

## **HEADINGTON ACTION**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2024**

HA's remit is to benefit those who live, work and study in Headington by working with inhabitants, together with voluntary, commercial and other organisations and local authorities to promote the area, increase civic pride, undertake community projects and environmental improvements. We implemented this remit through an action plan agreed by our membership and through meetings of our members every other month, with Executive meetings in intervening months. The following headings are taken from our 2024 plan.

#### **Governance and management**

We have reached a point at which long standing trustees and members of the management team are stepping down. There is thus some risk to the continuity of HA, certainly a risk to our effectiveness. We set up a small working group to explore the issue and propose solutions, including our relationship with other Headington organisations with which there may be overlap of activities. The working group was set up in the summer of 2024 with a remit to provide a report in early 2025.

#### **Communications**

We continued as an umbrella body for organisations and groups in Headington. This entailed the usual routine of committee meetings for members, circulation of matters of interest, supporting councillors and other bodies as appropriate and realistic. We continued to maintain the website as a useful resource and communicated through social media and other means.

#### **Market**

We supported the market. It is well liked; it supports the vitality of Headington; it is our main source of operational funds. Profitability is down somewhat due to slightly reduced stall numbers but there is no viability concern.

#### **Connected Communities project**

The objectives of the Connected Communities project are to reduce loneliness and social isolation and increase neighbourliness. We continued to develop two main strands.

1. We maintained and improved the Community Activity Directory (CAD). We developed the website to make data maintenance easier and transfer of data to print more efficient and less error prone.
2. We extended the list of Street Contacts. The list is now about as complete as it will get so we decided to change focus to promoting the list and supporting existing Street Contacts.

#### **Headington Festival**

As announced in late 2023, HA took a break from the annual Festival in 2024. However, we were determined this break would not exceed one year and successfully started a project team for Festival 2025.

#### **Festive lights and Christmas event**

The annual winter lights display and Christmas tree celebrations were held as usual. Attendance at the lights-on event continues to increase.

## **Grants**

We awarded two grants:

- £440 to the Friends of Headington Hill Park for railings to replace a gate between the park and Marston Road.
- £500 to MyVision Oxfordshire for venue hire for a Headington Social Group for local visually impaired people.

## **Environmental activities**

We support local community initiatives through small scale grants, talks and communications. This year we:

- Collated residents' views about the City Council's use of weedkiller on our pavements and gutters.
- Arranged the annual summer flower baskets in Headington centre.
- Provided a forum for a university researcher to present results from an investigation into community participation in green space planning.
- Arranged for a talk on pollution monitoring.
- Followed up concerns about lack of biodiversity gains in a large scale development.

## **Planning and transport**

This is largely the domain of our sister organisation, the Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF). We supported HNF with communications to our members and provided small scale financial support, eg room bookings.

We continued our role of soliciting, reviewing and advertising Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) applications.

HA continued the policy of only exceptionally taking a collective view of planning and transport applications/policies but encouraging our members to contribute.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, 2024 was a productive year for Headington Action. We are well organised and financially sound. Looking ahead there are two main challenges; long term finances and, as stated in last year's annual report, we must work to extend our capacity by recruiting new active members and finding a permanent Chair.

During the past year we have had good support from our members, including several local City and County councillors. Oxford Brookes University is a keen supporter of HA and provided facilities for our meetings.

HA Trustees and Exec committee March 2025

**HEADINGTON ACTION (CHARITY NUMBER: 1170517)**  
**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 01 January 2024 to 31**  
**December 2024**

**Note**

	YEAR 01/01/24 to 31/12/24	YEAR 01/01/23 to 31/12/23	YEAR 01/01/22 to 31/12/22
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Festival		12,103	6,540
Market	4693	7,981	9,543
Grants	450		
Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF)			
Christmas/Winter Lights	1847	2,200	6,966
Flower baskets Projects			796
Coop Bank Interest	221	131	155
Street Champion			2
Community Directory	2550	5,835	2
Headington Centre Improvement			47,900
Councillors - planters	2000		2,000
Cheque repaid by HSBC			18,645
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>11761</b>	<b>28,250</b>	<b>92,545</b>
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	<b>7211</b>	<b>22,415</b>	<b>42,645</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Festival	45	14,086	9,134
Market	220	993	2,191
Grants	940		782
HNF	281	110	227
Christmas/Winter Lights	5429	4,650	9,841
Flower baskets			
Projects			1,123
Expenses	609	319	464
Admin	1071	887	720
Insurance	1282	1,211	1,177
Street Champion	2132	2,303	2,213
Community Directory	3422	3,380	
Headington Centre Improvement		9,761	41,354
Councillors - planters	1132	1,790	
Cheque issued later repaid by HSBC			18,645
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>16563</b>	<b>39,490</b>	<b>87,871</b>
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	<b>9877</b>	<b>22,256</b>	<b>44,304</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/ (PAYMENTS) IN THE YR</b>	<b>-4802</b>	<b>-11,240</b>	<b>4,674</b>

Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)

<b>-2666</b>	<b>-3,056</b>	<b>-1,659</b>
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#### Summary by Activity, 2024

	Receipts	Outgoings	Difference	
Festival		45	-45	
Market	4693	220	4,473	3
Grants	450	940	-490	
HNF		281	-281	
Christmas/Winter Lights	1847	5,429	-3,582	
Flower baskets			0	
Projects			0	
Expenses		609	-609	
Admin		1,071	-1,071	
Insurance		1,282	-1,282	
Coop Bank Interest	221		221	
Street Champion		2,132	-2,132	2
Community Directory	2550	3,422	-872	2
Headington Centre Improvement			0	2
Councillors funds	2000	1,132	868	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11761</b>	<b>16563</b>	<b>-4,802</b>	
<b>Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)</b>			<b>-2,666</b>	

#### MONETARY ASSETS

	<b>31/12/24</b>	<b>45291</b>	<b>44926</b>
Co-op Deposit Account	9104	8,883	8,752
HSBC Bank Current Account	6741	11,763	23,133
Market Cash	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>15845</b>	<b>20,646</b>	<b>31,885</b>
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	<b>13,709</b>	<b>13,211</b>	<b>25,552</b>
<b>ASSET CHANGE</b>	<b>-4,801</b>	<b>-11,239</b>	<b>4,673</b>
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	<b>-2666</b>	<b>-3,055</b>	<b>-1,659</b>

#### Notes to accounts

**Note 1: Accounts prepared on a receipts and payments basis**

**Note 2: Specific reserves**

	Balance held 31/12/24 £	Balance held at 31/12/23	Balance held at 31/12/22
Street Champions	1910	4,042	6,345
Community Directory - Lottery grant £5,835 received 2023	1583	2,455	
Headington Centre Improvement	0	0	6,545
Councillors funds	1806	938	2,728
	<b>5299</b>	<b>7,435</b>	<b>15,618</b>