

ASHFORD LIONS CLUB (CIO)

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation with reg. charity number 1178583.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Period start date: 01 July 2022
Period end date: 30 June 2023

1. Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Ashford Lions Club (CIO)
Other names known by: The Lions Centennial Club Of Ashford
Registered charity number: 1178583
Charity's principal address: 9 St. Mary's Green, Kennington, Ashford, Kent
Postcode: TN24 9HP
Bankers: Barclays Bank, Ashford

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Organisation type: Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Governing document: CIO Document, Registered 31 May 2018, Constitutions and By-Laws of Lions Clubs International, as revised from time to time.
Policies: Risk management
Safeguarding vulnerable beneficiaries
Conflicts of interest
Complaints handling
Reserves policy

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity:**Trustee name****Office (if any)**

Dr M. Alfredsson
Managing Trustee

Th. R. Berry
President (Chair) and Managing Trustee

K. L. Harty
Managing Trustee

Dr S. Kinzel
Treasurer and Managing Trustee

K. T. Sengstaken
Secretary and Managing Trustee

Names of the Trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees):

N/A

Names and addresses of advisers:

N/A

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members:

N/A

Additional governance issues:

The Club is a member of the International Association of Lions Clubs.

Throughout the year, the Trustees have paid regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in dealing with the objectives and activities of the Club.

The Club relies on the surpluses made on fundraising events, and on occasional donations from the public, to provide the funds with which to carry out its objectives. All administrative expenses of the Club are met from subscriptions paid by its members. There has been no change in these policies during the year.

The work of the CIO is carried out entirely by volunteers. The Club is ably supported by the volunteer services of its members and others.

From time to time as appropriate, the Club works closely with other local and national agencies, with other Lions Clubs, and with Lions Clubs International to achieve its objectives.

The Trustees are appointed from time to time as appropriate by the members of the Club, and have overall responsibility to ensure that the Club operates in accordance with Charity law and the Club's CIO document. The day-to-day running of the Club is overseen by a Board of Directors elected each year by the members, and which forms and governs such committees as it deems appropriate for the effective running of the Club. All business of the Club is ratified by the members in general meetings, which meetings are held at least once per month.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees:

- Trustees are only appointed when eligible by the law as stated in the Charity Commission's rules and regulations.
- The Lions District 105SE offers an annual Trustees' training course, which Trustees regularly attend. Trustees are also made aware of all the requirements and guidance provided by the Charity Commission.

Trustees' consideration of major risks and the procedures to manage them:

- The main perceived risk is insolvency. This is addressed by the Trustees ensuring that donations do not exceed the available funds held at any given time. The Risk Policy of the Trust is subject to annual review.
- The Trustees are covered to the level of £2 million by the Trustees indemnity element of the Lions Multiple District Insurance Policy.
- The Ashford Lions Club (CIO) owns a Land Rover Discovery vehicle and trailer and the Trustees review that the insurance on the vehicle and trailer applies and covers their use.
- Not having property interests or employees, the Ashford Lions Clubs (CIO) exposure to risk is extremely low.

3. Objectives and Activities

What the charity does: General charitable purposes

Who the charity helps: Children / young people
Elderly / old people
People with disabilities
Other charities or voluntary bodies

Areas of operation: Throughout England

How the charity works: Makes grants to individuals
Other charitable activities

Aims & activities: Ashford Lions serve their local community by raising funds in order to provide grants and assistance to deserving causes, or to old or young individuals, who are disadvantaged, disabled or in immediate need of help in any way, who seek our support. We also support, when possible and appropriate local, National and International community service projects.

Charitable objects:

The objects of the club are for such purposes as are exclusively charitable in England, including in particular: 1. The advancement of citizenship by:

- 1.1. promoting the principles of good citizenship;
- 1.2. encouraging members to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community;
- 1.3. providing a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by members;
- 1.4. encouraging service-minded people to serve their community without personal reward and encouraging the promotion of high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavours;
- 1.5. supporting youth to develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals;
2. Promoting the voluntary sector for the public benefit by associating with local authorities in a common effort to advance education and provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation to improve the conditions of life of people in local, national and international communities;
3. Promoting volunteering;
4. The relief of poverty and the relief of those in need in particular by providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief;
5. The advancement of health or the saving of lives by preventing avoidable blindness, assisting disabled people to lead independent lives or helping to prevent or manage health issues;
6. Promoting for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment; and/or
7. Promoting community participation in healthy recreation.

4. Achievements and Performance

4.1 The Trustees approved a number of donations to local organisations based on recommendations from club members or the Community Committee. The club made numerous financial donations throughout the year to local good causes, as well as Lions National and International initiatives as applicable.

4.2 Donations made by the Ashford Lions to local community causes:

£2,520.- Food-Vouchers to Home-Start Ashford & District
£615.- Ashford Guide Dogs
£602.- Age Concern (Age UK) Ashford
£570.- Ashford Vineyard, Pneuma Church Charity
£500.- Friends Downs View Infant School Charity
£370.- East Kent Baby Memorial Gardens Group Charity
£230.- Fairlawn Res. Short Breaks Service, part of Charity no. 1139134
£140.- Find A Voice Charity

4.3 Donations made by the Ashford Lions to local, National and International Lions appeals:

Above donations are highlighting and showcasing the range of financial support provided during the period. All donations were approved by the Trustees and are part of the year end accounts.

4.4 Ashford Lions' annual Santa Sleigh charity fundraiser, where Santa visits various neighbourhoods in the town. The tour also provides opportunities to families and children to see Santa in the days leading up to Christmas.

4.5 As well as supporting worthy causes with monetary donations, Ashford Lions give physical support to people and organisations wherever they can. The Club is always ready to support local events and offer assistance to other charity collections. The club continued to carry out its charitable purposes with all required protective measures implemented.

5. Financial Review

Statement of trustees' responsibilities: Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that period.

In preparing the financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make sound judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

5.1 The financial statement and accounts of the Ashford Lions Club (CIO) from 01 July 2022 and financial year ending 30 June 2023 are attached to this report, in accordance with rules and regulations for incorporated charities.

5.2 Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves:

It is the policy of the Club to maintain unrestricted funds only to the extent that they are expected to be required within the foreseeable future to meet the objectives of the Club. The adequacy of the reserves policy is reviewed periodically.

5.3 Details of any funds materially in deficit:

None.

5.4 Further financial review details:

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the Club is exposed to satisfy themselves that systems are in place to mitigate those risks.

Fundraising has been carried out through various charitable events held and organised by the members, and where we have been invited to help.

Ashford Lions undertook the following charity fundraisers:

- Seasonal Hamper Raffles during the months of December and March/April,
- Charity Quizzes in February and June,
- Santa's Sleigh Christmas float during December 2022.

Monetary donations made by the Club during the operational year 2022 / 2023 were made to local causes, with less than ten percent going to National or International Lions appeals.

All administration costs of the Club are met from annual subscriptions and donations by members only.

6. Exemptions from Disclosure

N/A

7. Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others

N/A

8. Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have appointed the treasurer to approve the report above.

Signed for by:

Signature:	
Name (in print):	
Position:	
Date:	