



The Bentswood Community Partnership

Working for a better future

CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT FOR 2023-24

Dear BCP Members and residents,

A warm welcome and thanks to those attending today and to the residents and organisations that continue to work with us for the benefit of Bentswood residents.

To be honest, this has been a difficult year for the charity and its Trustees. The knock-on effects from the unnecessarily unpleasant parting of ways with what is now known as The Bentswood Hub CIC continue to impact upon the work of the BCP and some of the Trustees.

In addition to this, I have recently taken on a huge employment responsibility which has not left me the time needed to efficiently support my colleagues and deal with the administrative needs of the charity. For this I continue to owe a considerable apology to my Trustee colleagues and to the BCP membership, who will have heard very little from us over 2023-24. This partly explains why our Returns to the Charity Commission are very overdue although, in fairness, there have been known problems with their online systems that have prevented me from uploading the scanned paperwork that was ready for them a year or so ago! This problem still persists and I hope to find time in the coming weeks to find a resolution – not least as the 2023-24 figures are now ready to submit, subject to audit and scrutiny by the Trustees!

However, on the positive side the BCP, chiefly through the amazing work of Ruth de Mierre, started activities to support children and families with SEND. The first of these, with Trustees having cleared the garden, to have a weekly guided gardening project where children were able to plant and tend to their own herbs and vegetables over the Summer.

In tandem with this, a Cookery Club was set up and enabled children to come to The Bentswood and learn basic cooking skills. And eat the proceeds of course! Both of these projects were supported by wonderful volunteers, to whom we owe sincere thanks, and the transformation that was seen in some of the attendees was amazing and heartwarming.

Looking forward, we are very keen indeed to develop projects or services to support older residents and so please do get in touch if you have any ideas for us to work on.

To wrap up, I have some sincere thanks to make public. The first is to Clarion Futures, who continue to generously financially support the community through taking on the leasing of The Bentswood, in conjunction with the BCP. My second thanks go to the volunteers who have supported our projects and the delightful families that have responded so positively to them.

My final thanks go to my fellow Trustees, who have borne with me during long periods of silence and failure to get things done in timely fashion to support their efforts. Nonetheless, the BCP continues to work to serve and support the residents of Bentswood.

Thank you for your interest in our work

Kind Regards

Stephen R Hillier, Chairman 2014 – present

15th May 2025



Registered Address: c/o Warden Park Primary Academy, New England Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3JS
Registered Charity Number: 1167891



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st September 2023 To 31st August 2024

Charity name: BENTSWOOD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Charity registration number: 1167891

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of the Bentswood Ward in Haywards Heath and surrounding areas in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	We are one of three partners in the hugely successful Bentswood Hub. This is now where the vast majority of the activities are carried out and includes: a food larder using supermarket waste to support struggling residents, weekly drop-ins with supportive agencies such as CAB, youth groups, Sunday roasts for isolated older people. In addition the BCP supports community events
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The guidance was circulated in 2023 all Trustees

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	As a rule we are not a grant-making organisation but we have procedures for residents to follow if they wish support the community with a new project
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The work of our volunteers is priceless! We have a number of them, some of them parents but not all, who support the leaders in our SEND activities
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	This was a quieter year for our activities as our partners and ourselves adjusted to the new reality and took time to assess where the gaps in provision were that we felt we could feel. Much of the year was spent working with Clarion Futures to get 38 America Lane and its garden compliant with their standards and sort out various processes As a result, in the Summer of 2024 a Gardening club and a Cookery club were inaugurated, with much credit to Ruth de Mierre (Trustee). These were to provide support to the children, parents and carers who were heavily affected by SEND. These were supported by HSF5 monies and Actionfunder Grants all via Clarion Futures. They were immensely popular and made some remarkably positive changes to some of the young people and earned the immense gratitude of parents. We also facilitated support for residents on IT matters via Spire Computing and continued to support the Bentswood Mental Wellbeing Group's activities. Our particular thanks go to Clarion Futures and the session leaders and volunteers that are supporting the SEND activities

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	We are in a good financial position but continue to wait for clarification from the Post Code Lottery and Awards for All concerning the status of the grants that they awarded and which we are holding
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We keep fixed outgoings to an absolute minimum and therefore have virtually no formal need for reserves. However, bearing in mind the comment above, we try to hold sufficient funds to ensure key projects like youth support can be maintained during the year
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	See CC16a
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a

Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	A mix of grant applications, community events and activities such as the volunteer-run coffee mornings in the early part of the year
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A

A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	At present we can foresee none. We have minimal fixed costs and no long-standing financial commitments and are supported by a good number of Trustees
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		n/a
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	Charitable CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Prospective Trustees apply, completing a form, and are decided upon by the Trustees. There is an Annual Meeting for all members where these are validated and the Officers elected

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Bentswood Community Partnership
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1167891
Charity's principal address	c/o Warden Park Primary School New England Road Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 3JS

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Stephen Hillier	Chairperson		
2	Joyce Sharma	Secretary		
3	Zoltan Demjan	Financial Officer	Appointed 28/10/22	
4	Barbara Lank			
5	Bryan Fairhall			
6	Nicky Dodds (representing Clarion Futures)			
7	Alan Jenkins			
8				
9				
10				

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	n/a
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	n/a

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

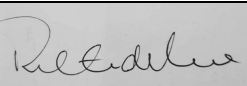
Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Stephen R Hillier	Ruth de Mierre
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairperson	Trustee

Date 26/02/25



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BENTSWOOD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

1167891

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/09/2023

To

31/08/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
General Admin Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Wellbeing	-	11,500	-	11,500	25,000
Community Events	-	190	-	190	-
Community Hub	-	33,750	-	33,750	3,450
Community Café	-	18	-	18	1,681
Volunteer Support	-	-	-	-	-
Newsletter	-	-	-	-	-
Community Fun Day	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	45,458	-	45,458	30,131
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	45,458	-	45,458	30,131
A3 Payments					
General Admin Costs	77	-	-	77	60
Youth Wellbeing	-	3,042	-	3,042	-
Older Wellbeing	-	35	-	35	-
Community Events	-	623	-	623	278
Community Hub	-	30,859	-	30,859	7,809
Community Café	-	41	-	41	4
Volunteer Support	-	-	-	-	54
Newsletter	-	-	-	-	167
Community Fun Day	-	-	-	-	82
Sub total	77	34,600	-	34,677	8,454
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	77	34,600	-	34,677	8,454
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 77	10,858	-	10,781	21,677
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,610	57,719	-	59,329	37,652
Cash funds this year end	1,533	68,577	-	70,110	59,329

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	1,533	68,577	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipt and payments accounts)	1,533	68,577	-

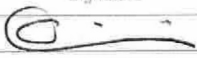
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Stephen R. Hillier	23/6/26



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	BENTSWOOD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP		
On accounts for the year ended	31 August 2024	Charity no (if any)	1167891
Set out on pages	Receipts & payments Account (CC16-A) on pages 1&2		
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to: • examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, • to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and • to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.		
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.		
Independent examiner's statement	In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: • accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or • the accounts do not accord with the accounting records I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.		
Signed:		Date:	23/06/2026
Name:	Timothy Fraser		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Chartered Accountant		
Address:	7 The Dell, Haywards Heath RH16 1JG		

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items
that the examiner wishes to
disclose.

There were significant delay in the preparation of the accounts due to the resignation of the former treasurer. As a consequence, this also resulted in difficulties in locating supporting documentation. However these difficulties were eventually resolved and a new treasurer is in the process of being appointed.