

SOHO FIRST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1173499

Details

Other names	SOHO FIRST
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2017-06-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Handsworth Baptist Church Centre 38A Victoria Road Handsworth Birmingham B21 0SA
Phone	0121 515 1995
Email	andrew@sohofirst.org.uk
Website	www.sohofirst.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY AND SKILLS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY OF SOHO WARD, BIRMINGHAM, IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY ARE BETTER ABLE TO IDENTIFY, AND HELP MEET, THEIR NEEDS AND TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN SOCIETY. 2. THE PROMOTION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF URBAN REGENERATION IN AREAS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION (AND IN PARTICULAR BIRMINGHAM'S SOHO WARD) BY ALL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MEANS: A) THE RELIEF OF POVERTY IN SUCH WAYS AS MAY BE THOUGHT FIT; B) THE RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN SUCH WAYS AS MAY BE THOUGHT FIT, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT; C) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING OR RETRAINING, PARTICULARLY AMONG UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE, AND PROVIDING UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE WITH WORK EXPERIENCE; D) THE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, OR BUSINESS ADVICE OR CONSULTANCY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE IN CASES OF FINANCIAL OR OTHER CHARITABLE NEED THROUGH HELP: (I) IN SETTING UP THEIR OWN BUSINESS, OR (II) TO EXISTING BUSINESSES; (E) THE CREATION OF TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BY THE PROVISION OF WORKSPACE, BUILDINGS AND/OR LAND FOR USE ON FAVOURABLE TERMS; (F) THE PROVISION OF HOUSING FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CONDITIONS OF NEED AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR OR IN CHARITABLE OWNERSHIP PROVIDED THAT SUCH POWER SHALL NOT EXTEND TO RELIEVING ANY LOCAL AUTHORITIES OR OTHER BODIES OF A STATUTORY DUTY TO PROVIDE OR IMPROVE HOUSING; (G) THE MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENT OR PROVISION OF PUBLIC AMENITIES; (H) THE PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS OR SITES OF HISTORIC OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE; (I) THE PROVISION OR ASSISTANCE IN THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE AND/ OR THOSE WHO, BY REASONS OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, POVERTY OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE NEED FOR SUCH FACILITIES; (J) THE PROTECTION OR CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT; (K) THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES AND CHILDCARE; (L) THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND PREVENTION OF CRIME; AND (M) SUCH OTHER MEANS AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE DETERMINED SUBJECT TO THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES. Ö

Activities: Connecting the gifts, aspirations, capacities and skills of people in Birmingham's Soho Ward so that we are better able to identify local needs and priorities and act in response to them. Soho First aspires to work alongside residents and partners to make a difference to local priorities - social, economic and environmental - to create a place that is even better for all to live and work in.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Birmingham City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31		£0	£169	-
2024-03-31		£0	£188	-
2023-03-31		£0	£277	-
2022-03-31		£0	£242	-
2021-03-31		£0	£957	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW SIMONS	Chair	2018-06-28
JOAN CAROL HENRY		2018-06-28
RHONA ROUSE		2018-06-28
ROBERT JOHN HIGGINSON		2018-06-28
Rev JOHN MALL		2018-06-28

SOHO FIRST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1173499

Accounts

Soho First Community Development Trust

Trustee's Annual Report

1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Charity name: Soho First Community Development Trust

Other names charity is known by: Soho First, Soho First CDT

Charity Number: 1173499

Principal address:

Handsworth Baptist Church Centre
38A Victoria Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 0SA

Trustees

Andrew Simons (Chair)
Rhona Rouse (Treasurer)
Robert John Higginson (Minutes secretary)
Rev John Mall
Carol Henry

We thank the Trustees for their continued commitment and contribution to the work of Soho First.

Structure, governance, and management

Governing document

Association model constitution
Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered 20 June 2017

Trustee selection

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The objects of the charity are:

1. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of Soho Ward, Birmingham, in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.
2. The promotion for the public benefit of urban regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and Birmingham's Soho Ward) by all or any of the following means:

- a) the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit;
- b) the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment;
- c) the advancement of education, training, or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
- d) the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance, or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:
 - (i) in setting up their own business, or
 - (ii) to existing businesses;
- (e) the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
- (f) the provision of housing for those who are in conditions of need and the improvement of housing in the public sector or in charitable ownership provided that such power shall not extend to relieving any local authorities or other bodies of a statutory duty to provide or improve housing;
- (g) the maintenance, improvement, or provision of public amenities;
- (h) the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance;
- (i) the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty, or social and economic circumstances, have need for such facilities;
- (j) the protection or conservation of the environment;
- (k) the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
- (l) the promotion of public safety and prevention of crime; and
- (m) such other means as may from time to time be determined subject to the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

The Trust's mission statement is:

"Connecting the gifts, aspirations, capacities, and skills of the people in Birmingham's Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward to identify local needs and priorities better and to act to address them. Soho First strives to collaborate with residents and partners to address local social, economic, and environmental priorities and create a better place for everyone to live and work in."

Summary of main activities undertaken

This report covers the financial year from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. Soho First continues to rely entirely on volunteers to achieve its objectives. Since its establishment in 2017, the organization has greatly benefited from the commitment and contributions of many dedicated individuals, particularly its Trustees. However, we have also experienced the loss of some key members who have moved away and are no longer able to participate actively. This change has affected our ability to reach certain goals. Therefore, recruiting new members, including Trustees, will be a top priority in the coming year.

Thriving Soho

The Community Economic Development Plan for the Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward is being revised. This updated plan will incorporate findings from research conducted by two groups of community researchers as part of the USE-IT! program (Unlocking Social and Economic Innovation Together):

Procurement in the Soho Ward of Birmingham: Alison Thompson and Debbie Kerslake, USE-IT! Community Researchers (2019)

Exploration of a Maker Space in the Soho Ward: Jeanette Derbyshire, Gazala Aslam, Katarzyna Gut, Karen Thomas, Shazia Baig, and Jennifer Thomas, USE-IT! Community Researchers (2019)

The research conducted by the USE-IT! researchers has contributed to a report on Progressive Procurement in Birmingham. This report examines the challenges that social enterprises face when trying to access public sector procurement processes and discusses potential solutions to these challenges.

Environment

Soho First continues to advocate for residents concerning environmental issues, particularly in relation to local parks and green spaces. This includes Black Patch Park, which, although located just over the border in Sandwell, is an important asset for the residents of Soho Ward. We have been involved in discussions about the future land use around the park and promoting the heritage and cultural assets in the area.

Social media

We continue to manage the Soho First website (<https://sohofirst.org.uk/>) and Facebook page with support from Lee Thorpe at Steamroom Media. The website includes a link to the Ladywood Neighbourhood Network Scheme - <https://www.facebook.com/NNSLadywood/>.

Statutory Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Signature:



Full name: Andrew Simons

Position: Chair

Date: 24th January 2026

Soho First Community Development Trust
Financial Statement
1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Income	0.00
Expenditure	
Website domain name and hosting	115.99
Service charges	53.40
Total expenditure	<u>169.39</u>
Balance from the previous year	6,483.68
Total income	0.00
	<u>6,483.68</u>
Total expenditure	169.39
Balance as of 31st March 2025	<u>6,314.29</u>

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

Signature:

Andrew Simons

Full name: Andrew Simons

Position: Chair

Date: 24th January 2026

SOHO FIRST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1173499

Accounts

Soho First Community Development Trust

Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statement for the Period 1st April 2023 - to 31st March 2024

Charity name: Soho First Community Development Trust

Other names charity is known by: Soho First, Soho First CDT

Charity Number: 1173499

Principle address:

Handsworth Baptist Church Centre
38A Victoria Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 0SA

Trustees

Andrew Simons (Chair)
Rhona Rouse (Treasurer)
Robert John Higginson (Minutes secretary)
Rev John Mall
Carol Henry

We thank the Trustees for their continued commitment and contribution to the work of Soho First.

Structure, governance, and management

Governing document

Association model constitution
Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered 20 June 2017

Trustee selection

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The objects of the charity are:

1. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of Soho Ward, Birmingham, in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.
2. The promotion for the public benefit of urban regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and Birmingham's Soho Ward) by all or any of the following means:

- a) the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit;
- b) the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment;
- c) the advancement of education, training, or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
- d) the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance, or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:
 - (i) in setting up their own business, or
 - (ii) to existing businesses;
- (e) the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
- (f) the provision of housing for those who are in conditions of need and the improvement of housing in the public sector or in charitable ownership provided that such power shall not extend to relieving any local authorities or other bodies of a statutory duty to provide or improve housing;
- (g) the maintenance, improvement, or provision of public amenities;
- (h) the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance;
- (i) the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty, or social and economic circumstances, have need for such facilities;
- (j) the protection or conservation of the environment;
- (k) the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
- (l) the promotion of public safety and prevention of crime; and
- (m) such other means as may from time to time be determined subject to the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

The Trust's mission statement is:

"We aim to connect the gifts, aspirations, capacities, and skills of the people in Birmingham's Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward to identify local needs and priorities better and to act to address them. Soho First strives to collaborate with residents and partners to address local social, economic, and environmental priorities and create a better place for everyone to live and work in."

Summary of main activities undertaken

This report covers the financial year from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. Soho First presently relies entirely on volunteers to achieve its objectives. Since its establishment in 2017, the organization has greatly benefited from the commitment and contributions of many dedicated individuals, especially its Trustees. However, we have also experienced the loss of some key members who have moved away from the area and can no longer participate actively. This has impacted our ability to achieve certain goals. As a result, recruiting new members, including Trustees, will be a priority in the coming year.

Thriving Soho

Work has begun on a revised Community Economic Development Plan for the Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward. This plan will incorporate the findings from research conducted by two groups of community researchers as part of the USE-IT! programme (Unlocking Social and Economic Innovation Together)

- *Procurement in the Soho Ward of Birmingham*: Alison Thompson and Debbie Kerslake, USE-IT! Community Researchers (2019)
- *Exploration of a Maker Space in the Soho Ward*: Jeanette Derbyshire, Gazala Aslam, Katarzyna Gut, Karen Thomas, Shazia Baig, and Jennifer Thomas, USE-IT! Community Researchers (2019)

The research conducted by the USE-IT! researchers has helped to inform a report on *Progressive Procurement in Birmingham*. This report examines the challenges that social enterprises face when accessing public sector procurement processes and discusses possible solutions to these challenges.

Environment

Chris Milton has continued to organise litter picks and clean-up days in the area, bringing together numerous partners and residents. For example, Chris organised events as part of The Great Big Green Week, 10 – 18 June 2023.

Thanks to Chris Milton for his continued commitment to improving the environment in the area.

Social media


Lee Thorpe at Steamroom Media continues to maintain and host the Soho First website, including a Facebook page link. Thanks to Thomas Cantwell for his contributions to the Facebook page.

Soho First Community Development Trust
Financial Statement
1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Income	0.00
Expenditure	
Website domain name and hosting	115.99
Service charges	72.00
Total expenditure	<u>187.99</u>
Balance from previous year	6,671.67
Total income	0.00
	<u>6,671.67</u>
Total expenditure	187.99
Balance as of 31st March 2024	<u>6,483.68</u>

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

Signature



Full name: Andrew Simons

Position: Chair

Date: 12th February 2025

SOHO FIRST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1173499

Accounts

Soho First Community Development Trust

Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statement for the Period 1st April 2022 - to 31st March 2023

Charity name: Soho First Community Development Trust

Other names charity is known by: Soho First, Soho First CDT

Charity Number: 1173499

Principle address:

Handsworth Baptist Church Centre
38A Victoria Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 0SA

Trustees

Andrew Simons (Chair)
Rhona Rouse (Treasurer)
Robert John Higginson (Minutes secretary)
Rev John Mall
Carol Henry

We thank the Trustees for their continued commitment and contribution to the work of Soho First.

We would also like to thank Chris Milton for taking the lead on Soho First's environment work. Thanks also to Pat Whyte from Birmingham City Council's Neighbourhood Development Support Unit for keeping us up to speed on Council matters.

Structure, governance, and management

Governing document

Association model constitution
Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered 20 June 2017

Trustee selection

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The objects of the charity are:

1. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of Soho Ward, Birmingham, in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

2. The promotion for the public benefit of urban regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and Birmingham's Soho Ward) by all or any of the following means:
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 - b) the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment;
 - c) the advancement of education, training, or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
 - d) the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance, or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:
 - (i) in setting up their own business, or
 - (ii) to existing businesses;
 - (e) the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
 - (f) the provision of housing for those who are in conditions of need and the improvement of housing in the public sector or in charitable ownership provided that such power shall not extend to relieving any local authorities or other bodies of a statutory duty to provide or improve housing;
 - (g) the maintenance, improvement, or provision of public amenities;
 - (h) the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance;
 - (i) the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty, or social and economic circumstances, have need for such facilities;
 - (j) the protection or conservation of the environment;
 - (k) the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
 - (l) the promotion of public safety and prevention of crime; and
 - (m) such other means as may from time to time be determined subject to the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

The Trust's mission statement is:

“Connecting the gifts, aspirations, capacities, and skills of people in Birmingham's Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward so that we are better able to identify local needs and priorities and act in response to them. Soho First aspires to work alongside residents and partners to make a difference to local priorities - social, economic, and environmental - to create a place that is even better for all to live and work in.”

Summary of main activities undertaken

This report covers the financial year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Neighbourhood Network Scheme (Ladywood NNS)

For two years till end of March 2022, Soho First was one of four partner organisations overseeing Ladywood Neighbourhood Network Scheme (NNS). The

other partners were Birmingham Settlement (lead partner), Karis Neighbourhood Scheme and Nechells Pod.

Set up in 2020, Ladywood NNS is one of ten constituency based NNS schemes in Birmingham that aim to support adult citizens (50+) in the community to live healthy, independent lives. The Neighbourhood Network Schemes help connect people to individuals, groups, organisations, activities, services, and places in their neighbourhoods.

The scheme was extended in 2022 to include young people with long-term disabilities.

Representatives from Soho First attended regular meetings of the partners and also the wider steering group meetings which included representatives from the social work team and many statutory and third sector organisations active in Ladywood Constituency.

A part-time project worker was also employed through Birmingham Settlement to coordinate NNS in the Soho Ward. This model worked successfully for the two-year pilot. However, with the extension of the scheme from April 2022 a different model was adopted and Soho First are no longer directly involved in the running of Ladywood NNS.

Thriving Soho

The Economic Community Development Plan for Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward has been updated to include the research conducted by two groups of community researchers as part of the USE-IT! initiative.

- *Procurement in the Soho Ward of Birmingham*, Alison Thompson and Debbie Kerslake, USE-IT! Community Researchers 2019
- *Enquiry into the possibility of a Maker Space in the Soho Ward*, Jeanette Derbyshire, Gazala Aslam, Katarzyna Gut, Karen Thomas, Shazia Baig and Jennifer Thomas, USE-IT! Community Researchers 2019

Reference to the research has also been included in a report on *Progressive Procurement in Perry Barr* looking at some of the challenges faced by social enterprises in accessing the public sector procurement process and how these might be overcome.

Environment

Chris Milton has continued to organise litter picks and clean up days in the area bringing together numerous partners and residents.

Website and Facebook page

Lee Thorpe at Steamroom Media continues to help maintain and host the Soho First website – www.sohofirst.org.uk – which includes a link to the Facebook page.

Thanks to Thomas Cantwell for continuing to add updates to the Facebook page.

Soho First Community Development Trust
Financial Statement
1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Income	0.00
Expenditure	
Public Liability Insurance	99.31
Website domain name and hosting	105.99
Service charges	72.00
Total expenditure	277.30
Balance from previous year	6,948.97
Total income	0.00
	6,948.97
Total expenditure	277.30
Balance as of 31st March 2023	<u>6,671.67</u>

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature



Full name: Andrew Simons

Position: Chair

Date: 26th January 2024

SOHO FIRST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1173499

Accounts

Soho First Community Development Trust

Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statement for the Period 1st April 2021 - to 31st March 2022

Charity name: Soho First Community Development Trust

Other names charity is known by: Soho First, Soho First CDT

Charity Number: 1173499

Principle address:

Handsworth Baptist Church Centre
38A Victoria Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 0SA

Trustees

Andrew Simons (Chair)
Rhona Rouse (Treasurer)
Robert John Higginson (Minutes secretary)
Rev John Mall

We thank the Trustees for their continued commitment and contribution to the work of Soho First.

We would also like to thank Chris Milton for taking the lead on Soho First's environment work. Thanks also to Pat Whyte from Birmingham City Council's Neighbourhood Development Support Unit for attending meetings as an Observer and keeping us up to speed on Council matters.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Carlene McKenzie who was coordinator for Ladywood Neighbourhood Network Scheme and NNS project worker for Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward. Carlene's sudden and unexpected passing at the beginning of 2022 had a profound impact on all who knew her. It was a huge privilege and blessing to know and work with Carlene. Carlene was incredibly supportive of Soho First and the many community groups and organisations in Soho and Jewellery Quarter. She will be greatly missed by everyone.

Structure, governance, and management

Governing document

Association model constitution
Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered 20 June 2017

Trustee selection

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting.
The objects of the charity are:

1. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of Soho Ward, Birmingham, in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.
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 - c) the advancement of education, training, or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
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 - (i) in setting up their own business, or
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 - (e) the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
 - (f) the provision of housing for those who are in conditions of need and the improvement of housing in the public sector or in charitable ownership provided that such power shall not extend to relieving any local authorities or other bodies of a statutory duty to provide or improve housing;
 - (g) the maintenance, improvement, or provision of public amenities;
 - (h) the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance;
 - (i) the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty, or social and economic circumstances, have need for such facilities;
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 - (k) the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
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The Trust's mission statement is:

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Summary of main activities undertaken

This report covers the financial year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. With the roll out of the vaccination programme, there was a gradual easing of Covid-19 restrictions with all restrictions finally removed on 19th July 2021. This meant that Soho First AGM was able to take place in person at Soho Community Hall on 29th July, though many Trustee meetings continued online.

Neighbourhood Network Scheme (Ladywood NNS)

Soho First continued as one of four partner organisations on the delivery group for Ladywood NNS. The other partners are Birmingham Settlement (lead partner), Karis Neighbourhood Scheme and Nechells Pod.

Ladywood NNS is one of ten constituency-based schemes in Birmingham that aim to ensure that as many citizens as possible aged over 50 access community-based support to promote well-being and a better quality of life. This is achieved through better co-ordination of community-based prevention & early intervention services.

Soho First were represented throughout the year at the regular meetings of the partners and also the wider steering group meetings which were attended by representatives from the social work team and many statutory and third sector organisations active in Ladywood Constituency.

This was the second year of a two-year pilot for NNS and Birmingham City Council decided in July 2021 to extend the scheme for a further five years. The re-commissioning process began in August 2021 with a view to the new contracts starting in April 2022. After discussions among the four partners, Birmingham Settlement decided to team up with Birmingham Institute for the Deaf (BID) to tender for the new contract.

An event celebrating the two-year pilot was held at Villa Park on 30th March 2022.

Thriving Soho

A meeting was held in June 2021 to review progress on the Community Economic Development Plan for Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward with the intention to organise an event, preferably in person once conditions permit.

Environment

Chris Milton has continued to organise litter picks and clean up days in the area bringing together numerous partners and residents. For example, an event on Saturday 26th June 2021 in Winson Green brought together residents and organisations such as the Active Wellbeing Society, Erdington Litter Busters, Bishop Latimer Church, St John's Church, Soho First and local Councillors.

Website and Facebook page

Lee Thorpe at Steamroom Media continues to help maintain and host the Soho First website. Thanks to Thomas Cantwell for continuing to add updates to the Facebook page.

Soho First Community Development Trust
Financial Statement
1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Income	0.00
Expenditure	
Public Liability Insurance	63.53
Website domain name and hosting	105.99
Service charges	72.00
Total expenditure	241.52
Balance from previous year	7,190.49
Total income	0.00
	7,190.49
Total expenditure	241.52
Balance as of 31st March 2022	<u>6,948.97</u>

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature



Full name: Andrew Simons

Position: Chair

Date: 28th December 2022

SOHO FIRST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1173499

Accounts

Soho First Community Development Trust

Trustee's Annual Report for the period 1st April 2020 - to 31st March 2021

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Other names charity is known by: Soho First, Soho First CDT

Charity Number: 1173499

Principle address:

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B21 0SA

Trustees

Andrew Simons (Chair)
Rhona Rouse (Treasurer)
Robert John Higginson (Minutes secretary)
Rev John Mall
Shaheed Pervaiz

We thank the Trustees for their continued commitment and contribution to the work of Soho First.

We would also like to thank Monique McKen JP and Thomas Cantwell, both former Trustees, for their continued support and Chris Milton for taking the lead on Soho First's environment work. Thanks also to Pat Whyte from Birmingham City Council's Neighbourhood Development Support Unit for attending meetings as an Observer and keeping us up to date on Council matters and Carlene McKenzie in her role as coordinator for Ladywood Neighbourhood Network Scheme and project worker for Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward.

Structure, governance, and management

Governing document

Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Association
Registered 20 June 2017

Trustee selection

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. The AGM was held in-person at Soho Community Hall, Chapel Street, Birmingham B21 0PA on Thursday 29th July 2021.

The objects of the charity are:

1. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of Soho Ward, Birmingham, in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.
2. The promotion for the public benefit of urban regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and Birmingham's Soho Ward) by all or any of the following means:
 - a) the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit;
 - b) the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment;
 - c) the advancement of education, training, or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
 - d) the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance, or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:
 - (i) in setting up their own business, or
 - (ii) to existing businesses;
 - (e) the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
 - (f) the provision of housing for those who are in conditions of need and the improvement of housing in the public sector or in charitable ownership provided that such power shall not extend to relieving any local authorities or other bodies of a statutory duty to provide or improve housing;
 - (g) the maintenance, improvement, or provision of public amenities;
 - (h) the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance;
 - (i) the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty, or social and economic circumstances, have need for such facilities;
 - (j) the protection or conservation of the environment;
 - (k) the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
 - (l) the promotion of public safety and prevention of crime; and
 - (m) such other means as may from time to time be determined subject to the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

The Trust's mission statement is:

“Connecting the gifts, aspirations, capacities and skills of people in Birmingham’s Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward so that we are better able to identify local needs and priorities and act in response to them. Soho First aspires to work alongside residents and partners to make a difference to local priorities - social, economic and environmental - to create a place that is even better for all to live and work in.”

Summary of main activities undertaken

This report covers the financial year from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. It has been a challenging time for everyone with successive lockdowns due to the Coronavirus and brief periods when the restrictions have been relaxed. It has been difficult for people to meet in person and many meetings have had to go online.

Neighbourhood Network Scheme

Soho First has continued to be a partner in the Neighbourhood Network Scheme (NNS), together with Birmingham Settlement, Karis Neighbour Scheme, and Nechells Pod.

The purpose of NNS is to ensure that as many citizens over 50 as possible can access community-based support to promote well-being and a better quality of life. NNS aims to do this through the coordination of community-based prevention and early intervention.

Throughout the year we have attended regular partners’ meetings and the wider steering group meetings which includes representatives from statutory and third sector organisations as well as the adult social work team.

Carlene McKenzie is both overall project coordinator for Ladywood NNS and project support worker for Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward and together with the project support workers for Ladywood, Nechells and Aston has been tireless in providing support to the many community assets that have continued to operate during the pandemic. Many community assets have had to amend the way they deliver activities – moving from face-to-face to online where possible – while others have delivered additional support such as distributing food and other essential items and providing telephone befriending to isolated older residents.

The current contract for Ladywood NNS is due to finish in March 2020 and Birmingham City Council will be releasing the new contracts for tender in August 2021. Soho First will continue to be a full partner till March 2022 but may continue in a different role after that date.

Thriving Soho

We were in the process of planning another event to take the Community Economic Development Plan for Soho and JQ Ward a stage further when the first Covid-19 lockdown started. We continued to plan in the hope of running an event in summer 2020 at Nishkam Centre but the idea of a public event in person proved impossible. However, meetings of the Thriving Soho working group have continued via Zoom and progress made towards holding an event once conditions allow. We are planning both an in-person event and a Zoom event as back-up just in case restrictions are re-introduced. Many thanks to Barry Toon, Alison Thompson, Debbie Kerlake, Nettles Derbyshire and Carlene McKenzie for their continued involvement in the group.

Environment

Chris Milton has working with us on developing the environment strand of Soho First's work. Chris has been organising clean-ups in the Winson Green area bringing together various partner organisations and residents.

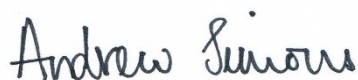
Website

We commissioned Lee Thorpe, Steamroom Media, to create a new website for Soho First using WordPress. It has been designed in such a way as to enable trustees to manage the website ourselves. We continue to add stories and events to the Facebook page and Thomas Cantwell who stepped down as a Trustee in 2019 has continued to add relevant material to the Facebook page to help keep it current. Lee has also linked the Ladywood NNS and Soho First Facebook pages to the Soho First website.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

Signature:



Full name: Andrew Simons

Position: Chair

Date: 29th July 2021

**Soho First Community Development
Trust
Financial Statement
1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021**

Income	0.00
Expenditure	
Office costs, communications, travel expenses, and insurance	579.99
Thriving Soho	304.80
Bank charges	72.00
Total expenditure	<u>956.79</u>
Balance from previous year	8,147.28
Total income	0.00
	<u>8,147.28</u>
Total expenditure	956.79
Balance as of 31st March 2021	<u>7,190.49</u>

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Simons". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and slightly larger than the rest of the letters.

Full name: Andrew Simons

Position: Chair

Date: 29th July 2021