

Natural Kirklees

Charity number 1174259

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 September 2025



Natural Kirklees

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2025

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Natural Kirklees

Trustees' report for the year ended 30 September 2025

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		Resigned 1 October 2024
Kat Woolley		Resigned 16 October 2024
Stefanie Rofke		Resigned 2 October 2025
Stuart Taylor		Appointed 9 November 2023
Adrian Pitts		Appointed 23 July 2025
Claire Howe		Appointed 4 December 2024
Gill Young		Appointed 4 December 2024
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

Simon Bostrom FCIE

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 2025

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 seen some significant challenges resulting from the financial constraints on Kirklees Council in terms of the service delivery provided by the council's Parks & Green Spaces team with significant reductions in staffing and hence activity provided in the green spaces within Kirklees. Our own volunteer resource issues were addressed by establishing 2 contracts for administration and technical support.

While this has incurred significant cost, it has enabled the charity to survive and recruit new trustees and provide both a succession plan and enabled us to maintain the additional services we provide above our core activities.

We continue to provide an extensive monthly newsletter and hold member meetings each quarter and have moved the hosting of our website to provide a more secure platform and while there is still work to be done going forward to update the web site in terms of content, we have restabilised the basis as we enter the new financial year.

The public liability insurance facility we provide members has been renewed for a further year with 96 members availing themselves of £10m cover for their activities working in the green spaces.

We have extended our tool store facility offer of loans of gardening tools to beyond our membership to any group who hold public liability insurance and this enables schools etc. to borrow tools and litter picking equipment without the need to become associate members. The stores are located at Beaumont park and next to Bagshaw Museum in Wilton Park.

The highlights of the year included being entered in the Skipton Building Society local branch's Community Giving Scheme and we were awarded £600 which in turn we passed to Friends of Norman Park who the trustees considered offered the best proposal to attract more visitors to the green space. We also held our own small grant scheme this year and awarded 11 member groups sums ranging from £100 to £750 for projects to improve the green spaces they work in.

In addition, we provided £300 for wild flowers in support of the project being sponsored by Keep Britain Tidy in Heckmondwike via the excellent work member group Keep Hecky Tidy undertake in this case to provide plants within the local area to improve the pride for the local community in the town. Unfortunately another group had a bridge damaged by vandalism and we provided £300 to assist in the repairs.

Natural Kirklees

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2025

Achievements and performance continued

Similar to 2024, we also sponsored the Countryside Marquee at the Honley Show providing local member groups to showcase the work their volunteers do in the local towns, villages, schools etc. The weather behaved itself and it proved an enjoyable and successful day. To balance our presence at events throughout the area we also provided the opportunity for the public to visit our tool store at Bagshaw Museum as part of the Heritage Days programme and offered to show the public how to sharpen their garden tools. We also received a sack of purple crocus bulbs thanks to Pennine Rotary in Huddersfield which were duly well received by groups throughout Kirklees.

Back in 2022, we attempted to launch a new constituted growing group at the council premises near Peace Pit in Huddersfield and working with the Council Volunteer Coordinators, Support to Recovery, Huddersfield University and the volunteers that attend the site each Monday we have finally achieved our ambition. Unfortunately, the site's availability is uncertain but working with the council we would hope the group will continue even though it may have to relocate. The site provides the opportunity for member groups to grow their own plants on a community basis but equally important for volunteers to enjoy a quiet space to work, relax or socialise in a safe location. Natural Kirklees will fund the facility while funds allow or until the site facility is relocated.

Over the past year, we have been unable to impact and support member groups trying to get permission to undertake or achieve the work they do with the council over the past year, as well as we have in the past, we now have additional trustees and external contracts that should see us progress and prosper going forward. While the council remain under financial constraints the uncertainty and service delivery reshaping process is nearing an end and therefore we are as confident as we can be regarding our future support of the member groups for the tremendous work they do.

Financial review

The net payments for the year were £2,479, including net receipts of £763 on unrestricted funds and net payments of £3,242 on restricted funds.

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £3,325.

The ongoing support to members by way of providing public liability insurance is seen as the primary 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 a reserve at each year-end, which will enable the charity to enable us to continue to facilitate the payment for the public liability insurance policy plus the general and technical administration of the charity and hosting of our web site for a period of almost 3 years to the renewal date on 19th September 2028. We therefore intend to reserve a sum, equivalent to one additional year's insurance plus the general and technical administration of the charity and hosting of our web site to 30th September 2027.

The cost for the coming financial year will be addressed within the annual budget but additionally a reserve will be held for this sum to ensure Natural Kirklees can not only pay its essential costs for the new financial year but additionally for an additional year (2026-7) and as such a reserve within restricted funds at 30 September 2025 will be held of £28,000.

Approved by the board of trustees on 6/11/2025

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 2025, 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.

Simon Bostrom FCIE

6/11/2025

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 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Receipts					
Grants	(2)	-	33,600	33,600	38,000
Bank interest		763	-	763	1,542
Grants returned		-	-	-	750
Total receipts		<u>763</u>	<u>33,600</u>	<u>34,363</u>	<u>40,292</u>
Payments					
Insurance		-	21,492	21,492	535
Tool store		-	40	40	-
Website		-	1,287	1,287	53
Administration		-	4,644	4,644	20
Events and activities		-	1,371	1,371	1,783
Accounting		-	528	528	420
Small grants programme	(3)	-	7,480	7,480	7,504
Total payments		<u>-</u>	<u>36,842</u>	<u>36,842</u>	<u>10,315</u>
Net receipts / (payments)		763	(3,242)	(2,479)	29,977
Fund balances brought forward		<u>2,562</u>	<u>75,312</u>	<u>77,874</u>	<u>47,897</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	<u>3,325</u>	<u>72,070</u>	<u>75,395</u>	<u>77,874</u>

Natural Kirklees

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 September 2025

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Cash at bank	3,325	72,070	75,395	77,874
Total cash funds	<u>3,325</u>	<u>72,070</u>	<u>75,395</u>	<u>77,874</u>

Prepayments	2025
	£
Prepayments	<u>7,304</u>
	<u>7,304</u>

Liabilities	2025
	£
Accruals	<u>528</u>
	<u>528</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 6/11/2025

Julie Hirst (Trustee)

Natural Kirklees

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 30 September 2025

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 2025

2 Grants and donations	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Kirklees Council	-	33,000	33,000	33,000
Third Sector Leaders	-	-	-	5,000
Skipton Building Society	-	600	600	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>33,600</u>	<u>33,600</u>	<u>38,000</u>

3 Grant making

Project or activity	2025 Grants to institutions £	2024 Grants to institutions £
ABWP Group	100	-
Clayton West Millennium Trust	600	-
Cleckheaton in Bloom	550	-
Friends of Crow Nest Park	500	-
Friends of Norman Park	600	-
Friends of Rectory Park	750	-
Golcar Lily Environment Group	680	-
Huddersfield Woodscape	300	-
Keep Hecky Tidy	300	-
Kirkheaton Environment Trust	100	-
Marsden Walkers are Welcome	750	-
River Holme Connections	600	-
Skelmanthorpe Comm Centre	300	-
Stocks Moor Village Association	600	-
Windy Bank Gardening Club	750	-
East Bierley Village Preservation Society	-	350
Friends of Cliffe House	-	750
Friends of Cowcliffe Recreation Area	-	750
Friends of Crow Nest Park	-	294
Friends of Honley Old Woods	-	750
Golcar Lily Environment Group	-	690
Grange Moor Community Association	-	300
Growing Works	-	750
Huddersfield & District Badger Group	-	750
Keep Hecky Tidy	-	250
Lepton Village Preservation Society	-	250
Mirfield in Bloom	-	750
River Holme Connections	-	600
Urban Tree Huggers	-	270
Total	<u>7,480</u>	<u>7,504</u>

Natural Kirklees

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 30 September 2025

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Kirklees Council	70,902	33,000	35,983	-	67,919
Third Sector Leaders	4,410	-	259	-	4,151
Skipton Building Society	-	600	600	-	-
	<u>75,312</u>	<u>33,600</u>	<u>36,842</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,070</u>

Fund name

Kirklees Council

Purpose of restriction

Towards the costs of insurance, tool share scheme, website, publicity and promotional events. Also monies for distribution as part of a small grants programme.

Third Sector Leaders

Towards the expenses and activities of the Peace Pit growing area.

Skipton Building Society

To be awarded to a member group via application and vote by trustees.

5 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.