

Natural Kirklees

Charity number 1174259

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 September 2024



Natural Kirklees

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2024

Contents	Page
Trustees' report	2 to 4
Examiner's report	5
Receipts and payments account	6
Statement of assets and liabilities	7
Notes to the accounts	8 to 10

Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Natural Kirklees

Trustees' report for the year ended 30 September 2024

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Edwin Day	Chair	
Julie Hirst	Treasurer	
Joan Vevers	Secretary	
Christine Senior		
Phil Slater		
David Rudd		
Timothy Duke		
Kat Woolley		Appointed 26 October 2022
Stefanie Rofke		Appointed 26 October 2022
Stuart Taylor		Appointed 9 November 2023

Charity number 1174259 Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address	Bankers
The Depot	Virgin Money
Beaumont Park	40 New Street
Huddersfield	Huddersfield
HD1 7AY	HD1 2BT

Independent examiner

Sarah Coates MAAT

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) association formed on 15 Aug 2017 and is governed by a constitution.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Natural Kirklees

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2024

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Kirklees by promoting biological diversity.

To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

The charity's main activities

Umbrella organisation for volunteer groups in Kirklees promoting conservation and biodiversity. Providing free insurance and tool share for groups working on Kirklees green spaces.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular giving help and support to the 130 member volunteer groups who work tirelessly to improve their green space, hold events to raise funds and most importantly bring the local community together. When updating the member database in July 2024 the input from member groups identified they give in excess of 50,000 volunteer hours spent improving green spaces and looking after the environment. We continue to assist these groups providing advice and guidance on working practices, grants and opportunities to exchange experiences etc.

Achievements and performance

The past year has been more challenging than expected. Following Covid, we had, not only high hopes of a return to, perhaps a new normal, but one where we could expect the environmental volunteering sector to get back playing an important part in the parks and green spaces in Kirklees. However, as the year progressed we realised that fewer volunteers are coming forward and the local council finances, being in a difficult state have impacted their work in these areas. However, despite this we have received a grant to keep our finances secure and for which we are very grateful

On a positive side our membership stands at 130 full and associate members and we provide public liability insurance to 96 of those member groups. This is by far the major benefit our members perceive of our services. We also continue to provide free garden maintenance tool hire to members from 2 locations in Wilton and Beaumont Parks.

We were also able to sponsor the countryside marquee at the Honley Show in June where we enabled 12 members to showcase their work and which was considered very successful by both participants and the show committee. We have also been able to fund aspects of a project at a council owned growing area, to enable members to grow their own plants this past season

Our quarterly meeting of members have been very well attended with a number of guest speakers and we are actively involved in a research project in relation to Community Gardens, with Huddersfield University.

While we maintain a web site directory of member groups and a lot of information and documents to help our members and signpost interested members of the public, our newsletter is now our main means of communication and reaches nearly 500 subscribers and is used to publicise events, fund raising opportunities, member activities and of course our own means of disseminating information.

As our reputation continues to grow, we are now contacted by businesses and other third parties and we have been able to direct companies who want to provide opportunities for their staff to volunteer to various member groups, we also received free seed packets and one of the local Rotary Clubs donated 5000 purple crocus bulbs.

This has certainly been our most active year in what remain difficult times.

Natural Kirklees

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2024

Financial review

The net receipts for the year were £29,977, including net receipts of £1,542 on unrestricted funds and net receipts of £28,435 on restricted funds.

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £2,562.

The ongoing support to members by way of providing public liability insurance is seen as the prime financial aspect of Natural Kirklees' role. Should the Council be in a position where they cannot provide adequate funding, Natural Kirklees is unlikely to be able to raise sufficient funds by other means. The trustees therefore aim to maintain reserves at a level which equates to two future years of charitable expenditure in relation to the provision of the public liability for members, the web site and general administration. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to respond to the cost of the insurance for those members covered at the time of any failure of the agreement with the council and ensure that basic support and governance costs are covered.

Approved by the board of trustees on 23/10/2024

Julie Hirst (Trustee)

Natural Kirklees

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Natural Kirklees

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 30 September 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Sarah Coates MAAT

04/11/2024

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Natural Kirklees
Receipts and payments account
for the year ended 30 September 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Receipts					
Grants	(2)	-	38,000	38,000	35,000
Bank interest		1,542	-	1,542	1,020
Grants returned		-	750	750	-
Total receipts		<u>1,542</u>	<u>38,750</u>	<u>40,292</u>	<u>36,020</u>
Payments					
Insurance		-	535	535	22,023
Tool store		-	-	-	5,560
Website		-	53	53	1,041
Administration		-	20	20	17
Events and activities		-	1,783	1,783	542
Accounting		-	420	420	240
Small grants programme	(3)	-	7,504	7,504	8,086
Total payments		<u>-</u>	<u>10,315</u>	<u>10,315</u>	<u>37,509</u>
Net receipts / (payments)		<u>1,542</u>	<u>28,435</u>	<u>29,977</u>	<u>(1,489)</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>1,020</u>	<u>46,877</u>	<u>47,897</u>	<u>49,386</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	<u>2,562</u>	<u>75,312</u>	<u>77,874</u>	<u>47,897</u>

Natural Kirklees
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 30 September 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Cash at bank	2,562	75,312	77,874	47,897
Total cash funds	<u>2,562</u>	<u>75,312</u>	<u>77,874</u>	<u>47,897</u>

Liabilities

	2024
	£
Accruals	13,528
	<u>13,528</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 23/10/2024

Julie Hirst (Trustee)

Natural Kirklees

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 30 September 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

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

Natural Kirklees
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 30 September 2024

2 Grants	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Kirklees Council	-	33,000	33,000	35,000
Kirklees Council Peace Pit	-	5,000	5,000	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>38,000</u>	<u>38,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>

3 Grant making

Project or activity	2024 Grants to institutions £	2023 Grants to institutions £
100 Miles of Hedgerow	-	320
Badger Sett Protection	-	750
Bee Habitat	-	588
Contemplation Area	-	750
East Bierley Village Preservation Society	350	-
Flower Borders	-	750
Friends of Cliffe House	750	-
Friends of Cowcliffe Recreation Area	750	-
Friends of Crow Nest Park	294	-
Friends of Honley Old Woods	750	-
Get Together Gardening	-	430
Golcar Lily Environment Group	690	-
Grange Moor Community Association	300	-
Growing Works	750	-
Huddersfield & District Badger Group	750	-
Keep Hecky Tidy	250	-
Knotweed Treetment	-	500
Lepton in Bloom	-	500
Lepton Village Preservation Society	250	-
Mirfield in Bloom	750	-
Peace garden	-	748
River Holme Connections	600	-
School Woodlands	-	600
Street Sign Planters	-	500
Top Pond Liner	-	750
Urban Tree Huggers	270	-
Village Gardens	-	750
Wildflowers on the River Colne	-	150
Total	<u>7,504</u>	<u>8,086</u>

Natural Kirklees
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 30 September 2024

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Kirklees Council	46,877	33,750	9,725	-	70,902
Kirklees Council Peace Pit	-	5,000	590	-	4,410
	<u>46,877</u>	<u>38,750</u>	<u>10,315</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,312</u>

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
Kirklees Council	Towards the costs of insurance, tool share scheme, website, publicity and promotional events. Also monies for distribution as part of a small grants programme.
Kirklees Council Peace Pit	Towards the expenses and activities of the Peace Pit growing area.

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Funds held as agent	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£
Reap What You Sow (Kirklees)	-	1,000	1,000	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>

Fund name	Additional information
Reap What You Sow (Kirklees)	Monies held for part of the year, as the group had no bank account.