some 122,700 (2021, 101,600) miles. We hope for a continued recovery of passenger journeys during 2023.

The charity took delivery of a new bus early in the year, having been delayed from 2021 owing to the global shortage of semiconductor parts. The fleet consisted of seven minibuses at the year-end. The ticket machines were upgraded during the year, supported by a capital grant, to provide enhanced features including the acceptance of credit cards.

Roadworks and road closures continued to present major challenges during the year, particularly along the A27 Polegate to Selveston, Jevington Road from Wannock to Friston, and in Hailsham town centre. These were all for utility works and roadway patch repairs, which often resulted in delays, re-

## **Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**

### **Annual Review**

### **for year ended 31 December 2022 (cont)**

scheduled and re-routed services, and regrettably, some cancellations. Hopefully these major schemes will shortly conclude and result in a smoother overall operation for all passengers and road-users.

The sudden cold snap and snow fall in early December resulted in the cancellation of all our services, but we were only off the roads for half a day.

The charity operates efficiently to a high standard under the control of the Board of Trustees who met formally on four occasions during the year. They reviewed operations of the company, its financial position, and the outlook for the future. In addition, two Stakeholder meetings consisting of representatives of parish and town councils and company officers were held, plus the AGM in April. The annual social gathering of stakeholders and drivers was held in October in Arlington, after being cancelled the previous two years owing to coronavirus. Periodic drivers' meetings were held during the year to review resource availability, services operated and passenger views. Drivers provide a vital first point of contact with passengers and their feedback is invaluable.

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the charity commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

#### **Financial Performance**

The financial statements are included on pages 8 to 13. All income and expenditure are related to unrestricted funds; there are no restricted nor endowment funds.

Central and local government continued financial support for bus operators generally during the year by continuing to pay fuel rebate grants and concessionary travel fares based on pre-covid levels, along with other support grants. These government support initiatives, together with our volunteer structure avoiding staff costs and related overheads, plus maintenance costs reflecting a relatively young fleet, all helped the charity maintain a viable operating financial position.

With a gross income of £238,868 (2021, £220,739) and expenditure of £237,879 (2021, £187,978), the year ended with a modest surplus of £989 (2021, £32,761). Year-end net assets amounted to £265,302 (2021, £264,313) including cash at bank of £111,228 (2021, £149,005). The charity operates a policy of holding cash reserves to meet projected cash outlays taking account of sourcing requirements for acquisitions under its bus replacement programme. Funds not required in the short term are held in an appropriate deposit account. At the end of the year, Trustees agreed to transfer £12,000 to the unrestricted bus replacement reserve fund for future bus acquisitions. The fund stands at £55,000 (2021, £43,000)

A high-level five-year trend of finances, passengers and miles run is shown graphically on page 14.

The Trustees have not identified any uninsured major risks to which the charity is exposed.

# **Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**

## **Annual Review**

### **for year ended 31 December 2022 (cont)**

#### **Going Concern**

The Trustees have considered the consequences of the impact of covid and other events, particularly the relatively slow recovery of passenger numbers, and projections of inflation and levels of recession. They have determined that, whilst significant, they do not create a material uncertainty that casts major doubt upon the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### **Forward View**

In addition to maintaining a strong operational business base for the charity, our focus over the coming year will again be threefold. First, to continue to rebuild patronage numbers so we can provide support to the same or greater level of deserving passengers we helped pre-pandemic. Secondly, to acquire a new bus in 2023, subject to passenger numbers increasing either from existing or new services, and thirdly, to continue with the recruitment programme to increase the overall number of volunteer drivers.

As a result of central government's positive focus on the bus industry, a number of initiatives within East Sussex may provide the opportunity for CCB to increase current service levels leading to increased net revenues. We look forward to these possible developments during the coming year.

#### **Changes in Trustees/Directors**

In February 2022 we welcomed aboard Kevin Fryer as Trustee/Director. Kevin is also a volunteer driver.

In November 2022 we said farewell to Andrew Cottingham Trustee/Director who resigned on health grounds after serving the organisation for over over 20 years. Andrew was a volunteer driver.

#### **Acknowledgements**

We are a successful business in meeting our mission and as always, thanks go to our volunteer drivers, our regular passengers, to everybody involved in the day to day running of the organisation, and to Berwick Service Station for keeping the buses well maintained. Particular thanks also go to the individuals and local authorities who made donations to the charity during the year. A summary of donation support is listed on page 12 of this report. Thank you all.

**Beryl Smith - Chairman**  
**03 April 2023**

## **Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**

### **Independent Examiner's Report**

I report to the Board of Trustees/Directors on my examination of the accounts of Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2022.

As the Trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe in any material respect:-

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination, to which attention should be drawn in this report, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**NA Batten**  
**Independent Examiner**  
**20 March 2023**

**Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**  
**Income & Expenditure Account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2022**

		£	
	Notes	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>			
Passenger Services	2	165,629	155,752
Grants & Donations	3	33,417	24,071
Private Hire & Special Events		23,102	5,604
Other income	4	16,720	35,312
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>238,868</b>	<b>220,739</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Servicing, Repairs & Cleaning		(60,637)	(49,549)
Depreciation	5	(67,814)	(60,360)
Licences & Insurance		(26,482)	(22,610)
Operations		(23,403)	(27,329)
Diesel (net of BSOG)		(31,793)	(15,956)
Administration		(27,750)	(12,174)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(237,879)</b>	<b>(187,978)</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>989</b>	<b>32,761</b>
Opening reserves		264,313	231,552
<b>Closing reserves</b> (per Balance Sheet)		<b>265,302</b>	<b>264,313</b>



**Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**at 31 December 2022**

	Notes	2022	£	2021
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	7	<b>346,166</b>		<b>314,732</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors	8	9,206	5,745	
Cash at Bank	9	111,228	149,005	
		<u>120,434</u>	<u>154,750</u>	
Prepayments and Accrued Income		7,421	13,182	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b><u>127,855</u></b>	<b><u>167,932</u></b>	
<b>Creditors due within one year</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(68,388)	(47,291)	
Accruals and deferred income		(22,427)	(64,660)	
Unamortised grants for purchase of assets	6	(28,558)	(36,412)	
<b>Total Creditors due within one year</b>		<b><u>(119,373)</u></b>	<b><u>(148,363)</u></b>	
<b>Net Current Assets (liabilities)</b>		<b>8,482</b>		<b>19,569</b>
<b>Total Assets less current liabilities</b>		<b><u>354,648</u></b>		<b><u>334,301</u></b>
<b>Creditors due after one year</b>	10	<b>(89,346)</b>		<b>(69,988)</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b><u>265,302</u></b>		<b><u>264,313</u></b>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>				
Unrestricted funds - general		210,302	221,313	
Unrestricted funds - asset replacement		55,000	43,000	
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>		<b><u>265,302</u></b>		<b><u>264,313</u></b>

- a) the company was entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the small companies
- b) the members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006
- c) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts
- d) these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The Report and Accounts were approved by the Board on 03 April 2023

**Beryl Smith**  
**Trustee/Director**

**Stewart Fuller**  
**Trustee/Director**

**Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**  
**Funds Flow Statement**  
**for year ended 31 December 2022**

			£	
	Notes	2022	2021	
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		989	32,761	
add back Depreciation (net)	5	67,814	60,360	
less Other Income	4	(16,720)	(35,312)	
Cash from Trading		<u>52,083</u>	<u>57,809</u>	
Other Income	4	16,720	35,312	
Capital Grants Received		19,367	-	
<b>Movement in fixed assets</b>				
Acquisitions	7	(126,519)	(101,700)	
Proceeds of disposal (NBV before surplus)	7	<u>50</u>	<u>30,260</u>	
		(126,469)	(71,440)	
<b>Movement in Working Capital</b>				
Debtors		(3,461)	22,043	
Prepayments		5,761	(10,238)	
Creditors		<u>(40,526)</u>	<u>11,498</u>	
		(38,226)	23,303	
<b>Movement in Loans</b>				
New debt		84,000	60,000	
Interest		8,879	6,736	
Payments		<u>(54,131)</u>	<u>(57,453)</u>	
		38,748	9,283	
<b>Movement in Funds in the Year</b>		<u>(37,777)</u>	<u>54,267</u>	
<b>Cash at Bank</b>				
Opening		149,005	94,738	
Movement in Funds (as above)		<u>(37,777)</u>	<u>54,267</u>	
Closing (per Balance Sheet)		<u>111,228</u>	<u>149,005</u>	

# Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd

## Notes to the Accounts

### for year ended 31 December 2022

#### 1. Accounting Policies

**1.1 Basis of Accounting** - these accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s). Income and expenditure are accounted for on an accruals basis.

**1.2 Income** - is recognised in the accounts when the charity becomes entitled to the resources and is shown exclusive of VAT. The significant value of voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report. Debtors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

**1.3 Expenditure** - liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources, and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty. Creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

**1.4 Tangible Fixed Assets** - are recorded at cost and subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the prudent useful economic life of that asset on a straight-line basis. Capital grants supporting fixed asset acquisitions are released to revenue account on a straight-line basis over the life of the related asset class and reduce the annual total depreciation charge.

**1.5 Hire Purchase Agreements** - assets are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and depreciated over their useful lives. The capital element of future finance payments is included within creditors; finance charges are allocated to accounting periods over the length of the contract.

**1.6 Fund Accounting** - unrestricted funds (including designated funds) may be used in accordance with the charitable objectives of the charity at the discretion of the trustees.

**Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for year ended 31 December 2022 (cont)**

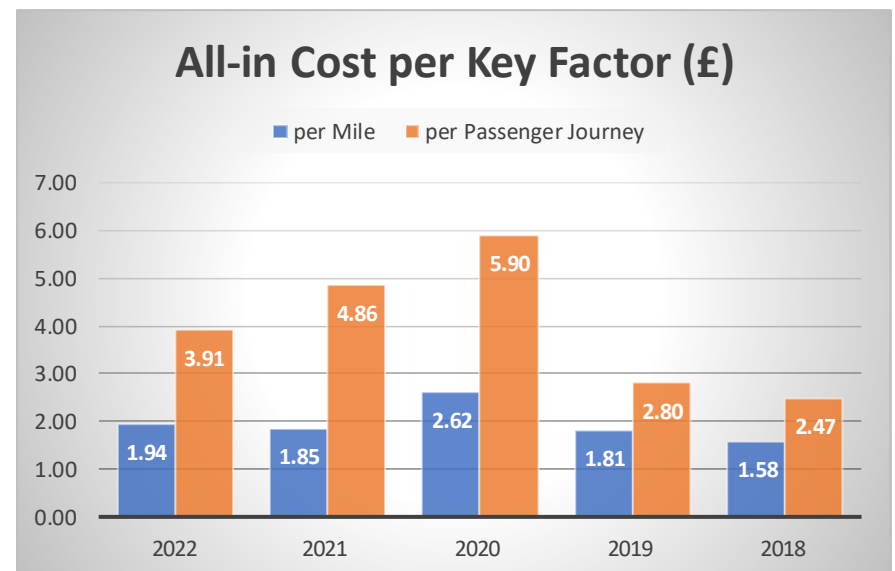
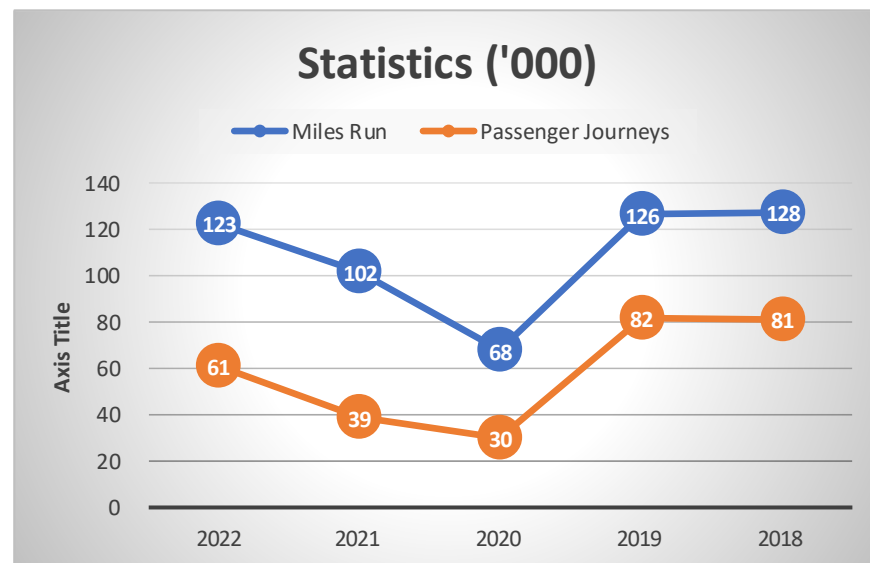
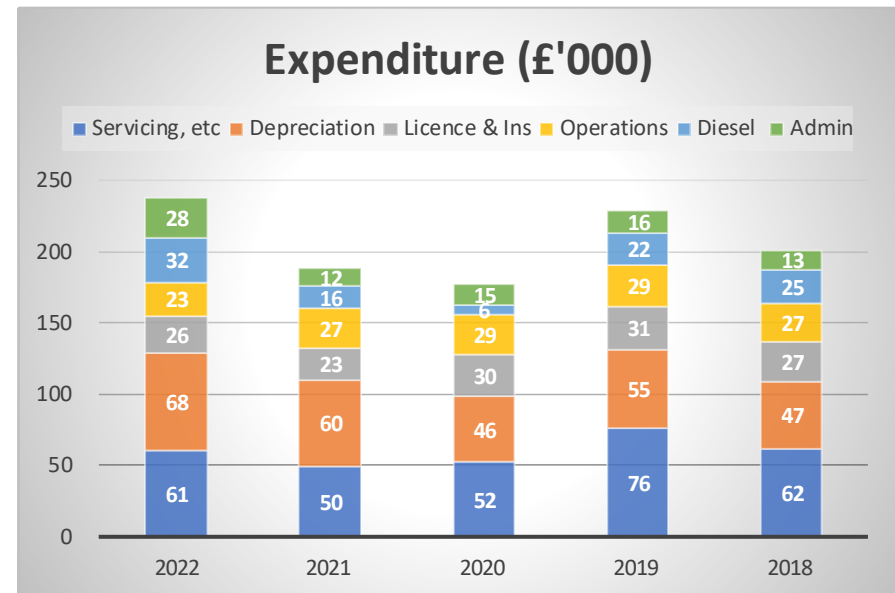
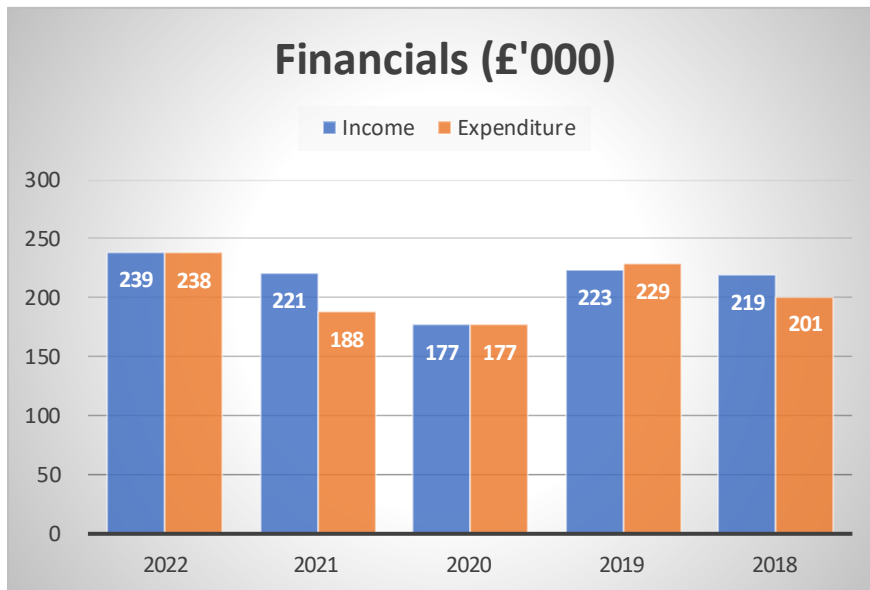
	£	
<b>2 Passengers Services</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Concessionary Fares	122,784	123,912
Ticket Fares	19,594	11,523
Support from:		
East Dean & Friston PC	2,641	1,568
ESCC/B&H	13,630	12,591
Hailsham Town Council	6,680	5,858
Polegate Town Council	300	300
	<b>165,629</b>	<b>155,752</b>
<b>3 Grants and Donations</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Town and Parish Councils		
Alfriston	200	200
Arlington	100	100
Berwick	100	100
Chalvington & Ripe	150	-
Cuckmere Valley	250	250
East Dean & Friston	500	500
Heathfield & Waldron	500	500
Herstmonceux	500	1,000
Long Man	150	150
Pevensey	150	-
Polegate	200	200
Seaford	2,000	2,000
Westham	120	100
Willingdon & Jevington	850	800
	5,770	5,900
ESCC	9,948	2,430
Wealden District Council	5,125	5,500
Passenger donations	9,403	6,898
Other donations	3,171	3,343
	<b>33,417</b>	<b>24,071</b>
<b>4 Other Income</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Covid Support from DfT	14,369	25,900
Surplus on disposal of fixed assets	1,325	9,407
Bank interest	429	5
Timetable and other adverts	597	-
	<b>16,720</b>	<b>35,312</b>
<b>5 Depreciation</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Charge in year	95,035	82,752
less amortisation of grant in year (note 6)	(27,221)	(22,392)
	<b>67,814</b>	<b>60,360</b>
<b>6 Unamortised Grants</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
at start of year	(36,412)	(58,804)
grants received in year	(19,367)	-
released during year (note 5)	27,221	22,392
at end of year	<b>(28,558)</b>	<b>(36,412)</b>

**Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for year ended 31 December 2022 (cont)**

	£	
<b>7 Tangible Fixed assets</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Cost</b>		
at start of year	591,295	660,828
additions in the year	126,519	101,700
disposals in the year	(27,178)	(171,233)
at end of year	<u>690,636</u>	<u>591,295</u>
<b>Cumulative Depreciation</b>		
at start of year	276,563	334,784
charges in the year (note 5)	95,035	82,752
disposals in the year	(27,128)	(140,973)
at end of year	<u>344,470</u>	<u>276,563</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>	<u>346,166</u>	<u>314,732</u>
<b>8 Debtors</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Accounts receivable	7,087	2,694
VAT reclaimable	2,119	3,051
	<u>9,206</u>	<u>5,745</u>
<b>9 Cash at Bank</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Barclays current account	60,671	96,058
Co-operative current account	6,553	9,288
Charities deposit account	44,004	43,579
Petty Cash	-	80
	<u>111,228</u>	<u>149,005</u>
<b>10 Creditors</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	(11,026)	(9,319)
Hire purchase contracts	(57,362)	(37,972)
	<u>(68,388)</u>	<u>(47,291)</u>
Amounts falling due after one year		
Hire purchase contracts (1-5 years)	<u>(89,346)</u>	<u>(69,988)</u>
<b>11 Audit:</b>	Expenditure is after charges for Independent Review £960 (2021, £960) and other professional services £300 (2021, £300)	
<b>12 Transactions with Directors:</b>	There were no transactions between the company and its Trustees/Directors	
<b>13 Related Party Disclosures:</b>	There were no transactions between the company and related parties	

# Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd

## Graphs - 5 year trends



## Our Current Fleet



**Bus28**



**Bus27**



**Bus26**



**Bus25**



**Bus 24**



**Bus22**



**Bus20**

