OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales · Charity number 1128394

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04490634
Registered	2009-03-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Caxton House 129 St. John's Way London N19 3RQ
Phone	02072637095
Email	julie@octopuscommunities.org.uk
Website	www.octopuscommunities.org.uk

Activities

Objects: A TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF GREATER LONDON BY ASSOCIATING THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS, OTHER AGENCIES AND INHABITANTS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AD TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE RECREATION AND LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS, ANDB THE PROMOTION OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC

Activities: Octopus is a collaboration of community centres working together to develop and deliver innovative community-led health and well-being activities, informal and non-formal learning projects, growing and bio-diversity projects, skills and back to work programmes. In working together we achieve greater synergy avoiding unnecessary duplication, and maximum resource utilization.

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Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GREATER LONDON
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£238,564	£236,873	-	-
2024-03-31	£262,539	£322,509	-	-
2023-03-31	£282,030	£401,815	-	-
2022-03-31	£436,247	£408,302	-	-
2021-03-31	£476,937	£399,165	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Elaine Dawn Cindy Maffrett	Chair	2019-11-07
Adam Parr		2022-03-31
COLIN FESTUS ADAMS		2013-01-11
Eira Gibson		2025-02-12
Patrick Radcliffe		2024-08-07

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OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1128394

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04490634 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1128394

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FOR

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

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OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

CHAIR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

A Year of Collaboration and impact

This year has been defined by bold partnerships and meaningful progress toward eradicating poverty and tackling the climate emergency. Through cross sector collaborations on projects such as 'Nature Neighbourhoods', a four nation project led by the National Trust, RSPB, World Wildlife Foundation, along with the Co-op, and 'Fed and Supported' in collaboration with Islington Council, Voluntary Action Islington, Help on Your Doorstep and Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, we strengthened our conviction that systemic change arises when local government, business, civil society, and communities unite behind shared goals. Our continued work with national organisations such as Community Organisers, and the emerging Humanity Project our focus remains on bringing people together to take action around their common concerns.

Through focused capacity building, we have continued to promote the value and importance of community centres as frontline organisations that are able to design and deliver locally driven solutions at scale. Our work in 2024/25 demonstrates that when sectors collaborate strategically, they can unlock resources, expertise, and influence to transform lives and landscapes.

Financial Stewardship and Governance

We maintained a strong governance framework, ensuring 89 percent of our expenditure went directly to programmes and capacity building. Our audited accounts, approved by an independent examiner, reflect prudent risk management and transparent reporting. We continue to strengthen our financial controls to sustain growth without compromising accountability.

Looking Ahead: Vision 2025/26

Building on our momentum, we will:

1. Expand capacity building to strengthen our collective focus on tackling social injustices, prioritising communities most facing unfair treatment.
2. Continue to focus on accelerating leadership, embedding resilience and peer-mentoring structures to ensure that community centres remain as anchor organisations.
3. Scale three flagship cross-sector partnerships into network-wide programmes, with targets to reach a greater number of vulnerable and marginalised households.
4. Continue to incubate community-led solutions at the intersection of poverty alleviation and climate resilience.
5. Deepen policy engagement to secure long-term public investment in community-led development.

Gratitude and Acknowledgements

I extend heartfelt thanks to our trustees, staff, volunteers, and every partner who shared our vision. Your expertise, passion, and generosity have powered this journey. To our donors and funders, your belief in collaboration and our work towards systemic change has been the catalyst for real progress. Together, we are proving that when we build capacity across sectors.

Finally, I would like to the opportunity to thank Julie and Rosie for all their hard work, passion and dedication to continue to make the network thrive and grow in these very challenging times.

Thank you from all of us.....

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial Overview

In 2024/25 we delivered strong financial results while sustaining our focus on capacity building and systemic change. Total income lowered slightly as some multiyear projects were finalised, however new funding enabled us to expand current programmes even as we maintained prudent cost controls. £20k has been deferred to 25/26 and accounts receivable has been cleared of an old invoice as bad debt (£8750). We ended the year with a modest surplus, reinforcing our reserves and readiness to meet future challenges.

- Closing reserves stand at £113,487, equivalent to just over four months of current operating costs.
- Our target is to maintain reserves covering 25% of yearly expenditure to ensure resilience against funding fluctuations, while monitoring any increases in costs.
- We conducted a comprehensive risk assessment, updating our financial risk register to reflect currency exposure, funding dependency, and programme delivery uncertainties.

Financial Controls and Compliance

We upheld the highest standards of financial governance through:

- Regular board review of management accounts and cashflow forecasts.
- Segregation of duties across authorisation, payment processing, and reconciliation.
- Annual external audit with an unqualified opinion from our independent examiner.
- Adherence to charity reporting regulations and donor restrictions.

Outlook 2025/26

We will continue to closely monitor our financial risks within the current climate, and aim to maintain our reserves to cover 25% of current yearly expenditure. For the next financial year, we aim for income growth of 10 percent through multi-year partnerships and diversified revenue streams. Key priorities include:

1. Reviewing our reserves policy mid-year to align with evolving risk profiles.
2. Continue to review our practice in line with the Charity Governance Code to ensure responsible and effective practice.

These measures will ensure we continue to support leadership and resilience across our network while safeguarding financial stability.

I extend my gratitude to the finance team, our independent examiners, and all funders whose trust and support underpin our work. Together, we will build on this solid foundation to drive transformative change in the year ahead.

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Octopus is an infrastructure and capacity building charity. Our objectives are:

- To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater London by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations, other agencies, and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities for the interests of social welfare, for the recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants, and the promotion of the voluntary sector for the benefit of the public.

The Network shares five key goals:

1. Engage: those who lead and develop independent multi-purpose community centres and hubs in order to share lessons learned and proven practice.
2. Inspire: a new approach to community-led development by sharing ideas, thinking big, staying positive, and keeping an open door.
3. Motivate: change by constantly and consistently reviewing what we do so that we can demonstrate impact.
4. Equip: those responsible for community-led development with the skills, know-how and values to increase community participation and foster strong, sustainable communities.
5. Support: the on-going development of community leadership by facilitating routes to a range of expertise and peer-to-peer support.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Our Approach to Systemic Change

Our model centres on three interlinked pillars:

- Cross-sector collaboration:
We collaborated on brokering alliances between local authorities, national charities, and the local voluntary sector on programmes targeting underserved communities.

- Capacity building:
We delivered tailored learning and development in forming collaborations to achieve greater outcomes and key results through collaborations and joint projects, community leadership and sustainable practices, equipping over 14 community centres to lead their own initiatives.

- Influencing systems:
By participating in and convening multi-stakeholder meetings and roundtables, we surfaced barriers, such as funding regime change that fuels competition rather than collaboration, and co-designed policy recommendations with decision-makers.

This holistic framework ensures that our we and our collaborators own the solutions, while our network grows the potential to accelerate replication and scale.

Highlights of the Year

- Launched the 'Fed and Supported' pilot project in collaboration with Islington Council, Voluntary Action Islington, Help on Your Doorstep, and Manor Gardens Welfare Trust to inform a shift in food system transformation and systemic change through place-based interventions. Taking the lead on creating and facilitating a Community of Practice as a means for shared learning, improved practice and longer-term sustainability of community food provision e.g. exploring new models of approach such as 'food ladders'.

- Implemented a co-designed OKR Dashboard for the Network to strengthen collaboration within the Network, providing a shared platform for tracking, planning and delivering collaborative and joint-projects.

- Implemented a programme of work to investigate and report on pay and pay scale differentials between the statutory (local authority) and voluntary sector.

- Co-delivered six Cost of Living events, with 361 residents attending, benefitting households of at least 648 people. Of those attending, 73% were from ethnically diverse backgrounds, and 70% who were aged 55+. Across all events, 88% of attendees reported feeling 'very' or 'quite' concerned about the cost of living. At each event, those attending receive at least five types of support.

- Pro-actively participated in several forums, advisory boards and leadership groups to shape practice and policy within the VCSFE and statutory sector, e.g. undertaking a review of the Islington Compact to set the foundation for cross-sector working.

- Embarked upon a new collaboration with Community Organisers Ltd and the Humanity Project to create assembly culture within communities through the powerful act of listening, and for a bottom-up, people-led approach.

- Embarked upon a new collaboration with Islington Council and the National Trust to explore the potential of a longer-term relationship, emerging from Nature Neighbourhoods and aligned to the National Trust's new strategy, and Nature Towns and Cities.

- Launched the 'Upcycling Food' project in collaboration with Mildmay Community Centre and the North London Community Fund, creating two new composting hubs in the borough and encouraging residents to shift mindsets to upcycle food waste, to improve soil for communities to come together to grow food.

Case Study: Nature Neighbourhoods

Nature Neighbourhoods is a four-nation project led by the National Trust, RSPB, World Wildlife Foundation and the Co-op. Underpinned by the People's Plan for Nature and supported by Islington Council, a community-led Nature Neighbourhoods Plan is being co-created to bring about lasting change to neighbourhood greening, bio-diversity and climate mitigation. So far, our project in Islington has achieved the following:

- Food Grown by and for the Community: 285.7kg food grown saving477kg CO2, equivalent to 3994 meals.
- Land reclaimed and used to increase urban biodiversity: 1456.7msq of land used across three newly created Nature Anchors - community catalysts in heat and flood risk neighbourhoods.
- Treepits and Orchards: creating three new orchards and a necklace of treepits across the neighbourhood to connect nature destinations.
- Upcycling and Reducing Food Waste: creation of three new community composting sites, transforming 850kg of food waste into 600 litres of fertile compost.
- Nature Walks: 9 people trained/engaged as Walk Leaders, co-designing 16 unique nature and health based walking routes for people with different capabilities.
- Environmental Conversations: 77 people engaged in wide ranging community conversations to co-create a neighbourhood plan for nature and people.

Case Study: Fed and Supported

The 'Fed and Supported' pilot project was a collaboration between Voluntary Action Islington, Help on Your Doorstep and Manor Gardens Welfare Trust. A yearlong project, running from June 2024 to May 2025, the project focused on systemic change in the food systems, working with food aid providers across the borough. Octopus' role in the project was to facilitate a Community of Practice for shared learning, and conversations about more sustainable models for food provision. The Community of Practice worked together to design a Standards Framework and Charter, to be shared with providers across the borough, ensuring an approach is adopted that secures a high level of service for all those receiving food aid in the borough. Octopus also delivered a series of Community Organising workshops with food provision volunteers and staff, enabling them to embed the approach into their provision. Throughout the workshops, participants were giving the opportunity to devise pilot project proposals, with small pots of funding available for participants to deliver these projects within their food provision. Within the short pilot project, Fed and Supported has achieved the following:

- The creation of the Islington Food Providers Standards Framework and two charters, for internal and external use by the borough's food provision.
- 6 Community Organising workshops delivered, plus an online learning programme, for those involved in food provision, with all proving positive feedback and sharing that they will embed the approach into their work.
- 5 pilot projects delivered, including listening campaigns, skills building workshops and shared community meals.
- Over 1,000 residents reached through the pilot projects.
- 15 local residents trained as bilingual navigators.

- Over 190 households with language barriers helped to access local services.
- Over 300 residents using food provision supported to access wrap around services
- 40 residents referred to volunteering roles within food provision.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Transactions and Financial position

During the year the charity met its expenditure of £322,509 (2023: £401,815) through a combination of grants, fees for services provided, donations from individuals and from reserves brought forward from the previous year. The charity has carried forward reserves of £172,586 (2023: £232,556) of which £57,504 (2023: £109,577) is restricted. The trustees are grateful to the funders and individuals for their continued support.

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

Reserves policy

The trustees are reviewing the reserves policy for the charity. Their aim is to have six months worth of overheads as general reserves.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a memorandum of articles and association and incorporation certificate and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Website: **http://www.octopuscommunities.org.uk**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
04490634 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1128394

Registered office
129 St John's Way
Islington
London
N19 3RQ

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees
The Trustees and Directors who served the community during the year ended 31st March 2025 and as at the date the accounts are approved:

Mr Paul Furze
Mrs Irene Winter
Mr Colin F Adams
Mrs Elaine Dawn Maffrett
Mr Adam Taylor Parr
Ms Teena M Phillips
Mr Patrick Henry Radcliffe

Independent Examiner
Anwer Patel BA(Hons) FCA,BFP
Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 03/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:

Elaine Maffrett

Trustee / Director: Mrs E.D. Maffrett

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Octopus Community Network Limited ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

A. PATEL

Anwer Patel BA(Hons) FCA,BFP

Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

Date: 05/12/2025

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31.3.25 **Total funds £**	31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME FROM					
Grants	2	**42,483**	**195,181**	**237,664**	262,539
Investment income	3	**900**	**-**	**900**	-
Total		**43,383**	**195,181**	**238,564**	262,539
EXPENDITURE ON					
Bad Debt	4	**8,750**	**-**	**8,750**	-
Charitable activities	5				
LBI VCS Core		**36,228**	**-**	**36,228**	48,754
LBI Andover Inspires		**-**	**4,109**	**4,109**	11,431
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery		**-**	**11,971**	**11,971**	22,546
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust		**-**	**-**	**-**	8,777
City Bridge Foundation, Bridging Divides		**-**	**31,616**	**31,616**	47,840
Climate Action Fund		**-**	**-**	**-**	10,189
Breathe		**-**	**-**	**-**	8,053
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens		**-**	**-**	**-**	3,835
Royal Mencap Society		**-**	**-**	**-**	2,571
Warm Spaces		**-**	**-**	**-**	78,700
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks		**-**	**1,655**	**1,655**	13,578
Packington		**-**	**803**	**803**	23,534
Cost of Living Events		**-**	**14,241**	**14,241**	4,990
Commissions		**-**	**3,291**	**3,291**	538
DigiGuide		**-**	**-**	**-**	705
LIF Winter Festival		**-**	**891**	**891**	491
Nature Neighbourhoods		**-**	**17,813**	**17,813**	6,345
Bloomin Gardeners		**-**	**127**	**127**	111
Highbury Grove		**-**	**10,209**	**10,209**	1,074
Soil Food		**-**	**-**	**-**	15,000
SWLW Cont		**-**	**-**	**-**	10,917
Cost of Living Resident Vouchers		**-**	**985**	**985**	2,530
Tufnell Park Woodland Garden		**-**	**3,956**	**3,956**	-
Fed and Supported		**-**	**41,441**	**41,441**	-
Upcycling Food		**-**	**30,068**	**30,068**	-
Peabody		**-**	**320**	**320**	-
Caledonian Park		**-**	**5,900**	**5,900**	-
Golden Lane		**-**	**755**	**755**	-
LIF - Branching Out		**-**	**36**	**36**	-
Sussex Close		**-**	**2,418**	**2,418**	-
Boston and Nailour		**-**	**4,068**	**4,068**	-

The notes form part of these financial statements

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	**31.3.25 Total funds £**	31.3.24 Total funds £
LIF- Highbury Grove Winter Festival		-	**493**	**493**	-
Tyndale Mansions		-	**756**	**756**	-
St Luke Gardening Hub		-	**3,973**	**3,973**	-
Total		**44,978**	**191,895**	**236,873**	322,509
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(1,595)**	**3,286**	**1,691**	(59,970)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**115,082**	**57,504**	**172,586**	232,556
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**113,487**	**60,790**	**174,277**	172,586

The notes form part of these financial statements

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	**3,498**	4,433
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	13	**30,978**	23,563
Cash at bank		**180,908**	159,316
		211,886	182,879
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	**(41,107)**	(14,726)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**170,779**	168,153
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**174,277**	172,586
NET ASSETS		**174,277**	172,586
FUNDS	16		
Unrestricted funds		**113,487**	115,082
Restricted funds		**60,790**	57,504
TOTAL FUNDS		**174,277**	172,586

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - continued
31 MARCH 2025

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on .....03/12/25..... and were signed on its behalf by:

Elaine Maffrett
Trustee Director: Mrs E.D. Maffrett

Trustee Director: Mr Paul Furze

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements and assessment of going concern
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those condition is wholly within the control of the charity and is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Expenditure and irrecoverable vat
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using either a straight line or reducing balance method, as indicated below.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery - 20% on reducing balance

Computer equipments - 25% on reducing balance

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Debtors
Basic financial assets, including trade and other debtors, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Creditors
Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, loans from third parties and loans from related parties, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Such instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Financial instruments
The charity only as 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.

Going concern
The charity undertakes on various ways to manage and to secure future funding. The trustees are confident that they would have sufficient funding to continue operating as a going concern.

It is for this reason the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

continued...

2. GRANTS

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Donations	**3,183**	-
LBI VCS Core	**40,000**	40,000
Miscellaneous Income	-	1,747
City Bridge Foundation, Bridging Divides	**18,375**	32,315
LBI Housing & Strategy Boston & Nailour	**6,000**	-
LBI Local Initiatives Fund	**1,087**	860
Sussex Close	**2,231**	-
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy - Packington Estate	-	23,940
Islington Council, Greenspace and Leisure	-	180
Islington Council-Warm Spaces	-	77,700
Islington Council, Community Plant Nursery & Estate Growing	**10,000**	10,000
St Lukes Gardening Club	**3,978**	-
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	-	8,777
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund	**50,000**	7,500
Royal Mencap Society	-	243
Islington Council- Parks	**18,000**	2,031
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	-	14,826
East London Business Alliance, Cost of Living Resident Vouchers	-	4,000
Fed & Supported	**53,470**	25,000
Commissions	**4,842**	920
Islington Council, Community Wealth Building	**15,278**	-
The National Trust	**6,250**	12,500
Culture Mile BID	**4,970**	-
	237,664	262,539

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Deposit account interest	**900**	-

continued...

4. RAISING FUNDS

Other trading activities

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Bad debts	8,750	-

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 6)	Totals
	£	£	£
LBI VCS Core	40,636	(4,408)	36,228
LBI Andover Inspires	4,109	-	4,109
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	10,471	1,500	11,971
City Bridge Foundation, Bridging Divides	26,872	4,744	31,616
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	1,655	-	1,655
Packington	803	-	803
Cost of Living Events	13,543	698	14,241
Commissions	2,861	430	3,291
LIF Winter Festival	891	-	891
Nature Neighbourhoods	15,813	2,000	17,813
Bloomin Gardeners	127	-	127
Highbury Grove	8,453	1,756	10,209
Cost of Living Resident Vouchers	-	985	985
Tufnell Park Woodland Garden	3,369	587	3,956
Fed and Supported	35,151	6,290	41,441
Upcycling Food	30,068	-	30,068
Peabody	320	-	320
Caledonian Park	4,704	1,196	5,900
Golden Lane	755	-	755
LIF - Branching Out	36	-	36
Sussex Close	2,104	314	2,418
Boston and Nailour	3,768	300	4,068
LIF- Highbury Grove Winter Festival	493	-	493
Tyndale Mansions	756	-	756
St Luke Gardening Hub	3,177	796	3,973
	210,935	17,188	228,123

continued...

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Other	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
LBI VCS Core	**9,742**	**60**	**(17,730)**	**3,520**	**(4,408)**
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	**-**	**-**	**1,500**	**-**	**1,500**
City Bridge Foundation, Bridging Divides	**-**	**-**	**4,744**	**-**	**4,744**
Cost of Living Events	**-**	**-**	**698**	**-**	**698**
Commissions	**-**	**-**	**430**	**-**	**430**
Nature Neighbourhoods	**-**	**-**	**2,000**	**-**	**2,000**
Highbury Grove	**-**	**-**	**1,756**	**-**	**1,756**
Cost of Living Resident Vouchers	**985**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**985**
Tufnell Park Woodland Garden	**-**	**-**	**587**	**-**	**587**
Fed and Supported	**381**	**-**	**5,909**	**-**	**6,290**
Caledonian Park	**-**	**-**	**1,196**	**-**	**1,196**
Sussex Close	**-**	**-**	**314**	**-**	**314**
Boston and Nailour	**-**	**-**	**300**	**-**	**300**
St Luke Gardening Hub	**-**	**-**	**796**	**-**	**796**
	11,108	**60**	**2,500**	**3,520**	**17,188**

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	**693**	1,173
Independent Examiners Fees	**2,640**	2,640

continued...

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

9. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**133,324**	161,881
Other pension costs	**5,141**	5,556
	138,465	167,437

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
Charitable Activities	**5**	6

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 31.3.2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME FROM			
Grants	40,857	221,682	262,539
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
LBI VCS Core	48,754	-	48,754
LBI Andover Inspires	-	11,431	11,431
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	-	22,546	22,546
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	-	8,777	8,777
City Bridge Foundation, Bridging Divides	-	47,840	47,840
Climate Action Fund	-	10,189	10,189
Breathe	-	8,053	8,053
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens	-	3,835	3,835
Royal Mencap Society	-	2,571	2,571
Warm Spaces	-	78,700	78,700

continued...

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 31.3.2024 - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	-	13,578	13,578
Packington	-	23,534	23,534
Cost of Living Events	-	4,990	4,990
Commissions	-	538	538
DigiGuide	-	705	705
LIF Winter Festival	-	491	491
Nature Neighbourhoods	-	6,345	6,345
Bloomin Gardeners	-	111	111
Highbury Grove	-	1,074	1,074
Soil Food	-	15,000	15,000
SWLW Cont	-	10,917	10,917
Cost of Living Resident Vouchers	-	2,530	2,530
Total	48,754	273,755	322,509
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(7,897)	(52,073)	(59,970)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	122,979	109,577	232,556
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	115,082	57,504	172,586

11. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The charity consider its key management personnel comprised of the trustees.

continued...

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2024	**23,672**	**5,884**	**29,556**
Additions	**-**	**120**	**120**
Disposals	**-**	**(362)**	**(362)**
At 31 March 2025	**23,672**	**5,642**	**29,314**
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2024	**20,207**	**4,916**	**25,123**
Charge for year	**693**	**-**	**693**
At 31 March 2025	**20,900**	**4,916**	**25,816**
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2025	**2,772**	**726**	**3,498**
At 31 March 2024	3,465	968	4,433

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Trade debtors	**29,148**	21,563
Other debtors	**1,830**	2,000
	30,978	23,563

continued...

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Trade creditors	**14,602**	-
Social security and other taxes	**652**	314
Other creditors	**1,951**	417
Deferred income	**20,000**	10,000
Accrued expenses	**3,902**	3,995
	41,107	14,726

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	31.3.25 Total funds	31.3.24 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	**3,498**	-	**3,498**	4,433
Current assets	**146,987**	**64,899**	**211,886**	182,879
Current liabilities	**(36,998)**	**(4,109)**	**(41,107)**	(14,726)
	113,487	**60,790**	**174,277**	172,586

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/24	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**115,082**	**(1,595)**	**113,487**
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	**57,504**	**3,286**	**60,790**
TOTAL FUNDS	**172,586**	**1,691**	**174,277**

continued...

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**43,383**	**(44,978)**	**(1,595)**
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	**195,181**	**(191,895)**	**3,286**
TOTAL FUNDS	**238,564**	**(236,873)**	**1,691**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	122,979	(7,897)	115,082
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	109,577	(52,073)	57,504
TOTAL FUNDS	232,556	(59,970)	172,586

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	40,857	(48,754)	(7,897)
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	221,682	(273,755)	(52,073)
TOTAL FUNDS	262,539	(322,509)	(59,970)

continued...

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

	31.03.2025 £	31.03.2024 £
Unrestricted Funds		
General fund	**113,487**	115,082
Restricted funds		
LBI Andover Inspires	**1,637**	5,747
Boston and Nailour	**1,933**	-
Caledonian Park	**2,102**	-
LBI Local Initiative Fund - winter festival	**-**	369
CoL Food	**12,027**	-
Golden Lane	**4,214**	-
LBI- Cost of Living Events	**5,770**	20,011
Commissions	**578**	383
Highbury Grove	**195**	462
LIF - Branching Out	**(36)**	-
LIF- Highbury Grove	**72**	
Nature Neighbourhoods	**4,810**	6,355
Islington Council, Community Plant Nursery & Estate Growing	**1,176**	2,207
Sussex Close	**305**	492
City Bridge Foundation, Bridging Divides	**2,700**	15,942
Soil Food	**-**	-
Peabody	**759**	-
Packington	**-**	803
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	**-**	1,655
Cost of Living Resident Vouchers	**1,985**	2,970
Islington Council, Bloomin' Gardeners	**-**	128
St Lukes Gardening Club	**5**	-
Tufnell Park Woodland Garden	**546**	-
Tyndale Mansions	**80**	-
Upcycling Food	**19,932**	-
Total Restricted Funds	**60,790**	57,504

LBI Andover Inspires: This an estate wide plants growing project for the Andover and other estates.

continued...

17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

As disclosed in the Trustees Report, the trustees/ directors of Octopus Community Network Limited are associated with other community centres/ charities which benefit from collaborating with Octopus Community Network Limited and therefore these community centres/ charities are considered related parties to Octopus Community Network Limited. Total grants paid to these UK network members was £34,370 (2024 - £83,995)

18. GRANT MAKING POLICY

Octopus acts as conduit for the organizations mentioned in the trustees report. The relevant income is apportioned between charities on agreed terms.

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
INCOME		
Grants		
Donations	**3,183**	-
LBI VCS Core	**40,000**	40,000
Miscellaneous Income	**-**	1,747
City Bridge Foundation, Bridging Divides	**18,375**	32,315
LBI Housing & Strategy Boston & Nailour	**6,000**	-
LBI Local Initiatives Fund	**1,087**	860
Sussex Close	**2,231**	-
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy - Packington Estate	**-**	23,940
Islington Council, Greenspace and Leisure	**-**	180
Islington Council-Warm Spaces	**-**	77,700
Islington Council, Community Plant Nursery & Estate Growing	**10,000**	10,000
St Lukes Gardening Club	**3,978**	-
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	**-**	8,777
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund	**50,000**	7,500
Royal Mencap Society	**-**	243
Islington Council- Community Wealth Building	**18,000**	2,031
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	**-**	14,826
East London Business Alliance, Cost of Living Resident Vouche rs	**-**	4,000
Fed & Supported	**53,470**	25,000
Commissions	**4,842**	920
Islington Council Community Pa rtnerships	**15,278**	-
The National Trust	**6,250**	12,500
Culture Mile BID	**4,970**	-
	237,664	262,539
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	**900**	-
Total incoming resources	**238,564**	262,539

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
Other trading activities		
Bad debts	**8,750**	-
Charitable activities		
Wages	**133,324**	161,881
Pensions	**5,141**	5,556
Insurance	**1,251**	2,070
Publicity	**4,784**	8,418
Local initiative fund	**1,021**	-
Rent	**8,000**	8,000
Materials	**11,768**	13,201
Event costs	**4,185**	4,670
Freelance staff	**800**	3,610
Staff Travel & Meetings	**412**	445
Volunteer expenses	**156**	403
AGM & annual report	**-**	13
Training & courses	-	1,400
Payments to Network Partners	**34,370**	83,995
Staff Welfare	**1,198**	399
Human Resource Costs	**3,000**	4,437
Room Hire charges	**1,525**	-
Redundancy costs	-	9,203
	210,935	307,701
Support costs		
Management		
Membership Fees	**500**	270
Payroll Cost	**4,307**	457
IT Support and Hardware	**5,366**	4,601
Deprec - Tangible Assets	**935**	1,173
	11,108	6,501
Finance		
Bank charges	**60**	347
Other		
Telephone	**2,175**	1,863
Postage and stationery	**291**	463
Sundries	**34**	968
	2,500	3,294

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Other		
Governance costs		
Independent Examiners Fees	**2,640**	2,640
Book Keeping fees	**880**	2,026
	3,520	4,666
Total resources expended	**236,873**	322,509
Net income/(expenditure)	**1,691**	(59,970)

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1128394

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04490634 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1128394

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FOR

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

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OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I would like to start off by thanking Islington Council who have granted us 4 years of funding to continue our work as a capacity building network.

We are pleased to able to continue to play a role locally to influence and shape how we are working across the VCFS sector and with Islington Council, especially in terms of the refresh of the Compact.

Our ongoing mission is to support our community centres ensuring that the Community Centres and Community Hubs within the Network have the best chance of survival, are resilient and share a way of working that is underpinned by a culture of equity, addressing systematic barriers, especially those experienced by those under-served and under-represented.

Funding for new or existing collaborative projects has become more difficult and this is being felt by all our community centres. With that in mind, we are building up our resilience and looking to build strong and health relationships within and beyond the Network, as we do effectively work as a network of networks.

The Local Wellbeing Networks are a mechanism to share and disseminate information and resources across the borough and will help residents access services/support and become involved in shaping their local services/activities. With the development of our "Social Action" hub, we have trained over 60 people to become "Community Organisers" and are now embedding into our Cost-of-Living Food Aid Providers Capacity Building Programme.

I am so pleased that our Urban Growing programme continues to develop on our estates, and we are working across the borough from Highbury to Tufnell Park. The project aims to improve the lives of our residents as we know the lack of green space has an impact on our mental and physical wellbeing and this project has been instrumental in helping our residents address those issues and concerns.

I believe our greatest strength is our ability to respond quickly and effectively to crisis, which is built on years of experience of working together and forging trust-based relationships. Over the past two winters, we have offered "Warm Spaces" to our residents who were experiencing fuel poverty. As soon as the fuel crisis ended, we co-developed and co-delivered a programme of work around the Cost-of-Living crisis where we arranged events for vulnerable residents to seek practical support and advice. These events will run to next April.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the rest of the board for all their support and to Julie, Rosie and the rest of the team for patience, hard work and being so pro active throughout the year. Without you, Octopus would not be the success it is.

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

With the end of the financial year 2024, it marks the end of a 4-year funding cycle which has seen a pandemic and cost of living crisis, to which Octopus Community Network has had to adapt and react quickly to secure funding and food to help alleviate the stresses on the denizens of Islington. This past financial year has been somewhat transitionary with some projects wrapping up and shift of focus towards to next 4-year cycle. This will move away from counteracting measures and towards building resilience via strengthened partnerships with similar-minded borough wide organisations & capacity building with the members of the network, for the wider benefit of Islington's community.

The Statement of Financial Activities for 2023/24 year shows a deficit. However, a sum of £42,067 of this deficit was a reduction in restricted reserves on the balance sheet; where projects were using funds received in the previous financial year. It also included costs associated with finalising projects, which unfortunately included some redundancy payments, whereby further funding couldn't be secured. There remains £67,506 in restricted reserves that are to be used by the continuing projects in the 2024/25 financial year.

The Octopus Community Network continues to be a going concern; we currently have unrestricted reserves above the minimum laid out in the reserves policy (35% of current annual expenditure) and have funding for all projects and operational costs.

We continue to work closely with our auditors, Preston & Jackson Partnership LLP, to ensure our internal controls and financial monitoring procedures are strong, including regular financial reporting to Directors. We would like to thank them for their continued advice and support. We regularly review our reserves policy to ensure it is appropriate and have assessed the major risks to which the organization is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to any major risks.

We are grateful to ail our funders, including The National Trust, The Big Alliance, City of London, North London Waste Authority and Islington Council for their continued support. This funding is essential to our work with the Community Hubs, especially in terms of fostering greater collaboration between the Hubs. identifying and taking forward joint working opportunities and leading on collaborative projects that benefit the neighbourhoods in which the Hubs are based, Directors are grateful to our funders and individuals for their continued support.

Adam Parr
Treasurer Trustee

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

Octopus is a mutually benefitting collaboration between independent multi-purpose community centres and community hubs, working together to develop and deliver innovative community-led health and wellbeing, urban growing, capacity building and building community power programmes of work.

In working together as a network, we can leverage resources and knowledge to build capacity more effectively than charitable and not-for-profit organisations that choose to go-it-alone. The relationships that are built along with the peer-to-peer support encouraged play a major part in accelerating the growth of the individual network member's capacity. Our collective work impacts significantly in terms of long-term sustainability, which results in engaged, empowered, healthier and more vibrant communities.

Our values are:
- Challenge and innovation
- Diversity and ethical behaviour
- Effectiveness and flexibility
- Openness and accountability
- Positive productivity
- Responsiveness and dignity
- Trust and supportiveness

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Octopus is an infrastructure and capacity building charity. Our objectives are:

- To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater London by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations, other agencies, and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities for the interests of social welfare, for the recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants, and the promotion of the voluntary sector for the benefit of the public.

The Network shares five key goals:

1. Engage: those who lead and develop independent multi-purpose community centres and hubs in order to share lessons learned and proven practice.
2. Inspire: a new approach to community-led development by sharing ideas, thinking big, staying positive, and keeping an open door.
3. Motivate: change by constantly and consistently reviewing what we do so that we can demonstrate impact.
4. Equip: those responsible for community-led development with the skills, know-how and values to increase community participation and foster strong, sustainable communities.
5. Support: the on-going development of community leadership by facilitating routes to a range of expertise and peer-to-peer support.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Health and Wellbeing Programme

Under this programme of work one of our largest, cross-sector, partnership building projects, namely **StayWell, LiveWell**, concluded this year, bringing to a close over six years of collaborative work to tackle health inequalities. By the end of the financial year, funding to continue this important programme to work on a Network-wide scale, had not been secured. However, given that health and wellbeing has been at the forefront of our capacity building work for more than 20 years, we are pleased to say that all Centres and Hubs within our Network are now running successful health and wellbeing activities for diverse communities in their local area.

We have continued to collaborate with Voluntary Action Islington to develop three community-powered Local Wellbeing Networks. This capacity building programme has forged a stronger link between Octopus and Voluntary Action Islington and draws upon Octopus's proven practice in the creation and development of functioning networks. The primary focus of this work is to:

- Support the Voluntary, Community and Faiths sector through the development and management of effective, sustainable networks.
- Mobilising people to address key issues and challenges.
- Providing information and intelligence.
- Facilitating the formation of projects and partnerships.

This is being achieved by:

Connecting: providing a mechanism for the local Voluntary, Community and Faiths sector organisations and residents to come together to learn, exchange, mobilise, develop and deliver programmes of work to improve the health and wellbeing of all Islington residents, especially those experiencing health inequalities.

Co-delivery: building strong relationships with diverse communities as co-deliverers of joined-up health and wellbeing services and activities, recognising the role of the community as effective first responders.

Community voice: listening and responding to real-life experiences of people facing health inequalities, encouraging their mobilisation for change, and involving them in the design and implementation of projects that address systemic issues.

Delivered across three Locality areas in Islington, this year 18 events have been delivered in all three, totalling 54 events. Participants of these events average 45% residents, 85% Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations, with 15% being from private or statutory sectors.

Octopus delivered a second round of Community Organising training - with 37 people trained. North: 19 (14 residents); Central: 12 (7 residents), South: 12 (7 residents).

Urban Growing Programme

Under this programme we have multiple projects funded through Islington Council, the National Lottery Climate Action Fund, the North London Waste Authority Community Fund, City Bridge Trust through the Bridging Divides programme. A number of small-scale projects have been undertaken by the team, helping our network members to build their capacity in delivering this aspect of work independently, as a means to diversify their projects and communities engaged within them.

Action for Local Food - Soil, land, and climate change

The City Soil was delivered through the Urban Growing team who were responsible for leading a six-month urban soil improvement programme between January and June 2023 to engage at least 100 people through three community composting sites, each unique in reflection of the location, the people behind its creation and its management, and in terms of the capacity for taking in and transforming food waste at a neighbourhood level.

In total, 190 people have been engaged, through in-practice soil and composting sessions, in person composting workshops and regular volunteer and resident gardening sessions where design, build, management and maintenance of community composting facilities took place. A programme of experiential workshops helped those living on housing estates learn more about soil health, plant growth, composting and food waste recycling. In terms of outreach and engagement, leaflet drops to individual households on Tufnell Park Estate (450 households), Highbury Quadrant Estate (750 households), Packington Estate (855 households) helped to raise awareness and inform people as to how they could get involved in their neighbourhood.

In terms of social media, used for wider promotions and awareness raising, specific communications about composting reached over 2,440 accounts on Twitter and Instagram. Composting information went out on three Octopus Urban Growing newsletters between January-June 2023, each newsletter directly reaching 183 people.

Urban Soil Food

Building upon City Soil, this brand-new project was funded through the North London Waste Community Fund, focusing upon developing a brand-new curriculum and set of resources to skill-up 10 Urban Soil Farmers, through three, four-week Urban Soil Farmer programmes of immersive learning.

In total 71 people were engaged as direct beneficiaries through in-practice soil and compost sessions, in-person composting workshops and regular volunteer and resident gardening sessions where design, build, management, and maintenance of community composting facilities has taken place. A further 120 indirect beneficiaries have been engaged through community gardening events where soil health; plant growth; composting; and food waste recycling have featured as an activity - all of which were publicized via social media and the Action for Local Food website events calendar.
Octopus' X (Twitter) and Instagram reached over 13,750 accounts with composting content, including 1,000 accounts who watched the condensed social media version of our composting hub video. More than half of this reach was organic, while 5,600 views came directly from an Instagram advert to launch our Choose Composting campaign, which encouraged people to choose to compost at home, at a local hub, or to talk to friends and family about its benefits.

Community Food Hubs

Delivered over a five-year period, this project focuses upon tackling food insecurity and food injustice, and climate change. £186,394 has been secured through the City Bridge Trust, Bridging Divides programme fund. Through this project, several aspects of work are being undertaken focusing upon the on-going development of the Community Plant Nursery as a learning and food growing hub, support in developing community-centre based Food Hubs and connecting these to locally grown food/food growing activities, and how to utilize public space in parks and on greenspaces for food growing within communities. Importantly, this work focuses upon equity, inclusion and diversity to ensure that all those who want to grow and able to, including young people with special educational needs and disabilities - working in collaboration with a local SEND school; with Mencap, providing adults with learning disabilities with personalised support to develop their food growing and gardening skills, and with local residents.

Food grown on site at the Community Plant Nursery is grown for social good is delivered to eight community food hubs and shared with volunteers on a weekly basis; in this year, 285.7 Kilograms was grown, 477.13 Kilograms of CO2 has been saved, and this is equivalent to £2,547.90 and would provide 3,995 meals.

Highbury Quadrant Nature Gardens and Ward Partnership

In collaboration with network member, Elizabeth House Community Centre, Islington Ward Councillors and the Highbury Quadrant TRA, this estate-wide community-led project has engaged residents in transforming greenspace and under-used spaces on the estate into nature gardens and food growing spaces. We have now completed our capacity building programme on this project, and the work has now been integrated into Elizabeth House, with funding secured to take the work forward for the next two years.

Keeping Packington Estate 'Green and Growing'

Is a collaboration between network member The Arc Collective, Islington Council and residents of the Packington Estate to develop five community-led growing spaces to increase food production, including food for the local food bank, and improving biodiversity. So far, a strong cohort of local volunteers are being supported through a programme of immersive and experiential learning workshops and opportunities, and partnerships have been developed to enhance opportunity and delivery - with the Urban Forest School and Bright Lives. £23,940 of funding was secured from Islington Council to facilitate this work.

At this stage of the project, the active gardeners and growers' engaged range in age between 20 and 78 years of age, and the majority fall between 30 to 70 years of age. The majority of those regularly participating in gardening and growing are women (seven of the regular 28 are men). A project timetable over the course of the project offers 65 sessions for local residents, including those who are unemployed, retired, and on low incomes; some are users of the Arc's foodbank.

Capacity Building Programme

Octopus receives £40,000 each year from Islington Council as a Capacity Building organisation for the borough. Our proven-practice capacity building approach is realised through a Community of Practice and learning in practice - experiential learning in partnership working, coproduction, co-development, and management of projects, and further, taking a collaborative approach to service and programme development.

Our capacity building work has focused upon:

- Contributing to policy dialogue and statutory development
- Effective development and facilitation of leadership of local partnerships

- Building a network of networks, to facilitate a more joined up, effective way of working

Over the past year, our focus has been responding to the cost-of-living crisis, primarily through the development and provision of the Warm Places offer and the resulting Cost-of-Living events, both which have continued to be funded as a result of success and demand. Driven by the need to implement a programme of work within Islington's communities where the cost-of-living crisis has had greatest impact, our collective effort has been realised through a Pledge to ensure that:

- Everyone is welcome: our staff and volunteers will treat you equally, with dignity and respect.
- Our Warm Places: will be flexible to meet your needs and those of our local communities.
- We won't ask questions about why you need a warm place, but if you want to share we will listen and help you access support.

Across the Winter of 2023-24, over 1,700 residents directly benefitted from the Warm Places offer.

The four Cost of Living events took place and were located as follows:

1. August 2023: Whittington Park Community Centre, run by Whittington Park Community Association
2. October 2023: Jean Stokes Community Centre, run by Islington Council
3. December 2023: Brickworks Community Centre, run by Hanley Crouch Community Association
4. February 2024: Walter Sickert Community Centre, run by Islington Council

Across the four events there were 234 registered attendees. We expect the real number to be higher as the layout of some centres made it challenging to register every attendee. Some who attended simply did not want to answer any questions and we respected that.

- Capturing the number of people within the household, the overall number of people supported via the events totals 461 people (based on household numbers recorded for each attendee).
- On average 89% of attendees say that they are feeling very or quite concerned about the cost-of-living crisis.
- Groceries and Energy are the price rises residents report feeling most concerned about at every event, with rent costs often being the third most common concern.
- Most common ways to find out about the event were through email, friends/relatives and leaflets. We found that on the day, many who attended called neighbours or family members about the event, encouraging them to attend.
- At all events, residents were keen to find out when and where the next Cost-of-Living event was taking place.

At the four events in the 23/24 period, the following have been provided to residents:

- 250+ hygiene packs, containing basic hygiene items; shampoo, toothpaste and brush, soap. Donated by the Expedia Group.
- 20+ duvets and pillows. Donated by University of Arts, London.
- 40+ pairs of shoes; sandals, work boots, boat shoes and trainers. Donated by Wolverine.

No More Red

In 2021, Octopus was invited to be a No More Red Charity partner. Led by Arsenal and Adidas, No More Red aims to tackle the root causes of youth violence, provide safe spaces and more opportunities for young people in Islington.

In 2023, we engaged eight young people from the Hornsey Lane and New Orleans Estates through a pilot programme, in collaboration with Dr Kelly Fagan Robinson, Social Anthropologist at the University of Cambridge and Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association.

Over six months, the participants created a commentary on what 'home' means to them using photography, film, and audio narrative. The first session, held at the Adidas Box in the Emirates Stadium, introduced participants to Anthropology by Communities methods, including surrogate voicing and photo voice. Participants took photos of parts of the stadium that meant something to them, and explored their experiences of Arsenal as a part of their home.

The following two workshops were held on their home estates, where they used photo and video voice to document their actual homes, capturing things in their buildings, flats, and estates that they would like others to see, to make their spaces more visible and their local communities safer. Participants have learned different ways to witness other people's experiences and tell their own stories with openness and respect, mapping the joys and challenges they have experienced both through Arsenal Football Club and in their own home spaces.

In October 2023, participants travelled to Cambridge University to present their work and to lead artists, academics, policy-makers, and voluntary sector leaders in workshops at the first-ever Cambridge CRASSH Institute inReach Youth Summit. The objective of the day was to get potential decision-makers to think together with the young people about the ways that each of us might be able to support cultivating safer youth spaces, a key priority identified by the young people themselves. The event's outcome was that more than 40 people each committed to at least one practical action toward making positive change happen, and the young participants reporting that they felt listened to in a way they'd never previously experienced.

To thank the young people who participated, these gamechangers were celebrated at the Arsenal v Wolves Premier League game by being presented their own, all-white, No More Red shirt pitchside at the Emirates Stadium.

Social Action Hub and Community Organising Programme

During the year, Octopus has taken opportunity to explore transformational change through its role as a recognised, quality-assured Social Action Hub - defined as a hub of community organising.

- Exploring the roots of community organising, making the strong connection between community organising and community development.
- Gaining a better understanding of 'market' trends, along with funding trends.
- Undertaking 'market research' to ascertain the likely demand and desire for this new development.

We are also Affiliated Training Providers as part of the National Academy of Community Organising. Through the Local Wellbeing Networks, we provided a second round of Community Organiser training with 37 people trained.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Transactions and Financial position

During the year the charity met its expenditure of £322,509 (2023: £401,815) through a combination of grants, fees for services provided, donations from individuals and from reserves brought forward from the previous year. The charity has carried forward reserves of £172,586 (2023: £232,556) of which £57,504 (2023: £109,577) is restricted. The trustees are grateful to the funders and individuals for their continued support.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

Reserves policy

The trustees are reviewing the reserves policy for the charity. Their aim is to have six months worth of overheads as general reserves.

FUTURE PLANS

We will remain committed to our three programmes of community centre and network development, taking forward social action and community organizing as a means for fostering community empowerment and enablement, and supporting the community centres in their role as community leaders. In the next year we aim to become recognized as a Community Organisers 'Virtual Social Action Hub' and become an Affiliated Member of the Community Organisers Academy.

Since 2009 Octopus Community Network has had an Environmental Sustainability Framework in place, which came about as a result of a network wide environmental sustainability review. This framework set the foundation for steering the community centres in thinking and acting differently in terms of their carbon footprint reviewing all things from purchasing, suppliers, recycle and reuse and in terms of working towards their community buildings being more environmentally sound. Over the years, the commitment to addressing climate change has been embedded in both services and activities to tackle food poverty, for example. In terms of looking forward, the network will reflect and review this environmental sustainability network with a view to better capturing and reporting the impact of the changes that they are making, but most of all, there will be a focus on taking a community-led approach to tackling climate change from the perspective of its impact on the most vulnerable communities ..."climate change - the biggest health threat facing humanity". Considering our three programmes of work, we will carefully consider how we work with key collaborators and partners to address the fragility of our local food systems, will engage with communities to develop a community-led growing action plan, and will look forward to playing a key role in the development of local well-being networks.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Website: **http://www.octopuscommunities.org.uk**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
04490634 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1128394

Registered office
129 St John's Way
Islington
London
N19 3RQ

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees
The Trustees and Directors who served the community during the year ended 31st March 2024 and as at the date the accounts are approved:

Mr Paul Furze
Mrs Irene Winter
Mr Colin F Adams
Mrs Elaine Dawn Maffrett
Mr Adam Taylor Parr
Ms Teena M Phillips
Mr Patrick Henry Radcliffe - Appointed on 7th Aug 2024

Independent Examiner
Anwer Patel BA(Hons) FCA,BFP
Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 4th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

C F Adams
Trustee & Director & Mr Colin F Adams

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Octopus Community Network Limited ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

A. PATEL

Anwer Patel BA(Hons) FCA,BFP

Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

Date: 12/12/24

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	**31.3.24 Total funds £**	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME FROM					
Grants	2	**40,857**	**221,682**	**262,539**	282,030
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	3				
National Lottery, Partnerships Fund		-	-	-	195,500
Power to Change		-	-	-	8
LBI VCS Core		**48,754**	-	**48,754**	51,687
LBI Local Initiative Fund		-	-	-	6,336
LBI Match WCG		-	-	-	854
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens		-	-	-	17,601
LBI Andover Inspires		-	**11,431**	**11,431**	-
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener		-	-	-	103
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy		-	-	-	610
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery		-	**22,546**	**22,546**	15,084
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust		-	**8,777**	**8,777**	5,780
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides		-	**47,840**	**47,840**	34,832
Climate Action Fund		-	**10,189**	**10,189**	19,048
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund		-	-	-	8,711
Breathe		-	**8,053**	**8,053**	4,069
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens		-	**3,835**	**3,835**	-
Royal Mencap Society		-	**2,571**	**2,571**	6,779
LBI - LIF Super Stew		-	-	-	6,000
Warm Spaces		-	**78,700**	**78,700**	18,000
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks		-	**13,578**	**13,578**	2,410
Hilldrop Community Centre, Greening the Grey		-	-	-	600
Packington		-	**23,534**	**23,534**	3,803
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre, Tollyrise Gardens		-	-	-	4,000
CoL Events		-	**4,990**	**4,990**	-
Commission		-	**538**	**538**	-
DigiGuide		-	**705**	**705**	-
LIF Winter Festival		-	**491**	**491**	-
Nature Neighbourhoods		-	**6,345**	**6,345**	-
Bloomin Gardeners		-	**111**	**111**	-
Highbury grove		-	**1,074**	**1,074**	-
Soil Food		-	**15,000**	**15,000**	-

The notes form part of these financial statements

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	**31.3.24 Total funds £**	31.3.23 Total funds £
SWLW Cont		-	**10,917**	**10,917**	-
CoL Resident Voucher		-	**2,530**	**2,530**	-
Total		**48,754**	**273,755**	**322,509**	401,815
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(7,897)**	**(52,073)**	**(59,970)**	(119,785)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**122,979**	**109,577**	**232,556**	352,341
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**115,082**	**57,504**	**172,586**	232,556

The notes form part of these financial statements

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	**4,433**	5,556
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	**23,563**	31,056
Cash at bank		**159,316**	212,163
		182,879	243,219
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	**(14,726)**	(16,219)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**168,153**	227,000
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**172,586**	232,556
NET ASSETS		**172,586**	232,556
FUNDS	14		
Unrestricted funds		**115,082**	122,979
Restricted funds		**57,504**	109,577
TOTAL FUNDS		**172,586**	232,556

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - continued
31 MARCH 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 11th December 24 and were signed on its behalf by:

L J Adam
Trustee / Director : Mr Colin F Adam

Trustee / Director
ADAM PARR

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements and assessment of going concern
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those condition is wholly within the control of the charity and is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Expenditure and irrecoverable vat
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using either a straight line or reducing balance method, as indicated below.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery - 20% on reducing balance

Computer equipments - 25% on reducing balance

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Debtors
Basic financial assets, including trade and other debtors, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Creditors
Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, loans from third parties and loans from related parties, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Such instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Financial instruments
The charity only as 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.

Going concern
The charity undertakes on various ways to manage and to secure future funding. The trustees are confident that they would have sufficient funding to continue operating as a going concern.

It is for this reason the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

continued...

2. GRANTS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
National Lottery, Partnerships Funds	-	117,737
Miscellaneous Income	**1,747**	2,000
City Bridge Trust, Bridging Divides	**32,315**	40,549
LBI Local Initiatives Fund	**860**	-
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy - Packington Estate	**23,940**	4,938
Islington Council, Greenspace and Leisure	**180**	-
Islington Council-Warm Spaces	**77,700**	75,270
Islington Council, Community Plant Nursery & Estate Growing	**10,000**	8,794
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener	-	7,343
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	**8,777**	-
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund	**7,500**	11,250
Royal Mencap Society	**243**	4,195
Islington Council, Bloomin' Gardeners	-	238
Hilldrop Community Centre, Greening The Grey	-	600
Islington Council- Community Wealth Building	**2,031**	800
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	**14,826**	2,816
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre	-	4,000
East London Business Alliance	**4,000**	1,500
LBI Islington-Cost of Living E ents	**25,000**	-
Commissions	**920**	-
Islington Council Community Pa rtnerships	**40,000**	-
The National Trust	**12,500**	-
	262,539	282,030

continued...

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 4)	Totals
	£	£	£
LBI VCS Core	**52,128**	**(3,374)**	**48,754**
LBI Andover Inspires	**10,018**	**1,413**	**11,431**
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	**21,046**	**1,500**	**22,546**
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	**8,112**	**665**	**8,777**
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides	**39,414**	**8,426**	**47,840**
Climate Action Fund	**10,189**	**-**	**10,189**
Breathe	**7,866**	**187**	**8,053**
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens	**2,645**	**1,190**	**3,835**
Royal Mencap Society	**2,363**	**208**	**2,571**
Warm Spaces	**78,575**	**125**	**78,700**
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	**13,333**	**245**	**13,578**
Packington	**20,969**	**2,565**	**23,534**
CoL Events	**4,692**	**298**	**4,990**
Commission	**385**	**153**	**538**
DigiGuide	**498**	**207**	**705**
LIF Winter Festival	**491**	**-**	**491**
Nature Neighbourhoods	**5,345**	**1,000**	**6,345**
Bloomin Gardeners	**111**	**-**	**111**
Highbury grove	**1,074**	**-**	**1,074**
Soil Food	**15,000**	**-**	**15,000**
SWLW Cont	**10,917**	**-**	**10,917**
CoL Resident Voucher	**2,530**	**-**	**2,530**
	307,701	**14,808**	**322,509**

continued...

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Other	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
LBI VCS Core	**6,011**	**347**	**(14,398)**	**4,666**	**(3,374)**
LBI Andover Inspires	**-**	**-**	**1,413**	**-**	**1,413**
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	**-**	**-**	**1,500**	**-**	**1,500**
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	**-**	**-**	**665**	**-**	**665**
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides	**245**	**-**	**8,181**	**-**	**8,426**
Breathe	**-**	**-**	**187**	**-**	**187**
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens	**-**	**-**	**1,190**	**-**	**1,190**
Royal Mencap Society	**-**	**-**	**208**	**-**	**208**
Warm Spaces	**-**	**-**	**125**	**-**	**125**
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	**245**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**245**
Packington	**-**	**-**	**2,565**	**-**	**2,565**
CoL Events	**-**	**-**	**298**	**-**	**298**
Commission	**-**	**-**	**153**	**-**	**153**
DigiGuide	**-**	**-**	**207**	**-**	**207**
Nature Neighbourhoods	**-**	**-**	**1,000**	**-**	**1,000**
	6,501	**347**	**3,294**	**4,666**	**14,808**

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	**1,173**	1,491
Independent Examiners Fees	**2,640**	3,240

continued...

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

7. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**161,881**	172,021
Other pension costs	**5,556**	6,245
	167,437	178,266

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
Charitable Activities	**6**	6

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 31.3.2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME FROM			
Grants	42,004	240,026	282,030
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
National Lottery, Partnerships Fund	-	195,500	195,500
Power to Change	-	8	8
LBI VCS Core	51,687	-	51,687
LBI Local Initiative Fund	-	6,336	6,336
LBI Match WCG	854	-	854
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens	-	17,601	17,601
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener	-	103	103
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy	-	610	610
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	-	15,084	15,084
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	-	5,780	5,780

continued...

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 31.3.2023 - continued

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides	-	34,832	34,832
Climate Action Fund	-	19,048	19,048
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund	-	8,711	8,711
Breathe	-	4,069	4,069
Royal Mencap Society	-	6,779	6,779
LBI - LIF Super Stew	-	6,000	6,000
Warm Spaces	-	18,000	18,000
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	-	2,410	2,410
Hilldrop Community Centre, Greening the Grey	-	600	600
Packington	-	3,803	3,803
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre, Tollyrise Gardens	-	4,000	4,000
Total	52,541	349,274	401,815
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(10,537)	(109,248)	(119,785)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	133,516	218,825	352,341
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	122,979	109,577	232,556

9. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The charity consider its key management personnel comprised of the trustees.

continued...

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2023	**23,622**	**5,884**	**29,506**
Additions	**50**	**-**	**50**
At 31 March 2024	**23,672**	**5,884**	**29,556**
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2023	**19,294**	**4,656**	**23,950**
Charge for year	**913**	**260**	**1,173**
At 31 March 2024	**20,207**	**4,916**	**25,123**
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2024	**3,465**	**968**	**4,433**
At 31 March 2023	4,328	1,228	5,556

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Trade debtors	**21,563**	29,188
Other debtors	**2,000**	1,868
	23,563	31,056

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Social security and other taxes	**314**	-
Other creditors	**417**	1,779
Deferred income	**10,000**	12,040
Accrued expenses	**3,995**	2,400
	14,726	16,219

continued...

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	31.3.24 Total funds	31.3.23 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	**4,433**	**-**	**4,433**	5,556
Current assets	**125,375**	**57,504**	**182,879**	243,219
Current liabilities	**(14,726)**	**-**	**(14,726)**	(16,219)
	115,082	**57,504**	**172,586**	232,556

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/23	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**122,979**	**(7,897)**	**115,082**
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	**109,577**	**(52,073)**	**57,504**
TOTAL FUNDS	**232,556**	**(59,970)**	**172,586**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**40,857**	**(48,754)**	**(7,897)**
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	**221,682**	**(273,755)**	**(52,073)**
TOTAL FUNDS	**262,539**	**(322,509)**	**(59,970)**

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	133,516	(10,537)	122,979
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	218,825	(109,248)	109,577
TOTAL FUNDS	352,341	(119,785)	232,556

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	42,004	(52,541)	(10,537)
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	240,026	(349,274)	(109,248)
TOTAL FUNDS	282,030	(401,815)	(119,785)

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

	31.03.2024 £	31.03.2023 £
Unrestricted Funds		
General fund	**115,082**	122,979
Restricted funds		
LBI Andover Inspires	**5,747**	17,177
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens	**-**	3,835
Breathe	**-**	8,058
LBI Local Initiative Fund - winter festival	**369**	-
Climate Action Fund	**-**	10,189
Royal Mencap Society	**-**	2,327
LBI- Cost of Living Events	**20,011**	-
Commissions	**383**	-
Highbury Grove	**462**	-
National Lottery, Partnerships Fund	**-**	10,917
Nature Neighbourhoods	**6,335**	-
Islington Council, Community Plant Nursery & Estate Growing	**2,207**	14,568
Sussex Close	**492**	-
City Bridge Trust (Bridging Divide Project)	**15,942**	31,465
Soil Food	**-**	7,500
Warm Spaces	**-**	1,000
Packington	**803**	397
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	**1,655**	406
East London Business Alliance	**2,970**	1,500
Islington Council, Bloomin' Gardeners	**128**	238
Total Restricted Funds	**57,504**	109,577

LBI Andover Inspires: This an estate wide plants growing project for the Andover and other estates.

National Lottery (SWLW): This covers the "Stay Well, Live Well" projects, health and wellbeing projects.

Urban Growing Match Funding is a collective of small grants to support Urban Growing programme.

continued...

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

As disclosed in the Trustees Report, the trustees/ directors of Octopus Community Network Limited are associated with other community centres/ charities which benefit from collaborating with Octopus Community Network Limited and therefore these community centres/ charities are considered related parties to Octopus Community Network Limited. Total grants paid to these UK network members was £83,995 (2023 - £168,260)

16. GRANT MAKING POLICY

Octopus acts as conduit for the organizations mentioned in the trustees report. The relevant income is apportioned between charities on agreed terms.

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
INCOME		
Grants		
National Lottery, Partnerships Funds	-	117,737
Miscellaneous Income	**1,747**	2,000
City Bridge Trust, Bridging Divides	**32,315**	40,549
LBI Local Initiatives Fund	**860**	-
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy - Packington Estate	**23,940**	4,938
Islington Council, Greenspace and Leisure	**180**	-
Islington Council-Warm Spaces	**77,700**	75,270
Islington Council, Community Plant Nursery & Estate Growing	**10,000**	8,794
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener	-	7,343
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	**8,777**	-
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund	**7,500**	11,250
Royal Mencap Society	**243**	4,195
Islington Council, Bloomin' Gardeners	-	238
Hilldrop Community Centre, Greening The Grey	-	600
Islington Council- Community Wealth Building	**2,031**	800
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	**14,826**	2,816
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre	-	4,000
East London Business Alliance	**4,000**	1,500
LBI Islington-Cost of Living E ents	**25,000**	-
Commissions	**920**	-
Islington Council Community Pa rtnerships	**40,000**	-
The National Trust	**12,500**	-
	262,539	282,030
Total incoming resources	**262,539**	282,030
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	**161,881**	172,021
Pensions	**5,556**	6,245
Carried forward	**167,437**	178,266

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	**167,437**	178,266
Insurance	**2,070**	2,677
Marketing	**8,418**	1,674
Rent	**8,000**	8,000
Materials	**13,201**	14,367
Event costs	**4,670**	741
Freelance staff	**3,610**	3,309
Travelling	**445**	339
Volunteer expenses	**403**	428
AGM & annual report	**13**	13
Training & courses	**1,400**	1,322
Payments to Network Partners	**83,995**	168,260
Staff Welfare	**399**	848
Human Resource Costs	**4,437**	2,637
Redundancy costs	**9,203**	-
	307,701	382,881
Support costs		
Management		
Membership Fees	**270**	768
Payroll Cost	**457**	587
IT Support and Hardware	**4,601**	4,745
Deprec - Tangible Assets	**1,173**	1,491
	6,501	7,591
Finance		
Bank charges	**347**	-
Other		
Telephone	**1,863**	2,344
Postage and stationery	**463**	-
Sundries	**968**	2,923
	3,294	5,267
Governance costs		
Independent Examiners Fees	**2,640**	3,240
Book Keeping fees	**2,026**	2,836
	4,666	6,076
Total resources expended	**322,509**	401,815
Net expenditure	**(59,970)**	(119,785)

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1128394

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04490634 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1128394

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FOR

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04490634 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1128394

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FOR

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

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OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Despite the challenges we face as a Charity Sector, not only in terms of the rise in demands for our services, we continue to see and feel a step change in funding trends. Throughout the year, our key programmes of work continue to build on the strategic development of the Network and develop our goals of engaging, motivating, inspiring, developing our communities.

Overall, I would love to say that we are now out of the pandemic, and we are well into the "recovery and reset" but as you see from this year's annual report, there are still significant challenges that we all face during unprecedented times.

The Cost-of-Living Crisis has been the single biggest issue influencing our work, resulting in our proven-practice approach in joined up working; fostering mutually beneficial collaborations and partnerships with those who complement and add value to our work. A good example of this is how we are now working with Help on Your Doorstep and AgeUK Islington to deliver a series of cost of living events within neighbourhoods where there are complex needs that are always related to deep rooted and emerging poverty. These cost of living events emerged as a community-led idea through the provision of the Warm Places offered between October 2022 through to March 2023, both the Warm Places and the Cost of Living events have proven to be essential for residents most in need support, as they are delivered within appropriate, welcoming and inclusive places in the neighbourhood where they live.

In terms of our joined-up working, throughout the year, we have cemented our relationship with Voluntary Action Islington, especially in terms of our co-delivery of the three Local Wellbeing Networks in Islington. This work again demonstrates our passion for collaboration as a means to providing responsive, high-quality and tailored work for communities, especially those underserved and under-represented. It also represents our commitment to on-going community-led development, taking an asset-based approach and one that empowers people to become community organisers in their community.

Our Urban Growing programme, especially with a focus on food growing, has provided essential opportunities for residents to learn about and benefit from growing food in an urban environment, and our work has contributed significantly to Islington's Biodiversity Action Plan and the Net Zero Carbon ambition. This year, we have also been able to embark upon the innovative Urban Cultivate proof of concept project, which was led by Cranfield University, the learning from this has been incredible.

In summary, this is a critical time for our sector and residents as they continue to face economic, health and physical challenges over the next coming year but I believe our network ,statutory partners and colleagues in the VCS will make sure that we will do everything in our power that they are not left to fend for themselves.

Finally, I would like to thank Julie for keeping us on track and leading a tremendous team that include Franie, Caroline, Katherine, William, Matthew, and of course Rosie. We are truly grateful for all the work they have led on still continue to do so and for all our funders who continue to support our network.

Finally, a special mention for Tsigereda and Primrose who were instrumental in our work in addressing health inequalities across Islington through the Stay Well Live Well programme which came to the end earlier this year - thank you.

Colin Adams
Chair

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Firstly, I would like to thank Paul for all his hard work in the role of Treasurer for Octopus Community Network over the years. He has been a huge part in developing the network to position it is in today and I am very grateful that he is staying on the finance subcommittee, where we can continue to benefit from his knowledge of the charity.

On the tail end of the Covid-19 pandemic, funders started to shift back towards pre-pandemic priorities. However, these were quickly shaken up with global events causing the cost of living to sore upwards. The effects of which, have had a massive impact on front-line charities, having to dedicate more and more of their budgets to overhead costs. While as an entity, Octopus Community Network is largely protected from this, having relatively low overheads, the team have been quick in response to finding funding opportunities to support the hubs and assist the residents of Islington. The team have continued their work in tackling food poverty and co-ordinated warm spaces to help ease the strain on local peoples' expenses.

While on face value the Statement of Financial Activities in the year 2022/23 appears negative. The figures are actually the result of conscientiously wrapping up a multi-year project; using the restricted funds carried forward from the previous year's Statement of Financial Position. The Octopus Community Network continues to be a going concern, holding a good level of reserves and have funding for all other projects and operational costs.

We continue to work closely with our auditors, Preston & Jackson Partnership LLP, to ensure our internal controls and financial monitoring procedures are strong, including regular financial reporting to Directors. We would like to thank them for their continued advice and support. We regularly review our reserves policy to ensure it is appropriate and have assessed the major risks to which the organization is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to any major risks.

We are grateful to all our funders, including The National Lottery, The Big Alliance, City of London, North London Waste Authority and Islington Council for their continued support. This funding is essential to our work with the Community Hubs, especially in terms of fostering greater collaboration between the Hubs, identifying and taking forward joint working opportunities, and leading on collaborative projects that benefit the neighbourhoods in which the Hubs are based. Directors are grateful to our funders and individuals for their continued support.

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

Octopus is a mutually benefitting collaboration between independent multi-purpose community centres and community hubs, working together to develop and deliver innovative community-led health and wellbeing, urban growing, capacity building and building community power programmes of work.

In working together as a network, we can leverage resources and knowledge to build capacity more effectively than charitable and not-for-profit organisations that choose to go-it-alone. The relationships that are built along with the peer-to-peer support encouraged play a major part in accelerating the growth of the individual network member's capacity. Our collective work impacts significantly in terms of long-term sustainability, which results in engaged, empowered, healthier and more vibrant communities.

Our values are:
- Challenge and innovation
- Diversity and ethical behaviour
- Effectiveness and flexibility
- Openness and accountability
- Positive productivity
- Responsiveness and dignity
- Trust and supportiveness

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Octopus is an infrastructure and capacity building charity. Our objectives are to:

- Promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater London by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations, other agencies, and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities for the interests of social welfare, for the recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants, and the promotion of the voluntary sector for the benefit of the public.

The Network shares five key goals:

1. Engage: those who lead and develop independent multi-purpose community centres and hubs in order to share lessons learned and proven practice.
2. Inspire: a new approach to community-led development by sharing ideas, thinking big, staying positive, and keeping an open door.
3. Motivate: change by constantly and consistently reviewing what we do so that we can demonstrate impact.
4. Equip: those responsible for community-led development with the skills, know-how and values to increase community participation and foster strong, sustainable communities.
5. Support: the on-going development of community leadership by facilitating routes to a range of expertise and peer-to-peer support.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Health and Wellbeing Programme

Under this programme of work one of our largest, cross-sector, partnership building projects has been developed and delivered, namely **StayWell, LiveWell**. Funded by the National Lottery Partnerships Fund, which offers larger amount of funding for organisations that work together with a share set of goals to help their community. Octopus was awarded £496,218 over a period of three years from February 2020, meeting the Lottery's objectives to:

- Build strong relationships in and across communities.
- Improve the places that matter to communities.
- Help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage.

Octopus was awarded a further grant of £95,000 in recognition of the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and received a further cost of living uplift of £24,810 specifically to take forward the work of offering Warm Places and Cost of Living events within Islington's most impoverished neighbourhoods, and for those experiencing deepening hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis.

There is evidence to suggest that the 5% uplift from the National Lottery enabled the Octopus Network engaged in StayWell, LiveWell to outreach and engage the most vulnerable and those recently shocked into poverty, including the working poor, to mobilise people in our work to ensure 'Food and Fuel' and not one or the other.

What is notable, is the capabilities of the Network in working in partnership to mobilise during crises and especially people living in their local area as Volunteers. The effective practice demonstrated in this mobilisation and taking pro-active action has been recognised through the Network being awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

- **536 volunteers engaged**, totalling 28,062 hours - monetary value being £335,340: connecting essential support to 37,915 households.
- **555 people accessed the Warm Places** between November 2022 and March 2023.
- **450 people received support** through the provision of the Cost-of-Living events delivered between December 2022 and March 2023, delivered in collaboration with Help on Your Doorstep and AgeUK Islington.

Our Health and Wellbeing programme includes working in collaboration with Voluntary Action Islington to develop three community-powered Local Wellbeing Networks. This capacity building programme has forged a stronger link between Octopus and Voluntary Action Islington, and draws upon Octopus's proven practice the creation and development of functioning networks. The primary focus of this work is to:

- Support the Voluntary, Community and Faiths sector through the development and management of effective, sustainable networks.
- Mobilising people to address key issues and challenges.
- Providing information and intelligence.
- Facilitating the formation of projects and partnerships.

This is being achieved by:

Connecting: providing a mechanism for the local Voluntary, Community and Faiths sector organisations and residents to come together to learn, exchange, mobilise, develop and deliver programmes of work to improve the health and wellbeing of all Islington residents, especially those experiencing health inequalities.

Co-delivery: building strong relationships with diverse communities as co-deliverers of joined-up health and wellbeing services and activities, recognising the role of the community as effective first responders.

Community voice: listening and responding to real-life experiences of people facing health inequalities, encouraging their mobilisation for change, and involving them in the design and implementation of projects that address systemic issues.

Urban Growing Programme

Under this programme we have multiple projects funded through Islington Council, the National Lottery Climate Action Fund, the North London Waste Authority Community Fund, City Bridge Trust through the Bridging Divides programme. A number of small-scale projects have been undertaken by the team, helping our network members to build their capacity in delivering this aspect of work independently, as a means to diversify their projects and communities engaged within them.

Action for Local Food - Soil, land, and climate change

The City Soil project was designed and delivered independently by Octopus Community Network. The underspend amounted to £10,323 enabled the employment of a part-time member of the Urban Growing team who was responsible for leading a six-month urban soil improvement programme between January 2022 and June 2023 to engage at least 100 people through three community composting sites, each unique in reflection of the place in which it is located, the people behind its creation and its management, and in terms of the capacity for taking in and transforming food waste at a neighbourhood level.

Urban Soil Food

Building upon City Soil, this brand-new project was funded through the North London Waste Community Fund, focusing upon developing a brand-new curriculum and set of resources to skill-up 10 Urban Soil Farmers, through three, four-week Urban Soil Farmer programme of immersive learning.

Community Food Hubs

Delivered over a five-year period, this project focuses upon tackling food insecurity and food injustice, and climate change. £186,394 has been secured through the City Bridge Trust, Bridging Divides programme fund. Through this project, several aspects of work are being undertaken focusing upon the on-going development of the Community Plant Nursery as a learning and food growing hub, support in developing community-centre based Food Hubs and connecting these to locally grown food/food growing activities, and how to utilize public space in parks and on greenspaces for food growing within communities. Importantly, this work focuses upon equity, inclusion and diversity to ensure that all those who want to grow and able to, including young people with special educational needs and disabilities - working in collaboration with a local SEND school; with Mencap, providing adults with learning disabilities with personalised support to develop their food growing and gardening skills, and with local residents. So far, 201 people have engaged and over 56% of those engaged are from Islington's rich, multi-cultural communities.

Highbury Quadrant Nature Gardens and Ward Partnership

In collaboration with network member, Elizabeth House Community Centre, Islington Ward Councillors and the Highbury Quadrant TRA, this estate-wide community-led project has engaged residents in transforming greenspace and under-used spaces on the estate into nature gardens and food growing spaces. We received in total £20,636 for this project, which has enabled the creation of opportunities for families, children and young people to learn more about nature, delivered in collaboration with the Urban Forest Collective. There has been a concerted and successful effort to create a local community composting scheme and area for compost production, and connected to this, there has been an immersive learning programme to help growers learn more about the importance of soil health. The Orchard Garden has become a productive area, which has included learning opportunities for residents on food growing. Gardening activities are now taking place across the Highbury Quadrant estate, with residents taking the lead on areas to be developed.

Keeping Packington Estate 'Green and Growing'

Is a collaboration between network member The Arc, Islington Council and residents of the Packington Estate to develop five community-led growing spaces to increase food production, including food for the local food bank, and improving biodiversity. So far, a strong cohort of local volunteers are being supported through a programme of immersive and experiential learning workshops and opportunities, and partnerships have been developed to enhance opportunity and delivery - with the Urban Forest School and Bright Lives. £23,940 funding secured from Islington Council is to facilitate this work.

Capacity Building Programme

Octopus receives £40,000 each year from Islington Council as a Capacity Building organisation for the borough. Our proven-practice capacity building approach is realised through a Community of Practice and learning in practice - experiential learning in partnership working, coproduction, co-development, and management of projects, and further, taking a collaborative approach to service and programme development.

Over the past year, our focus has been responding to the cost-of-living crisis, primarily through the development and provision of the Warm Places offer and the resulting Cost-of-Living events, both brand-new initiatives. Driven by the need to implement a programme of work within Islington's communities where the cost-of-living crisis has had greatest impact, our collective effort has been realised through a Pledge to ensure that:

- Everyone is welcome: our staff and volunteers will treat you equally, with dignity and respect.
- Our Warm Places: will be flexible to meet your needs and those of our local communities.
- We won't ask questions about why you need a warm place, but if you want to share we will listen and help you access support.

Between October 2022 and March 2023, 555 people accessed the coordinated Warm Places offer, which included access to the Community Centre provision of: Community Kitchens, Community Food Hubs, Health and Wellbeing Hubs, Employment and Back to Work support. For those in financial hardship, we also provided support to access the Cloudesley Partners Health Grant and the East London Business Alliance & Big Alliance. Within the same period, we co-delivered 5 Cost of Living events in collaboration with Help on Your Doorstep and AgeUK Islington - a brand-new collaboration through which over 14,000 homes on housing estates have been targeted, and through which 555 people received at least three types of support.

Social Action Hub and Community Organising Programme

During the year, Octopus has taken opportunity to explore transformational change through its role as a recognised, quality-assured Social Action Hub - defined as a hub of community organising.

- Exploring the roots of community organising, making the strong connection between community organising and community development.
- Gaining a better understanding of 'market' trends, along with funding trends.
- Undertaking 'market research' to ascertain the likely demand and desire for this new development.

We are also Affiliated Training Providers as part of the National Academy of Community Organising.

- So far, over 50 people have engaged in our Community Organising training.
- Community organising approach is being embedded into our Urban Growing and Health and Wellbeing programmes.
- We are connecting on a regular basis with 'Community Organisers' to explore and develop our role further as a 'cluster of organisations' and connecting with other Hubs to explore their practice models.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Transactions and Financial position

During the year the charity met its expenditure of £401,815 (2022: £408,302) through a combination of grants, fees for services provided, donations from individuals and from reserves brought forward from the previous year. The charity has carried forward reserves of £232,556 (2022: £352,341) of which £109,577 (2022: £218,823) is restricted. The trustees are grateful to the funders and individuals for their continued support.

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

Reserves policy

The trustees are reviewing the reserves policy for the charity. Their aim is to have six months worth of overheads as general reserves.

FUTURE PLANS

We will remain committed to our three programmes of community centre and network development, taking forward social action and community organizing as a means for fostering community empowerment and enablement, and supporting the community centres in their role as community leaders. In the next year we aim to become recognized as a Community Organisers 'Virtual Social Action Hub' and become an Affiliated Member of the Community Organisers Academy.

Since 2009 Octopus Community Network has had an Environmental Sustainability Framework in place, which came about as a result of a network wide environmental sustainability review. This framework set the foundation for steering the community centres in thinking and acting differently in terms of their carbon footprint reviewing all things from purchasing, suppliers, recycle and reuse and in terms of working towards their community buildings being more environmentally sound. Over the years, the commitment to addressing climate change has been embedded in both services and activities to tackle food poverty, for example. In terms of looking forward, the network will reflect and review this environmental sustainability network with a view to better capturing and reporting the impact of the changes that they are making, but most of all, there will be a focus on taking a community-led approach to tackling climate change from the perspective of its impact on the most vulnerable communities ..."climate change - the biggest health threat facing humanity". Considering our three programmes of work, we will carefully consider how we work with key collaborators and partners to address the fragility of our local food systems, will engage with communities to develop a community-led growing action plan, and will look forward to playing a key role in the development of local well-being networks.

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Website: **http://www.octopuscommunities.org.uk**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

04490634 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1128394

Registered office

129 St John's Way
Islington
London
N19 3RQ

Trustees

The Trustees and Directors who served the community during the year ended 31st March 2023 and as at the date the accounts are approved:

Mr Paul Furze
Mrs Irene Winter
Mr Colin F Adams
Mrs Elaine Dawn Maffrett
Mr Adam Taylor Parr
Ms Teena M Phillips

Independent Examiner

Anwer Patel BA(Hons) FCA,BFP
Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 6.12.23 and signed on its behalf by:

C J Adams
.....
Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Octopus Community Network Limited ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Anwer Patel BA(Hons) FCA,BFP

Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

Date: .....

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
INCOME FROM					
Grants	2	**42,004**	**240,026**	**282,030**	436,248
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	3				
City Bridge Trust Wave 2		-	-	-	(2,894)
National Lottery, Partnerships Fund		-	**195,500**	**195,500**	177,918
Power to Change		-	**8**	**8**	-
LBI VCS Core		**51,687**	-	**51,687**	47,443
LBI Local Initiative Fund		-	**6,336**	**6,336**	-
LBI Match WCG		**854**	-	**854**	1,615
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens		-	**17,601**	**17,601**	-
LBI Andover Inspires		-	-	-	14,792
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener		-	**103**	**103**	25,720
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy		-	**610**	**610**	5,616
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery		-	**15,084**	**15,084**	6,442
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust		-	**5,780**	**5,780**	4,464
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides		-	**34,832**	**34,832**	41,705
Climate Action Fund		-	**19,048**	**19,048**	67,907
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund		-	**8,711**	**8,711**	6,289
Breathe		-	**4,069**	**4,069**	2,936
PHE Mental Health		-	-	-	8,350
Royal Mencap Society		-	**6,779**	**6,779**	-
LBI - LIF Super Stew		-	**6,000**	**6,000**	-
Warm Spaces		-	**18,000**	**18,000**	-
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks		-	**2,410**	**2,410**	-
Hilldrop Community Centre, Greening the Grey		-	**600**	**600**	-
Packington		-	**3,803**	**3,803**	-
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre, Tollyrise Gardens		-	**4,000**	**4,000**	-
Total		**52,541**	**349,274**	**401,815**	408,303
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(10,537)**	**(109,248)**	**(119,785)**	27,945
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**133,516**	**218,825**	**352,341**	324,396

The notes form part of these financial statements

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	**31.3.23 Total funds £**	31.3.22 Total funds £
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**122,979**	**109,577**	**232,556**	352,341

The notes form part of these financial statements

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	**5,556**	7,047
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	**31,056**	26,569
Cash at bank		**212,163**	336,799
		243,219	363,368
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	**(16,219)**	(18,074)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**227,000**	345,294
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**232,556**	352,341
NET ASSETS		**232,556**	352,341
FUNDS	14		
Unrestricted funds		**122,979**	133,516
Restricted funds		**109,577**	218,825
TOTAL FUNDS		**232,556**	352,341

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - continued
31 MARCH 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 6.12.23 and were signed on its behalf by:

L J Adams
.....
Trustee

.....
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements and assessment of going concern

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those condition is wholly within the control of the charity and is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Expenditure and irrecoverable vat

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using either a straight line or reducing balance method, as indicated below.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery - 20% on reducing balance

Computer equipments - 25% on reducing balance

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Debtors
Basic financial assets, including trade and other debtors, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Creditors
Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, loans from third parties and loans from related parties, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Such instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Financial instruments
The charity only as 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.

Going concern
The charity undertakes on various ways to manage and to secure future funding. The trustees are confident that they would have sufficient funding to continue operating as a going concern.

It is for this reason the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

continued...

2. GRANTS

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
National Lottery, Partnerships Funds	117,737	224,837
Miscellaneous Income	2,000	4,359
City Bridge Trust, Bridging Divides	40,549	47,375
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy	4,938	-
Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund	-	(300)
Islington Council	75,270	113,986
Islington Council, Community Plant Nursery & Estate Growing	8,794	13,450
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener	7,343	7,343
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	-	9,038
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund	11,250	11,250
Royal Mencap Society	4,195	4,910
Islington Council, Bloomin' Gardeners	238	-
Hilldrop Community Centre, Greening The Grey	600	-
Islington Council Highbury Quadrant Gardens	800	-
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	2,816	-
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre	4,000	-
East London Business Alliance	1,500	-
	282,030	436,248

continued...

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 4)	Totals
	£	£	£
National Lottery, Partnerships Fund	195,500	-	195,500
Power to Change	-	8	8
LBI VCS Core	55,744	(4,057)	51,687
LBI Local Initiative Fund	6,031	305	6,336
LBI Match WCG	-	854	854
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens	15,390	2,211	17,601
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener	1,499	(1,396)	103
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy	(3,479)	4,089	610
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	13,584	1,500	15,084
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	-	5,780	5,780
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides	27,804	7,028	34,832
Climate Action Fund	19,048	-	19,048
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund	8,711	-	8,711
Breathe	4,069	-	4,069
Royal Mencap Society	5,629	1,150	6,779
LBI - LIF Super Stew	6,000	-	6,000
Warm Spaces	18,000	-	18,000
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	2,410	-	2,410
Hilldrop Community Centre, Greening the Grey	600	-	600
Packington	3,173	630	3,803
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre, Tollyrise Gardens	3,168	832	4,000
	382,881	18,934	401,815

continued...

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Other	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Power to Change	-	8	-	8
LBI VCS Core	6,737	(16,870)	6,076	(4,057)
LBI Local Initiative Fund	-	305	-	305
LBI Match WCG	854	-	-	854
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens	-	2,211	-	2,211
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener	-	(1,396)	-	(1,396)
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy	-	4,089	-	4,089
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	-	1,500	-	1,500
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	-	5,780	-	5,780
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides	-	7,028	-	7,028
Royal Mencap Society	-	1,150	-	1,150
Packington	-	630	-	630
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre, Tollyrise Gardens	-	832	-	832
	7,591	5,267	6,076	18,934

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	1,491	1,900
Independent Examiners Fees	3,240	2,400

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

continued...

7. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	172,021	194,051
Other pension costs	6,245	5,523
	178,266	199,574

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
Charitable Activities	6	9

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 31.3.2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME FROM			
Grants	42,016	394,232	436,248
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
City Bridge Trust Wave 2	-	(2,894)	(2,894)
National Lottery, Partnerships Fund	-	177,918	177,918
LBI VCS Core	47,442	1	47,443
LBI Match WCG	-	1,615	1,615
LBI Andover Inspires	-	14,792	14,792
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener	-	25,720	25,720
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy	-	5,616	5,616
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	-	6,442	6,442
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	-	4,464	4,464
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides	-	41,705	41,705
Climate Action Fund	-	67,907	67,907
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund	-	6,289	6,289
Breathe	-	2,936	2,936
PHE Mental Health	-	8,350	8,350
Total	47,442	360,861	408,303
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(5,426)	33,371	27,945
Transfers between funds	43,949	(43,949)	-

continued...

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 31.3.2022 - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
Net movement in funds	38,523	(10,578)	27,945
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	94,992	229,404	324,396
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	133,515	218,826	352,341

9. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The charity consider its key management personnel comprised of the trustees.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	**23,622**	**5,884**	**29,506**
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2022	**18,212**	**4,247**	**22,459**
Charge for year	**1,082**	**409**	**1,491**
At 31 March 2023	**19,294**	**4,656**	**23,950**
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2023	**4,328**	**1,228**	**5,556**
At 31 March 2022	5,410	1,637	7,047

continued...

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Trade debtors	29,188	23,728
Other debtors	1,868	2,841
	31,056	26,569

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	8,021
Social security and other taxes	-	7,415
Other creditors	1,779	238
Deferred income	12,040	-
Accrued expenses	2,400	2,400
	16,219	18,074

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	31.3.23 Total funds	31.3.22 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1,287	4,269	5,556	7,047
Current assets	125,871	117,348	243,219	363,368
Current liabilities	(4,179)	(12,040)	(16,219)	(18,074)
	122,979	109,577	232,556	352,341

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/22	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	133,516	(10,537)	122,979
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	218,825	(109,248)	109,577
TOTAL FUNDS	352,341	(119,785)	232,556

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**42,004**	**(52,541)**	**(10,537)**
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	**240,026**	**(349,274)**	**(109,248)**
TOTAL FUNDS	**282,030**	**(401,815)**	**(119,785)**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	94,992	(5,425)	43,949	133,516
Restricted funds				
Restricted funds	229,404	33,370	(43,949)	218,825
TOTAL FUNDS	324,396	27,945	-	352,341

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	42,016	(47,441)	(5,425)
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	394,232	(360,862)	33,370
TOTAL FUNDS	436,248	(408,303)	27,945

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Unrestricted Funds		
General fund	**122,979**	133,518
Restricted funds		
LBI Andover Inspires	**17,177**	17,177
Islington Council, Highbury Quadrant Gardens	**3,835**	20,636
Breathe	**8,058**	12,122
LBI Local Initiative Fund	-	266
Climate Action Fund	**10,189**	18,915
Royal Mencap Society	**2,327**	4,910
Relish Embellish Cafe	-	4,962
Power to Change	-	8
Islington Council, Community Plant Nursery & Estate Growing	-	(4,327)
National Lottery, Partnerships Fund	**10,917**	99,003
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	-	5,780
Islington Council, Community Plant Nursery & Estate Growing	**14,568**	20,862
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener	-	(7,238)
City Bridge Trust (Bridging Divide Project)	**31,465**	25,749
Soil Food	**7,500**	-
Warm Spaces	**1,000**	-
Packington	**397**	-
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	**406**	-
East London Business Alliance	**1,500**	-
Islington Council, Bloomin' Gardeners	**238**	-
		-
Total Restricted Funds	**109,577**	218,823

LBI Andover Inspires: This an estate wide plants growing project for the Andover and other estates.

National Lottery (SWLW): This covers the "Stay Well, Live Well" projects, health and wellbeing projects.

Urban Growing Match Funding is a collective of small grants to support Urban Growing programme.

continued...

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

As disclosed in the Trustees Report, the trustees/ directors of Octopus Community Network Limited are associated with other community centres/ charities which benefit from collaborating with Octopus Community Network Limited and therefore these community centres/ charities are considered related parties to Octopus Community Network Limited. Total grants paid to these UK network members was £168,260 (2022- £117,262)

16. GRANT MAKING POLICY

Octopus acts as conduit for the organizations mentioned in the trustees report. The relevant income is apportioned between charities on agreed terms.

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
INCOME		
Grants		
National Lottery, Partnerships Funds	117,737	224,837
Miscellaneous Income	2,000	4,359
City Bridge Trust, Bridging Divides	40,549	47,375
Islington Council, Community Growing Strategy	4,938	-
Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund	-	(300)
Islington Council	75,270	113,986
Islington Council, Community Plant Nursery & Estate Growing	8,794	13,450
Groundwork, Grow Back Greener	7,343	7,343
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	-	9,038
North London Waste Authority, North London Community Fund	11,250	11,250
Royal Mencap Society	4,195	4,910
Islington Council, Bloomin' Gardeners	238	-
Hilldrop Community Centre, Greening The Grey	600	-
Islington Council Highbury Quadrant Gardens	800	-
Voluntary Action Islington, Local Wellbeing Networks	2,816	-
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre	4,000	-
East London Business Alliance	1,500	-
	282,030	436,248
Total incoming resources	282,030	436,248
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	172,021	194,051
Pensions	6,245	5,523
Insurance	2,677	4,333
Marketing	1,674	1,022
Rent	8,000	8,000
Materials	14,367	29,056
Event costs	741	3,089
Carried forward	205,725	245,074

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1128394

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04490634 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1128394

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

FOR

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

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OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

As we ever so slowly come out of the pandemic, the network has focused on 'recovery and reset' from the damage caused over the last two and a half years. With this in mind, this year we have focused on the **strategic development of the Network** in terms of the following:

- Virtual Social Action Hub: many of the Community Centres involved in the network have come about due to the social action of local residents. So, it seems a natural progression that Octopus collaborates with like-minded charities such as Community Organisers to establish the Network as a Social Action Hub and to work with other partners on projects such as the Local Wellbeing Networks to raise the voice of those generally unheard and those with lived experience. Through the dedication of hard work, study and practical application of learning, Octopus has also achieved the status of being an Affiliated Training Provider with Community Organisers

- **Network Connections Map:** first developed during the first Covid-19 lockdown as a result of needing a dynamic space to list food banks, community food hubs and places offering wide-ranging help to struggling households, the map has emerged not only as a way to join up and connect collaborators, it has provided the basis for place-based community development, fostering collaborations and networking opportunities to better join up services for organisations and people who tend to struggle to navigate complex communications, resource and information systems.

- Health and Wellbeing programme: continues to respond to the need to address growing health inequalities that have either been compounded or emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic. All Centres within the Network provide a rich programme of health and wellbeing activities that respond to the needs of the neighbourhood that operate in and most importantly, the diverse people who make up those communities. A community-led development approach is at the heart of what we do to ensure that services and activities are shaped by local people, as does a co-design and production approach with cross sector collaborators. A brand-new collaboration with Voluntary Action Islington will realise Octopus's involvement in the creation of three Local Wellbeing Networks for the North, Central and South of Islington in collaboration with Islington Council.

- **Urban Growing programme:** continues to go from strength to strength by joining up a number of estate-based community-led food growing initiatives - taking a permaculture approach, the focus is on people, place and climate. A rich programme of learning and development activities help growing communities from across the borough to think differently about how food can be grown in a dense urban environment, and how that food can be grown for social good. Octopus has explored and will take forward the lessons learned and effective practice from the Action for Local Food development project forward through a brand-new collaboration with Cranfield University's Science and Technology project 'Urban Cultivate' the result of which will take Octopus's urban growing programme to its next level.

We are also so proud to be nominated for the Queens Award for volunteering which is the highest national award you can receive. It was awarded to our fantastic volunteers who came to the fore during the pandemic and worked incredibly hard to set up and support the Community Food Hubs benefitting hundreds of vulnerable residents across Islington and still support them today.

The excellent work we carry out and successes we've achieved would not have taken place without the hard work, persistence, humour and dedication of our Network Coordinator, Julie Parish. She is the driving force that makes our Network tick and without her energy and determination and her constant nagging to make us the best we can be, we wouldn't have achieved half of what we have. She is also supported by a brilliant team of colleagues who have also worked so hard and who go beyond what they have to do so thank you Franie, Rosie, Tsigereda, Primrose, Caroline, Rachel, and all the very best to Anita Gracie who retired earlier this year - she will be deeply missed by me, the Team and the Network.

Colin Adams - Chair

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

At the start of this financial year, like other organisations, we were still dealing with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, with on-going Government guidance on restrictions. As with the previous year, there have been numerous challenges in following this guidance and although restrictions then lifted, we have still faced a significant impact on the services we have been able to deliver, impacting on the potential for economic uncertainty and continuing to affect our ability to undertake work we would normally have been commissioned to do.

Our Directors have continued to meet frequently to regularly review our financial position and would have made prudent adjustments to expenditure, if that had been necessary. Through the hard work of the Octopus Community Network team and Directors, we have ended the financial year in a strong position and continue to have a robust, on-going fundraising strategy.

Octopus Community Network continues to be a going concern; we have a number of funded projects and reserves that will allow us to continue to deliver our services. We have also ensured we are current with funding opportunities, although we have noticed a significant reduction in the funding options that have been available in the past 12 months, as have all the Hubs within the Network.

We continue to work closely with our auditors, Preston & Jackson Partnership LLP, to ensure our internal controls and financial monitoring procedures are strong, including regular financial reporting to Directors. Our continued thanks to them for their advice and support. We regularly review our reserves policy to ensure it is appropriate and have assessed the major risks to which the organization is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to any major risks.

We are grateful to all our funders, including The National Lottery, The City Bridge Trust, The Mayor's Office and Islington Council for their continued support. This funding is essential to our work with the Community Hubs, especially in terms of fostering greater collaboration between the Hubs, identifying and taking forward joint working opportunities, and leading on collaborative projects that benefit the neighbourhoods in which the Hubs are based. Directors are grateful to our funders and individuals for their continued support.

Paul Furze
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

Octopus is a collaboration of community centres working together to develop and deliver innovative community-led health and well-being activities, informal and non-formal learning projects, growing and bio-diversity projects, skills and back to work programmes. In working together we achieve greater synergy avoiding unnecessary duplication, and maximum resource utilization. It is driven by the collective desire to develop community centres as 'hubs' in the community, where multiple grass-roots services and wide-ranging facilities can be accessed and influenced by the unique needs of those living and working locally.

ITS VALUE ARE:
- Challenge and innovation
- Diversity and ethical behavior
- Effectiveness and flexibility
- Openness and accountability
- Positive productivity
- Responsiveness and dignity
- Trust and supportiveness

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES
Objectives and aims
The Octopus Community Network shares five goals to: Engage, Inspire, Motivate, Equip and Support.

Engage: those who lead and develop multi-purpose community centres in order to share lessons learned and best practice.

Inspire: a new approach to community development by sharing ideas, thinking big, staying positive and keeping an open door.

Motivate: change by constantly and consistently reviewing what we do so that we can demonstrate impact.

Equip: those responsible for community development with the skills, know-how and values to increase participation and foster strong sustainable communities.

Support: community centre leaders by facilitating routes to a range of expertise and peer-to-peer support.

Public benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

As a collaboration of multi-purpose community centres, Octopus continues to facilitate a mutually beneficial network through an integrated, innovative and 'on the doorstep' health and wellbeing, and urban growing activities that are rooted in the principles and practice of community-led development. As a central hub for the Network, Octopus continues to provide the essential facilitation that organically grows the Network in terms of individual and collective capacity to respond to the needs of local communities, especially those who face multiple challenges. With a strong focus on fostering a functioning, peer-led and sustainable Network, Octopus has continued to take a programme rather project approach to **Health and Wellbeing, Urban Growing, Capacity Building,** and in this year, **Social Action** as a means to empowering and enabling communities to take on a much stronger role in local decision making.

Our work embraces and integrates the work of Islington Council through 'Fairer Together' and many aspects of our collaborative work delivers against key priorities and action plans set out in Islington's Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Plans.

Still reeling from the intensity of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis and with little time for 'recovery and reset', Octopus has sustained a rich and diverse programme of work despite the challenges that the Third Sector has faced during the financial year. Our own experiences echo the findings reported by the Charities Commission, as follows:

We have long known anecdotally that the COVID-19 pandemic is having a profound impact on many charities. There have been many reports in the media over the last 18 months about charities hit by increased demand, about others struggling to fund their services as restrictions were imposed, and, in a few cases, we've heard of charities whose income sky-rocketed thanks to extraordinary fundraising efforts. Perhaps the most striking finding is that **nearly all charities were impacted by the pandemic** - over 90% told us that they have experienced some negative impact from Covid-19, whether on their service delivery, finances, staff, or indeed on staff morale, resulting from the months of frustration and uncertainty.
Source: Charities Commission

In recognition of our work and impact during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, in this reporting period, we have been nominated for the **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**, which of course we are delighted about. This nomination could result in the organisation equivalent of an MBE and is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK.

Health and Wellbeing

Our StayWell, LiveWell project, which is funded through the National Lottery's Partnership Fund is one that delivers prevention and early intervention services and activities in local neighbourhoods, has a targeted estate-based approach to reach out to and engage those most vulnerable, promotes healthy eating, and helps build community power by training up local residents as community organisers. Over the past year, the Community Centres involved in StayWell, LiveWell have continued to provide food and household essentials to support those either living or shocked into poverty during the pandemic. However, as restrictions began to lift, the Centres were able to address the resulting impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on mental health and isolation by delivering a rich and diverse programme of health and wellbeing activities.

Families: have improved and increased social networks that improve a sense of connectedness and belonging, have improved awareness of mental health problems, and are able to make informed choices in terms of health and wellbeing in terms of prevention and early intervention.

- 60 households (85 adults, 36 children) benefited and reported how it impacted on their wellbeing. They received essential food items, an opportunity to meet others weekly the Food Hub and welfare support, including referrals to specialist services.
- 50 cooked meals per week delivered and distributed to vulnerable residents in partnership with Food For All.
- 260 Take and Make kits with mood food recipes included during the Christmas holidays to 63 families delivered to local vulnerable residents
-122 food hampers and goodies to older people in place of their Christmas activity.
- 1747 meals were distributed and benefited 164 residents

Young People: better understanding the impact of social isolation, have improved awareness of common mental health issues, and fewer feel socially isolated and lonely. Community-led initiatives taken forward to support young people include the following:

- The development of youth offers on New Orleans Estate to work with a young volunteer to open a youth project.
- Training for young people to become Street Doctors after concerns were raised by young people and their family about the anti social behaviour and lack of activity in the estate. HLECA is working with young people and the Community Safety team to engage young people. 169 young people over 8 years plus engaged. 3 young people are now volunteering, with the potential of becoming community leaders.
- Young people, delivering mentoring and 1to1 Personal, Social, Wellbeing and Emotional focused sessions which them with skills to deal with social isolation, anxiety, and life skills. This took place online, where young people were encouraged to decide what sessions, they would like to establish and run themselves as a way of peer-support going forward. 16 young people benefited from this service.
- Families: 28 residents contacted and provided information on how to look after their mental health by their outreach coordinator.

Older People: have improved social networks, a sense of belonging, have greater awareness of common mental health problems and participate regularly in social activities resulting in improved mental wellbeing.

- 25 older people (60+) benefited through their food hub. All residents received a substantial weekly food box with essential items purchased by Elizabeth House, donated by the local community and from food surplus.
- 144 older people were supported through telephone befriending scheme. The Number of calls to their regular users is being reduced as their services have opened up but they continue supporting those that still need it.
- Over 60 older people received one or more of the following: food support, gentle exercise, regular welfare calls, referrals to relevant agencies.
- 122 food hampers and goodies to older people in place of festive activities.
- 314 older people took part in wide-ranging health and wellbeing activities.
- 85 people and publish a bi-monthly community newspaper, eclecho. This is one of their locally led initiatives, which now has a print-run of 7,500 and has been very well received by the community.

Social Action Hub
During the Covid-19 pandemic, Octopus set out on a process to be a quality-assured Social Action Hub and an Affiliated Member of the Community Organisers Training Academy. As a result:

- Two Octopus staff have now completed their training to become Community Organising Trainers and have been co delivering with the trainer.
- 2 Introduction to Community Organising Workshops were delivered during this Reporting Period
- 1 Listening Skills sessions for the Community organisers

- 25 Community organising have been recruited, out of 5 of them are local young people.

So far, there has been a strong emphasis on the capacity building directly with the Community Food Hubs / Community Centres and with their **community organisers**. Working with Elizabeth House Community Centre, we have engaged with a weekly women's group who are now keen and eager to engage with food growing activities, whereas at the start, there was a reluctance as they thought gardening was not for them, mainly as they don't have access to gardens or thought it 'too dirty'. These women therefore would not have been the easiest to reach without the active support of the 'community organiser' role at the Centre. Frannie Smith, 'Community Cultivator'

"This role is very challenging work, but I really enjoy it and look forward to seeing all the different members of our community every week. I am proud of how our centre is making a positive difference to local people's lives. The food projects have had a huge impact on their community.". The **Community Organiser** is now running a food co-op and engaging with local people regularly and is the main point of contact for people in the local community.

Urban Growing Programme

Our Urban Growing Programme comprises a number of funded projects, featured below are two foundational projects that now take our growing programme to the next stage of development and sustainability. The first is the City Bridge Trust (Bridging Divides) project, and the second, the Climate Action Fund project, funded through the National Lottery.

- 57 workshops - hands on practical skills-based food growing learning for local residents and community gardening groups.
- 156 participants took part in 12 online talks due to covid lockdown and weekly 'stay connected 'online gardening talks
- 41 participants attended the Urban Eats 'Harvest' Festival in September
- 15 families took part in the Summer Environmental and Climate Action Family Workshops
- 6 young people from Beacon High School (SEND) took part in a week-long work experience programme as part of their Horticultural Programme.
- 15 Volunteers engaged regularly at the Community Plant Nursery and were engaged on site to assist with designing a community growing space, improvements and learning to manage a community food growing space.
- 7 Community Food Hubs benefitted from the produce of the Community Plant Nursery.
- 22 Growing Groups across Islington benefitted from the integrated learning programme and the plug plants (vegetables, pollinators, and the like).
- 10 participants took part in a 10-week Community Food Growing programme at the Mildmay Community Centre resulting in a brand-new produce garden being created.
- 12-week programme supported the residents of the Highbury Quadrant Estate to create three brand-new designated gardening and food growing spaces, connecting with the Elizabeth House Community Centre to help engage children and families with nature, urban food growing, and environmental improvement.

Rory, Community Organiser at Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre says "The support from Octopus team has been essential to growing our ability to support our community to connect into and access the network of growing spaces in Islington. Through the action learning training we were able to highlight where and how we can activate our local community."

Climate Action

The Network has an established commitment to addressing climate change. Many of the Community Centre buildings have solar panels installed, have been through comprehensive environmental reviews, and continue to develop opportunities for addressing climate change. Mildmay Community Centre is award winning and was the first certified as a Passivhaus non-domestic retrofit building. Caxton House Community Centre

Collaborative projects across the Network include the Action for Local food project, which is funded through the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund, and the Relish Embellish Café project, which was funded by the North London Waste Authority.

Through the **Action for Local Food** project, we measured growing capacity, water harvesting, food and green waste, bio-diverse habitats, training and learning, and networks created. As a snapshot we can report that the impact has included the following:

- 57 acres of land in Islington identified which could be used as estate-based growing space for communities.
- 381.15 m2 new growing space created
- 1905.75 kg of food produced
- 13100 L of rainwater harvested
- 2300 kg of food waste collected and transformed into compost
- 53 different climate action topics were covered as part of the programme which engaged 694 people.

Dominic, Community Organiser at Mildmay Community Centre says "The support from Octopus Community Food Hub project has been very helpful to me as a community organiser setting up a food growing project at the Mildmay Community Centre."

Relish Embellish Café focuses on raising awareness of the impact that textiles and clothes production has on the UK, which is timely in terms of the movement towards Slow Fashion. Funded by the North London Waste Authority Waste Prevention Community Fund, Relish Embellish aims to creatively challenge textile consumption with a view to generating a greater level of understanding of the impact of textile waste on the environment, resulting in individual and household attitudinal and behavioural change. Delivered through five of the Community Centres, they will work in collaboration to design and deliver an integrated programme of practical and knowledge-building workshops. The project's objectives include to:

- Engage 50 local people, representative of Islington's diverse population, across a 10-week programme of 'textile transformation' workshops.
- Engage 2000 local people in a Festive Jumper competition to reduce the number of such jumpers going to landfill.
- We expect that 3,600kg of textile waste will be diverted from landfill as a result of the Festive Jumper campaign.
- More generally, we expect to be able to divert 441kg of textile waste from landfill and save at least 69kg by reusing/upcycling.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Transactions and Financial position

During the year the charity met its expenditure of £408,302 (2021: £399,165) through a combination of grants, fees for services provided, donations from individuals and from reserves brought forward from the previous year. The charity has carried forward reserves of £352,341 (2021: £324,396) of which £218,823 (2021: £229,404) is restricted. The trustees are grateful to the funders and individuals for their continued support.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

Reserves policy

The trustees are reviewing the reserves policy for the charity. Their aim is to have six months worth of overheads as general reserves.

FUTURE PLANS

We will remain committed to our three programmes of community centre and network development, taking forward social action and community organizing as a means for fostering community empowerment and enablement, and supporting the community centres in their role as community leaders. In the next year we aim to become recognized as a Community Organisers 'Virtual Social Action Hub' and become an Affiliated Member of the Community Organisers Academy.

Since 2009 Octopus Community Network has had an Environmental Sustainability Framework in place, which came about as a result of a network wide environmental sustainability review. This framework set the foundation for steering the community centres in thinking and acting differently in terms of their carbon footprint reviewing all things from purchasing, suppliers, recycle and reuse and in terms of working towards their community buildings being more environmentally sound. Over the years, the commitment to addressing climate change has been embedded in both services and activities to tackle food poverty, for example. In terms of looking forward, the network will reflect and review this environmental sustainability network with a view to better capturing and reporting the impact of the changes that they are making, but most of all, there will be a focus on taking a community-led approach to tackling climate change from the perspective of its impact on the most vulnerable communities ..."climate change - the biggest health threat facing humanity". Considering our three programmes of work, we will carefully consider how we work with key collaborators and partners to address the fragility of our local food systems, will engage with communities to develop a community-led growing action plan, and will look forward to playing a key role in the development of local well-being networks.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Website: **http://www.octopuscommunities.org.uk**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
04490634 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1128394

Registered office
129 St John's Way
Islington
London
N19 3RQ

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Trustees
The Trustees and Directors who served the community during the year ended 31st March 2022 and as at the date the accounts are approved:

Mr Paul Furze
Mrs Irene Winter
Mr Colin Festus Adams
Mr Michael Christopher Ryan - Resigned on 16th February 2022
Mrs Elaine Dawn Maffrett
Mr Adam Taylor Parr - Appointed on 16th February 2022
Ms Teena M Phillips - Appointed on 16th February 2022

Independent Examiner
Anwer Patel BA(Hons) FCA,BFP
ICAEW
Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

Approved by order of the board of trustees on .....7/12/22..... and signed on its behalf by:

P. Furze
.....
Trustee/DIRECTOR
PAUL FURZE.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Octopus Community Network Limited ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

A. PATEL

Anwer Patel BA(Hons) FCA,BFP
ICAEW
Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

Date: 22/12/22

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	**31.3.22 Total funds £**	31.3.21 Total funds £
INCOME FROM					
Grants	2	**42,016**	**394,231**	**436,247**	476,937
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	3				
City Bridge Trust Wave 2		-	**(2,894)**	**(2,894)**	33,408
National Lottery SWLW		-	**177,918**	**177,918**	280,274
Core Funding Other		**47,441**	**1**	**47,442**	-
LBI Match WCG		-	**1,615**	**1,615**	15,972
LBI Andover Inspires		-	**14,791**	**14,791**	15,287
National Lottery		-	-	-	17,367
Grow Back Greener		-	**25,720**	**25,720**	3,544
LBI Community Growing Strategy		-	**5,616**	**5,616**	18,710
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery		-	**6,442**	**6,442**	6,147
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust		-	**4,464**	**4,464**	3,456
Cripplegate Foundation		-	-	-	5,000
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides		-	**41,705**	**41,705**	-
Climate Action Fund		-	**67,908**	**67,908**	-
North London Waste Authority		-	**6,289**	**6,289**	-
Breathe		-	**2,936**	**2,936**	-
PHE Mental Health		-	**8,350**	**8,350**	-
Total		**47,441**	**360,861**	**408,302**	399,165
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(5,425)**	**33,370**	**27,945**	77,772
Transfers between funds	14	**43,949**	**(43,949)**	-	-
Net movement in funds		**38,524**	**(10,579)**	**27,945**	77,772
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**94,992**	**229,404**	**324,396**	246,624
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**133,516**	**218,825**	**352,341**	324,396

The notes form part of these financial statements

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	**7,047**	8,947
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	**26,569**	36,439
Cash at bank		**336,799**	289,734
		363,368	326,173
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	**(18,074)**	(10,724)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**345,294**	315,449
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**352,341**	324,396
NET ASSETS		**352,341**	324,396
FUNDS	14		
Unrestricted funds		**133,516**	94,992
Restricted funds		**218,825**	229,404
TOTAL FUNDS		**352,341**	324,396

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - continued
31 MARCH 2022

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 7/12/22 and were signed on its behalf by:

P Furze - Trustee / DIRECTOR

C F Adams (MBE) - Trustee / DIRECTOR

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements and assessment of going concern
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those condition is wholly within the control of the charity and is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Expenditure and irrecoverable vat
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using either a straight line or reducing balance method, as indicated below.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery - 20% on reducing balance

Computer equipments - 25% on reducing balance

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Debtors
Basic financial assets, including trade and other debtors, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Creditors
Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, loans from third parties and loans from related parties, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Such instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Financial instruments
The charity only as 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.

Going concern and impact of covid-19
The Charity has been impacted by Covid-19. However, it has managed to secure future funding. The trustees are confident that they have sufficient funding to continue operating as a going concern.

It is for this reason the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

continued...

2. GRANTS

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
National Lottery	**224,837**	294,873
Miscellaneous Income	**4,358**	3,077
City Bridge Trust	**47,375**	49,150
LBI Other	**-**	238
LBI Community Growing Strategy	**-**	20,000
Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund	**(300)**	-
LBI	**113,986**	48,250
Estate Growing Plant Nursery	**13,450**	20,000
Groundwork/ Grow Back Greener	**7,343**	14,686
Andover Inspires	**-**	16,000
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	**9,038**	5,663
Cripplegate Foundation	**-**	5,000
North London Waste Authority	**11,250**	-
Royal Mencap Society	**4,910**	-
	436,247	476,937

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 4)	Totals
	£	£	£
City Bridge Trust Wave 2	**460**	**(3,354)**	**(2,894)**
National Lottery SWLW	**175,878**	**2,040**	**177,918**
Core Funding Other	**38,039**	**9,403**	**47,442**
LBI Match WCG	**-**	**1,615**	**1,615**
LBI Andover Inspires	**12,752**	**2,039**	**14,791**
Grow Back Greener	**26,182**	**(462)**	**25,720**
LBI Community Growing Strategy	**4,595**	**1,021**	**5,616**
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	**5,421**	**1,021**	**6,442**
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	**3,443**	**1,021**	**4,464**
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides	**37,859**	**3,846**	**41,705**
Climate Action Fund	**65,951**	**1,957**	**67,908**
North London Waste Authority	**6,289**	**-**	**6,289**
Breathe	**2,936**	**-**	**2,936**
PHE Mental Health	**8,350**	**-**	**8,350**
	388,155	**20,147**	**408,302**

continued...

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Other	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£
City Bridge Trust Wave 2	**138**	**(597)**	**(2,895)**	**(3,354)**
National Lottery SWLW	**446**	**954**	**640**	**2,040**
Core Funding Other	**7,022**	**(1,774)**	**4,155**	**9,403**
LBI Match WCG	**1,615**	**-**	**-**	**1,615**
LBI Andover Inspires	**445**	**954**	**640**	**2,039**
Grow Back Greener	**139**	**(599)**	**(2)**	**(462)**
LBI Community Growing Strategy	**223**	**478**	**320**	**1,021**
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	**223**	**478**	**320**	**1,021**
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	**223**	**478**	**320**	**1,021**
City Bridge Trust Bridging Divides	**535**	**2,221**	**1,090**	**3,846**
Climate Action Fund	**394**	**1,243**	**320**	**1,957**
	11,403	**3,836**	**4,908**	**20,147**

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	**1,900**	2,539
Independent Examiners Fees	**2,400**	2,400

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

continued...

7. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Wages and salaries	194,051	168,595
Other pension costs	5,523	5,326
	199,574	173,921

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.22	31.3.21
Charitable Activities	9	9

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 31.3.2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME FROM			
Grants	39,327	437,610	476,937
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
City Bridge Trust Wave 2	-	33,408	33,408
National Lottery SWLW	31,218	249,056	280,274
LBI Match WCG	-	15,972	15,972
LBI Andover Inspires	-	15,287	15,287
National Lottery	-	17,367	17,367
Grow Back Greener	-	3,544	3,544
LBI Community Growing Strategy	-	18,710	18,710
LBI Estates Growing and Community Plant Nursery	-	6,147	6,147
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	-	3,456	3,456
Cripplegate Foundation	-	5,000	5,000
Total	31,218	367,947	399,165
NET INCOME	8,109	69,663	77,772
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	86,884	159,740	246,624

continued...

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 31.3.2021 - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	94,993	229,403	324,396

9. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The charity consider its key management personnel comprised of the trustees.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	**23,622**	**5,884**	**29,506**
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2021	**16,858**	**3,701**	**20,559**
Charge for year	**1,354**	**546**	**1,900**
At 31 March 2022	**18,212**	**4,247**	**22,459**
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2022	**5,410**	**1,637**	**7,047**
At 31 March 2021	6,764	2,183	8,947

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Trade debtors	**23,728**	24,777
Other debtors	**2,841**	1,662
Accrued Income	**-**	10,000
	26,569	36,439

continued...

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Trade creditors	8,021	7,438
Social security and other taxes	7,415	-
Other creditors	238	886
Accrued expenses	2,400	2,400
	18,074	10,724

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	31.3.22 Total funds	31.3.21 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	2,777	4,270	7,047	8,947
Current assets	148,813	214,555	363,368	326,173
Current liabilities	(18,074)	-	(18,074)	(10,724)
	133,516	218,825	352,341	324,396

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/21	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31/3/22
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	94,992	(5,425)	43,949	133,516
Restricted funds				
Restricted funds	229,404	33,370	(43,949)	218,825
TOTAL FUNDS	324,396	27,945	-	352,341

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**42,016**	**(47,441)**	**(5,425)**
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	**394,231**	**(360,861)**	**33,370**
TOTAL FUNDS	**436,247**	**(408,302)**	**27,945**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	86,884	8,108	94,992
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	159,740	69,664	229,404
TOTAL FUNDS	246,624	77,772	324,396

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	39,327	(31,219)	8,108
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	437,610	(367,946)	69,664
TOTAL FUNDS	476,937	(399,165)	77,772

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

	31.03.2022 £	31.03.2021 £
Unrestricted Funds		
General fund	**133,518**	94,994
Restricted funds		
LBI Andover Inspires	**17,177**	31,969
Highbury Quadrant	**20,636**	170
Breathe	**12,122**	-
LBI Local Initiative Fund	**266**	1,000
Climate Action Fund	**18,915**	-
Mencap	**4,910**	-
Relish Embellish Cafe	**4,962**	-
Power to Change	**8**	-
LBI Community Growing Strategy	**(4,327)**	1,289
Stay Well Live Well - National Lottery	**99,003**	76,938
National Lottery	**-**	26,798
Elizabeth House	**5,780**	2,206
EG Plant Nursery	**20,862**	13,853
Grow Back Greener	**(7,238)**	11,142
City Bridge Trust (Bridging Divide Project)	**25,749**	15,735
We can Grow (Urban Growing Match Funding)	**-**	48,302
Total Restricted Funds	**218,823**	229,402

LBI Andover Inspires: This an estate wide plants growing project for the Andover and other estates.

National Lottery (SWLW): This covers the "Stay Well, Live Well" projects, health and wellbeing projects.

Urban Growing Match Funding is a collective of small grants to support Urban Growing programme.

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

As disclosed in the Trustees Report, the trustees/ directors of Octopus Community Network Limited are associated with other community centres/ charities which benefit from collaborating with Octopus Community Network Limited and therefore these community centres/ charities are considered related parties to Octopus Community Network Limited. Total grants paid to these UK network members was £117,262 (2021- £186,292)

continued...

16. GRANT MAKING POLICY

Octopus acts as conduit for the organizations mentioned in the trustees report. The relevant income is apportioned between charities on agreed terms.

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
INCOME		
Grants		
National Lottery	**224,837**	294,873
Miscellaneous Income	**4,358**	3,077
City Bridge Trust	**47,375**	49,150
LBI Other	**-**	238
LBI Community Growing Strategy	**-**	20,000
Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund	**(300)**	-
LBI	**113,986**	48,250
Estate Growing Plant Nursery	**13,450**	20,000
Groundwork/ Grow Back Greener	**7,343**	14,686
Andover Inspires	**-**	16,000
Elizabeth House Blackstock Trust	**9,038**	5,663
Cripplegate Foundation	**-**	5,000
North London Waste Authority	**11,250**	-
Royal Mencap Society	**4,910**	-
	436,247	476,937
Total incoming resources	**436,247**	476,937
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	**194,051**	168,595
Pensions	**5,523**	5,326
Insurance	**4,333**	2,695
Marketing	**1,022**	800
Rent	**8,000**	8,000
Materials	**29,056**	4,908
Event costs	**3,089**	-
Freelance staff	**21,687**	-
Travelling	**137**	-
Volunteer expenses	**660**	25
AGM & annual report	**-**	13
Fundraising & Consultancy	**3,000**	4,022
Payments to Network Partners	**117,262**	186,292
Staff Welfare	**335**	4,818
Milkfloat costs	**-**	1,335
	388,155	386,829

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Support costs		
Management		
Membership Fees	**1,438**	1,438
Payroll Cost	**1,364**	663
IT Support	**6,701**	1,426
Deprec - Tangible Assets	**1,900**	1,204
	11,403	4,731
Other		
Telephone	**2,718**	2,711
Postage and stationery	**1,107**	309
Sundries	**11**	-
	3,836	3,020
Governance costs		
IE & Accountancy fees	**2,400**	2,260
Book Keeping fees	**2,508**	2,325
	4,908	4,585
Total resources expended	**408,302**	399,165
Net income	**27,945**	77,772

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1128394

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04490634 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1128394

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

FOR

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

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OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

As you will be fully aware, we have lived/survived during the most traumatic period in post war Britain.

Ican't think of anything that comes remotely close that has frightened or scared me to the degree that the pandemic and make no mistake it is still with us and will be with us for the foreseeable future.

I am extremely proud of our network mobilised to support the lonely and most vulnerable residents across the borough over the last year. Our community centres were already established as food hubs over a few years so when there was a need to provide emergency support for residents during the first lockdown we responded as a network. For those that didn't become an emergency food hubs, they provided support online with a variety of courses from befriending to mental health for those residents who felt isolated and suffering from anxiety.

Over the first 6 months of the lockdown, we provided the following support:
- An average of 1500 food parcels and other essential hygiene is distributed from our Octopus community food hubs to Islington residents each week and 36,500 food parcels in the first 6 months;
- We also provided 57,135 hot meals to residents in partnership with other community partners such as our local mosques;

In addition to supporting our residents with food provision, we also provided the following activities:
- online activities such as Zumba and other telephone services the past 6 months. For instance, the " In Touch service " by Holloway Neighbourhood (HNG) is provided a one to one telephone services (a friendly chat and a general well-being check) for those people who were/are referred by our Food Hubs and other services providers, such as Help On Your Door Step and We Are Islington.
- Over 1000 telephone calls made by staff and six volunteers (all new recruits since lockdown) and, over 200 people supported during the lockdown by HNG only
- We also provided over 300 lap tops/computers to residents;
- Over 30 bikes to key/essential workers so they could get to work;

I cannot thank my colleagues, staff and volunteers who have simply been magnificent in their support over the last year or so and we have all suffered personal losses and like everyone else, I have really good moments and moments of despair.

I would like to mention Barbara Short who worked as a play worker at Hornsey Lane Community Centre and was one of the first victims of the pandemic - she will be greatly missed by all.
It's been a deeply traumatic time for all as I have previously mentioned and staff have also taken up training in trauma informed practice and bereavement training to deal with the many in our communities that have suffered during that time.

I am deeply proud to say that I was voted Islington's "Covid Hero" which was an award for all my colleagues and amazing volunteers. It resulted with an appearance on Radio London to discuss our work and how we supported our residents.

Finally, I would like to thank our amazing network co-ordinator, Julie and her team, Anita, Fran, Hilary, Rosie, Tsigereda, Primrose and all of the amazing volunteers (too many to mention by name) who have worked throughout the pandemic and continue to work with our communities who are still very anxious and nervous.

Thank you.....
C F Adams MBE
Chair

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Like most organisations, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the services we have been able to deliver and has increased economic uncertainty over the last 12 months. For us, that impact has also meant we have been unable to undertake work we would normally have been commissioned to do. As we have a robust, on-going fundraising strategy, we have been able to lessen the impact this has had on our income. Our Directors have continued to meet regularly to review our financial position and would, if necessary, make prudent adjustments to expenditure. Octopus Community Network continues to be a going concern; we have a number of funded projects that span several years and reserves that will allow us to continue to deliver our services. Over the last 12 months, we have also ensured we are current with funding opportunities, in particular those that support lost income and core costs.

We continue to work closely with our auditors, Prestons & Jackson Partnership LLP, to ensure our internal controls and financial monitoring procedures are strong, including regular financial reporting to Directors. Our continued thanks to them for their advice and support. We regularly review our reserves policy to ensure it is appropriate and have assessed the major risks to which the organization is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to any major risks.

We are grateful to all our funders, including the National Lottery, the City Bridge Trust, Cripplegate Foundation and Islington Council for their continued support. This funding is essential to our work with the Community Hubs, especially in terms of fostering greater collaboration between the Hubs, identifying and taking forward joint working opportunities, and leading on collaborative projects that benefit the neighbourhoods in which the Hubs are based. This was particularly evident over the past 12 months where the Hubs have worked so closely with Islington Council and other voluntary sector partners in providing a range of emergency and befriending support to Islington residents.

Paul Furze
Treasurer

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

Octopus is a collaboration of community centres working together to develop and deliver innovative community-led health and well-being activities, informal and non-formal learning projects, growing and bio-diversity projects, skills and back to work programmes. In working together we achieve greater synergy avoiding unnecessary duplication, and maximum resource utilization. It is driven by the collective desire to develop community centres as 'hubs' in the community, where multiple grass-roots services and wide-ranging facilities can be accessed and influenced by the unique needs of those living and working locally.

ITS VALUE ARE:
- Challenge and innovation
- Diversity and ethical behavior
- Effectiveness and flexibility
- Openness and accountability
- Positive productivity
- Responsiveness and dignity
- Trust and supportiveness

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES
Objectives and aims
The Octopus Community Network shares five goals to: Engage, Inspire, Motivate, Equip and Support.

Engage: those who lead and develop multi-purpose community centres in order to share lessons learned and best practice.

Inspire: a new approach to community development by sharing ideas, thinking big, staying positive and keeping an open door.

Motivate: change by constantly and consistently reviewing what we do so that we can demonstrate impact.

Equip: those responsible for community development with the skills, know-how and values to increase participation and foster strong sustainable communities.

Support: community centre leaders by facilitating routes to a range of expertise and peer-to-peer support.

Public benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

During the accounting period our charitable work has remained focused on meeting our aims and objectives through three main programmes under which a number of projects sit. We continue to transfer lessons learnt and effective practice between the projects and build strong connectivity between these programmes in order to add-value, eliminate unnecessary duplication and enable progressions for participants and service users:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Urban Growing
3. Community Centre Network Development

This financial year has been an unprecedented year for charities including our own. Multiple reports commend the not-for-profit sector for being at the forefront of the Covid-19 crisis response. The Octopus team worked throughout lockdown; indeed, were recognized as frontline workers as they sourced, organized and delivered food and household supplies to families and households impacted most by the pandemic, and were necessary provided the wrap-around support needed. We were quick to adapt to online activities and offer telephone services to ensure that individuals remained socially connected and were provided the mental health support they needed to deal with the anxieties and isolation that lockdown brought about.

" I'm writing to you to express my thanks and gratitude for your response to addressing the food insecurity issues that have arisen during the Covid-19 crisis. The speed of your response and the leadership that you have demonstrated in setting up food projects and adapting your models of delivery to support some of Islington's most vulnerable residents has been incredible. Your work has seen thousands of food parcels and cooked meals delivered all across the borough and has helped residents at high risk to stay at home and stay safe, whilst at the same time ensuring that they know that they live in a community where they are cared for, and look out for each other. You're all amazing." Cllr Una O'Halloran, Islington Council

Our ability to coordinate a response to families and households in crisis is undoubtedly a result of the trust-based relationships and collaborative way of working that has been fostered over the past 20+ years. Underpinning our work as a Network is the commitment to social action, peer-led and community-led practice as is the deep understanding of and connection to that the community centres have with their local communities.

Based in Islington, we are committed to supporting local plans for creating a place where everyone, whatever their background has a chance for a long and healthy life. Our three integrated programmes of work are broadly aligned to local plans such as Fairer Together and also help deliver the priorities set out in Islington's Biodiversity and Climate Emergency plans. The Network is represented on local forums and leadership groups such as the Locality Leadership Groups in North, Central and South Islington, the Hate Crime Forum and the Black Leaders Alliance.

1. Health and Wellbeing

Stay Well Live Well (SWLW) forms the primary contribution to the Health and Wellbeing programme, which includes the Breathe Smoking Cessation service. SWLW is implemented through eight of the 14 Community Centres that form the Octopus Community Network. Building upon the lessons learnt and effective practice from the previously funded SWLW project, the three years of the SWLW Continuation Project, focuses on building legacy through developing themed clusters so that the eight Centres can forge stronger relationships and partnership working, take the lead and secure funding on projects and themes of work that best meet the needs of their respective communities.

Within one month of SWLW starting, the UK went into lockdown. Being aware that a lot of the residents were vulnerable and would be self-isolating and would need support with getting food and essential home items, seven out of eight of the SWLW members transformed their emerging lunch clubs and Food Hubs into a large-scale food emergency support scheme for vulnerable families and isolated, vulnerable older people.

Number of Food parcel delivered =Household	Total Individual benefited= Number of weekly record of individual benefited added	Total number of cooked meal distributed
19231	37915	62056

Feedback from those participating in arts, crafts and culture cluster activities said that these sessions increased their social networks, improving their connectedness and sense of belonging. In excess of 3000 arts and crafts packs for both for adults and younger children distributed from June 2020 - January 2021. Crafts kits were delivered to the doorstep weekly along with full colour instructions and a video to support their crafting. The feedback we collected after each session was that everyone loved seeing their tutor on these videos and looked forward to them as they helped lift their mood. An exhibition of the work completed by residents before and during lockdown was set up. As no one could attend the exhibition in person, this was filmed and uploaded to our website for everyone to enjoy. The feedback from everyone was really positive. "It lifted my mood and made me to look forward to returning to the group activities".

During lockdown, Octopus started the process of becoming virtual Social Action Hub, dedicated to the local community and committed to local people. With additional National Lottery Covid-19 emergency funding secured, brought about the opportunity for Octopus to take forward the development of a virtual Social Action Hub and as part of their SWLW programme to involve in their delivery plan to work with people who were involved in Community Organising - to become leaders in their community.

2. Urban Growing

The We Can Grow project was the third step in a continuum of community engagement, community learning and social action that gain in 2010 with our Wild Places project. The final development in this continuum addressed the issue that diverse communities living in dense social housing estates in Islington were under-represented in environmental, biodiversity or climate change projects, equally with little access to greenspace were less likely to engage in gardening or food growing.

We Can Grow has enabled us to meet the National Lottery Reaching Communities outcomes of (i) stronger communities with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems, (ii) improved urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy and (iii) healthier and more active people and communities. We Can Grow has galvanized community action to develop and enhance underused/unloved green spaces on estates through 'pop up' environmental and food growing activities. At the heart of our project has been the creation of the Community Plant Nursery first trialed on the Andover Estate and transferred to the Hollins & McCall Estate where it now flourishes - recognized as a flourishing community garden by the RHS Islington in Bloom. As well as offering a place for people of all ages to grow food, it has offered the opportunity for people to become regular volunteers, to gain skills to equip them to establish and lead social action and community growing in their own neighbourhood. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic the Community Plant Nursery has given people access to physical exercise and mental wellbeing, provided fresh food to supplement emergency food parcels, and an opportunity for families to spend time together outside.

"The Community Plant Nursery is a unique borough-wide community learning resource available to all whatever their starting point and the amount of time they can commit." "There is a real need to provide skilled staff to lead, support and encourage people to develop their own confidence and skills."

The financial year also saw the start of two brand-new projects funded by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund - 'Action for Local Food' and the City Bridge Trust (Bridging Divides Fund) to support the further development of the Community Plant Nursery as a learning hub and facilitate the development of the community food hubs. Action for Local Food is an ambitious project aimed at developing a movement of residents to create practical solutions and benefit the community by growing food, managing soil, harvesting water, preventing food waste and sharing food surplus.

https://sites.google.com/view/urbanwildplaces/home

https://www.actionforlocalfood.org.uk/

3. Community Network Development

Octopus has five clear goals:
1. Engage: those who lead and develop multi-purpose community centres/hubs in order to share practice.
2. Inspire: a new approach to community development by sharing ideas, thinking big, being resilient.
3. Motivate: change by constantly and consistently reviewing what we do so that we can demonstrate impact.
4. Equip: those responsible for community development with the skills, know-how and values to increase participation and foster strong sustainable communities.
5. Support: community centre leadership by facilitating peer-to-peer support along with a community-led development approach.

On large-scale projects we have achieved this via:
- Project development including designing and implementing community consultations and producing funding applications.
- Acting as the lead organisation to provide centralised project management and coordination support for the project partners; including monitoring, reporting and evaluation.
- Strategic and delivery-level partnership support to inform and grow the capacity of the project delivery teams.
- Facilitating the projects' Steering Board including engaging key stakeholders to inform, guide and continually develop the project, incl. representation from Islington Council to ensure that the project is linked into local strategy and plans.

Working with Community Centres we have focused on:
- Brokering access to peer-to-peer and professional support to grow the capacity of key staff, and the organisation as a whole.
- Supporting the design and implementation of centre specific community consultations to inform community-led action.
- Providing fundraising support for those requiring the additional expertise/resource.

Octopus is funded through Islington Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants programme 2021-2024 through the VCS Capacity Building fund, whilst the individual community centres are funded as Community Hubs. During the covid-19 pandemic the Network played an integral role in the Islington Food Poverty Alliance's response to food insecurity, and taking a leading a network mapping programme to develop an innovative network development map to connect people, organisations and programmes of work with funding secured from the Covid-19 London Funders programme.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Transactions and Financial position

During the year the charity met its expenditure of £399,165 (2020: £271,417) through a combination of grants, fees for services provided, donations from individuals and from reserves brought forward from the previous year. The charity has carried forward reserves of £324,396 (2020: £246,624) of which £229,402 (2020: £159,740) is restricted. The trustees are grateful to the funders and individuals for their continued support.

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

Reserves policy

The trustees are reviewing the reserves policy for the charity. Their aim is to have six months worth of overheads as general reserves.

FUTURE PLANS

We will remain committed to our three programmes of community centre and network development, taking forward social action and community organizing as a means for fostering community empowerment and enablement, and supporting the community centres in their role as community leaders. In the next year we aim to become recognized as a Community Organisers 'Virtual Social Action Hub' and become an Affiliated Member of the Community Organisers Academy.

Since 2009 Octopus Community Network has had an Environmental Sustainability Framework in place, which came about as a result of a network wide environmental sustainability review. This framework set the foundation for steering the community centres in thinking and acting differently in terms of their carbon footprint reviewing all things from purchasing, suppliers, recycle and reuse and in terms of working towards their community buildings being more environmentally sound. Over the years, the commitment to addressing climate change has been embedded in both services and activities to tackle food poverty, for example. In terms of looking forward, the network will reflect and review this environmental sustainability network with a view to better capturing and reporting the impact of the changes that they are making, but most of all, there will be a focus on taking a community-led approach to tackling climate change from the perspective of its impact on the most vulnerable communities ..."climate change - the biggest health threat facing humanity". Considering our three programmes of work, we will carefully consider how we work with key collaborators and partners to address the fragility of our local food systems, will engage with communities to develop a community-led growing action plan, and will look forward to playing a key role in the development of local well-being networks.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Website: **http://www.octopuscommunities.org.uk**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

04490634 (England and Wales)

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Registered Charity number
1128394

Registered office
129 St John's Way
Islington
London
N19 3RQ

Trustees
The Trustees and Directors who served the community during the year ended 31st March 2020 and as at the date the accounts are approved:

Mr Paul Furze
Mrs Irene Winter
Mr Colin Festus Adams
Mr Michael Christopher Ryan
Mrs Elaine Dawn Maffrett
Mr Thomas Newmark Jones - Resigned on 31st March 2021

Independent Examiner
Anwer Patel BA(Hons) FCA,BFP
ICAEW
Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 17/11/21 and signed on its behalf by:

P. Furze
Trustee / DIRECTOR

PAUL FURZE.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Octopus Community Network Limited ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

A. PATEL

Anwer Patel BA(Hons) FCA,BFP
ICAEW
Prestons & Jacksons Partnership LLP
364 - 368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6HY

Date: 26/11/21

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
INCOME FROM					
Grants	2	**39,327**	**437,610**	**476,937**	323,914
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	3				
LBI VCS Support Fund		-	-	-	55,596
City Bridge Trust		-	**33,408**	**33,408**	-
National Lottery - SWLW- Health & Wellbeing Project		**31,218**	**249,056**	**280,274**	62,527
LBI Local Initiative Fund		-	-	-	2,639
LBI Match WCG		-	**15,972**	**15,972**	120,594
Green City Fund		-	-	-	18,762
Community Food Hub		-	-	-	10,000
LBI Great Getogether		-	-	-	330
LBI Andover Inspires		-	**15,287**	**15,287**	969
National Lottery		-	**17,367**	**17,367**	-
Grow Back Greener		-	**3,544**	**3,544**	-
LBI Community Growing Strategy		-	**18,710**	**18,710**	-
EG Plant Nursery		-	**6,147**	**6,147**	-
Elizabeth House		-	**3,456**	**3,456**	-
Cripplegate Foundation		-	**5,000**	**5,000**	-
Total		**31,218**	**367,947**	**399,165**	271,417
NET INCOME		**8,109**	**69,663**	**77,772**	52,497
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**86,884**	**159,740**	**246,624**	194,127
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**94,993**	**229,403**	**324,396**	246,624

The notes form part of these financial statements

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	**8,947**	11,486
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	**36,439**	36,867
Cash at bank		**289,734**	228,157
		326,173	265,024
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	**(10,724)**	(29,886)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**315,449**	235,138
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**324,396**	246,624
NET ASSETS		**324,396**	246,624
FUNDS	14		
Unrestricted funds		**94,992**	86,884
Restricted funds		**229,404**	159,740
TOTAL FUNDS		**324,396**	246,624

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - continued
31 MARCH 2021

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17/4/21 and were signed on its behalf by:

P Furze - Trustee / DIRECTOR

C F Adams (MBE) - Trustee / DIRECTOR

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements and assessment of going concern
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those condition is wholly within the control of the charity and is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Expenditure and irrecoverable vat
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using either a straight line or reducing balance method, as indicated below.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery - 20% on reducing balance

Computer equipments - 25% on reducing balance

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets
The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Debtors
Basic financial assets, including trade and other debtors, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Creditors
Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, loans from third parties and loans from related parties, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Such instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Financial instruments
The charity only as 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.

Going concern and impact of covid-19
The Charity has been impacted by Covid-19. However, it has managed to secure future funding. The trustees are confident that they have sufficient funding to continue operating as a going concern.

It is for this reason the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

continued...

2. GRANTS

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Donations	-	1,050
National Lottery	294,873	168,324
Miscellaneous Income	3,077	2,728
City Bridge Trust	49,150	-
LBI Other	238	20,200
LBI Local Initiatives Fund	-	3,639
LBI Community Growing Strategy	20,000	-
LBI	48,250	47,000
EG Plant Nursery	20,000	-
LB Haringey	-	23,450
Groundwork/ Grow Back Greener	14,686	-
Andover Inspires	16,000	24,000
Greener City Funds	-	8,761
Community Food Hub	-	24,762
Elizabeth House	5,663	-
Cripplegate Foundation	5,000	-
	476,937	323,914

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 4)	Totals
	£	£	£
City Bridge Trust	31,300	2,108	33,408
National Lottery - SWLW- Health & Wellbeing Project	274,950	5,324	280,274
LBI Match WCG	15,764	208	15,972
LBI Andover Inspires	13,370	1,917	15,287
National Lottery	16,504	863	17,367
Grow Back Greener	2,586	958	3,544
LBI Community Growing Strategy	17,752	958	18,710
EG Plant Nursery	6,147	-	6,147
Elizabeth House	3,456	-	3,456
Cripplegate Foundation	5,000	-	5,000
	386,829	12,336	399,165

continued...

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Other	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£
City Bridge Trust	**356**	**898**	**704**	**2,108**
National Lottery - SWLW- Health & Wellbeing Project	**3,398**	**395**	**2,281**	**5,324**
LBI Match WCG	**166**	**42**	**-**	**208**
LBI Andover Inspires	**325**	**652**	**640**	**1,917**
National Lottery	**162**	**381**	**320**	**863**
Grow Back Greener	**162**	**326**	**320**	**958**
LBI Community Growing Strategy	**162**	**326**	**320**	**958**
	4,731	**3,020**	**4,585**	**12,336**

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	**2,539**	3,273
Independent Examiners Fees	**2,400**	2,340

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

continued...

7. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Wages and salaries	168,595	140,401
Other pension costs	5,326	5,210
	173,921	145,611

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.21	31.3.20
Charitable Activities	9	7

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 31.3.2020

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME FROM			
Grants	53,295	270,619	323,914
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
LBI VCS Support Fund	55,596	-	55,596
National Lottery - SWLW- Health & Wellbeing Project	2,302	60,225	62,527
LBI Local Initiative Fund	-	2,639	2,639
LBI Match WCG	3,978	116,616	120,594
Green City Fund	-	18,762	18,762
Community Food Hub	10,000	-	10,000
LBI Great Getogether	-	330	330
LBI Andover Inspires	-	969	969
Total	71,876	199,541	271,417
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(18,581)	71,078	52,497
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	105,465	88,662	194,127

continued...

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 31.3.2020 - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	86,884	159,740	246,624

9. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The charity consider its key management personnel comprised of the trustees.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	**23,622**	**5,884**	**29,506**
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2020	**15,047**	**2,973**	**18,020**
Charge for year	**1,811**	**728**	**2,539**
At 31 March 2021	**16,858**	**3,701**	**20,559**
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2021	**6,764**	**2,183**	**8,947**
At 31 March 2020	8,575	2,911	11,486

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Trade debtors	**24,777**	19,274
Other debtors	**1,662**	11,126
Accrued Income	**10,000**	6,467
	36,439	36,867

continued...

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,438	4,101
Social security and other taxes	-	12,081
Other creditors	886	1,364
Accrued expenses	2,400	12,340
	10,724	29,886

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	31.3.21 Total funds	31.3.20 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	8,947	-	8,947	11,486
Current assets	106,769	219,404	326,173	265,024
Current liabilities	(20,724)	10,000	(10,724)	(29,886)
	94,992	229,404	324,396	246,624

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/20	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/21
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	86,884	8,108	94,992
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	159,740	69,664	229,404
TOTAL FUNDS	246,624	77,772	324,396

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**39,327**	**(31,219)**	**8,108**
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	**437,610**	**(367,946)**	**69,664**
TOTAL FUNDS	**476,937**	**(399,165)**	**77,772**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	105,465	(18,581)	86,884
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	88,662	71,078	159,740
TOTAL FUNDS	194,127	52,497	246,624

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	53,295	(71,876)	(18,581)
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	270,619	(199,541)	71,078
TOTAL FUNDS	323,914	(271,417)	52,497

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

	31.03.2021 £	31.03.2020 £
Unrestricted Funds		
General fund	**94,994**	86,884
Restricted funds		
LBI Andover Inspires	**31,969**	31,257
LBI Great Getogether	**170**	170
LBI Local Initiative Fund	**1,000**	1,000
LBI Community Growing Strategy	**1,289**	-
National Lottery, (SWLW)- Health and Wellbeing Project	**76,938**	63,291
Urban Growing Match funding	**48,302**	64,022
National Lottery	**26,798**	-
Elizabeth House	**2,206**	-
EG Plant Nursery	**13,853**	-
Grow Back Greener	**11,142**	-
City Bridge Trust	**15,735**	-
Total Restricted Funds	**229,402**	**159,740**

LBI Andover Inspires: This an estate wide plants growing project for the Andover and other estates.

National Lottery (SWLW): This covers the "Stay Well, Live Well" projects, health and wellbeing projects.

Urban Growing Match Funding is a collective of small grants to support Urban Growing programme.

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

As disclosed in the Trustees Report, the trustees/ directors of Octopus Community Network Limited are associated with other community centres/ charities which benefit from collaborating with Octopus Community Network Limited and therefore these community centres/ charities are considered related parties to Octopus Community Network Limited. Total grants paid to these UK network members was £186,292 (2020- £43,173)

continued...

16. GRANT MAKING POLICY

Octopus acts as conduit for the organizations mentioned in the trustees report. The relevant income is apportioned between charities on agreed terms.

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK LIMITED

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
INCOME		
Grants		
Donations	-	1,050
National Lottery	**294,873**	168,324
Miscellaneous Income	**3,077**	2,728
City Bridge Trust	**49,150**	-
LBI Other	**238**	20,200
LBI Local Initiatives Fund	-	3,639
LBI Community Growing Strategy	**20,000**	-
LBI	**48,250**	47,000
EG Plant Nursery	**20,000**	-
LB Haringey	-	23,450
Groundwork/ Grow Back Greener	**14,686**	-
Andover Inspires	**16,000**	24,000
Greener City Funds	-	8,761
Community Food Hub	-	24,762
Elizabeth House	**5,663**	-
Cripplegate Foundation	**5,000**	-
	476,937	323,914
Total incoming resources	**476,937**	323,914
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	**168,595**	140,401
Pensions	**5,326**	5,210
Insurance	**2,695**	2,379
Advertising	**300**	2,173
Project costs - General	-	10,700
Community first	**500**	7,686
Rent	**8,000**	8,000
Materials	**4,908**	8,959
Event costs	-	2,703
Freelance staff	-	17,731
Travelling	-	199
Volunteer expenses	**25**	1,998
Carried forward	**190,349**	208,139