

CASTLEFIELD FORUM

England & Wales · Charity number 1182897

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-04-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 73 Liverpool Road
Manchester
M3 4AQ

Phone 0161 2222222

Email info@ourcastlefield.co.uk

Website www.ourcastlefield.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE HERITAGE ASSETS OF THE CASTLEFIELD AREA FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY:1. PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE CASTLEFIELD CONSERVATION AREA;2. WORKING TO SECURE THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FEATURES OR AREAS OF HISTORIC OR PUBLIC INTEREST;3. PROMOTING THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT;4. EDUCATING THE PUBLIC IN THE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, NATURAL HISTORY, CULTURE AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE AREA;5. PROMOTING HIGH STANDARDS OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE;6. SUPPORTING THE PROMOTION OF URBAN REGENERATION.

Activities: Castlefield Forum works to conserve and enhance the heritage and environmental assets of Castlefield for all to enjoy

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Manchester City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£24,938	£5,027	-	-
2024-04-30	£11,100	£6,317	-	-
2023-04-30	£5,287	£14,266	-	-
2022-04-30	£23,784	£15,081	-	-
2021-04-30	£16,494	£594	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CALUM MCGOWAN	Chair	2017-09-25
Barbara Louise Hunter		2019-10-28
DEBORAH HUBBARD		2025-04-02
GILES ALOK GROVER		2017-09-25
Gary Rumens		2020-09-28
Jane Laura Black		2023-07-18
Line Leila Hilton		2023-01-30
Louise Ann Pullan		2019-10-28
Nancy Scheerhout		2026-03-16
Nena Anne-Marie Adrienne		2021-09-21
Steven Lindsay		2026-03-16

CASTLEFIELD FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1182897

Accounts



CASTLEFIELD FORUM

2025: A Year in Review - Trustees' Annual Report



including Treasurer's Report

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Another busy year draws to a close and we wanted to firstly thank everyone who has helped us in Castlefield this year, from our volunteers and trustees, partner organisations, through to one-off clean ups (which included 100 hours of help delivered in one day!). We have always done best when we work together and this year is no exception. Secondly, we wanted to pull out a few key wins from this year as we get ready for a very exciting 2026 which will include structural repairs to Castlefield Viaduct in readiness for the permanent extension and the formal visioning process starting for 'where next for Castlefield?'

Big wins this year include:

- Castlefield Viaduct Phase 2 planning granted and funding has come forward for majority of the build
- Formalised relations with our 6 ward councillors through quarterly meetings
- Submitting a report featuring a list of strategic asks for help to the Council, via our councillors so that we can focus on the big things that matter
- Renewed relations with Deansgate ward Policing
- Brand new action group for south Castlefield
- 8th year in a row of Level 5 Outstanding for our Clean & Green activity - huge kudos to the team of volunteers who helped make this happen
- Over 1300 volunteer hours delivered this year across all of our clean & green, action group, and trustee activity
- Huge effort has gone into our Local Plan feedback to the Council, which helps us be ready for the Council visioning process
- We've strengthened ties with local organisations including the Museum and new neighbours Lower and Upper Campfield: we have a Saturday market again!
- And we've seen the best archaeological remains revealed for 25 years
- To top things off our chair, Calum, has been made a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, and Gary, who's one of our clean and green experts, has made multiple media appearances!



Some of the big challenges we've faced:

- We lack fundraising expertise, something that needs addressing
- The Roman Gardens project continues to move very slowly and is in danger of planning consent lapsing for a second time
- Graffiti blight continues to spiral out of control
- The Castlefield Landowner Forum has mostly fizzled out, without a clear replacement, which leaves various strategic challenges hanging in the balance

- The visioning process, being led by the Council, is months behind schedule meaning more and more missed opportunities to bring developers to the table to contribute: the longer we delay, the more sites will be completed
- We have lost two trustees: Our resident expert trustee on charitable matters has stepped down after 7 years service; thank you Ian McIlveen; and Ian Hay, director of Saul Hay Gallery and our first business owner trustee has also stepped down. Thank you both. We shall miss you and wish you well in your new adventures

As ever, if you'd like to get involved, or spot opportunities you think we should be pursuing, please get in touch; details are at the end of this report.

Castlefield Forum Board of Trustees

February 2026

A Cleaner and Greener Castlefield

VOLUNTEER WORK

- 178 bags of litter collected across 2025 (down on last year's 237 and the lowest number since we started our records). We will look at how we can improve this for 2026
- Over 750 volunteer clean and green hours for 2025
- Prepared for RHS It's Your Neighbourhood 2025 judging
- 6 companies supported us through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) volunteering sessions, thank you!

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Prepared the Visitor Centre Garden for spring planting, ensuring it is well-maintained and ready for community use.
- Had a super year of vegetables (so many gourds), herb and fruit harvests including production of the 2025 vintage of Castlefield cordial!
- We added a mini greenhouse, trellises for clematis, an arch of beans, bug hotel and bird box to the garden. The mini greenhouse will help us mature plants such as chillies which we have struggled with getting crops from as the temperatures drop in autumn.
- We added new peach and magnolia trees to our collection and got 3 perfect peaches in the first year!



COUNCIL ACTIVITY

- We got 3 of the new trees properly staked on Blantyre Street triangle as they were waving around and were going to get damaged
 - As a positive side effect of the now-vanished Castlefield Landowners Forum which was run by the Council, and because of the tourism pull, CityCo have started cleaning activities down Liverpool Road since April and added back some hanging baskets (after an ask to the Council) for the first time since the austerity cuts - thank you to Michael Fletcher, Neighbourhood Officer for Deansgate, for organising the hanging baskets which after a spring planting were renewed for the summer with drought-resistant planting; and thank you to CityCo for adding extra cleaning muscle
 - All of our Castlefield information boards were deep cleaned by the Council
 - Roman Gardens are tidier than ever: lots of clearance in November and December by the Council
- The large trees on Liverpool Rd at the Roman Gardens got some love with new raised areas, paving renewal and removal of wonky paving



NEW ACTION GROUP: ELLESMERE STREET

- We agreed to support as needed (– but not run –) the Clean and Green ambitions of the South Castlefield group by: providing advice, lending equipment, helping them to network, e.g. putting their sessions online

South Castlefield bulb planting and coffee Sat 22/11

Grab a free delicious
Banyan Tree

- Organised regular litter picks, developed a plan for, refurbished and replanted the planters on Ellesmere Street and planted 500 tulip bulbs; a huge thank to Richard and Paula who took the lead on all this hard work.
- Walkover survey plan was agreed with City of Trees for some of Castlefield
- Started making a plan for installing 14 trees on Ellesmere: slow due to the funding being sat with a previous developer. Thanks to Cllr Wright for trying to chase things down
- Has been actively working with the Council on issues such as 'missing trees' from the McAlpine (Flintoff) development and has achieved with Council help to get 20mph speed signs put down the road
- Has inputted loads of great ideas into the Local Plan feedback and into our own visioning process for a thriving Castlefield

REMEMBERING OTHERS

- Carol Standfield - our legendary former gardener who we miss dearly - a commemorative plaque has been designed, manufactured and will be installed in February 2026 up on the Viaduct. Thank you again Carol for all that you did for Castlefield



ROMAN GARDENS

- Some small gains on the Roman Gardens but a very slow year overall and we are in danger of the planning consent lapsing again
- Contractors for Talbot Mill produced for free a cost plan for Phase 1; thank you to CRUK and thank you to Richard Waite for co-ordinating this

NATIONAL TRUST CASTLEFIELD VIADUCT

- Castlefield Viaduct permanent phase gained planning consent!! This project when delivered in 2027 will more than double it in length and turns the pilot project into a permanent park in the sky
- We continue in our role as lead community partner for the viaduct and our Chair Calum continues his volunteer position on the National Trust's Delivery Board
- Viaduct funding has come forward for Phase 2... please refer to our Media section below to see how it was positioned on ITV Granada News
- We contributed to a commercial ideas workshop for how to get the viaduct paying more for itself so that it can remain free to use for everyone, forever
- We shared fundraising ideas with the National Trust from Victoria Baths and it could also help us at the Forum - thanks to retired Victoria Baths MD Sibby for a wealth of useful information

CYAN LINES

- We were invited to the Cyan Lines kick off: this initiative has the potential to transform the city centre with 100 miles of green and blue connected spaces – its squares, pocket parks, rivers, canals and viaducts – to enable residents and visitors alike to enjoy, understand and better connect with nature and each other – and with it bring even more purpose and amenity to Castlefield; our neighbourhood is slated to be one of the first Lines and we look forward to more formal engagement with them.

GM POLICE RELATIONS: HULME WARD POLICE

- A disappointing year, with relations vanishing almost completely. We seem to exist in this yo-yo situation and something we need help with addressing in 2026, especially as this part of Castlefield continues to increase in population. Changes in personnel seem to leave voids, lacking any handover or stakeholder management

GM POLICE RELATIONS: DEANSGATE WARD

- Deansgate ward things have improved vastly this year with PC Riaz coming on board and hosting regular drop-ins, attendance at our public meetings and frequent Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings hosted at Barca
- We had a formal welcome walk around with PC Riaz who has shown brilliant engagement and organising of multiple Coffee with a Cop events
- We also had Police presence at our last AGM with the outgoing PC



A **better, thriving** Castlefield

CASTLEFIELD VIADUCT

- At our AGM we had a deep dive from BDP landscape architects and Viaduct masterplanners on Phase 2 of the Viaduct and how it's likely to look and feel

COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT & STRATEGIC CONVERSATIONS

- Christmas lights are back on Liverpool Road (but it's sadly not been easy and we may never do it again...)
- Castlefield deserves better - our community faces multiple challenges and we felt that it was right to raise them all at once instead of a piecemeal approach. We raised them via our Ward Councillors as many of the items are ultimately asks for help from the Council (see section ahead about Challenges) and as we head into 2026 want to ensure we move from talk to tangible action
- Bev Craig - leader of the Council - has agreed to a meeting with us, though it has yet to materialise
- We received £5000 from the 2024 Sounds of the City gigs and are promised a similar amount from 2025's concerts
- We received 200 free tickets for Sounds of the City - 200 free tickets!!!! Thank you to the Council and to organisers SJM for the complimentary ticket allocation for residents - a wonderful gesture

FORMAL MEETINGS WITH OUR ELECTED MEMBERS

- We now have formal quarterly meetings in the diary with both sets of Ward councillors. Since our inception in 2009 this is the first time we have formalised things and it's already proving really useful so thank you Annette, Lee, Lee-Ann (Hulme) and Anthony, Joan and Marcus (Deansgate) for your ongoing support - it has been very useful to connect on a more formal basis
- On the Hulme part, we now have a very clear understanding that we all believe we need to improve street tree coverage and making sure we don't lose any more green space
- In Deansgate it's worth highlighting the work behind the scenes to ensure that the former Castlefield Centre is not lost to the community. We cannot wait to see this turn into a win for Castlefield

LOCAL BUSINESSES & PARTNERS

- At our AGM we heard from Capital+Centric and their build-to-rent Talbot Mill scheme where they are lovingly restoring this handsome old industrial relic
- The Ox Noble pub has a new lease of life as do a couple of empty units at the Vicus Building: we have a new corner shop and a new restaurant
- We received a £1000 community donation towards our green causes from Rosgal for the Deansgate roadworks & disruption
- There was another Factory International Neighbours Event in June, where we had the opportunity to meet new people and seed new friendships
- We were invited to a private Factory International meeting to provide neighbourhood feedback on what they do and how they operate Aviva Studios
- We had a private meeting with Sally MacDonald from the Science + Industry Museum who showed us aspirations through to the end of 2029, including a proper use for 1830 warehouse which will be leased, the Lower Yard renovations, Wonderlab to replace some of the first floor kids interactive stuff, plus a Technician Lab where you can find out about the jobs of the future. We are looking forward to the Power Hall renovations drawing to a close and are pleased to see the building back into public use after many years of renovation. The Upper Yard plans are also taking shape - 2026 will be the year it all comes together.
- We hit our three year anniversary of the Veg Box scheme (search for Veg Box People to sign up!). Yay to sprouts!



LOCAL PLAN 2025: MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

In summary:

- The Manchester Local Plan 2025 guides the development of Manchester
- It sets out the long term policies for Manchester's future development
- It will form the framework that planning applications will be assessed against

As part of this the Council has held a Public Consultation: our Spirit of Castlefield action group has invested dozens of hours into formulating a formal response and pulling together a list of green sites as part of the Council's 'Call for Sites'. We also ran a segment on this at our final public meeting of the year. Our action group trawled and responded to relevant sections of the 218-page draft Local Plan and local writer and tour guide Jonathan Schofield was super impressed by our thorough list of green sites.

We believe, as part of our response:

- In one cohesive, noticeably cleaner & greener, thriving neighbourhood
- That Castlefield is not visible enough in the Local Plan

For more information, [please visit this link](#).

LOWER AND UPPER CAMPFIELD MARKETS

- We are thrilled to see a weekly market in Lower Campfield: it is years since we had a Castlefield Market so it's great to see them back!

MORE ARCHAEOLOGY!

- Roman Archaeology is back - and it's the best find in Castlefield for 25 years according to Graham Mottershead at Civic. Visit our Media section below to find out more!

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

- We filled our secretary vacancy and are thrilled to welcome back Debbie who has worked with us before
- We are getting better at comms, with more regular posts to our main social channels. If there's more stuff you want us to be broadcasting, just get in touch and we will see what we can do
- We have restarted our periodic newsletter again
- We closed down the former Britannia Basin Community Forum (it merged with our Forum some years ago) so we now have one brand and less confusion
- Website refresh: we have an overhaul of our website ready to launch imminently

SPIRIT OF CASTLEFIELD

- In July we restarted our Spirit of Castlefield action group to focus on our future visioning & strategy work and they also led on our Local Plan response. The group has worked really hard this year as a solid team and we're grateful for all their efforts. The work towards the Local Plan is also reusable for our visioning work so an efficient use of time
 - Reviewed the Council's Our Manchester 2035 strategy so we help contribute towards making it a reality
 - We want to get bolder as an organisation: How? Flex our community assets (our people and Places). As part of the future vision for Castlefield we want to really showcase what Castlefield can offer to help stakeholders and potential partners achieve their goals by working in collaboration and we realised we need to tell our story better - pitching the value of Castlefield Forum and what the community offers through an updated vision and improved marketing communications
- We have ensured we will be consulted as part of longer-term visioning and had our first proper meeting about this with Council



ST JOHN'S

- Thrilled to see the old Granada site evolving into the new St John's district. This area sits within the Conservation Area and we are so pleased to welcome new business such as The Stables and Grub

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

- We supported Manchester School of Architecture (MSA) with multiple projects:
 - This autumn our Chair was invited to lecture at MSA to talk about our visioning work and some of the biggest challenges and opportunities in Castlefield
 - In March we took part with students from Loreto College & MMU in a Heritage Pathways pilot with Manchester School of Architecture to help bring more of our neighbourhood story to life
 - We supported MSA's MA programme where students had a showcase on Castlefield Viaduct to explore new ideas for Castlefield; we have since also supported second year students with Castlefield project work

In the Media

ON RADIO

- We had a media moment at the Museum - our chair was on BBC Radio Manchester - [recordings here](#), kindly provided by the Museum

ON TV

Castlefield has been on telly again, twice in 2 days!!

- In July - The Viaduct , including us, was on ITV - We even bought our first ever T-shirt in readiness for our Granada appearance: [Plans unveiled to improve historic city centre 'sky park' viaduct - Latest From ITV News](#)
- Roman remains on ITV (we have never had Castlefield on the telly for 2 days running!) - [Archaeologists make exciting discovery in heart of Manchester - Latest From ITV News](#)
- Plus our own media star and Trustee Gary was on [BBC Gardener's World!](#)

ONLINE

Roman Remains! Here's Graham Mottershead from Civic. Credit to Donna Marie Lomax. Find more content about this amazing find in our Appendix.

Awards and Recognition

- Castlefield Viaduct was awarded the 'Pro Tem' Civic Trust Award in recognition of the impact it has had as a temporary project (but don't worry, the Viaduct is not going anywhere!)
- Two RHS 'Level 5 - Outstanding' awards for our clean & green efforts in Castlefield itself and in conjunction with National Trust and the Viaduct - all as part of Britain in Bloom
- We attended the National Trust's 130th birthday in recognition for our inputs into the Viaduct project
- Our Chair was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester in recognition of his community work

For a full picture please refer to our independently-examined Treasurer's Report and accounts.

FUNDING AWARDS

We continue to pursue the Manchester City Council Neighbourhood Investment Fund grants as and when the need arises; this year they have helped to fund our clean and green activity as well as the Liverpool Road Christmas lighting.

The Forum gratefully received £5,000 as a result of the Sounds of the City event (from summer 2024). Under a draft Castlefield Events agreement, the Council's Events team felt that it would be sensible to make an annual donation as a thank you for the inconvenience that the gigs cause. Thanks to our Deansgate Ward Councillors who helped with this.

We also continue to receive ad hoc awards from Screen Manchester: we have an arrangement such that any filming in Castlefield which is deemed to cause an inconvenience (e.g. road closure, a place out of use) will result in a donation to the Forum. It is much appreciated that not only does Castlefield get to be on screen but that it helps us out too.

It is important to note that the majority of our funds are restricted as they are allocated against specific action group initiatives.

We submit independently examined accounts as part of our annual submission to the Charities Commission.

These can become opportunities with the right inputs!

Strategic challenges for the neighbourhood

BUILT ENVIRONMENT & PLACEMAKING

- **Accessibility & Lifts:** a shocking state of affairs
 - The Viaduct Lift on Beaufort is still broken despite promises of Aug 2025 fix! It now won't be working until April...
 - The brand new Watson Street Metrolink lift is not operational... due to disagreements on maintaining it
 - The Cornbrook Metrolink Lift regularly packs up, leaving residents stranded and having to make alternative arrangements
 - The main Deansgate Castlefield lift has also had break downs but has been more reliable than in previous years
- **The future of the Castlefield Heritage Trust** and assets including the former Castlefield Centre on Liverpool Road hung in the balance, though we are hoping for some far better news in 2026. We want to thank a former resident for bringing this potential asset loss to our attention and Cllrs Davies, Johns and McCaul for their help to try and turn this situation around
- **Christmas Lights:** very sadly, another year and another fiasco: anything but brilliant basics.
 - We were given about 3 days notice in September regarding Christmas lights on Liverpool Road, a cause we believe in not just because the street lights are enabled for festive lights but because it's a major thoroughfare for residents, workers and visitors
 - We were asked to contribute towards the cost, which for this year only we have agreed to do; we have suggested in future that businesses are asked via the Landowner Forum to help top up the funding given that they also benefit
 - Of the Christmas lights, 3 out of 10 do not work and the switch-on was 2 weeks later than Deansgate which not only looked strange but also meant 2 weeks less benefit combined with probably a dozen or more chases to the Council. This is anything but brilliant basics: why are we doing all the chasing when Amey should take responsibility?
- **Despite major floods** at NYE 2024/5 and significant damage to businesses such as the Y Club, there has been no dredging of the Bridgewater Canal and no clearance of the River Medlock tunnel - which will not help if we get heavy rain this winter
- **Multiple imminent development** sites remain in Castlefield, but as far as we know there are no strategic conversations happening to line developers up. But if we could, it would help massively with placemaking, visioning and community-building. We hope that the 2026 visioning work helps to address this and bring everyone together
- **Help with Roman Gardens Masterplan:** after multiple asks over the last 3 years we now have more formal help offered from MCC; planning consent lapses in under 12 months. We are hoping that this help will start to nudge the project along but remain cautious and concerned

- **Double yellow lines policy** (they should be tidy, heritage-style and consistent): Double yellow lines in Castlefield are a total mess - the opposite of brilliant basics - and this has now been escalated to the Council. It sounds petty but if you let the small things slide, it's easier for other things to go downhill as well
- **Multiple broken paving slabs in the Bowl** as an outcome from Sounds of the City 2025 (they fixed a load after last year's gigs which made even more mess): every year the gigs come, and every year it takes months and chasing to get them fixed. Even now MCC have only fixed some, so it looks shabby. This is not good enough...

BLUE AND GREEN CONCERNS

- **Extensive areas of grotspots & graffiti blight:** Some success at Slate Wharf - but it is not being kept clean. Graffiti continues to get worse and is going unchecked. We have asked multiple times for an update and each time are given a stock response. This is the historic heart of the city and not enough is being done...
- **Potential loss of green space to development:** we have submitted a list of opportunities as part of the Local Plan feedback but remain extremely concerned about the loss of Pioneer Quay and Beaufort/Duke corner to development... we will campaign as needed to help protect these spaces

FUTURE STATE AND OUR COMMUNITY

- **A Vision for Castlefield:** this was first tabled by MCC in April 2024 but by the end of 2025 there has been very little movement despite multiple chases. We have felt shut out of the process which is why we spun up our Spirit of Castlefield group to avoid getting left behind once the process begins
- **Lack of One Neighbourhood, One Castlefield Mindset:** we are starting to see improvements in this, through stronger working with our ward councillors and are hopeful that the proposed extension of Manchester City Centre to cover all of Castlefield will help (this however will not happen until at least early 2027)
- **The Castlefield Landowner Forum:** despite the great fanfare and great idea, this seems to have fizzled to a close. Once again we have done a lot of chasing to find out what's going on and are yet to receive a satisfactory answer
- **We asked for a meeting with Bev Craig** (she said yes) to ensure she understands our local ambitions for Castlefield but it has not been forthcoming. This is frustrating given how slow things are moving in the neighbourhood and the challenges which are continuing to chip away at what should be a prize asset for Greater Manchester

Organisational challenges to address in 2026

- After 7 years of great advice and stewardship of charitable ways of working, Ian McIlveen stood down as a trustee. And since the start of 2026, Ian Hay has also retired as a trustee. Thank you to you both!
- We lack direction for fundraising
- We are under represented in certain demographics including age and location (e.g. we would benefit from more representation from younger people, and from people in the southern part of Castlefield)

Looking ahead, and closing remarks

It's not all bad... We have the following to look forward to in 2026!!!!

- We hope to have a community stall at Campfield Market... watch this space!
- Visioning process: a co-designed approach to where next for our mighty neighbourhood
- Essential structural works on Viaduct in readiness for the permanent extension to the sky garden
- Enough progress on the Roman Gardens so we don't lose planning consent
- Exploring deeper tie-ins with University of Manchester, potentially around culture in Castlefield
- Nurturing existing relationships, and building new ones including with:
 - Cyan Lines
 - St John's / Allied London

Please continue to support us and don't hesitate to get stuck in.

Finally, a reminder that the Forum exists by you, for you. A huge thank you to all of our Trustees and supporters who helped to keep the Forum diverse, alive and thriving. And if you feel like you might want to get involved yourself, please get in touch.

Thank you,

Calum McGowan

Chair - Castlefield Forum on behalf of Castlefield Forum Board of Trustees

info@ourcastlefield.co.uk

CASTLEFIELD FORUM
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/04/2025

Treasurer's Report

I have prepared the accounts for Castlefield Forum for the year ending 30th April 2025.

These accounts comprise an Income & Expenditure overview and a Balance Sheet to provide visibility on general and restricted funds held.

All payments made have been verified by invoice copies.

As Treasurer, I confirm these accounts represent a true and fair view of Income & Expenditure for the period.

These accounts will now be reviewed by an independent examiner.



Giles Grover
29th January 2026

Income Expenditure

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2025</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
<u>Income & Expenditure</u>			
<u>Income</u>			
Donations - Castlefield Filming	6,750		6,750
Donations - Individuals & Organisations	694		694
Calendar Sales	440		440
MCC - Parks in Partnership - Roman Gardens		10,000	10,000
MCC - Castlefield Viaduct		410	410
Clean & Green - NIF		2,577	2,577
Britannia Basin		3,517	3,517
Carol Standfield - Plaque (Non-Forum Funds Held in Trust)		551	551
Total income	7,884	17,054	24,938
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Roman Gardens		145	145
Castlefield Viaduct		410	410
Clean & Green		2,577	2,577
Ellesmere Street Planters		343	343
Calendar Production	492		492
Forum Admin Expenses (Zoom, website, meetings)	622		622
Public Liability Insurance	438		438
Total Expenditure	1,552	3,475	5,027
Surplus/(deficit)	6,331	13,580	19,911

Statement of Financial Position

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2025</u>	<u>2024/25</u> <u>General Funds</u>	<u>2024/25</u> <u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>2024/25</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>2023/24</u> <u>General</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>2023/24</u> <u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>2023/24</u> <u>Total</u>
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Statement of financial position

Assets

Bank	17,804	40,782	58,586	11,473	27,202	38,675
Petty cash	20	0	20	20	0	20
Total	17,824	40,782	58,606	11,493	27,202	38,695

Liabilities

Charity General funds (repayable)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted funds (repayable)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total assets less liabilities

17,824	40,782	58,606	11,493	27,202	38,695
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Reserves

B/f:	11,493	27,202	38,695	5,723	26,805	32,528
Movement in reserves (surplus/(deficit))	6,331	13,580	19,911	5,770	398	6,167
Reserves c/f:	17,824	40,782	58,606	11,493	27,203	38,695

Reserves

Y/E: 30/04/2025

Changes in reserves

<u>Movement in General funds</u>	<u>2023/24 Op bal</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2024/25 Cl bal</u>
General reserves	11,493		11,493
Surplus/(deficit) Current year		6,331	6,331
Total General funds	11,493	6,331	17,824

<u>Movement in Restricted funds</u>	<u>2023/24 Op bal</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2024/25 Cl bal</u>
Roman Gardens	26,005	9,855	35,860
Castlefield Viaduct	50	0	50
Britannia Basin	0	3,174	3,174
Carol Standfield - Plaque (Non-Forum Funds Held in Trust)	0	551	551
Clean & Green NIF (Forum Funds)	0	1,148	1,148
Clean & Green (Non Forum Funds Held in Trust B/f)	1,148	-1,148	0
Total Restricted funds*	27,202	13,580	40,782

Total Reserves	38,695	19,911	58,606
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*Restricted Funds reflect where Neighbourhood Investment Funding grants have been received for a specific project and the closing balance at year end is £40,782.

This funding is monitored and evaluated by Manchester City Council and, in certain circumstances, may be subject to repayment.

Banking - Detailed Analysis

			Roman Gardens	Castlefield Viaduct	Britannia Basin	Clean & Green NIF (Forum Funds)	Clean & Green (Non Forum Funds Held in Trust B/f)	Carol Standfield - Plaque (Non-Forum Funds Held in Trust)	Filming Donation	Individual & Organisation Donation	Forum Admin	Restricted Funds	Non-Forum Funds Held in Trust	General Funds	Closing Balance at 30/04/25	
B/f	Details															
	Opening balance 01/05/2024		26,004.59	50.00	0.00	0.00	1,147.50	0.00	1,000.00	5,532.86	4,960.07	26,054.59	1,147.50	11,492.93	38,695.02	
	TRF C&G from Non forum funds to forum funds					1,147.50	-1,147.50					1,147.50	-1,147.50	0.00		
03/05/2024	Clean & Green Payment (made by intra-year loan from General Funds)	Expenditure				-1,178.00						-1,178.00	0.00	0.00	-1,178.00	
13/05/2024	Fundraiser for Carol Standfield Plaque	Income						550.83				0.00	550.83	0.00	550.83	
14/05/2024	Trustee Refund RE - Forward Fund Plants for Viaduct - NT Claim being made	Expenditure		-410.00								-410.00	0.00	0.00	-410.00	
28/05/2024	Transfer from Britannia Basin bank account	Income			3,516.67							3,516.67	0.00	0.00	3,516.67	
29/05/2024	Castlefield Hotel	Income								92.00		0.00	0.00	92.00	92.00	
31/05/2024	Screen Mcr	Income							250.00			0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	
04/06/2024	Manchester Parks Development Team - Parks in Partnership	Income	10,000.00									10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	
28/06/2024	National Trust Grant - Viaduct Plants	Income		410.00								410.00	0.00	0.00	410.00	
22/07/2024	Trustee Refund JB - Meeting Expenses	Expenditure									-18.85	0.00	0.00	-18.85	-18.85	
19/09/2024	MCD A NO.2 Filming	Income							1,000.00			0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
21/10/2024	Manchester City Council - C&G NIF (Refund General Funds Loan)	Income				1,300.00						1,300.00	0.00	0.00	1,300.00	
30/10/2024	Trustee Refund JB - In Bloom Tickets	Expenditure									-30.00	0.00	0.00	-30.00	-30.00	
30/10/2024	Trustee Refund JB - 2025 Calendars	Expenditure									-492.49	0.00	0.00	-492.49	-492.49	
30/10/2024	Wix - ourcastlefield.org.uk Domain 2 years	Expenditure									-201.60	0.00	0.00	-201.60	-201.60	
30/10/2024	Wix Payment - Trustee Donation	Income								201.60				201.60	201.60	
31/10/2024	MCD A NO.2 Filming	Income							500.00			0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	
05/11/2024	Banyan Donation - 2025 Calendars	Income								100.00		0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	
08/11/2024	Calendars sold - 7	Income								70.00		0.00	0.00	70.00	70.00	
15/11/2024	PIB Risk Services - P/L	Expenditure								-437.52		0.00	0.00	-437.52	-437.52	
19/12/2024	Calendars sold - 5	Income								50.00		0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	
31/12/2024	MCD A NO.2 Filming	Income							1,500.00			0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
06/01/2025	Calendars sold - 2	Income								20.00		0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	
15/01/2025	Trustee Refund GR for C&G payment	Expenditure				-122.00						-122.00	0.00	0.00	-122.00	
15/01/2025	Trustee Refund BH - Zoom	Expenditure								-155.88		0.00	0.00	-155.88	-155.88	
17/01/2025	Calendars sold - 28	Income								280.00		0.00	0.00	280.00	280.00	
30/01/2025	Calendars sold - 2	Income								20.00		0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	
30/01/2025	MCD A NO.2 Filming	Income							1,500.00			0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
10/02/2025	Trustee Refund GR - Ellesmere Street Planters	Expenditure			-343.00							-343.00	0.00	0.00	-343.00	
10/02/2025	MCC - C&G NIF - 262465269 - 4 wood planters	Income				815.00						815.00	0.00	0.00	815.00	
17/02/2025	MCC - C&G NIF - Tools, signage and planting	Income				461.50						461.50	0.00	0.00	461.50	
28/02/2025	MCD A NO.2 Filming	Income							1,500.00			0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
07/03/2025	MCC - RG Planning Application	Expenditure	-145.00									-145.00	0.00	0.00	-145.00	
07/03/2025	Trustee Refund BH - Viaduct Domains 4 yrs	Expenditure								-215.86		0.00	0.00	-215.86	-215.86	
18/03/2025	YMCA Donation - Calendars	Income								100.00		0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	
24/03/2025	Clean & Green - NIF x 2	Expenditure				-1,276.50						-1,276.50	0.00	0.00	-1,276.50	
28/03/2025	Castlefield Estates - Calendars	Income								200.00		0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	
30/04/2025	MCD A NO.2 Filming 15/04	Income							500.00			0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	
	Closing balance 30/04/2025		£35,859.59	£50.00	£3,173.67	£1,147.50	£0.00	£550.83	£7,750.00	£6,226.46	£3,847.87	£40,230.76	£550.83	£17,824.33	£58,605.92	

Petty Cash

	£
Petty Cash Balance as at 30/04/2024	20.17
Expenditure	-*
Petty Cash Balance as at 30/04/2025	<u><u>£20.17</u></u>

*No petty cash movements as all payments now made via online banking.

Dan Coles FCCA
09/02/2026

FAO: Giles Grover
Treasurer
Castlefield Forum
Manchester

Dear Giles,

Thanks for the attached supporting information in your emails.

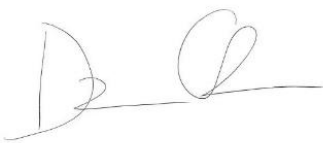
I report to the trustees, my examination of the accounts of Castlefield Forum (the Charitable Incorporated Organisation) for the period ended 30 April 2025.

I have completed an examination of the provided set of accounts and supporting documentation. 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 Act
- 2) The accounts do not accord with those records
- 3) The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Coles', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Dan Coles FCCA

Special news item: Roman Remains!

Roman Remains: "The best remains found in Castlefield in last 25 years" - Graham Mottershead from Civic. The following comes from Ian Miller - Heritage Management Director at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service.

"I just wanted to let you know that I asked for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the improvement works to the paving around Castlefield House on Liverpool Road, directly opposite the Roman Gardens. This advice was duly accepted and Ollie and Graham from Civic Heritage took on the project and have uncovered some pretty remarkable archaeology.

An intact and well-preserved section of the main Roman road extending from the north gate of the fort is visible at the left-hand end of the excavated trench. At the other end of the trench (right-hand side of the shot), Graham is recording one of two large Roman ditches, with another two archaeologists in the centre excavating a Roman third ditch.

The top of the road was unearthed just below the modern ground surface, and this is currently being excavated by hand down to the level required by the development (the idea is to install some tree planters, hence the depth of the trench). This has provided remarkable evidence for the development of the road and adjacent land use between the late 1st century and perhaps the later 3rd century. The excavation has also uncovered the remains of several large Roman ditches, a series of ovens and various features that suggest Roman timber structures / buildings. Without exaggeration, it's the best Roman archaeology I've seen in Manchester this century!!

Ollie and Graham's team are actively excavating the site and they will be completed fairly soon (probably before the end of next week), but I'm sure that they would be more than happy to give you / the Castlefield Forum a quick tour / explanation of the site / findings if you're interested and have the time."

[The YouTube video can be found here](#) (credit: Annabel Knowlson).



About Castlefield Forum

Castlefield Forum is a voluntary community group established in 2009 with the key aim of making Castlefield a better place for local residents, businesses, workers and visitors. Part of the Forum's original remit was set up to contribute to and influence Castlefield as a locality, whilst conserving and enhancing its heritage assets.

We are a multi-award winning neighbourhood organisation having been received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service as well as over a dozen awards from the RHS, including 8 years in a row of 'Level 5 - Outstanding' for our Clean & Green efforts.

We became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2019 and have always worked to bring people together for the long-term benefit of Castlefield.

Our objectives are:

- To protect and promote the Castlefield Conservation Area
- To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features or areas of historic or public interest
- To promote the conservation of the environment
- To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of the area
- To promote high standards of planning and architecture
- To promote urban regeneration

Who we are

Organisational overview for the period ending December 2026.

Trustees who served during the year:

1. Calum McGowan (Chair)
2. Lou Pullan (Vice-Chair)
3. Giles Grover (Treasurer)
4. Debbie Hubbard (Secretary; it's great to have Debbie back as she has previously served with us)
5. B Hunter
6. Gary Rumens (on paternity leave until May 2026)
7. Ian Hay
8. Ian McIlveen (stepped down in November 2025; we want to thank you Ian for your deep knowledge of the charitable sector and for being our moral compass)
9. Jane Black
10. Line Hilton
11. Nena Adrienne

Our organisation

The Forum is run by you, for you. Without the Trustees the Forum would not exist. None of us are paid for our roles, some work full or part time, none of us bring egos and we all strive for a better neighbourhood, so a huge thank you to all of them for all of their hard work. The pandemic taught us that you don't need to be in Castlefield to have a positive impact on Castlefield.

Membership is open to anyone who lives, works or has an interest in Castlefield. It's a great way to meet others in the community, to have a say in what happens and to give something back to this amazing place. Join us!

The Forum meets publicly three times a year and meetings and our action groups are open to all. Our elected Trustees typically meet twice a quarter, setting goals across a 4-month period and feeding back on progress and challenges to the wider Forum. If you missed any of our public meetings, we can share the slides with you.

Operating model

As Trustees, we hold ourselves accountable for the work that we do - which includes setting ambitious but realistic goals - and the decisions that we make. Because our volunteer Trustees have other commitments, sometimes things do not move quite as fast as we might like. But we are very grateful for the diverse group that makes up our Trustees and indeed the time that they give to our cause of making Castlefield a great place to be.

We are also heavily reliant on third parties to deliver many of our aspirations, such as the City Council's Neighbourhood Delivery Team and the National Trust for our Viaduct ambitions.

The Trustees run our action groups which help to address our four key themes around **Cleaner, Green, Safer** and **Better**. Our Trustee activity is planned in a quarterly cadence using the 'objectives and key results' framework.

We continue to break down our objectives into clear goals. Each objective has measures under it, graded from:

Good	(the bare minimum we would like to achieve) to
Great	(even better) to
Incredible	(bit of a long shot!)

At our public meetings we may discuss our objectives and results and are happy to go into detail as the need arises.

Action Groups

As part of our reach we also look to build a stronger local community and voice, and provide several ways for people to get involved. The Forum consists of a board of Volunteer Trustees (including residents and business owners) and Action Groups - run by our Trustees - which work to meet these objectives, including:

- **Clean & Green Castlefield**, who have delivered over 4,000 volunteer hours over the last 5 years
 - To work in conjunction with Manchester City Council (MCC) and other local partners to keep the area attractive, green and tidy
 - Expanding the group's remit to maintain and develop green spaces, including community growing space
 - To work in liaison with MCC and local partners to present a credible entry to the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' section of North West in Bloom, aiming for a Level 5 'Outstanding' award each year
- **Roman Gardens** masterplan delivery, to realise exciting, inspiring urban retreat in Manchester city centre
 - The group are now working to discharge planning conditions so that we can protect the planning consent for the upgrade of the Roman Gardens

- **Castlefield Viaduct**, working as lead community partner alongside the National Trust and BDP to help deliver the long-term masterplan
- **Spirit of Castlefield**, our group which is focused on future visioning work and direction for the neighbourhood
 - Building on our work with the National Trust to understand the spirit of Castlefield, including its value to the city of Manchester and beyond, its heritage, people, buildings, open spaces, structures, waterways and stories.
 - Supporting the National Trust's consultation, fundraising and delivery of the viaduct pilot and development of the full scheme

And these groups, both currently paused:

- Castlefield Landowners Forum, which is run by the Council and where we have a voice at the table with some of the bigger players in Castlefield.
 - Sadly this action group has fallen off a cliff as there has not been an MCC-arranged meeting since March 2025
 - We are extremely disappointed that it has fizzled out with very limited communication since March
- Events, Marketing, Media & Signage,
 - To raise the profile of Castlefield within the city, to develop our own events and contribute to events organised by others
 - To increase financial self-reliance for the Forum by developing Castlefield's marketing potential, including improving our website
 - To extend our programme of replacing damaged and out-of-date signage by producing new interpretative signs for new locations throughout the area

If you would like to get involved with any of our activities - or spot opportunities you think we should be involved with - please get in touch; we would love to hear from you.

Join us as a member by contacting - info@ourcastlefield.co.uk (opt out at any time) or sign up on our website, or visit our socials:

Forum website	www.ourcastlefield.co.uk
Forum Facebook Group	Castlefield Forum Facebook
Forum Instagram	Castlefield Forum (@castlefieldforum)
Clean & Green Group	Clean & Green Castlefield Facebook

CASTLEFIELD FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1182897

Accounts

Castlefield Forum

2024: A Year in Review



*After a multi-year, multi-agency process, we now have lighting on the North Gate reconstruction in the Roman Gardens.
Credit: C McGowan*



CASTLEFIELD

Preserving, Improving, Living –
in the heart of our city



Executive Summary

Welcome to our latest annual report where we are reflecting back on some wonderful activity that's happened across 2024; it's been another great year.

If you've been involved, a huge thank you for helping to make our neighbourhood a better place and if you have yet to get involved or know someone who would like to, do please get in touch.

So... 2024: another good vintage!

We've had an absolute cracker of a year.

From super levels of engagement and awards in our amazing Clean & Green Castlefield group to Castlefield Viaduct now being in the planning system for a permanent extension (and doubling in length)...

... through to lighting finally being installed in the Roman Gardens and progress with the new Castlefield Landowners Forum, we are very excited to see things moving.

Organisations do not stand still though, so we were very sad this year to lose Russell Eckersley as a Trustee – he has decided to spend much more in warmer climes (who can blame him?). We wish him well and thank him for all his hard work on getting our Street Tree Strategy off the ground, as well as all of his efforts to deliver our Castlefield Viaduct community plot.

We also saw B step down as our Secretary (but continue as a Trustee) – thank you indeed for the most efficient minute-taking we've ever had, and a massive thank you to Kirk Paul who stepped up as our interim Secretary and 2025 AGM host.

We've also had some other wins through the year – we're trying to diversify a little in terms of our funding and Jane Black worked hard to pull together both sponsorship and delivery of our second Castlefield calendar. We sold out (50 copies), we put some extra pounds in the bank and it gives us confidence that we should try and think a bit more creatively about how to bring in funding. Thank you Jane and to our sponsors: The Banyan Tree, Castlefield Estates and YMCA Manchester.

We have also just had the first round of lighting installed in the Roman Gardens on the North Gate. This is the first time the structure has been lit for nearly 10 years, so not only will it be a little safer at night, it also showcases the structure much better and adds some much needed definition into the Gardens.

Talk is cheap; as you know we much prefer action. This year has seen strengthened relations with Factory International, the Science & Industry Museum, YMCA Manchester (Y Club/Castlefield Hotel), Manchester City Council Neighbourhood Delivery Team, the National Trust, Our Irwell and the new Landowners Forum. As well as continued influence and input into the Viaduct project and all of our own volunteering activity, we really are doing what we can to make this the best neighbourhood in Manchester.

We continue to keep you informed: at our November 2024 public meeting we heard from local stakeholders including a new action group called Our Irwell. They're set on opening up 8km of river frontage through the city centre; at present, large chunks of it have broken or have inaccessible pathways. It's a dream we share too, not least as the centre of the conurbation continues to grow in population but with limited new outdoor space to match the population.

We heard from Transport for Greater Manchester who briefed us on their multitude of strategies to help make our public transport safer than ever.

We also heard from Embassy Village, who are building a new homeless rehabilitation village under several arches in the southern part of Castlefield. The village will help those who are ready to get back into mainstream society, and provides them with a small studio flat of their own, as well as budgeting skills, job opportunities and other life skills to help them on the road to success.

As ever, there's never enough time or funding or help, so we would always say "yes!" if you would like to get involved to nudge along any of our projects or ambitions which includes fundraising where we know we can do much more). The Forum is by you, for you. We aren't special people: we just care deeply about making Castlefield better so please come and get involved.

(And if you can't get involved but know people that might like to, please introduce them.)

Castlefield Forum Trustees

February 2025



The Castlefield Viaduct is now in the planning system with a view to getting consent agreed in the coming weeks in order to double it in length and provide accessible access at the south end. Here are some recent inspections happening to help ensure the structure stays sound

2024 Impact: how did we do?

- **Update and share our longer-term vision and strategy for Castlefield:** this is one where we have not spent enough time, *but has also taken on a new direction all of its own*. One of the biggest issues we have in Castlefield is fragmented land ownership, with some landowners who engage and do a great job and others who are much more distant. Our aspiration is that eventually we get strong engagement across the board and with this, more responsibility taken for more areas of Castlefield. We are therefore thrilled to be part of the new Castlefield Landowners Forum, which has been created by the City Council to help tackle some of the biggest issues we face in our neighbourhood. As part of this, in 2025 this group will lead on setting out a new vision for the area; it's of course important that this comes with a strategy to make it a reality and we will ensure your views and ideas are part of the vision-setting
- **Worked closely with National Trust on developing the Viaduct scheme for the full (permanent) project:** we have been fully involved in the process and as lead community partner we continue to have a seat on the Viaduct Delivery Board and Design Team Meetings.
- **Delivered some great outcomes under our Clean & Green Castlefield group,** who delivered over 670 volunteer hours and saw 'Veg Patch 2.0' in full production. All of this helped us to win two 'Level 5 - Outstanding' gardening awards both for the neighbourhood and jointly with the National Trust for the Viaduct - and then go on to win the *2024 Pride of Manchester Award* along with Plant Mcr.
- **Roman Gardens improvement project:** as per the main image at the top, we negotiated the North Gate public lighting element to be set outside the planning consent for the Roman Gardens, and are pleased to say that the lighting is now in place and under a maintenance contract with Amey.
- **Continue to build on and cement strategic partnerships with other organisations with whom we work:** relations are stronger than ever with the Science & Industry Museum, our six ward Councillors (Deansgate and Hulme), the Manchester City Council Neighbourhood Delivery Team, National Trust, Y Club/Castlefield Hotel and the Veg Box People. As we enter into 2025, we are inputting into a new piece of research at Manchester School of Architecture. We are also pleased to be developing links with Trafford Council via Leader Tom Ross who came for a tour of the Viaduct.

How we operate

The Forum is run by you, for you. Without the Trustees the Forum would not exist. None of us are paid for our roles, some work full or part time, none of us bring egos and we all strive for a better neighbourhood, so a huge thank you to all of them for all of their hard work. The pandemic taught us that one does not need to be physically in Castlefield to have a positive impact on Castlefield. We've learned as a group that you can achieve plenty via electronic means.

Operating model

As Trustees, we hold ourselves accountable for the work that we do - which includes setting ambitious but realistic goals - and the decisions that we make. Because our volunteer Trustees have other commitments, sometimes things do not move quite as fast as we might like. But we are very grateful for the diverse group that makes up our Trustees and indeed the time that they give to our cause of making Castlefield a great place to be.

We are also heavily reliant on third parties to deliver many of our aspirations, such as the City Council's Neighbourhood Delivery Team and the National Trust for our Viaduct ambitions.

The Trustees run our action groups which help to address our four key themes around **Cleaner, Green, Safer** and **Better**. Our Trustee activity is planned in a quarterly cadence using the 'objectives and key results' framework. Find out more about our action groups in the Appendix.

We continue to break down our objectives into clear goals. Each objective has measures under it, graded from:

Good (the bare minimum we would like to achieve) to

Great (even better) to

Incredible (bit of a long shot sometimes!)

At our public meetings we may discuss our objectives and results and are happy to go into detail as the need arises.

If you would like to get involved with any of our activities, please get in touch; we would love to hear from you (contact details are in the Appendix).

In review: by theme

A cleaner and greener Castlefield

Clean and green activity

- We've delivered more than **670 volunteer hours** through our extraordinary Clean & Green Castlefield team. Huge shout out to Gary, Nena and Line who lead this group. 2024 numbers were a little lower compared with 2023's 800 hours, but things are looking good for a strong 2025 as we have a cohort of new volunteers in the southside of Castlefield.
- We entered the RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood in Bloom' for Castlefield itself, and the Viaduct in its entirety, and were again awarded **two** RHS Level 5 Outstanding Awards for our work in the neighbourhood and for the Castlefield Viaduct project. That's **7 years in a row** of the top-level award for the neighbourhood! Well done, team! 😊

For 2024 versus 2023 stats:

- 679 (versus 832) volunteer clean and green hours delivered
- 47 (versus 61) events held
- 237 (versus 219) bags of litter collected

Clean and green news

- A sixth street tree was planted (the previous five being on Blantyre Street); this latest was a replacement on old Deansgate, next to Deansgate Quay/back of Atlas Bar in a dead tree pit which we highlighted to the Council's tree team.
- A recovery and maintenance plan developed for the Granary Gardens.
- The organic veg box scheme - in partnership with Veg Box People and Castlefield Hotel - is now two years old!
- Our group delivered their plans for 'Vegetable Garden 2.0', a community vegetable garden, which included a major overhaul and upgrade and had its third full year of production (and no more

invasive bamboo!). This is a really lovely success story because this was originally just a piece of unadopted Castlefield sadness and is now a focus for people to come together.

- A huge September clean-up in one CSR event (40 bags of waste collected).
- Our usual Winter bedding and bulb planting took place to get ready for some 2025 spring cheer.

Tree strategy

- Our tree strategy work has taken a pause as our lead Trustee for this initiative has stepped down so we will bring some energy back to the strategy when we find a new tree person (get in touch if that is **YOU!**) 😊

A safer Castlefield

Safety news

- After very limited engagement across much of 2023, where due to multiple personnel changes we lacked a strong relationship with Greater Manchester Police, things took a turn for the better towards the end of 2023 with a city centre Police officer attending our final public meeting of 2023.
- In early 2024 we held our first 'Coffee with Cops' (in south side of Castlefield/Hulme ward) and later in 2024 we re-established relations with Greater Manchester Police in the Deansgate ward
- We attended a Transport for Greater Manchester online safety meeting in September to learn more about all the safety interventions and programmes on our transport network and then invited them to do a full briefing at our November public meeting.
- We had attendance by GMP at our November 2024 meeting
- There are now in place an array of regular Police meetings, including Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and Coffee with Cops. Thank you to GMP for the greater engagement - it is appreciated.

A better, thriving Castlefield

Building our community spirit and a thriving neighbourhood

- Updated Castlefield strategy drafted; we will feed these ideas into the 2025 visioning work we do as part of the Landowners Forum.
- Our *Spirit of Castlefield* consultation outputs will be used in part to drive Landowner discussions towards the future vision for Castlefield.
- A nice flurry of filming activity which continues to show Castlefield's best side - and under specific circumstances generates income for the Forum coffers.
- Thanks to Jane who has stepped up to get more on top of our comms approach. For the first time (yes, we know it's 2025!) we are more actively managing our Instagram account and helping to grow awareness of what we do. We are not currently managing our former Twitter account though the account (on X) is still live.
- Jane led on our second-ever printed Castlefield calendar - to help showcase local photography talent and to raise funds. We sold 50 calendars this year and with the help of generous local sponsorship from Castlefield Estates, The Castlefield Hotel and The Banyan Tree, turned a profit. Thanks to Jane and to everyone who supported us.

Stronger partnerships

- We have stronger-than-ever relationships and direct contact with the Neighbourhood Delivery Team at the Council, with four reliable contacts with whom we liaise both on problems and on future, proactive work such as the installation of Christmas lights and hanging baskets.
- The team has also committed to always sending someone to every Forum public meeting which is brilliant.

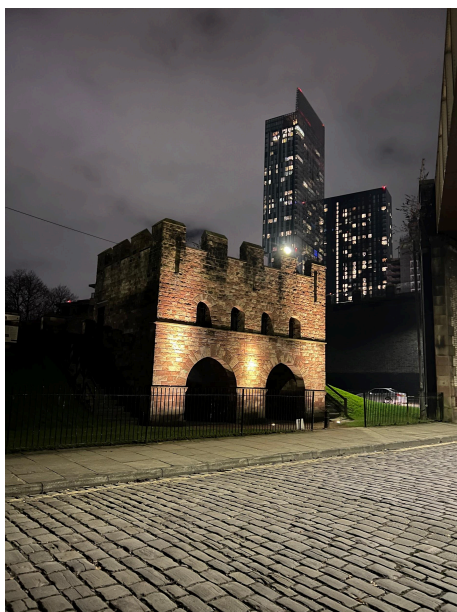
- Periodic formal meetings with Deansgate Councillors were re-established - but we all need to work harder together to diarise them on a more regular basis as they are useful when they do happen, but were sporadic through 2024.
- We received 98 free tickets to Sounds of the City (this was a reduction from 180 in 2023 and 240 in 2022) which we balloted out to the community.
- Factory International hosted their first Neighbours event at Aviva Studios which was well received, including the bites to eat!

Lighting

- We once again managed to get the Christmas lights up on Liverpool Road and on the tree outside Deansgate Station. This was funded via Manchester City Council's *Neighbourhood Investment Fund*.

Roman Gardens revamp

- After a long duration and a lot of bureaucracy, we now have public lighting installed again on the North Gate (we secured the funding before the previous planning consent lapsed). Unlike the original large bulky sodium lanterns, the new lighting is now on a maintenance contract with Amey. Thank you to Vice Chair Lou for persisting and to the Neighbourhood Team for bringing a solution to the table, including helping us to fund the shortfall; costs had risen significantly as the original quote was from when we had the previous planning consent which then needed to be renewed.
- Our next goal has been to start discharging the planning conditions and focusing on plans to ensure the planning consent continues to be retained.



Funded from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund, we worked with the Council's Neighbourhood Team and Deansgate Councillors to get the North Gate lit. We are very pleased to literally show the Gardens in a better light

Collaborations and giving back

- We were thrilled at the first-ever community tour of the Science & Industry Museum; it was hugely entertaining and lovely to see some bits that are often off-limits. Here we met the inspiring David Rhodes who was one of the original protagonists at Manchester City Council for helping to ensure that the Castlefield we have today, ever happened. Thank you!
- We've continued our relations with the Science & Industry Museum (who now offer their facilities for our AGM), Factory International/Aviva Studios (who ran a Neighbours event which was well attended, as well as offering space for our November meeting), National Trust (who kindly host our summer meetings), Manchester City Council's Events Team and Castlefield Hotel/Y Club.

- We are very grateful for the various community clean-up events from staff at both Factory and the Museum and for the coordination by the Neighbourhood Team at the Council.

Organisational resilience

- We gained a new interim Secretary as B had to step down in that role but we welcomed Kirk Paul to the fold; thank you Kirk!
- Sadly we lost Russell as a Trustee; he has really put in the hours, on both tree strategy work and in helping to deliver and maintain our Plot up on Castlefield Viaduct. Russ, very best of luck in your new adventures!

Helping shape permanent plans for Castlefield Viaduct

Initially scheduled to run from summer 2022 until late summer 2023, the Pilot scheme has been extended until summer 2025. Over 95% of visitors to the pilot wanted to see the viaduct park become a permanent Manchester fixture and over **200,000** (!!!) people have now been up on the structure. All this on a piece of iconic Manchester heritage which saw no human access for nearly 55 years - and even dogs can now visit!

We are working very hard behind the scenes with the National Trust to make a permanent park a reality and are waiting on the planning consent outcome, which should be known in March 2025.

As part of the design and deliver process for the permanent masterplan and Phase 2 (which makes the Pilot permanent and provides a through route with accessible access at both ends):

- Phasing was agreed for the permanent scheme, so that the work can be delivered in smaller chunks.
- The National Trust decided to continue backing the project even though major funding had not yet landed by the end of 2024.
- A revised community role was agreed with National Trust, including a seat at table for Phase 2 design, a seat at the table for the project management workstream and continued presence on the Delivery Board.
- Calum (Chair) continues to have a place on the Delivery Board for Castlefield Viaduct and takes part in the monthly Board meetings to ensure that the local community voice and experience is heard.
- Jane attends the Design Team meetings to help stay on the pulse and offer a local lens on the design process for Phase 2 and is also a National Trust volunteer on the Viaduct.
- We are thrilled too that Castlefield Viaduct is now cited and included in the National Trust's new strategy, highlighting new ways they can add value without necessarily owning an asset.



Castlefield Viaduct: BDP's Jenny Ferguson & Darrell Wilson unveiling the masterplan at our 2024 AGM. Credit: C McGowan

Events strategy

- After many years of working at arms length with the Events team at the Council, there's now a draft Events Strategy agreed for events in Castlefield Bowl. As part of this the Forum was offered a £5,000 rebate for the Sounds of the City event from 2023 and this payment landed in 2024. As a volunteer-led charity, this creative way of receiving funding is appreciated.
- The New Year's Eve fireworks celebration was held for the first time in Castlefield Bowl (2023 into 2024). Lessons learned, including through feedback from the community, meant that the fireworks were moved elsewhere for the end of 2024. The Bowl was simply overwhelmed by the vast crowds so it was felt a bigger space was needed.

Financial update: please refer to our Treasurer's Report

You can find our full and independently-examined accounts further ahead in this document.

Funding awards

We continue to pursue the Manchester City Council Neighbourhood Investment Fund grants as and when the need arises; this year they have helped to fund our clean and green activity as well as the Liverpool Road Christmas lighting.

For the first time in 2024, and off the back of some careful negotiations, the Forum gratefully received £5,000 as a result of the Sounds of the City events. Under a draft Castlefield Events agreement, the Council's Events team felt that it would be sensible to make an annual donation as a thank you for the inconvenience that the gigs cause. Thanks to our Deansgate Ward Councillors who helped with this.

We also continue to receive ad hoc awards from Screen Manchester: we have an arrangement such that any filming in Castlefield which is deemed to cause an inconvenience (e.g. road closure, a place out of use) will result in a donation to the Forum. It is much appreciated that not only does Castlefield get to be on screen but that it helps us out too.

It is important to note that the majority of our funds are restricted as they are allocated against specific action group initiatives.

We submit independently examined accounts as part of our annual submission to the Charities Commission.

Biggest challenges ahead: short, medium and long term

Many of these carry over from and have evolved over the last 12 months.

Strategy

Just because we are volunteers and just because we are a small organisation doesn't mean we shouldn't have a robust long-term strategy. We wanted to get on with this in 2024, and then something rather good happened: the Council spun up the new Landowners Forum, where we have a seat at the table, to help various organisations and agencies to start working much more closely together.

Initially focused on the Deansgate ward part of Castlefield, we are hopeful that eventually boundaries will become blurred and **the whole neighbourhood can be treated as one**.

There is a visioning piece to happen in 2025, being driven by the Council and of which we will be a part.

We also hope (and expect) that this will be a genuine co-design process to make this vision and eventual reality.

People and a growing neighbourhood

Wider neighbourhood engagement remains a priority, notably with existing communities in Hulme and Ordsall plus residents from:

- Under construction and planned blocks in the south of Castlefield (Hulme Ward); and
- Under construction and or new towers in St John's (2 towers) and Trinity Islands (2 towers), plus others in the pipeline

All of these extra residents represent a new energy in and around Castlefield, as well as a new pressure on local resources, transport and facilities. It's great to see at New Jackson a new NHS medical centre and we were pleased to see in autumn 2024, a brand new primary school opened there too: Crown Street Primary.

The Castlefield Viaduct has helped to unlock vast amounts of local consultation and we continue to develop new local relations on the back of this.

Trustees

Bringing on board skills and experience to not only keep our organisation resilient but to help us flourish and help us deliver on longer-term grand plans, including the full viaduct scheme and realisation of our Spirit of Castlefield ambitions. With 10 Trustees, we are in reasonable shape - and will continue to build on the expertise and passion within. We have room for up to 15 Trustees; **if you think you have a skill that we need, please get in touch. We would be happy to have an informal conversation.**

Castlefield Viaduct

After Factory International/Aviva Studios, the permanent Viaduct scheme will represent the biggest-ever single investment in Castlefield for a public project and the biggest-ever public realm project in our neighbourhood. We can't wait but we also know that challenges remain with regards to funding for Phase 2 (which makes it a permanent garden), and that we need to be realistic that this is a long-haul project. The masterplanning design process was completed in 2024 and Phase 2 is now in the planning system, awaiting a determination.

Increased traffic and footfall

With Aviva Studios completed and in full use, Water Street permanently closed to traffic, the St John's neighbourhood nearing completion and Castlefield Viaduct literally on the horizon, we expect there will be more people than ever living, visiting or working in Castlefield.

This will present challenges around parking, idling vehicles, coaches, pollution and of course the inevitable outflow of thousands of people from each and every Factory International event at Aviva Studios. Aside from the annual flurry of 'Sounds of the City' gigs, we have never had to deal with sustained large volumes of people. We will monitor all this carefully as new buildings and spaces come on stream, grow our relationship with Factory International and lean on help from the Council if any interventions are required. With another full year of Factory operations completed, we regard the egress of large volumes of people not to have presented any real issues.

Graffiti and litter...

...which continues as last year to blight Castlefield and is now at the worst it has ever been. **We don't feel enough action is being taken by key stakeholders to address this and the situation continues to get worse and worse.**

We continue to be disappointed by levels of cleanliness around the Ellesmere Street area – this is a target for improvement for 2024 and in late 2024 we saw a flurry of new activity so are hopeful that we can replicate some of our Clean and Green magic in 2025.

The following is copied almost entirely from our 2023 report because sadly very little has improved: We have seen very limited clean-up on a few heritage assets but at the moment the graffiti artists are very much winning. ***How might we address this? How might we turn a problem into an opportunity?*** We have started discussions around a more formal public arts programme but the time diverted to the Viaduct scuppered any chance to address this. The city centre has had some great successes with turning blank and unloved surfaces into public art; save for not having enough time to make it happen, there is no reason we cannot eventually replicate the best bits of this in Castlefield. The brighter news is that in 2025 we plan to bring this conversation to the Landowners Forum.

Funding and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

CSR is both a challenge and an opportunity in that 24 months ago we were literally turning help away. We are continuing to use our improved sign-up process, having more people power and elements of self-serve to help run events.

The Forum has grand ambitions for Castlefield (including but not limited to the Viaduct) and as a small community organisation with a set of volunteer Trustees, trying to acquire the right levels of help and / or funding, and to coordinate our ambitions and deliver against them is difficult. We are hoping to try and use the Roman Gardens project to try and break this cycle. As with all things Castlefield, if you think you can help or have connections who might, do please get in touch.

Climate Emergency

It goes without saying that climate change brings an incredible set of challenges to the planet and right down to a local level we need a much clearer plan of how we can all act differently to help drive real change. The Forum is only at the beginning of this journey and we would readily welcome any extra support. We are sorry to report that we have made very little direct progress on this initiative in 2024 but are hopeful that the Viaduct once fully open will encourage more people than ever to use active travel as a means to reducing vehicle use. One small step and all that.

We are hopeful as well that the seemingly never-ending roadworks and remodelling of Deansgate might finally also offer more hope in promoting active travel and a reduction in pollution.

Looking ahead and closing remarks

If you read our report a year ago, this might sound like Groundhog Day but we start 2025 with some very big tasks, challenges and opportunities ahead. A Viaduct Phase 2 to get planning consent for. A strategy for more trees to pick up again. Continue the strengthened relationship with Greater Manchester Police. Plans for our biggest and best Veg Patch ever. Roman Gardens planning consent to keep alive and nudge along plans for the East-West path. More grot spots sorted. Growing our Clean & Green presence on the south side. Building our longer-term vision and strategy for Castlefield. Keeping an eye on development plans for the redundant arches on Bridgewater Street and the development sites in the southern portion of our neighbourhood. More awards to shoot for...

Please continue to support us and don't hesitate to get stuck in if improving your neighbourhood means something to you.

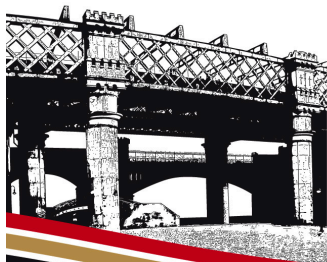
Finally, a reminder that the Forum exists by you, for you. **A huge thank you to all of our Trustees** and supporters who helped to keep the Forum diverse, alive and thriving. And if you feel like you might want to get involved yourself, we might have said once or twice, please get in touch.

Thank you,

Calum McGowan

Chair - Castlefield Forum on behalf of Castlefield Forum Board of Trustees

info@ourcastlefield.co.uk



CASTLEFIELD

Preserving, Improving, Living –
in the heart of our city



Appendices

Castlefield Forum Accounts - Final - Verified

CASTLEFIELD FORUM

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/04/2024

Treasurer's Report

I have prepared the accounts for Castlefield Forum for the year ending 30th April 2024.

These accounts comprise an Income & Expenditure overview and a Balance Sheet to provide visibility on general and restricted funds held.

All payments made have been verified by invoice copies.

As Treasurer, I confirm these accounts represent a true and fair view of Income & Expenditure for the period.

The accounts will now be reviewed by an independent examiner.



Giles Grover

23rd February 2025

Income Expenditure

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2024</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
<u>Income & Expenditure</u>			
<u>Income</u>			
Donations - Individuals & Organisations	5,533		5,533
Donations - Castlefield Filming	1,000		1,000
MCC - Roman Gardens		0	0
MCC - Castlefield Viaduct		165	165
Clean & Green - NIF		658	658
Slate Wharf - NIF		3,744	3,744
Total income	6,533	4,567	11,100
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Roman Gardens		0	0
Castlefield Viaduct		165	165
Clean & Green		260	260
Slate Wharf		3,744	3,744
Forum Admin Expenses	91		91
Zoom Subscription	156		156
Public Liability Insurance	367		367
Training Course	150		
Total Expenditure	763	4,170	4,783
Surplus/(deficit)	5,770	398	6,317

Statement of financial position

Y/E: 30/04/2024	<u>2023/24</u> General Funds	<u>2023/24</u> Restricted Funds	<u>2023/24</u> Total	<u>2022/23</u> General Funds	<u>2022/23</u> Restricted Funds	<u>2022/23</u> Total
Statement of financial position						
Assets						
Bank	11,473	27,202	38,675	5,703	26,805	32,508
Petty cash	20	0	20	20	0	20
Total	11,493	27,202	38,695	5,723	26,805	32,528
Liabilities						
Charity General funds (repayable)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted funds (repayable)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets less liabilities	11,493	27,202	38,695	5,723	26,805	32,528
Reserves						
B/f:	5,723	26,805	32,528	6,179	35,328	41,507
Movement in reserves (surplus/(deficit))	5,770	398	6,167	-456	-8,523	-8,979
Reserves c/f:	11,493	27,203	38,695	5,723	26,805	32,528

Reserves

Y/E: 30/04/2024

Changes in reserves

<u>Movement in General funds</u>	<u>2022/23 Op bal</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2023/24 Cl bal</u>
General reserves	5,723		5,723
Surplus/deficit Current year		5,770	5,770
Total General funds	5,723	5,770	11,493

<u>Movement in Restricted funds</u>	<u>2022/23 Op bal</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2023/24 Cl bal</u>
Roman Gardens	26,005	0	26,005
Castlefield Viaduct	50	0	50
Clean & Green	750	398	1,148
Slate Wharf - Held in Trust	0	0	0
Total Restricted funds*	26,805	398	27,203

Total Reserves	32,528	6,168	38,696
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*Restricted Funds reflect where Neighbourhood Investment Funding grants have been received for a specific project and the closing balance at year end is £27,203.

This funding is monitored and evaluated by Manchester City Council and, in certain circumstances, may be subject to repayment.

Banking - Detailed Analysis

		Roman Gardens	Castlefield Viaduct	Clean & Green NIF	Slate Wharf NIF	Filming Donation	Donations - Individual & Organisations	Forum Admin Expenses		General Funds	Restricted Funds	Non-Forum Funds Held in Trust	Closing Balance at 30/04/24
B/f	Details									5,723.38	26,054.59	750.00	32,527.97
	Opening balance 01/05/2023												
04/05/2023	MCC - C&G NIF for Grounds of the City			157.50									157.50
19/05/2023	Amazon						32.86			32.86			
08/06/2023	Clean & Green - Equipment			-80.00									-80.00
26/06/2023	Gary - Sow the City Course							-150.00		-150.00			
20/07/2023	Russell - Refund Viaduct Plants		-165.44								-165.44		
09/08/2023	NIF - Viaduct Plants		165.44								165.44		
04/09/2023	Slate Wharf Graffiti Removal - NIF				3,744.07								3,744.07
07/09/2023	MCDA NO.2 Filming					500.00				500.00			
13/10/2023	Slate Wharf Graffiti Removal				-3,744.07								-3,744.07
01/11/2023	RBIG - P/L							-366.91		-366.91			
22/01/2024	B Hunter - Refund Trustee Zoom payment							-155.88		-155.88			
11/03/2024	MCC - C&G NIF - 5643067			500.00								500.00	
15/03/2024	National Trust Grant						500.00			500.00			
15/03/2024	MCDA NO.2 Filming					500.00				500.00			
22/03/2024	L Pullan - Refund Trustee Meeting Microphones							-40.16		-40.16			
22/03/2024	B Hunter - Refund Trustee Viaduct Domain Renewal							-50.36		-50.36			
09/04/2024	Clean & Green - Equipment			-180.00									-180.00
11/04/2024	MCC - Grant - Castlefield bowl events						5,000.00			5,000.00			
	Closing balance 30/04/2024	£0.00	£0.00	£397.50	£0.00	£1,000.00	£5,532.86	-£763.31		£11,492.93	£26,054.59	£1,147.50	£38,695.02 (inc. petty cash)

Petty Cash

	£
Petty Cash Balance as at 30/04/2023	20.17
Expenditure	-*
Petty Cash Balance as at 30/04/2024	<u><u>£20.17</u></u>

Email from our auditor

Sent: 24 February 2025 07:52

To: Giles Grover

Subject: Forum annual accounts

Hi Giles,

Thanks for the supporting information.

I report to the trust my examination of the accounts of Castlefield Forum (the Charity) for the period ended 30 April 2024.

I have completed an examination of the provided set of accounts and supporting documentation. 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 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations

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.

Regards,

Dan Coles FCCA

About Castlefield Forum

Castlefield Forum is a voluntary community group established in 2009 with the key aim of making Castlefield a better place for local residents, businesses, workers and visitors. Part of the Forum's original remit was set up to contribute to and influence Castlefield as a locality, whilst conserving and enhancing its heritage assets.

We are a multi-award winning neighbourhood organisation having been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service as well as over a dozen awards from the RHS, including 7 years in a row of 'Level 5 - Outstanding' for our clean & green efforts. In October we won 5 awards on the same day, including a joint Royal Horticultural Society *Pride of Manchester Award*.

We became a [Charitable Incorporated Organisation](#) in 2019 and have always worked to bring people together for the long-term benefit of Castlefield.

Our objectives are:

- To protect and promote the Castlefield Conservation Area
- To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features or areas of historic or public interest
- To promote the conservation of the environment
- To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of the area
- To promote high standards of planning and architecture
- To promote urban regeneration

As part of our reach we also look to build a stronger local community and voice, and provide several ways for people to get involved. The Forum consists of a board of 10 Volunteer Trustees (including residents and 3 business owners) and Action Groups - run by our Trustees - which work to meet these objectives, including:

- **Clean & Green Castlefield**, who have delivered over 3,500 volunteer hours over the last 4 years, as well as developing our Castlefield tree strategy [*which is paused until we find a new lead*]
- **Roman Gardens**, who are now working to discharge planning conditions so that we can protect the planning consent for the upgrade of the Roman Gardens
- **Castlefield Viaduct**, working as lead community partner alongside the National Trust and BDP to help deliver the long-term masterplan
- **Castlefield Landowners Forum**, which is run by the Council and where we have a voice at the table with some of the bigger players in Castlefield

The Forum meets publicly three times a year and meetings and action groups are open to all. Our elected Trustees typically meet twice a quarter, setting goals across a 4-month period and feeding back on progress and challenges to the wider Forum.

Membership is open to anyone who lives, works or has an interest in Castlefield. It's a great way to meet others in the community, to have a say in what happens and to give something back to this amazing place. Join us!

Our organisation

Organisational overview for the period ending 4 March 2025.

Trustees who served during the year:

1. Calum McGowan (Chair)

2. Lou Pullan (Vice-Chair)
3. Giles Grover (Treasurer)
4. B Hunter (became Secretary in Q3 2023 but stepped back from the role in summer 2024)
5. Gary Rumens
6. Ian Hay
7. Ian McIlveen
8. Jane Black
9. Line Hilton
10. Nena Adrienne
11. Russell Eckersley, who stepped down in late 2024. Thank you Russell for all your hard work and for being chief protagonist for our Forum plot on the Castlefield Viaduct & street tree policy

Non-Trustee help

1. Kirk Paul stepped in to temporarily cover our Secretary role and has been a great help, thank you

Action Groups

Clean & Green Castlefield

- To work in conjunction with Manchester City Council (MCC) and other local partners to keep the area attractive, green and tidy
- Expanding the group's remit to maintain and develop green spaces, including community growing space
- To work in liaison with MCC and local partners to present a credible entry to the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' section of North West in Bloom, aiming for a Level 5 'Outstanding' award each year

Roman Gardens

- Delivering against our original masterplan to realise exciting, inspiring urban retreat in Manchester city centre

Spirit of Castlefield

- Building on our work with the National Trust to understand the spirit of Castlefield, including its value to the city of Manchester and beyond, its heritage, people, buildings, open spaces, structures, waterways and stories.
- Supporting the National Trust's consultation, fundraising and delivery of the viaduct pilot and development of the full scheme
- Deliver & maintain the Castlefield community plot on the viaduct (opened July 2022)

Events, Marketing, Media & Signage (still paused until we backfill a role)

- To raise the profile of Castlefield within the city, to develop our own events and contribute to events organised by others [note that we are now able to nudge this along with our presence at the Landowners Forum which began life in March 2024 and meets 3 times a year]
- To increase financial self-reliance for the Forum by developing Castlefield's marketing potential, including improving our website
- To extend our programme of replacing damaged and out-of-date signage by producing new interpretative signs for new locations throughout the area

Social Media

Join us as a member by contacting - info@ourcastlefield.co.uk (opt out at any time) or visit our socials:

Forum Facebook Group [Castlefield Forum | Facebook](#)
Instagram [Castlefield Forum \(@castlefieldforum\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)
On X [Castlefield Forum \(@OurCastlefield\) / X](#)

Clean & Green Group [Clean & Green Castlefield | Facebook](#)
On X [Clean & Green Castlefield \(@CGCastlefield\) / X](#)

Administration

Address: 73 Liverpool Road, Manchester, M3 4AQ

Independent Examiner: Dan Coles FCCA

Bank: Co-operative Bank, Manchester

--- Ends ---

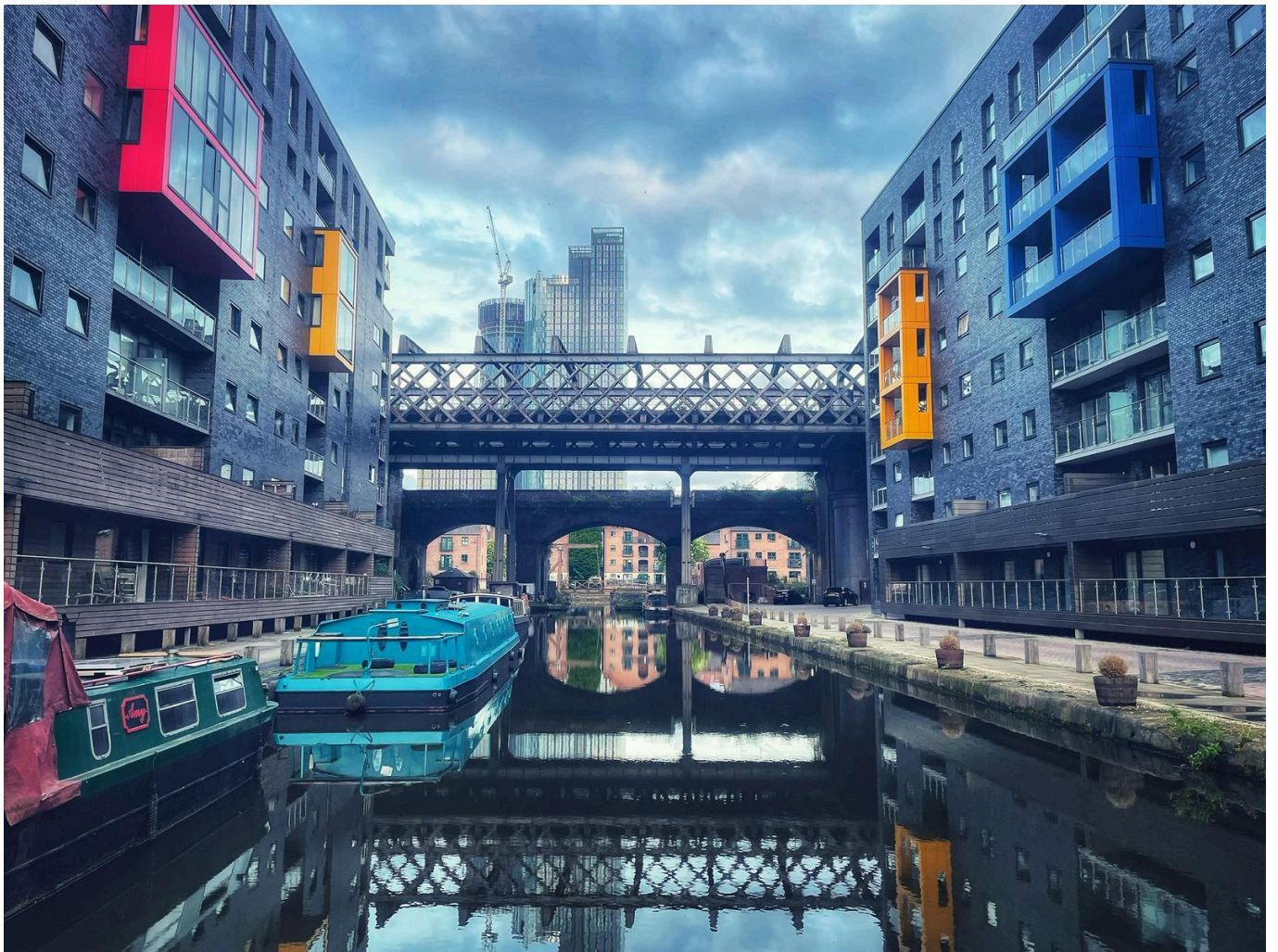
CASTLEFIELD FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1182897

Accounts

Castlefield Forum

2023: A Year in Review



The basin at Potato Wharf with the New Jackson neighbourhood on the horizon. Credit: B Hunter



Executive Summary

Welcome to our latest annual report where we are reflecting back on some wonderful activity that's happened across 2023; it's been an amazing year.

If you've been involved, a huge thank you for helping to make our neighbourhood a better place and if you have yet to get involved or know someone who would like to, do please get in touch.

2023 focus: how did we do?

A year ago we told you that the following were our 2023 priorities. Here's how we did:

- **The year of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** we launched a new process to make it easier for businesses to self-serve when volunteering with us and therefore reducing Trustee input - allowing us to spend that time elsewhere.
- **Update and share our longer-term vision and strategy for Castlefield:** this is one where we have not spent enough time, but we have developed our first-ever public tree strategy, a 'Veg Plot 2.0' plan, and we've been an active player in the master planning for the Castlefield Viaduct project which has taken up large chunks of our time in 2023.
- **Street tree policy put into action:** the first four trees are now in the ground and plans afoot for a fifth. We won't stop there: we have grand plans...
- **Continue to build on and cement strategic partnerships with other organisations with whom we work:** relations are stronger than ever with the Science and Industry Museum, our 6 ward councillors (Deansgate and Hulme), the Manchester City Council Neighbourhood Delivery Team, National Trust, Y Club/Castlefield Hotel and the Veg Box People.
- **Work closely with National Trust on developing viaduct scheme for the full (permanent) project:** We have been fully involved and as lead community partner we continue to have a seat on the Viaduct Delivery Board
- **Fill our currency vacancies including Environmental Coordinator:** we strengthened our Trustee headcount in the clean and green sphere, and with stronger than ever relations with the Neighbourhood Team at the Council have decided not to fill this vacancy for now.
- **Roman Gardens improvement project:** after a very lengthy journey we have re-established planning consent for the Roman Gardens, and to accelerate the public lighting element on the North Gate we negotiated that as an exclusion from the project so that we can get going faster.

How we operate

As Trustees, we hold ourselves accountable so further ahead you will find more detail in terms of impact we have made this year as well as a narrative around some of the challenges we have had. It's worth mentioning that the majority of our volunteer Trustees also have day jobs, and those who are retired or not working also have a myriad of other commitments, so sometimes things do not move quite as fast as we plan. We are also heavily reliant on third parties to deliver some of our aspirations, plus we like to set ourselves ambitious but realistic goals.

The Trustees run our action groups which help to address our four key themes around **Cleaner, Green, Safer** and **Better**. Our Trustee activity is planned in a quarterly cadence using quarterly objectives. Find

out more about our action groups in the Appendix.

We continue to break down our objectives into clear quarterly goals. Each objective has measures under it, graded from:

Good (the bare minimum we would like to achieve) to

Great (even better) to

Incredible (bit of a long shot sometimes!)

At our public meetings we typically present our objectives plus results from the previous quarter. If you would like to get involved with any of our activities, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you (contact details are in the Appendix below).

Trustee update

The Forum is run by you, for you. Without the Trustees the Forum would not exist. None of us are paid for our roles, some work full or part time, none of us bring egos and we all strive for a better neighbourhood, so a huge thank you to all of them for all of their hard work. The pandemic has taught us that one does not need to be physically in Castlefield to have a positive impact on Castlefield. We've learned as a group that you can achieve plenty via electronic means.

In the last period, our former Chair Carol Rawsthorne (nee Middleton) stepped down after many, many years of selfless dedication to Castlefield and we wish her well in her new venture. After a long time in post as our second-ever Secretary, James Bowers stepped down to pursue his new career and again, we wish him well.

All is not lost, however, as B Hunter who originally joined us when we combined forces with Britannia Basin Community Forum has stepped up to become our third secretary and Jane Black has joined us as a new Trustee. Jane first came across our work when she took part in one of the original Castlefield Viaduct online consultations. Jane brings a wealth of experience as a former ward councillor.

In review: by theme

A cleaner and greener Castlefield

Clean and green activity

- We've delivered more than **800 volunteer hours** through our extraordinary Clean & Green Castlefield team. Huge shout out to Gary, Nena and Line who help lead this group
- A major collaboration with Friends of Sackville Gardens, called Grounds of The City, resulted in two cross-community collaborations and an award nomination with Volunteer Manchester
- We entered the RHS in 'It's Your Neighbourhood in Bloom' for Castlefield itself, and the viaduct in its entirety and were awarded **two** RHS Level 5 Outstanding Awards for our work in the neighbourhood and for the Castlefield Viaduct project. That's 6 years in a row of the top-level award for the neighbourhood
- Granary Gardens initial site clearance of detritus and debris completed
- An extra Trustee brought in to help run Clean & Green events
- Ellesmere Street bulb planting for some spring cheer
- We were on Radio Manchester in March '23 to talk about nitrous oxide canisters, the blight they cause and which have since been banned by the Government
- Sadly, we lost our environmental coordinator, and have since decided not to backfill the role

For 2023 versus 2022:

- An incredible 832 volunteer clean and green hours - remained stable which is good now that the pandemic is over and relatively 'normal life' ensues (was 812 hours)
- 61 events held, including 8 CSR events (was 53 in total)
- 219 Bags of litter collected (was 383; has declined as the group further focuses on gardening)

Clean and green strategic growth

- A pilot process in place to help bring on board more CSR opportunities and make sure we don't turn corporate help away
- A recovery and maintenance plan developed for the Granary Gardens
- The organic veg box scheme - in partnership with Veg Box People & Castlefield Hotel - is now one year old and is now no longer a trial
- The 'vegetable patch' in its second full year had a record year of production
- Our group has drafted and started putting into practice plans for 'Vegetable Garden 2.0', a major overhaul and upgrade. Tremendously exciting, because this was a originally just a piece of unadopted Castlefield sadness

Tree strategy in written and in use

- Using work by City of Trees as a basis, Russell produced our first-ever Castlefield tree strategy and we will be working alongside Manchester City Council and City of Trees in 2024 to help make Castlefield greener than ever
- We received four trees on the Blantyre Street triangle, which was a success in collaboration with City of Trees, the City Council arborists, our Deansgate Ward Councillors and nearby residents
- We've also been able to influence a conversation to replace about a dozen dead or missing Rowan trees on Slate Wharf and hope to see these planted in 2024

A safer Castlefield

Safer

- After a very slow start across much of 2023, where due to multiple personnel changes we lacked a strong relationship with Greater Manchester Police, things took a massive turn for the better towards the end of the year; we reignited relations with the Police with a city centre officer attending our final public meeting of 2023
- A 'Coffee With Cops' event took place in January 2024, our first-ever in the Hulme ward of Castlefield. Thanks to the Banyan Tree for hosting

A better, thriving Castlefield

Building our community spirit

- Thanks to Graham Hampton who was our comms lead, we've now got our first-ever comms strategy, though as Graham has moved to pastures new we need to bring on board a new comms lead
- We've trialled our first printed Castlefield calendar - to help showcase local photography talent and to check appetite for this as a future fundraising stream

Lighting

- We once again managed to get the Christmas lights up on Liverpool Road. This was funded via Manchester City Council's Neighbourhood Investment Fund

Roman Gardens revamp

- New project leadership established with Lou Pullan taking the lead and getting the planning application funded, submitted and planning consent approved - well done!
- We've restarted conversations with Amey to get the public lighting installed on the North Gate (we won that funding before the previous planning consent lapsed)
- Due to the major delays caused by us losing planning consent and because Laing O'Rourke have now gone off site from building Factory International/Aviva studios we sadly lost our offer of help to build the East-West pathway in the gardens. This is a major setback and means re-thinking our delivery plans

Collaborations and giving back

- We've strengthened relations with the Science & Industry Museum, Factory International/Aviva Studios, National Trust, Manchester City Council's Events Team and Castlefield Hotel/Y Club
- We completed a successful second collaboration with the Manchester School Of Architecture's MA students with another 2-week design collaboration
- We launched our first-ever Christmas charity collection for Bridging The Gap - you can still donate at Local Giving

Organisational resilience

- We gained a new Secretary after a six-month hiatus – thank you to B for stepping up
- We also on boarded Jane Black as our newest trustee
- Housekeeping including an updated data protection policy
- We centralised all of our key documentation

Helping shape permanent plans for Castlefield Viaduct

Initially scheduled to run from summer 2022 until late summer 2023, the pilot scheme has already been extended until September 2024. Over 95% of visitors to the pilot want to see the viaduct park become a permanent Manchester fixture and over 100,000 people have now been up on the structure. We are working very hard behind the scenes with the National Trust to make a permanent sky park a reality.

- As part of the design process for the permanent masterplan:
 - We continue to have a place on the Delivery Board for Castlefield Viaduct to ensure that the local community voice and experience is heard
 - We took part in the design team selection process, from the long list of 10 down to 3 and then down to selecting BDP's co-design bid as the selected design team. We ensured that a level playing field was present by having a very clear scoring matrix for the selection process
 - We've been part of the Community Engagement worksteam, which is part of the viaduct master plan consultation
 - Through the autumn and winter, the entire consultation process was completed for the viaduct with well over 300 people consulted. Huge thanks to BDP, Smiling Wolf, Deco Publique and National Trust for their extraordinary hard work



Castlefield Viaduct: our community plot. Credit: B Hunter

Upper and Lower Campfield

- Renovations have started at Upper and Lower Campfield Markets and we're pleased that their long-term use has been secured

Events strategy

- After many years of working at arms length with the Events team at the Council, there's now a working Events Strategy agreed for events in Castlefield Bowl. As part of this the Forum has been promised a £5,000 rebate for the Sounds of the City event from 2023 (payment due to land Q1 2024)
- The New Years Eve fireworks celebration was held for the first time in Castlefield Bowl (2023 into 2024). It's great to see this public space in use, building on the Events Strategy we helped to shape. Lessons learned however after crowds far exceeded expectations so we are yet to understand aspirations for the end of 2024

Financial update: year ending 30/04/2023

You can find our full and audited accounts in the Appendices.

Funding awards

We continue to pursue the Manchester City Council Neighbourhood Investment Fund grants as and when the need arises; this year they have helped to fund our clean and green activity as well as the planning application for the Roman Gardens and the Liverpool Road Christmas lighting.

Notable awards of other funding included £1000 from Screen Manchester: we have an arrangement such that any filming in Castlefield which is deemed to cause an inconvenience (e.g. road closure, a place out of use) will result in a donation to our coffers.

It is important to note that the vast majority of our funds are restricted as they are allocated against specific action group initiatives.

2023 financial position as at 30/04/2023

Our financial position is **£32,528.00**, broken down as follows

Uncommitted

General funds	£5,723.00
---------------	-----------

Restricted Funds

Roman Gardens	£26,005.00
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Castlefield Viaduct	£50.00
---------------------	--------

MCC Clean & Green	£750
-------------------	------

Total	£32,528
--------------	----------------

We submit audited accounts as part of our annual submission to the Charities Commission; Dan Coles is our auditor.

Biggest challenges ahead: short, medium and long term

Many of these carry over from and have evolved over the last 12 months.

Strategy

Just because we are volunteers and just because we are a small organisation doesn't mean we shouldn't have a robust long-term strategy. We've tried before, pre-pandemic, and it's time to make 2024 the year when we firm up where we want to take Castlefield next - and do that together with key partners and landowners. We are now exploring with MCC's Neighbourhood Team how we might utilise co-design to make this a reality.

Factory International & Aviva Studios

We are thrilled that Factory International have moved into their new permanent home (and if you've yet to have a peek inside, do please pop in). We are tremendously excited about the impact that the organisation and the building will have not just locally but on the Greater Manchester & national arts scene.

Located inside the Castlefield Conservation Area, we have good lines of communication with the team at Aviva Studios and are looking forward to many years working together. Now that the building has settled in and is getting going 'at scale' we have not yet seen any notable impacts with regards to access, egress, noise and parking thought this could change at any time as different types of event are held and as the built environment, access and site permeability evolves across the St John's neighbourhood.

People & a growing neighbourhood

Wider neighbourhood engagement remains a priority, notably with existing communities in Hulme and Ordsall plus residents from:

- Under construction and planned blocks in the Britannia Basin area of Castlefield; and
- Under construction and proposed towers in St John's (2 towers), Trinity Islands (2 towers) and Great Jackson Street/New Jackson (2 towers) - and many more in the pipeline

All of these extra residents represent a new energy in and around Castlefield, as well as a new pressure on local resources, transport and facilities. It's great to see at New Jackson a new NHS medical centre and opening in autumn 2024, a brand new primary school.

The Castlefield Viaduct has helped to unlock vast amounts of local consultation and we expect to develop new local relations on the back of this.

Trustees

Bringing on board skills and experience to not only keep our organisation resilient but to help us flourish and help us deliver on longer-term grand plans, including the full viaduct scheme and realisation of our Spirit of Castlefield ambitions. With 11 Trustees, we are in good shape - and need to build on the expertise and passion within; we have room for up to 15 Trustees. If you think you have a skill that we need, please get in touch.

Castlefield Viaduct

After Aviva Studios, the permanent viaduct scheme will represent the biggest-ever single investment in Castlefield for a public project and the biggest-ever public realm project in our neighbourhood. We can't wait but we also know that huge challenges remain with regards to funding, and that we need to be realistic that this is a long-haul project. The master planning design process is nearly complete to first draft stage; it is expected that the masterplan will be ready to submit to Planning in August 2024. There is a first look at the design process at our March 2024 AGM.

Increased traffic and footfall

With Aviva Studios completed and in full use, Water Street permanently closed to traffic, the St John's neighbourhood nearing completion and Castlefield Viaduct literally on the horizon, we expect there will be more people living, visiting or working in Castlefield than ever.

This will present challenges around parking, idling vehicles, pollution and of course the inevitable outflow of thousands of people from each and every Factory event. Aside from the annual flurry of 'Sounds of the City' gigs, we have never had to deal with sustained large volumes of people. We will monitor things carefully as new buildings and spaces come on stream, grow our relationship with Factory International and lean on help from the Council if any interventions are required.

Graffiti and litter...

...which continues as last year to blight Castlefield. We don't feel enough action is being taken by key stakeholders to address this, but we have seen green shoots of hope in early 2024.

We continue to be disappointed by levels of cleanliness around the Ellesmere Street area – this is a target for improvement for 2024.

We have seen very limited clean-up on a few heritage assets but at the moment the graffiti artists are very much winning. How might we address this? How might we turn a problem into an opportunity? We have started discussions around a more formal public arts programme but the time diverted to the Viaduct scuppered any chance to address this. The city centre has had some great successes with turning blank and unloved surfaces into public art; save for not having enough time to make it happen, there is no reason we cannot eventually replicate the best bits of this in Castlefield.

Looking ahead and closing remarks

We start 2024 with some very big tasks, challenges and opportunities ahead. A viaduct masterplan to get planning consent for. A strategy for more trees. Strengthening the new relationship with Greater Manchester Police. Plans for our biggest and best Veg Patch ever. Roman Gardens North Gate to get lit at night. More grot spots sorted. Building our longer-term strategy for Castlefield. Keeping an eye on development plans for the redundant arches on Bridgewater Street and the development sites in the southern portion of our neighbourhood. More awards to shoot for.

Please continue to support us and don't hesitate to get stuck in if improving your neighbourhood means something to you.

Finally, a reminder that the Forum exists by you, for you. **A huge thank you to all of our Trustees** and supporters who helped to keep the Forum diverse, alive and thriving. And if you feel like you might want to get involved yourself, just get in touch.

Calum McGowan

Chair - Castlefield Forum on behalf of Castlefield Forum Board of Trustees

info@ourcastlefield.co.uk



CASTLEFIELD

Preserving, Improving, Living –
in the heart of our city



Appendices

About Castlefield Forum

Castlefield Forum is a voluntary community group established in 2009 with the key aim of making Castlefield a better place for local residents, businesses, workers and visitors. Part of the Forum's original remit was set up to contribute to and influence Castlefield as a locality, whilst conserving and enhancing its heritage assets.

We are a multi-award winning neighbourhood organisation having been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service as well as over a dozen awards from the RHS, including 6 years in a row of 'Level 5 - Outstanding' for our clean & green efforts.

We became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2019 and have always worked to bring people together for the long-term benefit of Castlefield.

Our objectives are:

- To protect and promote the Castlefield Conservation Area
- To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features or areas of historic or public interest
- To promote the conservation of the environment
- To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of the area
- To promote high standards of planning and architecture
- To promote urban regeneration

As part of our reach we also look to build a stronger local community and voice, and provide several ways for people to get involved. The Forum consists of a board of 11 Volunteer Trustees (including residents and 3 business owners) and action groups - run by our Trustees - which work to meet these objectives, including:

- **Clean & Green Castlefield**, who have delivered nearly 2,700 volunteer hours over the last 3 years as well as developing our Castlefield tree strategy
- **Roman Gardens**, who recently re-secured planning consent for the upgrade of the Roman Gardens
- **Castlefield Viaduct & Spirit of Castlefield**: working as lead community partner alongside the National Trust and BDP to help deliver the long-term masterplan

The Forum meets publicly three times a year and meetings and action groups are open to all. Our elected Trustees typically meet twice a quarter, setting goals across a 4-month period and feed backing back on progress and challenges to the wider Forum.

Membership is open to anyone who lives, works or has an interest in Castlefield. It's a great way to meet others in the community, to have a say in what happens and to give something back to this amazing place. Join us!

Our organisation

Organisational overview for the period ending 4 March 2024.

Trustees who served during the year:

1. Calum McGowan (Chair)
2. Lou Pullan (Vice-Chair)
3. Giles Grover (Treasurer)
4. James Bowers (Secretary) - Stepped down in 2023
5. B Hunter (became Secretary in Q3 2023)
6. Carol Rawsthorne (Stepped down in Jan 2023)
7. Gary Rumens
8. Ian Hay
9. Ian McIlveen
10. Jane Black (joined us in 2023)
11. Line Hilton
12. Nena Adrienne
13. Russell Eckersley

Action Groups

Clean & Green Castlefield

- To work in conjunction with Manchester City Council (MCC) and other local partners to keep the area attractive, green and tidy
- Expanding the group's remit to maintain and develop green spaces, including community growing space
- Delivering an exciting new strategy which takes us to the end of 2024 and beyond
- To work in liaison with MCC and local partners to present a credible entry to the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' section of North West in Bloom, aiming for a Level 5 'Outstanding' award each year

Roman Gardens

- Delivering against our original masterplan to realise exciting, inspiring urban retreat in Manchester city centre

Spirit of Castlefield & Castlefield Viaduct

- Building on our work with the National Trust to understand the spirit of Castlefield, including its value to the city of Manchester and beyond, its heritage, people, buildings, open spaces, structures, waterways and stories.
- Supporting the National Trust's consultation, fundraising and delivery of the viaduct pilot and development of the full scheme
- Deliver & maintain the Castlefield community plot on the viaduct (opened July 2022)

Events, Marketing, Media & Signage (currently paused until we backfill a role)

- To raise the profile of Castlefield within the city, to develop our own events and contribute to events organised by others
- To increase financial self-reliance for the Forum by developing Castlefield's marketing potential, including improving our website
- To extend our programme of replacing damaged and out-of-date signage by producing new interpretative signs for new locations throughout the area

Social Media

Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ourcastlefield/>
 Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/castlefieldforum/?hl=en>
 On X - <https://twitter.com/ourcastlefield>

Facebook Clean and Green Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cleangreencastlefield>
On X - <https://twitter.com/CGCastlefield>
Join us as a member by contacting - info@ourcastlefield.co.uk (opt out at any time)

Administration

Address: 73 Liverpool Road, Manchester, M3 4AQ

Auditor: Dan Coles FCCA

Bankers: Co-operative Bank, Manchester

Castlefield Forum Accounts YE 30042023 - Final -
Verified

CASTLEFIELD FORUM

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/04/2023

Treasurer's Report

I have prepared the accounts for Castlefield Forum for the year ending 30th April 2023.

These accounts comprise an Income & Expenditure overview and a Balance Sheet to provide visibility on general and restricted funds held.

All payments made have been verified by invoice copies.

No audit has yet been carried out on these accounts but, in my opinion as Treasurer, they represent a true and fair view of Income & Expenditure for the period.

These accounts will now be reviewed by an independent examiner.



Giles Grover

25th January 2024

Income Expenditure

Y/E: 30/04/2023	<u>General</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
	£	£	£
<u>Income & Expenditure</u>			
<u>Income</u>			
Donations - Individuals & Organisations	866		866
Donations - Castlefield Filming	1,000		1,000
MCC - Roman Gardens		2,060	2,060
MCC - Castlefield Viaduct		561	561
Clean & Green - NIF		300	300
Manchester Cladiators - NIF		500	500
Forum Contribution to Viaduct Project		954	954
Total income	1,866	4,375	6,241
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Roman Gardens		2,060	2,060
Castlefield Viaduct		9,458	9,458
Clean & Green		350	350
Manchester Cladiators		1,030	1,030
Forum Admin Expenses - Quarterly Meetings & Website	857		857
Zoom Subscription	144		144
Public Liability Insurance	367		367
Forum Contribution to Viaduct Project	954		954
Total Expenditure	2,322	12,898	15,220
Surplus/(deficit)	-456	-8,523	-8,979

Statement of financial position

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2023</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Statement of financial position

Assets

Bank	5,703	26,805	32,508
Petty cash	20	0	20
Total	5,723	26,805	32,528

Liabilities

Charity General funds (repayable)	0	0	0
Restricted funds (repayable)	0	0	0
	0	0	0

Total assets less liabilities	5,723	26,805	32,528
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Reserves

B/f:	6,179	35,328	41,507
Movement in reserves (surplus/(deficit))	-456	-8,523	-8,979
Reserves c/f:	5,723	26,805	32,528

Reserves

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2023</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Changes in reserves</u>			
<u>Movement in General funds</u>			
C/f 2022 (2021)	6,179		
Surplus/deficit Current year	-456		
Total General funds	5,723		5,723
<u>Movement in Restricted funds</u>			
	2022	Current Year	Total
Roman Gardens	26,005	0	26,005
Castlefield Viaduct	7,993	-7,943	50
MCC Clean & Green - Held in Trust	800	-50	750
Manchester Cladiators - Held in Trust	530	-530	0
Total Restricted funds	35,328	-8,523	26,805
Total Reserves	5,723	26,805	32,528

Banking - Detailed Analysis

B/f	Details	Opening Balance (01/05/2022)	Roman Gardens	Castlefield Viaduct	Clean & Green NIF	Manchester Cladiators NIF	Filming Donation	Individual Donations	Forum Admin Expenses	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Non-Forum Funds Held in Trust	Closing Balance at 30/04/23
										6,179.12	33,998.05	1,330.00	41,507.17
09/05/2022	Amazon							13.29		13.29			
16/05/2022	Nena - Hanging Baskets NIF				-200.00								-200.00
23/05/2022	Calum Donation							20.00		20.00			
27/05/2022	Responsible FI - Donation							100.00		100.00			
31/05/2022	Screen Mcr						250.00			250.00			
31/05/2022	Screen Mcr						250.00			250.00			
09/06/2022	Under Armour - Donation C&G				300.00							300.00	
22/06/2022	Calum Donation							20.00		20.00			
30/06/2022	RV Roger - Viaduct Plants			-1,445.28									-1,445.28
30/06/2022	Lazerian - Viaduct Artwork			-3,870.00									-3,870.00
22/07/2022	Calum Donation							20.00		20.00			
12/08/2022	Software Acumen Ltd - Donation							500.00		500.00			
16/08/2022	Amazon							17.41		17.41			
22/08/2022	Calum Donation							20.00		20.00			
22/09/2022	Calum Donation							20.00		20.00			
26/09/2022	Cladiators - NIF Payout					-530.00							-530.00
30/09/2022	Louise - Quarterly Meeting Refreshments								-139.48	-139.48			
30/09/2022	Graham - Website & Domain Expenses								-314.68	-314.68			
06/10/2022	Russell - Refund Viaduct Plants			-561.06								-561.06	
14/10/2022	Cladiators - NIF Event					500.00							500.00
18/10/2022	Cladiators - NIF Event Payout					-500.00							-500.00
24/10/2022	Calum Donation							20.00		20.00			
08/11/2022	Significant Other - Filming donation						250.00			250.00			
15/11/2022	Amazon							12.64		12.64			
22/11/2022	Calum Donation							20.00		20.00			
07/12/2022	RBIG - P/L								-366.91	-366.91			
09/12/2022	Sibs of Pressure - Filming donation						250.00			250.00			
19/12/2022	Countryside - Viaduct Payment			-3,582.00									-3,582.00
22/12/2022	Calum Donation							20.00		20.00			
19/01/2023	B - Zoom Refund								-143.88	-143.88			
23/01/2023	Calum Donation							20.00		20.00			
31/01/2023	Amazon							15.57		15.57			
03/02/2023	MCC - NIF - Viaduct Bulbs			561.06								561.06	
06/02/2023	Elle R Leisure - Room for AGM								-100.00	-100.00			
10/02/2023	Roman Gardens - Planning Application		-2,060.20										-2,060.20
22/02/2023	Calum Donation							20.00		20.00			
28/02/2023	Roman Gardens - Planning MCC Credit		2,060.20										2,060.20
06/03/2023	Clean & Green Grounds of the City - Lunch for volunteers				-150.00								-150.00
20/03/2023	B - Viaduct Domains Refund								-49.17	-49.17			
22/03/2023	Lau - Refund AGM Refreshments								-180.90	-180.90			
22/03/2023	Graham - Website & Domain Renewal								-73.20	-73.20			
24/04/2023	Amazon							7.39		7.39			
30/04/2023	Internal Transfer from General Funds to Viaduct Restricted Funds			953.82					-953.82	-953.82	953.82		
			£0.00	-£7,943.46	-£50.00	-£530.00	£1,000.00	£866.30	-£2,322.04	£5,723.38	£26,054.59	£750.00	£32,527.97 (inc. petty cash)

Petty Cash

	£
Petty Cash Balance as at 30/04/2022	20.17
Expenditure	_*
Petty Cash Balance as at 30/04/2023	<u>£20.17</u>

Letter from our auditor

Dan Coles FCCA
04/02/2024

FAO: Giles Grover
Treasurer
Castlefield Forum
Manchester

Dear Giles,

Thanks for the attached supporting information in your emails.

I report to the trustees, my examination of the accounts of Castlefield Forum (the Charitable Incorporated Organisation) for the period ended 30 April 2023.

I have completed an examination of the provided set of accounts and supporting documentation. 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 Act
- 2) The accounts do not accord with those records
- 3) The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations

There were a couple of queries raised as to the accounting treatment of funds held for others, as well as the duration of 2 of the restricted funds. But your email responses have given assurance on these.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Dan Coles FCCA

CASTLEFIELD FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1182897

Accounts



CASTLEFIELD FORUM

2022: A Year in Review – Trustee's Annual Report



Executive Summary

Welcome to our latest annual report.

2022 represented a monumental year for Castlefield with the opening of the Castlefield Viaduct pilot project which includes our own Castlefield Forum community plot up in the sky. A huge stand-out not only for our organisation for the long-term future of our community, the full viaduct scheme will have ramifications and great impact far beyond our own neighbourhood.

Initially scheduled to run from summer 2022 until late summer 2023, the pilot scheme has already been extended until late 2024. Over 95% of visitors to the pilot want to see the viaduct park become a permanent Manchester fixture. We are working very hard behind the scenes with the National Trust to make that a reality.

We continue to divide our work into our core themes of cleaner, greener, safer and better.

About Us

Castlefield Forum is a voluntary, community group established in 2009 with the key aim of making Castlefield a better place for local residents, businesses, workers and visitors.

Membership is open to anyone who lives, works or has an interest in Castlefield.

Recognising the need to create a more formal structure, we made an application for charitable status and became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Associate model) in April 2019.

The Forum meets publicly three times a year and meetings and action groups are open to all. Our elected Trustees typically meet twice a quarter and feed back to the wider Forum.

As Trustees, we hold ourselves accountable so further ahead you will find more detail, laid out by quarter, of how we have achieved against our objectives, as well as a narrative around some of the challenges we have had. It's worth mentioning that the majority of the Trustees also have day jobs, and those who are retired also have a myriad of other commitments, so sometimes things do not move quite as fast as we had planned. We are also heavily reliant on third parties to deliver some of our aspirations (plus we like to set ourselves ambitious but realistic goals).

The Trustees run our action groups which help to address our four key themes: [Cleaner](#), [Green](#), [Safer](#) and [Better](#).

Our Trustee activity is planned in a quarterly cadence using quarterly objectives. Find out more about our action groups in the [Appendix](#).

Trustee News

The Forum is run by you, for you. Without the Trustees the Forum would not exist. None of us are paid, some work full or part time, none of us bring egos and we all strive for a better neighbourhood, so a huge thank you to them all for their hard work. The pandemic has taught us that one does not need to be physically in Castlefield to have a positive impact on Castlefield.

Sadly after many years great communications activity Debbie Hubbard stepped down at our Feb 2022 AGM. Carol Rawsthorne (nee Middleton), long-time chair and trustee also announced plans to retire. Both Debbie and Carol's selfless commitment to our neighbourhood has left Castlefield in a far better place and both will be sorely missed, thank you both indeed for your impact.

At the time of writing, we gained three new Trustees, Ian Hay, Russell Eckersley and Line Hilton. Ian joined as our first trustee from a Castlefield business, as the owner of Saul Hay Gallery, allowing us to widen our knowledge, contacts and understanding of our community. Russell first approached us in 2021 with regards to a potential loss of amenity with some trees near the canal to be felled. His quick thinking helped to preserve the vast majority of those trees. It was then in early 2022, Russell approached us again with an interest in the viaduct, and has absolutely blown away with his ability to get stuff done and acted as a key delivery lead to ensure our community plot was delivered on time.

Similarly, Line's natural curiosity led her to get involved with our viaduct project and has since been hands-on with various rounds of planting and maintenance activity.

Financial Update

We continue to pursue the Manchester City Council Neighbourhood Investment Fund as and when the need arises. To reduce our reliance on one source we have also applied for other pots of money and were, for example, successful in being awarded a grant from the National Trust.

Notable awards and funding in 2021/22 included:

- NIF of £11,892.59 to support the Forum's plot on the viaduct including the refresh for spring
- £2,850 Screen Manchester donations (For Castlefield filming, such as Peaky Blinders in April 2021)
- £1,200 donation from First Central to support Clean and Green
- £200 donation from the YMCA for Clean and Green towards hanging baskets of pots and plants
- A bequest from our late founder and secretary, Ian Christie, which the Trustees are currently deciding the best way to utilise.

It is important to note that the vast majority of our funds are restricted as they are allocated against specific action group initiatives.

We will submit examined accounts as part of our annual submission to the Charities Commission which is also published to members.

Clean and Green Wins

Clean & green activity continued to thrive and this included a full second season of our community vegetable garden and two Level Five Outstanding awards from the RHS.

Thank you Nena for pulling together the numbers; an amazing set of statistics although not quite the absolute maximum we had in 2021, but we were expected things to drop off as the world got back to normal after the pandemic. The key challenge this year is to at least sustain the brilliant impact from 2022.

For 2022 versus 2021:

- **812 Volunteer hours (was 1027)**
- **53 Events (was 81)**
- **383 Bags of litter collected (was 603)**



We have for the first time started to work jointly with both Castlefield ward neighbourhood delivery officers, providing a more holistic approach to the area. Additionally we have identified the need for our own 'Environmental Coordinator', a new vacancy we have created and are looking to fill in due course.

RHS In Bloom

- Level 5 Outstanding for our Castlefield Viaduct community plot
- Level 5 Outstanding for Castlefield as a neighbourhood



Updates by Quarter

2021 was the first time that as Trustees we broke down our objectives into clear quarterly goals. Each objective has measures under it, graded from **Good** (the minimum we would like to achieve) to **Great** to **Incredible**.

At our public meetings we typically present our objectives plus results from the previous quarter. To get involved with any of our activities, please get in touch (contact details are in the Appendix below).

January-March (Q1 2022)

Castlefield Viaduct: community pilot plot

- We spent a huge amount of time pulling together our final designs for our plot. We faced an uphill battle of ever-moving goal posts and in the end did not hit our targets of locking down the design, costs or contractor. Spoiler alert: we came good in end and were ready in time for the official opening
- We attended a press release and media event on 7th March; our Vice Chair Lou Pullan featured on BBC North West Tonight
- We attended and spoke at the official National Trust Fundraiser kick-off on 28th March



Increase coverage of community safety network from 33%

- We hit 45% coverage of our private WhatsApp group and also got one ward councillor on board and into the group
- Great GMP police engagement session at The Wharf on 28th February where 13 people showed up (this is likely a historic record).



To have an always-on programme of environmental work

- The Clean & Green Castlefield group had a good quarter and cleared and expanded the community veg patch ready for the summer growing season
- Had volunteers babysit veggie seedlings 🌱



Clean-up of graffiti

- Fixing our interpretation sign boards: three need fixing and all need deep cleaning so our neighbourhood office Janet Reilly began the process of sorting this.
- Plans submitted for Deansgate ward private buildings to be cleaned as MCC had offered to do a one-time clean (but as you'll see later, the impact was very limited indeed).

Utilise current funding and CSR offers to improve the Roman Gardens

- We had major delays to getting our new North Gate lighting installed with a variety of reasons & excuses from third parties
- We also had repeated delays on the third-party commitment to get the East-West pathway built and as this is being built as a kind gesture we will wait for this to happen when.

- We restarted engagement with United Utilities on the proposed rain garden.

Membership attendance @ February AGM

- We beat all our targets and had 40 members and 10 trustees present

April-June (Q2)

Q2 was all about Viaduct pilot opening readiness. We had a hunch that we would spend an awful lot of time this quarter focused on the viaduct (we were right), and so we took on fewer targets than normal.

Castlefield Viaduct: community pilot plot

- We spent an inordinate amount of this quarter planning and finalising our plot; well done, team! We have joked we could have more easily built a nuclear power station by now... and it's important to recognise the extensive efforts that Russ Eckersley went to help manage the logistics behind our scheme
- In this quarter, we managed to get our planters installed and the planting complete



To have an always-on program of environmental work

- The triangular patch of land just off Chester Road/Blantyre Street was remediated and seed bombed to produce a wildflower garden. The site has also been identified as a potential place for new street trees.
- The graffiti free clean-up was almost pointless: not many buildings or developments signed up to the free clean-up proposed by the city council. Thus the impact was extremely limited.
- Despite weeks and weeks of waiting, our interpretation signboards were still not fixed, with them still looking scruffy when the viaduct pilot open. Not a great welcome :(

Increase coverage of community safety network

- With so much viaduct focus, we had limited time to focus on this target 🎯 - a concerted push that happened towards the back end of the year.



Utilise current funding and CSR offers to improve the Roman Gardens

- Multiple frustrations on the project including further delays to the lighting and East-West pathway meant that we didn't deliver any impact this quarter. Despite initial positive noises, our discussions for the rain garden with United Utilities drew an unhelpful blank.

Increase Trustee resilience and skillset

- Russell Eckersley joined us as a Trustee, bringing with him, a fantastical, horticultural, passion, and knowledge, as well as an ability to get stuff done. Welcome to the team!
- Graham Hampton joined us from Thessaloniki as our new Comms Lead; he has helped fill a skills gap that we've had for several months and with his irreverent style has been a great addition to the team.

Reaching wider: a longer-term goal

- This was not a quarterly target, but remains a permanent long-term aim to both build our stature in Manchester and the impact we have.
- MSA Live complete: our first-ever formal project with Manchester School of Architecture. We worked with a group of finally a master students who coached a younger group through a two-week design sprint. There are some great outputs on how to tackle key problem spaces in Castlefield, including the Bowl, around Ellesmere Street and the empty patch of land on the corner of Beaufort and Duke. We were thrilled by the process and the overall outputs, and we will be working again with the School in 2023.
- Part of our aim is to break down, barriers and work, more closely with other neighbouring community groups and so we conducted planting in Sackville Gardens
- CSR has gone big, to the point that we can't handle all of the request we kept getting (an incredible problem that we have never had before)



July-September (Q3)

Viaduct: support the pilot and input directly into the full scheme

- THE VIADUCT OPENED! We cannot overstate how monumental this milestone is. The viaduct has never been open to the public and for the first time ever it's now possible to walk along the deck. This is the start of a very long and exciting journey and we are very proud and thrilled to be part of it.
- We managed to get our own Castlefield community plot, ready on time for the opening, along with our huge 300 kg piece of sculpture which has received glowing reviews.
- We appeared on the front page of the National Trust's national magazine with a multipage article, including quotes from ourselves
- The free hard hat tours were a success
- Viaduct continued to receive good press coverage and great visitor feedback
- Established an improved and closer working relationship with Duncan Laird (Director of Urban Places) at National Trust



Spirit of Place: to help us become thriving as an organisation

- £500 donation received from Software Acumen; despite being based in Cambridge, they are very aware of our community activity and wanted to make a contribution
- A potential offer of Spirit of Place / strategy development emerged from a visitor to Castlefield. Although the offer never galvanised into a real proposition, we were given access to multiple assets to help us on our own journey.

Taking pride in our infrastructure, assets and buildings

- A new monthly Forum to tackle environmental issues in line with the viaduct pilot opening was set up by the city council and included Bridgewater Canal Company, Transport for Greater Manchester, Manchester Central, Network Rail, the National Trust as well as ourselves. Q3 wins included:
- the lift reinstated on Beaufort Street
- the stairs next to it repainted & the lighting fixed
- temporary fencing repairs to stop cars parking on corner of Beaufort/Duke St
- all our Castlefield signage finally cleaned up and 3 missing boards reinstated
- (double) yellow lines reinstated on Southern Street, Duke Street, Bridgewater Street, Beaufort Street
- graffiti removed on sections of railway arches owned by TfGM (but sadly not yet by Network Rail...)
- old fashioned street lamps reinstated outside Dimitri's
- Challenges remained though as Network Rail have an extensive wait time to get graffiti removed and in the mean time it continues to flourish thereby attracting more...

Increase Trustee resilience and skillset

- We drafted our first ever Castlefield Forum "playbook", which helps to explain how we get stuff done as trustees and is intended to act as a helpful reference point based on board new trustees and for existing members of the team

Utilise current funding and CSR offers to improve the Roman Gardens

- We began exploratory works for the lighting in the Roman gardens, and were disheartened to discover partway through this process that in fact, our planning application had lapsed. It turns out that conditions attached to the planning consent had not been discharged in time over the pandemic and so we were in breach of the planning permission. We therefore had to halt the works and explore a new route through the problem.

October-December (Q4)

Increase % coverage of community safety network for apartment blocks

- Kick-started safety group again and managed to exit the year with reasonable coverage (60%) of the apartment blocks in Castlefield

Clean & Green strategic growth

- Viaduct bulb planting: we planted over 500 bulbs in our community plot and received neighbourhood investment fund funding to finance it. Unfortunately, we also had an infestation of vermin, who decided to dig up plenty of the bulbs so we've had to then attend to this!
- We planted bulbs on Ellesmere Street, which will help to build an impact in the southern part of Castlefield
- We filled our open vacancy for an environmental coordinator, although unfortunately the person has since stepped down, so this remains an open challenge for 2023



Improve our neighbourhood spirit of place

- We launched an organic vegetable box scheme in December and worked in partnership with the Kindling Trust and the Castlefield Hotel to make this a reality. We really hope that this flourishes and becomes a permanent feature in 2023.
- For those of you sad enough (like me!!!) with an interest in double yellow lines, You will be pleasantly flabbergasted to know that Rice Street has been re-done top to bottom with entirely thin heritage lines.
- We started discussions with City of Trees on our first-ever (street) tree policy
 - We were encouraged to apply for NIF to do Christmas lights on Liverpool Road and by Atlas Bar; after Russell spent a lot of time on the application, only part of it was accepted. In the end, however, Janet managed to find some extra funding and so we delivered the scheme as planned and delivered a great impact. Unfortunately, all of the bureaucracy meant that we only had a couple of weeks of real impact so we will start the process much earlier in 2023.
 - We had our student Masters project proposal accepted by the Manchester School of Architecture



Viaduct Phase 2: working with the NT's delivery board

- We gained a seat on the delivery board for the Castlefield Viaduct. This is a monumental win, because it means we can have a real influence over the direction of the project and ensure that it delivers something fit for purpose for as many people as possible. Thank you to the National Trust for inviting us to join the board.
- Ian Hay worked with Cotton on Mcr to deliver a joint proposal for an arts program for the viaduct for 2023

Comms strategy

- We launched our first ever members survey around our approach to communicating with them, so that we can build a simple but robust comms strategy and make sure we get the most out of our limited bandwidth
- We delivered our first newsletter; huge thanks to Graham for leading and preparing it
- 2022 exit stats versus 2021:
 - Official members signed up: 320 on MailChimp database, of which 304 are subscribers (was 251 signed up)
 - Facebook members on Forum: 4,300 (was 4,100)
 - Twitter followers: 3,600 (was 3,283)
 - Instagram followers: (a channel we have reignited): 483
 - Facebook for Clean & Green Castlefield: 672 (was 550)
 - Social media links can be found in the Appendix

Roman Gardens revamp

- With time ebbing away to get our East-West passway built for us, Lou has stepped up to lead on the project and restarted the process to get our planning application re-approved. BDP also leaned in to confirm they will help to get the project over the line.

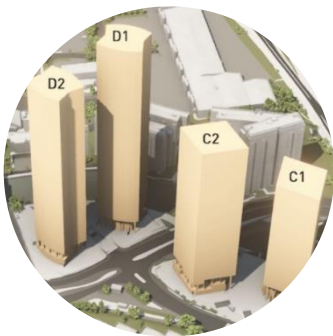
Biggest challenges ahead: short, medium and long term

Strategy

Just because we are volunteers and just because we are a small organisation doesn't mean we shouldn't have a robust long-term strategy. We've tried before, pre-pandemic, and it's time to make 2023 is the year when we firm up where we want to take Castlefield next. Trustees have inputted their ideas and early to mid 2023 will see us publish a longer term view of where next.

Factory International

We are tremendously excited for the new home of MIF to open and for the impact it will have on the arts scene. Located inside the Castlefield Conservation Area, we are keen to build a good working relationship with the team at Factory International and have already had our first meeting with Dean Meehan who heads up operations. We will not know the true impact on the local area on things such as access, egress, noise and parking until the venue opens so it's important we maintain a strong relationship with the venue.



People

Neighbourhood engagement, notably with existing communities in Hulme and Ordsall plus residents from:

- Under construction and planned blocks in the Britannia Basin area of Castlefield; and
- Under construction and proposed towers in St John's, Trinity Islands and Great Jackson Street.

Trustees

Bringing on board skills and experience to not only keep our organisation resilient but to help us flourish and help us deliver on longer-term grand plans, including the full viaduct scheme and realisation of our Spirit of Place ambitions.

Castlefield Viaduct

After Factory International, the permanent viaduct scheme will represent the biggest-ever single investment in Castlefield for a public project and the biggest-ever public realm project in our neighbourhood. We can't wait but we also know that huge challenges remain with regards to funding, and that we need to be realistic that this is a long-haul project.



Increased traffic and footfall

With Factory International completed and in full use, Water Street permanently closed to traffic, the St John's neighbourhood nearing completion and Castlefield Viaduct literally on the horizon, there will be more people living, visiting or working in Castlefield than ever. This will present challenges around parking, idling vehicles, pollution and of course the inevitable outflow of thousands of people from each and every Factory event. Aside from the annual flurry of 'Sounds of the City' gigs, we have never had to deal with sustained large volumes of people. We will monitor things carefully as new buildings and spaces come on stream, grow our relationship with Factory International and lean on help from the Council if any interventions are required.

Graffiti...

...which continues to blight Castlefield. How might we address this? How might we turn a problem into an opportunity? We have started discussions around a more formal public arts programme but the time diverted to the Viaduct scuppered any chance to address this. The city centre has had some great successes with turning blank and unloved surfaces into public art; save for not having enough time to make it happen, there is no reason we cannot eventually replicate the best bits of this in Castlefield.



Funding and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

CSR is both a challenge and an opportunity in the right now we literally cannot process or manage all of the offers of help we are receiving.

The Forum has grand ambitions for Castlefield (including but not limited to the viaduct) and as a small community organisation with a busy set of Trustees, trying to acquire the right levels of help and or funding and to coordinate our ambitions and deliver against them is difficult. In essence a chicken and egg situation: wild ambitions but not enough capacity to pursue the very funding which would unlock our ambitions.

Climate Emergency

It goes without saying that climate change brings an incredible set of challenges to the planet and right down at local level we need a much clearer plan of how we can all act differently to help drive real change. The Forum is only at the beginning of this journey and we would readily welcome any extra support.

The viaduct represents a real opportunity to help drive more active travel, and in some sense will be a small contribution to change.

Closing Remarks

We start 2023 with some very big tasks, challenges and opportunities ahead. Please continue to support us interactively and don't hesitate to get stuck in if improving your neighbourhood means something to you.

Finally, a reminder that the Forum exists by you, for you. A huge thank you to all of our Trustees who helped to keep the Forum diverse, alive and thriving. And if you feel like you might want to get involved yourself, just get in touch.

Calum McGowan
Chair - Castlefield Forum



Appendix

Our organisation

Organisational overview for the period ending 20th March 2023.

Trustees who served during the year:

1. Calum McGowan (Chair)
2. Lou Pullan (Vice-Chair)
3. Giles Grover (Treasurer)
4. James Bowers (Secretary)
5. B Hunter
6. Carol Rawsthorne (Stepped down in Jan 2023)
7. Gary Rumens
8. Ian Hay
9. Ian McIlveen
10. Line Hilton
11. Nena Adrienne
12. Russell Eckersley

Action Groups

Clean & Green Castlefield

- To work in conjunction with Manchester City Council (MCC) and other local partners to keep the area attractive, green and tidy
- Expanding the group's remit to maintain and develop green spaces, including community growing space
- Delivering an exciting new strategy which takes us to the end of 2023 and beyond
- To work in liaison with MCC and local partners to present a credible entry to the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' section of North West in Bloom, aiming for a Level 5 'Outstanding' award each year

Events, Marketing, Media & Signage

(This group was largely paused with Debbie Hubbard stepping down)

- To raise the profile of Castlefield within the city, to develop our own events and contribute to events organised by others.
- To increase financial self-reliance for the Forum by developing Castlefield's marketing potential, including improving our website.
- To extend our programme of replacing damaged and out-of-date signage by producing new interpretative signs for new locations throughout the area.

Roman Gardens

- Delivering against our original masterplan to realise exciting, inspiring urban retreat in Manchester city centre

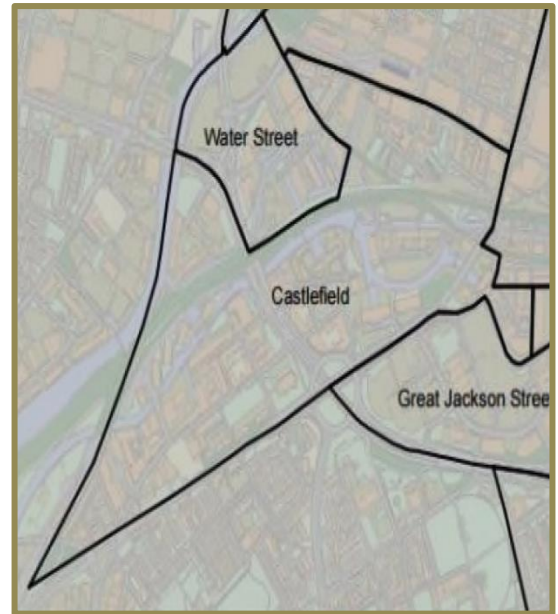
Spirit of Place & Castlefield Viaduct

- Building on our work with the National Trust to understand the spirit of Castlefield, including its value to the city of Manchester and beyond, its heritage, people, buildings, open spaces, structures, waterways and stories.
- Supporting the National Trust's consultation, fundraising and delivery of the viaduct pilot (opened July 2022) and development of the full scheme
- Deliver & maintain the Castlefield community plot on the viaduct (opened July 2022)

We have medium-term ambitions to spin up a specific fundraising group but we simply don't have the capacity to pursue this at present.

Social Media

- Facebook Group -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ourcastlefield/>
- On Twitter –
<https://twitter.com/ourcastlefield>
- Facebook Clean and Green Group -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cleangreencastlefield>
- On Twitter –
<https://twitter.com/CGCastlefield>
- Join us as a member by contacting
info@ourcastlefield.co.uk
(opt out / leave at any time)



Administration

Address: 73 Liverpool Road, Manchester, M3 4AQ

Auditor: Dan Coles FCCA

Bankers: Co-operative Bank, Manchester

CASTLEFIELD FORUM

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/04/2022

Treasurer's Report

I have prepared the accounts for Castlefield Forum for the year ending 30th April 2022.

These accounts comprise an Income & Expenditure overview and a Balance Sheet to provide visibility on general and restricted funds held.

All payments made have been verified by invoice copies.

No audit has yet been carried out on these accounts but, in my opinion as Treasurer, they represent a true and fair view of Income & Expenditure for the period.

These accounts will now be reviewed by an independent examiner.



Giles Grover
20th January 2023

Income Expenditure

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2022</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
<u>Income & Expenditure</u>			
<u>Income</u>			
Donations - Individuals	2,968		2,968
Donations - Castlefield Filming	3,050		3,050
MCC - Roman Gardens		2,574	2,574
MCC - Castlefield Viaduct		11,893	11,893
Clean & Green - NIF		2,300	2,300
Manchester Cladiators - NIF		0	0
Pioneer Quay - NIF		1,000	1,000
Total income	6,018	17,767	23,784
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Roman Gardens		7,551	7,551
Castlefield Viaduct		3,900	3,900
Clean & Green		1,940	1,940
Manchester Cladiators		0	0
Pioneer Quay		1,000	1,000
AGM Expenses	167		167
Zoom Subscription	144		144
Public Liability Insurance	379		379
Total Expenditure	690	14,391	15,081
Surplus/(deficit)	5,327	3,376	8,703

Statement of Financial Position

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2022</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Statement of financial position

Assets

Bank balance	6,179	35,328	41,487
Petty cash	0	0	20
Total	6,179	35,328	41,507

Liabilities

Charity General funds (repayable)	0	0	0
Restricted funds (repayable)	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

Total assets less liabilities

6,179	35,328	41,507
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Reserves

B/f:	852	31,952	32,804
Movement in reserves (surplus/(deficit))	5,327	3,376	8,703
Reserves c/f:	6,179	35,328	41,507

Reserves

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2022</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Changes in reserves</u>			
<u>Movement in General funds</u>			
C/f 2021 (2020)	852		
Surplus/deficit Current year	5,327		
Total General funds	6,179	0	6,179
<u>Movement in Restricted funds</u>			
	<u>2021</u>	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Total</u>
Roman Gardens	30,982	-4,977	26,005
Castlefield Viaduct	0	7,993	7,993
MCC Clean & Green - Held in Trust	440	360	800
Manchester Cladiators - Held in Trust	530	0	530
Pioneer Quay - Held in Trust	0	0	0
Total Restricted funds	31,952	3,376	35,328
Total Reserves	6,179	35,328	41,507

Banking - Detailed Analysis

		<u>Opening Balance (01/05/2021)</u>	Roman Gardens	Castlefield Viaduct	Clean & Green NIF	Manchester Cladiators NIF	Pioneer Quay NIF	Filming Donation	Individual Donations	Forum Admin Expenses		General Funds	Restricted Funds	Non- Forum Funds Held in Trust	Closing Balance at 30/04/22
B/f	Details											852.00	30,982.00	970.00	
21/05/2021	Pioneer Quay - NIF						1,000.00							1,000.00	
24/05/2021	Amazon								8.02			8.02			
24/05/2021	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00			
01/06/2021	NorthGate Lighting		-7,550.78										-7,550.78		
01/06/2021	James Donation								5.00			5.00			
01/06/2021	Roman Gardens NIF		2,574.20										2,574.20		
08/06/2021	Gary - GBSC Refreshments								-23.00			-23.00			
08/06/2021	Gary - C&G NIF				-440.00									-440.00	
10/06/2021	Pioneer Quay - NIF						-1,000.00							-1,000.00	
22/06/2021	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00			
22/07/2021	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00			
30/07/2021	Screen Mcr							2,500.00				2,500.00			
17/08/2021	Amazon								14.52			14.52			
23/08/2021	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00			
22/09/2021	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00			
22/10/2021	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00			
22/10/2021	Screen Mcr							200.00				200.00			
08/11/2021	RBIG - P/L									-379.23		-379.23			
16/11/2021	MCC - NIF								200.00			200.00			

Banking - Detailed Analysis

19/11/2021	First Central Donation				600.00								600.00			
22/11/2021	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00				
13/12/2021	Amazon								11.51			11.51				
22/12/2021	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00				
20/01/2022	B Hunter - Zoom									-143.88		-143.88				
24/01/2022	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00				
31/01/2022	Screen Mcr							350.00				350.00				
22/02/2022	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00				
23/02/2022	Amazon								11.48			11.48				
25/02/2022	Ian Christie - Bequest								2,500.00			2,500.00				
04/03/2022	First Central Donation				600.00								600.00			
15/03/2022	YMCA Donation - Hanging Baskets				200.00								200.00			
16/03/2022	B Hunter - Viaduct Domain Names			-29.96								-29.96				
17/03/2022	MCC - NIF - C&G				900.00								900.00			
21/03/2022	MCC - NIF - Viaduct			10,000.00								10,000.00				
22/03/2022	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00				
24/03/2022	Lazerian - Viaduct Artwork			-3,870.00								-3,870.00				
30/03/2022	MCC - NIF - Viaduct			1,892.59								1,892.59				
06/04/2022	James - AGM Expenses									-167.30		-167.30				
06/04/2022	Nena - MCC - NIF				-900.00								-900.00			
13/04/2022	First Central - C&G - Gary				-600.00								-600.00			
22/04/2022	Calum Donation								20.00			20.00				
			£0.00	-£4,976.58	£7,992.63	£360.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,050.00	£2,967.53	-£690.41		£6,179.12	£33,998.05	£1,330.00	£41,507.17

Petty Cash

	£
Petty Cash Balance as at 30/04/2021	20.17
Expenditure	-*
Petty Cash Balance as at 30/04/2022	<u><u>£20.17</u></u>

*No petty cash movements as all payments now made via online banking.

Dan Coles FCCA
26/01/2023

FAO: Giles Grover
Treasurer
Castlefield Forum
Manchester

Dear Giles,

Thanks for the attached supporting information in your emails. I report to the trust my examination of the accounts of Castlefield Forum (the Charity) for the year ended 30 April 2022.

I have completed an examination of the provided set of accounts and supporting documentation. 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 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations

I have identified what I believe to be an error in transposing the petty cash figure of £20 on the accounts. This should be removed from the Statement of Financial Position for the current year as it relates to sums received in previous years. I do not consider this to be a material error or a misstatement.

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.

I trust this is satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Coles', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dan Coles FCCA

CASTLEFIELD FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1182897

Accounts



CASTLEFIELD FORUM

2021: A Year in Review



Executive Summary (and 2072!)

Welcome to our annual report and to the year that was - and you'll have to read the whole report to understand what 2272 means. All we can say is that it's very exciting indeed.

2021 saw some huge changes: the Forum back in full swing after the 2020 hiatus, a release of our first-ever Clean and Green strategy, over 1000 volunteer hours delivered, the Castlefield viaduct pilot went from dream to gaining planning consent, we started a new way of tracking our quarterly objectives and outcomes and we saw a change in leadership and our Trustee numbers hit a record high. Alongside that, official membership via our mailing list as well as more informal indicators (such as social media numbers) are the strongest we have seen.

Two of our biggest 2021 successes were being approached by the National Trust as the lead community organisation behind the Castlefield viaduct development with the pilot scheme being approved by Manchester City Council in the autumn and secondly the enormous successes of our Clean & Green Castlefield group.

Clean and Green as many of our members know are two of our core Forum themes, and the others being Safer and Better and to have our first ever Clean and Green strategy is a major success story. It is important to recognise the unrelenting focus from Trustees Gary and Nena that come rain or shine, Castlefield looks a little better each week.

Some of our biggest Castlefield dreams have remained top of our wishlist but bottom of our to do list. It goes without saying that for the mighty Castlefield viaduct to move all at once from being 'in managed decline' - how dreadfully sad - to suddenly becoming a huge regeneration, greening and amenity project has blown us away. Had the wonderful Ian Christie (founding member and our first Secretary) still been with us he would not have believed it is now happening.

The one phrase that keeps sticking in our mind is that since the National Trust approached us, they have always said “when” not “if” the viaduct goes ahead in its permanent state. Please join us in helping to make the viaduct pilot a roaring success.

We have also made various new connections this year as well as rekindled old ones. It's heartening to be working again with BDP on our community plot which will be part of the wider viaduct pilot and wonderful to meet new residents and neighbours in Castle Wharf and Deansgate Square. We also welcome a myriad of new residents with the schemes in Britannia Basin coming on stream.

As Trustees, we hold ourselves accountable so further ahead you will find more detail, laid out by quarter, of how we have achieved against our objectives, as well as a narrative around some of the challenges we have had. It's worth mentioning that the majority of the Trustees also have day jobs, and those who are retired also have a myriad of other commitments, so sometimes things do not move quite as fast as we had planned. We are also heavily reliant on third parties to deliver some of our aspirations (plus we like to set ambitious goals!).

Core themes you will read below include:

- Action group updates including Clean & Green, Roman Gardens and Castlefield viaduct
- People (Trustee) updates
- Financial health
- A long view on opportunities and challenges

About Us

Castlefield Forum is a voluntary, community group established in 2009 with the key aim of making Castlefield a better place for local residents, businesses, workers and visitors.

Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, or has an interest in Castlefield.

Recognising the need to create a more formal structure, we made an application for charitable status and became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Associate model) in April 2019.

The Forum meets quarterly, and meetings and action groups are open to all. Our elected Trustees typically meet twice a quarter and feed back to the wider Forum.

The Trustees run our action groups which help to address our four key themes around **Cleaner, Green, Safer** and **Better**. Our Trustee activity is planned in a quarterly cadence using quarterly objectives. Find out more about our Trustees and our action groups in the Appendix.



Trustee News

In late 2020 and despite the ongoing horror of Covid 19, because enough of the various organisations on whom we rely were slowly returning to some sort of normality we agreed to exit our hiatus and restart our Trustee activity.

The Forum is run by you, for you. Without the Trustees the Forum would not exist. None of us are paid, some work full or part time, none of us bring egos and we all strive for a better neighbourhood, so a huge thank you to them all for their hard work and energy even through a pandemic.

In 2021, Carol Middleton stepped down having been at the helm for over a decade and remains as a highly valued Trustee. On behalf of Castlefield and the Forum, thank you, Carol.

Calum McGowan stepped up from Vice Chair to Chair and Lou Pullan became Vice Chair.

We gained a new Trustee, Nena Adrienne. Nena has helped Gary Rumens to lead and grow the Clean & Green Castlefield group and along with her talent for data and insight is a natural fit.

Finally, in November 2021 due to pressing work commitments and after an extended tenure with the Forum, Beth Rose Hopper stepped down as Trustee.

Financial Update

We continue to pursue the Manchester City Council Neighbourhood Investment Fund as and when the need arises. To reduce our reliance on one source we have also applied for other pots of money and were, for example, successful in being awarded £600 from First Central.

Funding awards

- Notable awards of funding in 2021 included:
- Manchester City Council: £6000 towards evolving the Roman Gardens masterplan
- National Trust: £5000 towards our community plot on the Castlefield viaduct
- First Central: £600 towards Clean & Green work
- Screen Manchester: £1000 donation for filming events hosted in Castlefield (including Peaky Blinders!)

It is important to note that the vast majority of our funds are restricted as they are allocated against specific action group initiatives.

Current financial position

Our 2021 financial position is £32,804, broken down as follows:

Uncommitted

General funds £852

Restricted Funds

Roman Gardens £30,982

MCC Clean & Green £440

Held on behalf of Manchester Cladiators £530

Total £32,804

We will submit examined accounts as part of our annual submission to the Charities Commission which is also published to members.

Updates by Quarter

2021 was the first time that as Trustees we broke down our objectives into clear quarterly goals.

We liked the format so have kept it going. Each objective has measures under it, graded from **Good** (the minimum we would like to achieve) to **Great** to **Incredible**.

At our public meetings we typically present our objectives plus results from the previous quarter. To get involved with any of our activities, please get in touch (contact details are in the Appendix below).

January-March (Q1 2021)

Wins

- Active programme of environmental work
The Clean & Green Castlefield group absolutely excelled and beat every goal they set themselves and in the coldest part of the year completed 8 organised events (7 clean ups and 1 gardening) plus 5 solo litter picks.
- Commence Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity so we can build the east-west path
We received a major win on this with agreement in principle to dig the Roman Gardens east-west path being received from Laing O'Rourke as part of their CSR programme.
- Deliver successful online Forum events
We had 30 members present at our first-ever online AGM. This was our first event since taking a break due to the pandemic and demonstrated that we had engagement as well as testing a new event format.

Challenges

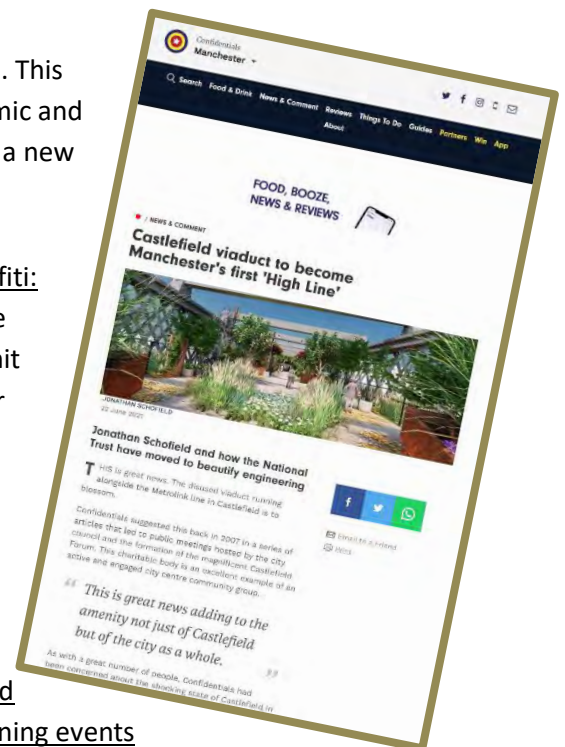
- Run our first pilot activity so we can clean up Duke St graffiti:
Although we drafted a success framework for the multiple stakeholders involved in trying to remove the graffiti we hit a stalemate and we ran out of steam and decided to defer this activity to later in the year.

April-June (Q2)

This was the first time that we started to organise our objectives under our Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Better themes.

Wins

- Have an always-on programme of environmental work and to kick-start our gardening activity with community gardening events
The Clean & Green team of Clean & Green Castlefield and ably lead by Trustees Gary and Nena again hit every single one of their goals for the quarter. Amazing!
 - 11 Litter pick sessions;
 - 10 Gardening sessions; and
 - 8 solo litter picks.This equated to 192 volunteers committing 431 hours to help keep Castlefield clean and green. They also picked 260 bags of rubbish. Whilst it's horrifying that so much litter exists, it's also hugely inspiring to see our community galvanise to look after our patch.
- We want to grow our official member base so that we grow our reach
We were quoted in [Manchester Confidential](#), [Marketing Manchester](#), [About Manchester](#) and [Manchester Wire](#) as part of the viaduct project and saw our membership continue to grow through the quarter.



Challenges

- Utilise current funding and CSR offers to improve the Roman Gardens
Partly hit; in advanced negotiations with Amey for the North Gate lighting & east-west pathway build was originally due by end of September. However, delays at The Factory appear to be impacting Laing O'Rourke's timeline and we are grateful for the help so will wait until they are ready.
- Run our first pilot activity so we can clean up Duke St graffiti
We downed tools on this for now; superseded by Viaduct project work which was not on our radar back in March. We will pick up this objective in 2022.
- To have our first fundraising strategy & started to deliver against it
Although we workshopped this, we did not produce the final strategy and have not yet started to deliver against it. It has become clear that this piece of work needs specific and sustained ownership and at the moment we don't have enough Trustee capacity to make this happen.



July-September (Q3)

Wins

We had a healthy round of discussions with the Council's Events team and the organisers of Sounds of the City. For the first time ever the multi-evening event went off relatively uneventfully; there was good engagement on all sides, well-informed event staff and no notable escalations had to be made. We also for the first time were awarded a tranche of tickets (some 240!) to ballot out to local residents. This was a very kind and appreciated gesture and makes up for the inconvenience not only of the events themselves but build phase, sound checks, deliveries and tear down.

- To have an always-on programme of environmental work
Once again, the Clean and Green group delivered some brilliant outcomes with over 10 events. They also took an objective to replace various broken timber planters in the former visitors centre garden. Although this work was not completed, timber was donated to the group with a view to doing the work in the spring.
- To have our first fundraising strategy & started to deliver against it
We now have a draft strategy though it still needs work to complete it. That said, it's the first time we have had a 'modern' draft version from which to iterate.

We also applied for funding from a new source and were awarded £600 from First Central. This helps us to diversify away from being very reliant on the city council's NIF funding which we cannot guarantee will always be available.

Challenges

After acquiring a dinghy with which to do canal litter picks, the first actual activity has been delayed to ensure health and safety was well covered through new public liability insurance and training.

- Utilise current funding and CSR offers to improve the Roman Gardens:
Various positive noises but progress which has again moved at a glacial pace due to a heavy dependency on third parties. Kudos to Carol for her tenacity, especially around the lighting which has been particularly arduous. Amey are specifying the lights but we appear to be far down their priorities. We will probably need to escalate this.

We still do not have a date to build the east-west pathway so this objective will carry into 2022. We had also hoped to reignite a relationship with United Utilities because pre-pandemic they had expressed interest in getting involved in an unspecified capacity.

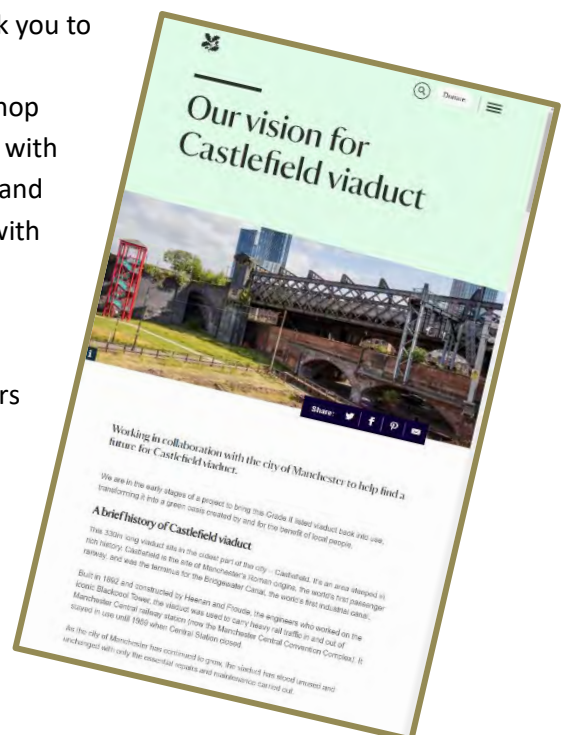
- Setting up a community safety network (linked initially using a WhatsApp private group)
We got off to a slow start but nevertheless do now have the group set up. Our local Neighbourhood Beat Officer & two colleagues from GMP held a safety event held in October at The Wharf. Small number of residents attended (5) as well as two Trustees; it was good to network with our new officers though the community turn out was a little disappointing.

October-December (Q4)

Wins

We like to set ourselves a tough set of objectives, to keep us on our toes. The Trustees and working groups have worked incredibly hard against some tough targets and crucially a bunch of frustrating external dependencies (Roman Gardens) which have held us back, as well as a whole new proposal for a community space on the viaduct which only landed after Q4 had started. In summary, extremely proud of how Q4 shaped up!

- Spirit of Place action group is back and Viaduct activity has ramped up considerably:
 - the pilot scheme gaining planning consent (amazing!);
 - We were approached by the National Trust
 - to host our own 7-month presence on a community plot
 - and this has diverted a lot of our energy. Thank you to everyone involved;
 - We have been involved in a fundraising workshop and there will be a follow-up summit in March with Andy Burnham where the Forum will present; and
 - Lou and Calum had a successful first meeting with Tom and Jo Bloxham and as an outcome new connections with Manchester School of Architecture were established. The Forum has submitted a project idea for a cohort of Masters students to work on.



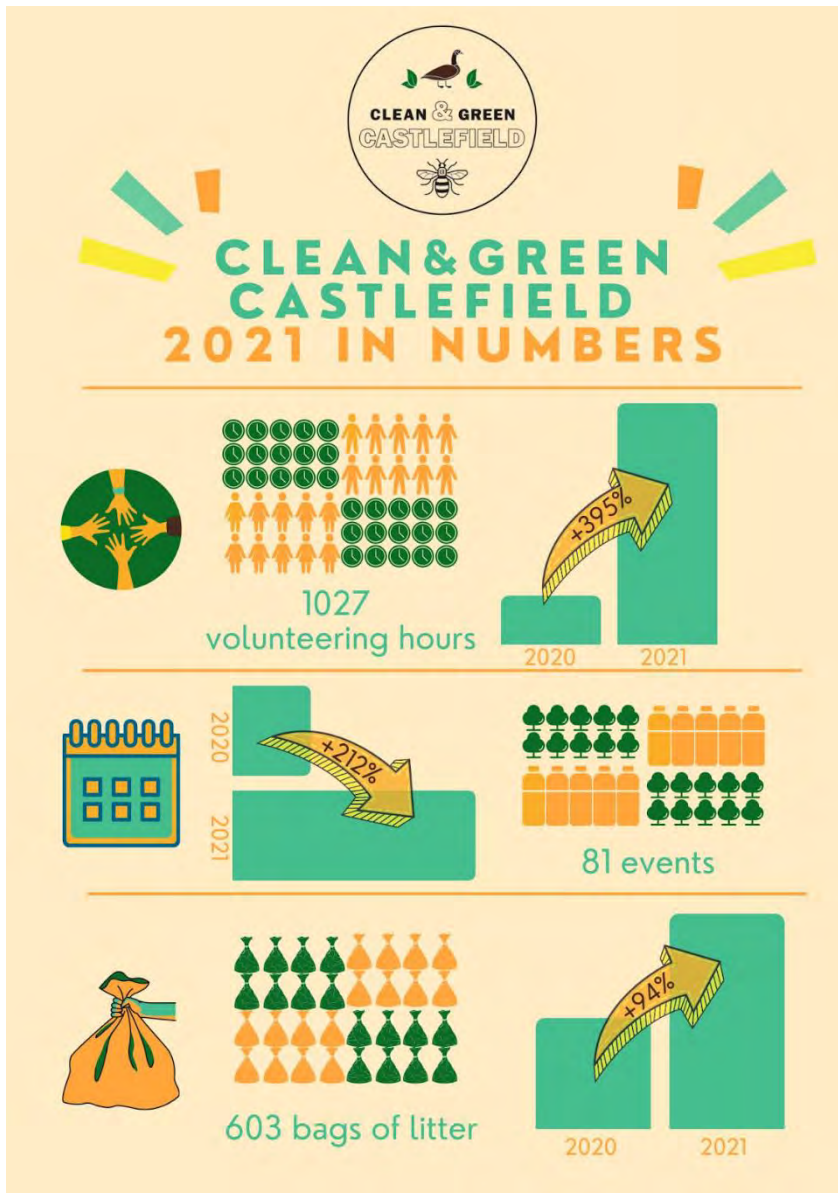
- Clean & Green activity continues to thrive with some incredible end of year stats:
 - First ever clean and green strategy agreed - through to end of 2022;
 - Network Rail came down to help litter pick;
 - New members from Castle Wharf and Deansgate Square joined as we were approached by Renaker's residential team; and
 - 1,800 bulbs planted.
- Ian Hay expressed interest in joining us as a Trustee.
- Q4 Forum membership stats:
 - database membership: 251 officially signed up (up +5.5% on Q3); 4,100 members on Facebook, 3,283 on Twitter and 550 on Clean & Green Castlefield. Social media links can be found in the Appendix.



Challenges

- Trustee news
Beth announced her plans to step down.
- Climate change
Calum and Gary also attended the City Council's city centre Climate Change Summit, which was informative and allowed networking opportunities with Groundwork, councillors and residents. The event opened our eyes to the role we can play as a neighbourhood organisation and highlights how far we have to go to start making a difference. Literally, so much to do, so little time - both on a planetary and Trustee front. The Council has a clear responsibility to deliver ambitious carbon reduction targets; as a community group we will keep climate change nearer to the top of our agenda.
- Q4 what could have gone better?
 - Roman Gardens activity continues to creep forward with frustrations abound around the lighting (for which we have funding and permission), plus a firm date for the east-west path laying (we now have a commitment from Laing O'Rourke but many months later than expected). On a better note United Utilities have started to talk to us, so we may yet be able to bring forward the rain garden element. Thank you Carol for your tenacity - we appreciate it!
 - Safety group: we set up a new group and managed to get coverage from one in three Castlefield residential blocks (target was 4 in 5) and managed to get PC Josh Lee involved; a good start with more to do as we start 2022.

2021 Clean and Green Wins



With such an incredible year under their belt, we wanted to dedicate a specific section to clean and green.

Thank you Nena for pulling together this infographic.

An amazing set of statistics.



RHS In Bloom - via Carol Middleton: 2/11/21

"Great news folks, just had a call from Mel Kirby, MCC lead for RHS In Bloom. We have been awarded Outstanding again for RHS It's Your Neighbourhood. There's no presentation event this year but we will get a certificate to add to the pile. Mel's delighted because we were one of 3 groups in the city to get Outstanding. The others were Victoria Sq and Mayes Almshouses, both in Ancoats. As a result the city has been awarded gold for the first time. Well done guys 🍌🍌🍌"



Biggest Opportunities

Castlefield Viaduct Pilot Scheme

We never thought we would be shouting from the rooftops about the viaduct because it's always remained top of our wishlist but bottom of our to-do list. The energy and enthusiasm and language from the National Trust has at all times been wholly optimistic. We have a HIGH level of confidence that a transformative piece of green space right in the centre of Manchester is on the horizon and better than that, a piece of public space which better connects the southern part of Castlefield, Pomona and Cornbrook with the northern canal basin area.

The pilot scheme which opens to the public in June 2022 sailed through the planning system with ease. All eyes are now on the success of the pilot because the engagement and ideas from the 12-month scheme will help to drive the full and final proposition. The time frame to deliver the final scheme is in theory by the end of 2024; this is subject to design, funding and planning consent, construction and operational readiness.



The Factory

The permanent home of Manchester International Festival is slated to open at some point in 2023. A multi-million pound commissioning space for the Arts as well as a permanent home for the Festival itself will all at once transform what was a very unloved sector of our neighbourhood. Nobody knows how things will pan out but the opportunity to experience world-class creative arts right on our doorstep is tremendously exciting.

St John's Neighbourhood and rejuvenated Science + Industry Museum

With construction of St John's underway including a myriad of new office space and a residential tower coupled with the rejuvenation work currently in progress at the Museum will see unprecedented numbers of people both visiting and living in our area. It's not impossible to imagine that in just a few years time there will be a real throng of people especially coupled with visitors to The Factory and of course to the viaduct. The draw of Castlefield will be stronger than ever. Our duty as Trustees is to help capitalise on this and make sure our neighbourhood drives accordingly.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

As CSR bubbles nearer the top of the corporate agenda as well as as untapped offers of help from our Spirit of Place 2019 summit, leveraging CSR becomes a new way to help deliver outcomes for Castlefield. 2021 has seen Clean & Green Castlefield work with some new names, including Expedia, Royal Haskoning DHV, Virgin Media and Network Rail - thank you one and all - and we have further firmed up our relationship with Laing O'Rourke. We are thrilled that they will help deliver a vital piece of the Roman Gardens infrastructure: the 'east-west' pathway which significantly opens up the site. This is slated to happen in summer 2022.

A big thank you to friends and neighbours in Castlefield Estates. We have been blessed with free event room hire now for over a decade so thank you to Sarah Ramsbottom and her team for your generosity.

We also welcome help from Maurice Shapero and long-standing Forum friends BDP as they work together to deliver the design for our community plot on the viaduct pilot.

Biggest challenges ahead: short, medium and long term

People

Neighbourhood engagement - notably with existing communities in Hulme and Ordsall plus residents from:

- Under construction and planned blocks in the Britannia Basin area of Castlefield; and
- Under construction and proposed towers in St John's, Trinity Islands and Great Jackson Street.

Trustees

Bringing on board skills and experience to not only keep our organisation resilient but to help us flourish and help us deliver on longer-term grand plans, including the full viaduct scheme and realisation of our Spirit of Place ambitions.

Castlefield viaduct

Viaduct pilot logistics (design, cost, build, operate our community plot) through to medium term challenges around funding the full and final scheme. A scheme which needs to be bold from the beginning to give it a real chance of delivering an outstanding experience which is not just a 'visitor attraction' but has a sense of real purpose and thus drives much higher footfall.

Increased traffic and footfall

With The Factory completed and in full use, Water Street permanently closed to traffic and the St John's neighbourhood nearing completion there will be more people living, visiting or working in Castlefield than ever. This will present challenges around parking, idling vehicles, pollution and of course the inevitable outflow of thousands of people from each and every Factory event. Aside from the annual flurry of 'Sounds of the City' gigs, we have never had to deal with sustained large volumes of people. We will monitor things carefully as new buildings and spaces come on stream and lean on help from the Council if any interventions are required.

Graffiti...

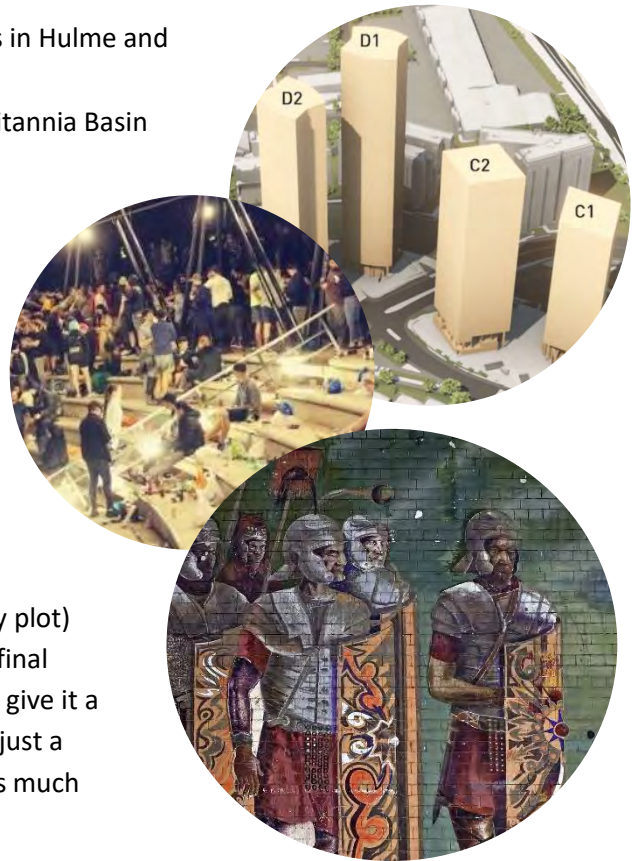
...which continues to blight Castlefield. How might we address this? How might we turn a problem into an opportunity? We have started discussions around a more formal public arts programme. The city centre has had some great successes with turning blank and unloved surfaces into public art; save for not having enough time to make it happen, there is no reason we cannot replicate the best bits of this in Castlefield.

Funding and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

The Forum has grand ambitions for Castlefield (including but not limited to the viaduct) and as a small community organisation with a busy set of Trustees, trying to acquire the right levels of help and or funding and to coordinate our ambitions and deliver against them is difficult. In essence a chicken and egg situation: wild ambitions but not enough capacity to pursue the very funding which would unlock our ambitions.

Climate Change

It goes without saying that climate change brings an incredible set of challenges to the planet and right down at local level we need a much clearer plan of how we can all act differently to help Drive real change. The forum is only at the beginning of this journey and we would readily welcome any expertise available.



Closing Remarks

We start 2022 with high spirits; the Castlefield viaduct pilot build starts in March and we have much to be optimistic for as a community. Cast your minds forward to the longest day of the year and a decrepit but wonderful relic which has had no real purpose since 1969 will be awash with residents and visitors. Come and marvel in the twilight at a project which will not only reverse decades years of decline but secures the mighty viaduct until at least the year 2272. That's not a typo but the longevity of the lease that the National Trust are weaving into their business case for the viaduct which will not only help to further regenerate Manchester but provide amenity to over 50,000 people who live within a 20 minute walk. We say, thank you, and bring on the next epoch of Castlefield's story.

Finally, a reminder that the forum exists by you, for you. A huge thank you to all of our Trustees who helped to keep the forum alive and thriving. And if you feel like you might want to get involved yourself, just get in touch.

Calum McGowan
Chair - Castlefield Forum



Appendix

Our organisation

Organisational overview for the period ending 30 April 2021.

Trustees who served during the year:

- Calum McGowan (Chair)
- Lou Pullan (Vice-Chair)
- Giles Grover (Treasurer)
- James Bowers (Secretary)
- B Hunter
- Beth Rose Hopper (stepped down November 2021)
- Carol Middleton
- Debbie Hubbard
- Gary Rumens
- Ian McIlveen
- Nena Adrienne

Action Groups

Clean & Green Castlefield

- To work in conjunction with Manchester City Council (MCC) and other local partners to keep the area attractive, green and tidy
- Expanding the group's remit to maintain and develop green spaces, including community growing space
- Delivering an exciting new strategy which takes us to the end of 2022 and beyond
- To work in liaison with MCC and local partners to present a credible entry to the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' section of North West in Bloom, aiming for a Level 5 'Outstanding' award each year

Events, Marketing, Media & Signage

- To raise the profile of Castlefield within the city, to develop our own events and contribute to events organised by others.
- To increase financial self-reliance for the Forum by developing Castlefield's marketing potential, including improving our website.
- To extend our programme of replacing damaged and out-of-date signage by producing new interpretative signs for new locations throughout the area.

Roman Gardens

- Delivering against our original masterplan to realise exciting, inspiring urban retreat in Manchester city centre

Spirit of Place & Castlefield Viaduct

- Building on our work with the National Trust to understand the spirit of Castlefield, including its value to the city of Manchester and beyond, its heritage, people, buildings, open spaces, structures, waterways and stories.
- Supporting the National Trust's consultation, fundraising and delivery of the viaduct pilot (opens June 2022) and development of the full scheme
- Delivering the Castlefield community plot on the viaduct (opens June 2022)

We have medium-term ambitions to spin up a specific fundraising group but we simply don't have the capacity to pursue this at present.

Social Media

Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ourcastlefield/>

On Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ourcastlefield>

Facebook Clean and Green Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cleangreencastlefield>

On Twitter - <https://twitter.com/CGCastlefield>

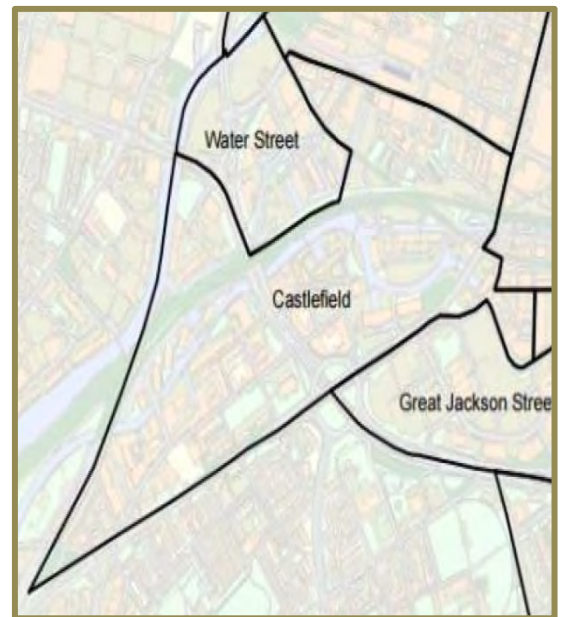
Join us as a member by contacting info@ourcastlefield.co.uk (opt out / leave at any time)

Administration

Address: 73 Liverpool Road, Manchester, M3 4AQ

Auditor: Dan Coles FCCA

Bankers: Co-operative Bank, Manchester



CASTLEFIELD FORUM

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/04/2021

Treasurer's Report

I have prepared the accounts for Castlefield Forum for the year ending 30th April 2021.

These accounts comprise an Income & Expenditure overview and a Balance Sheet to provide visibility on general and restricted funds held.

All payments made have been verified by invoice copies.

Note: Due to a timing error on the statements received, an additional £88 has been identified as received in the prior period but not fully accounted for - this has been adjusted in these accounts.

No audit has yet been carried out on these accounts but, in my opinion as Treasurer, they represent a true and fair view of Income & Expenditure for the period.

These accounts will now be reviewed by an independent examiner.



Giles Grover
4th February 2022

Income Expenditure

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2021</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Restricted</u>		<u>Previous</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Year</u>
	£	£	£	£
<u>Income & Expenditure</u>				
<u>Income</u>				
Donations prior year adjustment	88		88	
Donations - Individuals	260		260	
Donation Screen Mcr	1,000		1,000	
MCC - Roman Gardens - North Gate Lighting	0	8,176	8,176	
MCC - Roman Gardens	0	6,000	6,000	
Funds held on behalf of Clean & Green	0	440	440	
Funds held on behalf of Manchester Cladiators	0	530	530	
Total income	1,348	15,146	16,494	5,578
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Printing	84		84	
Signage	110		110	
Zoom Subscription	144		144	
Public Liability Insurance	256		256	
Total Expenditure	594	0	594	5,969
Surplus/(deficit)	754	15,146	15,900	-391

Statement of Financial Position

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2021</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
<u>Statement of financial position</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Bank balance	832	31,952	32,784	16,884
Petty cash	20	0	20	20
Total	852	31,952	32,804	16,904
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Charity General funds (repayable)	0	0	0	0
Restricted funds (repayable)	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Total assets less liabilities	852	31,952	32,804	16,904
<u>Reserves</u>				
B/f:	98	16,806	16,904	489
Movement in reserves (surplus/(deficit))	754	15,146	15,900	-391
Reserves c/f:	852	31,952	32,804	98

Reserves

<u>Y/E: 30/04/2021</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
<u>Changes in reserves</u>				
<u>Movement in General funds</u>				
C/f 2020 (2019)	98	0	98	489
Surplus/deficit Current year	754	0	754	-391
Total General funds	852	0	852	98
<u>Movement in Restricted funds</u>				
	<u>2020</u>	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Roman Gardens	16,806	14,176	30,982	
MCC Clean & Green	0	440	440	
Held on behalf of Mcr Cladiators	0	530	530	
Total Restricted funds	16,806	15,146	31,952	
Total Reserves	17,658	15,146	32,804	

Banking - Detailed Analysis

		<u>Opening Balance (28/02/2020)</u>	<u>Pre-Year Income (pre. 01/05/2020)</u>	Clean & Green NIF	Roman Gardens	Manchester Cladiators NIF	Filming Donation	Individual Donations	Forum Admin Expenses		General Funds	Restricted Funds	Non- Forum Funds Held in Trust	Closing Balance at 30/04/21
		16,884.10										16,884.10		
03/03/2020	Calum McGowan - Ad-Hoc Donation		10.00								10.00			
23/03/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation		20.00								20.00			
14/04/2020	Calum McGowan - Ad-Hoc Donation		8.00								8.00			
14/04/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation		20.00								20.00			
20/04/2020	Calum McGowan - Ad-Hoc Donation		5.00								5.00			
22/04/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation		20.00								20.00			
27/04/2020	Calum McGowan - Ad-Hoc Donation		5.00								5.00			
22/05/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
22/06/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
25/06/2020	Hillside Printing 24382								-84.00		-84.00			
22/07/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
07/08/2020	Reimbursement to Trustee G Rumens for ASB Signage								-38.00		-38.00			
11/08/2020	Reimbursement to Trustee C Middleton for Carrick Signs Invoice								-72.00		-72.00			
24/08/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
22/09/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
22/10/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
10/11/2020	RBIG - P/L Insurance - 502882090										-256.03			
23/11/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
26/11/2020	Manchester Council - NIF - Clean & Green Castlefield			440.00									440.00	
01/12/2020	Screen Manchester - Donation for filming in Castlefield						750.00				750.00			
15/12/2020	Manchester Council - Grant - 2005720260				8,176.30							8,176.30		
22/12/2020	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
19/01/2021	Screen Manchester - Donation for filming in Castlefield						250.00				250.00			
22/01/2021	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			

Banking - Detailed Analysis

08/02/2021	Reimbursement to Trustee B Hunter for Zoom Annual Subscription								-143.88		-143.88			
22/02/2021	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
15/03/2021	J Bowers - Donation (Baking)							10.00			10.00			
22/03/2021	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
29/03/2021	J Bowers - Donation (Baking)							5.00			5.00			
08/04/2021	Manchester Council - Grant - Roman Gardens				6,000.00							6,000.00		
14/04/2021	J Bowers - Donation (Baking)							5.00			5.00			
15/04/2021	Manchester Council - NIF - Manchester Cladiators					530.00							530.00	
22/04/2021	Calum McGowan - Monthly Donation							20.00			20.00			
		£16,884.10	£88.00	£440.00	£14,176.30	£530.00	£1,000.00	£260.00	-£337.88		£754.09	£31,060.40	£970.00	£32,784.49

Petty Cash

	£
Petty Cash Balance as at 30/04/2020	20.17
Expenditure	-*
Petty Cash Balance as at 30/04/2021	<u><u>£20.17</u></u>

*No petty cash movements as all payments now made via online banking.

Dan Coles FCCA
07/02/2022

FAO: Giles Grover
Treasurer
Castlefield Forum
Manchester

Dear Giles,

Thanks for the attached supporting information in your emails.

I report to the trust my examination of the accounts of Castlefield Forum (the Charity) for the period ended 30 April 2021.

I have completed an examination of the provided set of accounts and supporting documentation. 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 Act; or
 - 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
 - 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations
- 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.

I hope this is satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Coles', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dan Coles FCCA