



12 Ethel St, Neath, SA11 1BB
Charity No. 1185440

TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 1st August 2023- 31st July 2024

Officers:

Chairperson – Irene Knight

Vice-Chair – Emma Knight

Treasurer – Sarah Tipping

Secretary – Louise Rawlings

Gardening Lead – Mairead Finn

(Officers remain in post for 2 years and are appointed by the trustees following an AGM)

Additional Trustees:

Aline Valleron

Amy Morgan

Andrew Jenkins

Cheryl Murphy (resigned 10th Nov 2023)

Lillian Dawn Wilyeo

Donna Harris

Dorothy Phillips

Elizabeth Bevan

Elizabeth Jean Sharp

Louise Penny (resigned 17th Jan 2024)

Marcia Hughes

Megan Sparkes

Rosemary Bennett

Sharon Rawlings

XX – Trustee with Dispensation

(Trustees are decided by the members at the Annual General Meeting, or may be co-opted by existing trustees if a vacancy arises.)

The trustees have had due regard to public benefit and consider that each of the activities that the charity is engaged within helps promote the aims of the charity in respect of the purposes as defined overleaf.

F.A.N Community Alliance is a CIO governed by a constitution adopted 15th September 2019.

OUR PURPOSE

“To further or benefit the residents of Neath and the surrounding area (without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions) by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents”

OUR VISION

We intend to create a community that is vibrant and bustling; where everyone feels included and able to participate; where people take responsibility and respect each other and their environment; where residents groups are encouraged to form; and where people have pride in, and ownership of, where they live.

We intend to create strong and resilient neighbourhoods where community spirit soars.

VALUES & BELIEFS

Everyone Can Be Included

There Is No Generation Gap

Collaboration Opens Opportunities

We acknowledge The Current Climate & Ecological Crises

We Only Run Projects We Believe We Can Sustain

We Do Things For Ourselves But Seek Help When Needed

Anti-Social Behaviour Reduces Further Through Fun Than Sanctions

METHODS of ACTIVITY (How we achieve our Objectives / Vision):

1. Holding community events and activities that give people the chance to come together, get to know each other, learn, have fun and remove barriers such as age, gender and background
2. Managing and developing the Friends And Neighbours Centre & grounds, “The Lane” Community Garden, and “The Galv” Community Orchard and Meadow
3. Creating access to facilities and opportunities that people face barriers to
4. Providing ways for people to participate and volunteer in their local community
5. Supporting Mini FANs Youth Group to achieve their goals
6. Promoting environmental awareness, responsibility and sustainability
7. Promoting health and wellbeing activities

FINANCIAL SUMMARY – Income Sources 2023-24

Unrestricted - £52,224

Received from:

- Donations (inc. online, business and individuals donations received during surplus food projects)
- Weekly Fundraising (bonus ball & raffle, bingo takings, clothes donations etc)
- Services (FAN Fare surplus food club, community transport, fitness classes)
- Sales (Ecohub, tuck, recycling schemes)
- Annual Raffles (Easter, Summer, Christmas)
- Events (Panto ticket sales, bus trips, coffee mornings etc)
- Core grants towards our organisational and community activities (Community Anchor Development Project)

Our unrestricted funds carried forward, total £75,588. Of this, £2,000 is kept in reserves to cover the cost of 6 months of bills for the Friends And Neighbours Centre.

Restricted - £76,654

Received from:

- £719 raised by the Gentle Exercise group to enable social activities together
- £482 raised for charity (MacMillan & British Heart Foundation & comic relief)
- £2000 in donations from MADL (Nisa) Heart of the Community Award to support our community activities and Food Bank
- £30 donation towards Easter Egg Hunt
- Government funded grants (£47,581):
 - o BSSG Fund – provision of community transport
 - o Levelling Up Third Sector Growth Fund – installation of heat pump, expansion of rooftop solar and volunteer training
 - o Local Nature Partnership – creation of mini habitats around the FAN Centre
 - o Climate Conversations – to host an event alongside Welsh Government’s climate consultations
 - o NPTCBC Food Poverty – towards items supporting our food projects
 - o Discretionary Cost of Living Fund – to enhance Warm Hub and winter support projects
- Privately funded grants (£25,843):
 - o Community Foundation Wales Older Person Grant – Support & activities for older members of the community
 - o Neighbourly – fresh fruit & veg provision with tips for using surplus food for struggling families
 - o National Grid – Warm packs for elderly & vulnerable, warm hub support and expansion of off-grid power system
 - o LocalGiving Magic Little Grant – installation of under sink water heater
 - o Uplift / Warm This Winter – promotion of the Warm This Winter Campaign and hosting of 2 climate events

Restricted funds carried forward to the next financial year total £66,192.

In 2023-2024 FAN has successfully utilised grants without being dependent on them.

The majority of our activities (food in particular) continue to operate on a donation / Pay-As-You-Feel basis and, although donations fluctuate depending on the activity / event they collectively, cover our basic

running costs well. Even without the 5 year CADP grant we secured in 2024, our unrestricted funds comfortably cover our core cost, including our regular projects and events. We are confident the charity will continue as a going concern.

HOW MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT IN 2023-2024

Goals outstanding from 2022-2023 AGM

1. Increase community use of EV (links to Methods 1, 3, 4 & 6)
We now have a smart lock on the gate which has greatly improved “managed” accessibility to the site and vehicle. The car continues to be used well for transport to and from our weekly bingo, primarily supporting older people to socialise. It has been used for groups of people to attend birthday meals and outings together, as well as for individuals attending medical appointments. It has also been used by members for school runs and getting to work etc when their own vehicles have not been available. Our pool of drivers is still small and public requests for transport have been difficult to accommodate between the availability of the vehicle for this purpose and the availability of volunteers. With this in mind, we have decided that, for the time being, our community transport provision will be for people who engage regularly with our organisation and emergency referrals, so it will not be advertised to the wider public.
2. Install a reversible heat pump & under-sink water heater(s) (links to Methods 1, 2, 3 & 6)
Funding for the heat pump has been secured through the Levelling Up Third Sector Growth Fund, planning permission received, equipment purchased and installation is imminent. The kitchen under-sink water heater has been installed and is being used successfully. We secured funding through Local Giving’s Magic Little Grant to purchase a second under sink heater, part of the CADP funding will be allocated to redesign the toilets. Once this is done, the hot water in the toilet sinks will also be powered from electricity.

Goals for 2023-24 as decided in the last AGM

1. Get a repair cafe up and running within the year
No progress made
2. Grow more food around the FAN Centre & in The Lane
We have increased the growing spaces around the centre with additional planters and a living wall. Although this has been done for biodiversity purposes, we have increased the number of fruit and nut trees on site and in the space between the centre and the park, included a number of edible plants in the living wall and started a kitchen herb garden. We now have a volunteer dedicated to maintaining the site and hope that it will continue to grow and flourish.
Aside from action days for maintenance, very little has been done in the Lane Community Garden this year. Our previous lead volunteer on the project has decided to step down and only recently members of Neath Gardening Group have taken up the mantle. However, despite little attention, the garden has grown well, including the grapes, which we expect a bumper crop from this year.
3. Monthly get-togethers for volunteers
We have not achieved regular monthly get-togethers well over the past 12 months, although they have occurred intermittently. The importance of these socials was highlighted in a recent volunteer day and people have put their names forward to organise activities for the group through the coming 12 months. We have however, started a weekly volunteer lunch, which is usually attended by 6-10 individuals, although we are conscious that most are unable to join in with this. We hope to have more success getting everyone together next year.

Progress Towards Charity Objectives Through Our Methods of Activity:

1. Community Activities & Events That Give People the Chance to Come Together

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- **Bingo** for up to 60 people each week with hot, cold and take-away food plus drinks available on a Pay-As-You-Feel basis, and surplus food available to take. Our doorstep community transport service provides 2 return journeys to enable those less mobile to attend. The sessions raise approximately £95 per week for Blood Cancer UK. 7-8 volunteers are currently involved in running the sessions each week. (also links to Methods 3, 4 and 6)
- **Gentle Exercise Class** (see Method 7)
- **Chair-Based Yoga** (see Method 7)
- **FAN Pantry** runs every Friday for people to access surplus food but also provides a social space for people to have a drink, snack and chat whilst children play games together. The Pantry was used to distribute grab bags of food, toiletries and cleaning products to struggling families over the winter. It is also the main session where people access the EcoHub for refill products (also links to Methods 2, 3, 4 & 6)

REGULAR EVENTS

- **Climate Café** held monthly up until winter 2023 to alleviate climate anxiety. The session stopped in order to run the Warm Hub and, as numbers had been low, did not return in spring so that the weekly volunteer lunch could take place. We will restart the café, should the need become apparent (also links to Methods 3 & 6)
- **Eaglesbush Litter Pick** held monthly whenever the weather permits (11 out of 12 this year) with between 5 and 6 volunteers collecting approximately 5.5 bags of rubbish on each occasion. Additional issues with burning in the woods have been highlighted by the community and we have supported the Old Rd group in their campaign on this. (also links to Methods 4 & 6)
- **Surplus Café** follows our monthly litter pick and runs alongside Neath Gardening Group meet-ups. It is open to the public and usually sees 20-30 in attendance of all ages. (also links to Methods 3, 4 and 6)
- **Neath Gardening Group** maintains its online presence and meets monthly at the Friends And Neighbours Centre / The Lane to share plants, seeds, crops, and gain tips & advice, with on average 5-6 attendees at each gathering. They also provide assistance with the greening of the Centre and helped with the maintenance of the The Lane. The group has help workshops, including hanging baskets which they sold to help keep their activities sustainable (also links to Methods 2, 3, 4 & 6)
- **Kids Crafts** has now returned as a monthly volunteer led session for children aged 5 and up. Although attendance numbers are low at the moment, it has a Whatsapp chat to help it grow and plan.

ANNUAL EVENTS

We have maintained the following events in 2023-24, bringing some back from previous years:

- **Summer Fun Day** – with stalls, games and refreshments, attended by over 50 people and raised over £1000 combine with the summer raffle. Due to space, stalls etc are kept in house, although Mini FANs were permitted to run a number of fundraising activities for themselves. (also links to Methods 4 & 5)
- **MacMillan Bake Sale** – Due to a clash with Great Big Green Week the bake sale was combined with our surplus café. £305 was raised for the cause. (also links to Method 4)
- **Halloween Panto** – Talegate Theatre returned for a sold-out show Halloween show with 97 attendees, and a second show at Easter attended by 84 people (also links to Methods 3 & 5)
- **Christmas Switch-On** – small and simple event with 20 attendees. It also included an Elf Walk around town with 15 fabulous elves and the Grinch, and Elf school for the children back at the Centre (also links to Methods 2 & 4)
- **Christmas Afternoon Tea** - utilising predominantly surplus food to serve 24 individuals (also links to Method 4 & 6)
- **Children's Christmas Party** – featuring local party entertainer with a visit from Santa, gifts and food for the children. Originally fully booked with a waiting list, but due to last minute cancellations attended by 34 children, (also links to Method 4)
- **Member's Christmas Party** – held at the Briton Ferry Workingman's Club and featuring a local band and buffet. Attended by 54 people.
- **Pancake Funday** – Attended by over 30 individuals and over 80 pancakes flipped in the kitchen. (also links to Method 4)
- **WWF's Earth Hour** – an off-grid vegan meal attended by approximately 19 people. It followed a local election hustings event and gave people the opportunity to interact further with the candidates, whilst also raising awareness of the importance to take action against climate change (also links to Methods 3 & 6)
- **Easter Egg Hunt** – returned to the hall this year with a visit from the Easter Bunny, crafts, games and refreshments. Attended by 49 people. Easter eggs were also distributed to children through our food projects and members. (Also links to Method 4)
- **The Big Lunch** – 55 people attended our games themed event with activities for all ages. For the 1st time, we decided to outsource the catering so that volunteers could spend more time enjoying the event (also links to Method 4)
- **Summer Trip** – 2 free coaches were run to Aberystwyth, however only 66 people attended. We believe it was the choice of destination that put people off, however those that attended appeared to enjoy despite very poor weather on the day (also links to Method 3)

OTHER EVENTS

- **Birthday AGM** – featuring memories of the last 15 years and planning for the next 5 years.
- **Bat Walk** – Educational talk and walk through Eaglesbush Woods attended by 11 (Also links to Methods 3, 4, 6 & 7)
- **Climate Conversations** – See Method 6
- **Green Mingle** – See Method 6
- **FAN Family BBQ** – Attended by 62 individuals and primarily serving surplus food. The event

was a great success in bringing people together and helping them feel comfortable getting involved. We gained some new volunteers as a result. (Also links to Method 4)

- **Fridays 4 Youth** - We initiated weekly youth activities through the 2024 summer holidays, the 1st being a cookery session with Cook Stars. It was oversubscribed, with 11 attendees joining in. They also received breakfast before the class. (also links to Methods 2, 4, 5,7)

2. Managing & Developing The Friends And Neighbours Centre, The Lane Community Garden & The Galv Community Meadow and Orchard

THE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS CENTRE (links to all Methods)

The centre has continued to be utilised this year to help provide support for people during the cost of living crisis. The café is still run entirely on a Pay-As-You Feel basis and we have a constant supply of surplus food available for people to take on a regular basis alongside the more formal foodbank provision. We, once again, opened weekly as a warm space throughout the winter, providing both warmth and food in a social setting.

Although we still do not hire the hall, we have now increased the number of activities we hold on a regular basis through the inclusion of Neath Gardening Group, and days set aside for Mini FANs use.

Approximately 200 people per week are currently benefitting from the activities provided through the centre.

Physical developments at the centre this year include:

- Heat pumps have been purchased and planning permission received, installation is imminent. (also links to Method 6)
- Electrics upgraded and ready for 3-phase (also links to Method 6)
- Additional EV charger installed, although not yet fully functional due to connectivity issues. Once resolved, it should allow for remote bidirectional charging, capable of powering the building from the car as well as charging the vehicle. (also links to Methods 3, 6 and 7)
- Under-sink water heater installed in the kitchen and a 2nd purchased ready for the toilet sinks. (also links to Method 6)
- Continuation of the “greening” of the grounds for both biodiversity and food growing. Including a, disabled access planters, living wall, potted hedge and raised ponds (also links to Methods 3, 4, 6 and 7)

THE LANE COMMUNITY GARDEN (also links to Methods 1, 3, 4, 6 & 7)

The Lane continues to be maintained as a forest garden and mini meadow. Apples and grapes are producing well this year. Many plants in the forest garden area continue to self-generate. Engagement continues to be a problem for the space and we lost our lead gardener. However, Neath Gardening Group will be taking on the challenge, so we hope to see improvement in this area over the next year. We held quarterly action days, at key points in the year to plant, tidy up etc, and on average 5 people have attended each.

The Lane has maintained its Green flag status for 2024.

THE GALV COMMUNITY ORCHARD & MEADOW (also links to Methods 1, 3, 4, 6 & 7)

Working with Neath Boys and Girls Club, we continue to help manage a large piece of land between Neath Canal and Neath River. We have planted additional hedging fruit and nut trees, but have lost a number of the original orchard trees due to damage (although some may yet bounce back).

3. Creating Facilities & Opportunities That People Face Barriers To

The facilities and opportunities we create fall into 2 categories:

I. BRINGING NEW EXPERIENCES TO THE AREA

- **Fridays 4 Future** (also links to Methods 1, 4, 5 & 7)
Although we had only run the 1st summer holiday session by the end of year, a further 5 weeks have been planned, bringing a range of opportunities for fun, learning and community building to the younger members of our network. We felt the younger members of our community were not feeling as big a part of the community as they used to, so decided to halt FAN Pantry (see below) through the holidays to enable us to offer youth focussed activities. Although these sessions are not directly linked to Mini FANs Youth Group, we hope that by enabling our wider community of children and young people to get to know and spend time with each other it will ultimately benefit Mini FANs too.
- **Chair Based Yoga with a Qualified Physio** (see Method 7)

II. IMPROVING EQUALITY OF ACCESS:

- **Warm Hub** (also links to Methods 1, 4 & 6)
Our Warm Space, returned through the Winter months to support people struggling with the cost of living crisis, but open to all. One day a week was dedicated to the project, the basis of which was self-funded, but included enhancements through funding from National Grid Community Matters Fund, NPTCBC Food Poverty Grant, Third Sector Discretionary Cost of Living Fund and Nisa Heart of the Community Award. Together, it included:
 - A warm lunch from our surplus PAYF café for 8-9 people on average each week
 - FAN Pantry drop-in (see below) attended by 35 people on average per week through winter.
 - Free access to internet and charging
 - 120 Free warm packs for elderly and disabled members of the community through Nation Grid.
 - A free “Grab Bag” provision utilised by 44 households, containing:
 - Food Bags – available weekly, containing cupboard staples through NPTCBC Food Poverty and topped up with fresh veg through Nisa
 - Toiletry Bags - available monthly, containing environmentally friendly products through DCoL
 - Cleaning Bags – Starter bottles of eco-friendly household cleaning products that could be refilled monthly with us with 50% off
 - £50 voucher for goods available from our EcoHub (see Method 7)
- **Emergency Food Bank**
Although it is used infrequently, we continue to operate an Emergency Food Bank, filling the gaps for those who will run out of food before able to access a traditional food bank or are unable to attend one in person. Parcels are substantial and delivered to the doorstep.
- **Gardening** (also links to Methods 2, 4, 6 & 7)
We now have 2 wheelchair accessible planters in place on the grounds of the FAN Centre, currently containing both wildflowers and food. This enables people with physical disabilities to get their hands dirty with Neath Gardening Group, as well as to give them some ownership of the site.

- **Surplus Food Projects** (Also links to Methods 1, 2, 4 & 6)
These continue to run alongside each other to ensure they all remain sustainable. They are designed to focus on the issue and impacts of food waste, and remain open to all to ensure that anyone in need of food, but reluctant to reach out for help, is still able to access food comfortably. The projects also allow people to try new foods without worrying about spending money on something that will end up in the compost, and enables them to play a bigger part in reducing GHGs. Although the types and amounts of food received are unpredictable, the projects collectively sustain themselves financially & practically. They currently consist of:
 - The Surplus Café – used by 60+ per week on average on a PAYF basis and utilising food grown on site when available.
 - Surplus Food Club – for a nominal monthly fee, 22 members currently receive a weekly parcel with an additional 9 members benefitting when there is excess. 33 households have benefitted from this scheme over the year and there is currently a waiting list.
 - FAN Pantry – usage varies between 12 and 40 individuals per week accessing ambient, fresh, chilled, frozen and cooked food, free or by donation. Regulars include families with children at a nearby school and local refugees.

Surplus food available to us has remained low this year, yet despite this we have redistributed over 15 tonnes of food; the equivalent of approx. 37.5 tonnes of CO₂ (plus additional methane if it had gone to landfill), or around 42,000 meals!

- **Re-Homing** (Also links to Methods 4 & 6)
Our clothes rail and bookshelves operate for people to bring unwanted items and take as they feel.
- **Community EV Transport** (Also links to Methods 1, 4, 5 and 6)
Our eV Community Transport operates 2 runs each week for the bingo as well as for the occasional hire with and without drivers provided. In addition, the vehicle is used to deliver between 14 and 18 food parcels each week to our Surplus Food Club members, along with any emergency food bank requests.
- **Litter-Picking Hub** (Also links to Methods 1, 4 & 6)
We continue to operate under Keep Wales Tidy's banner to facilitate people carrying out litter pick by offering free equipment hire and guidance. We have supported individuals, schools and other organisations over the past year.
- **Local & National Representation** (Also links to Methods 1, 4, 6 & 7)
We have been involved in a number of campaigns this year that helps give a voice to hard to reach communities, including Welsh Government's Climate Conversations consultation, the Warm This Winter Campaign, and we remain the only Climate Cymru partner in Neath. We also organised a relaxed hustings event for a Town Council and Borough Council election to enable people to meet and get to know the candidates. However, we cancelled the one planned for the UK Parliamentary election due to lack of response, and safety concerns around hustings, from the candidates.
- **Neath Boys And Girls Club** (Also links to Method 4)
We continue to support Neath Boys And Girls Club and their mission to refurbish and open the club for local young people. We donated £3600 to the cause this year, including the proceeds of our Easter Raffle.

4. Providing Ways For People To Participate And Volunteer

FAN emphasises, promotes and facilitates community participation and responsibility. Everyone is involved in our organisation in a voluntary capacity – we have no paid staff. Without volunteers, FAN would not exist. However, at the same time, many members of our organisation do not consider themselves volunteers in the traditional sense. Volunteering with FAN is more of a mindset than a role, as our path is one of “active citizenship”.

ROLES

Volunteer activities within FAN vary but could be anything from joining the board of trustees, cooking, litter-picking, gardening, organising events, cleaning or even becoming the Easter Bunny.

Most of our volunteering roles are fluid with people taking up whichever roles are needed at the time. However, we have:

- A pool of drivers who are able to pick up food donations, deliver, parcels and provide community transport
- Individuals trained to work the kitchen and café front of house
- A team of gardeners
- Individuals confident enough to lead our monthly litter-picks

BONDING

Due to the level of community support and activities we have delivered in recent years, volunteers had not having the quality time together that formed the bond at the core of our organisation. This year we have sought to readdress that in the following ways:

- **Monthly Volunteer Social** – we haven’t quite hit our monthly target yet, but we have held a few “volunteer only” events, including a games evening, a quiz night and our 15th Halloween Birthday Party. (Also links to Method 1)
- **Weekly Volunteer Surplus Lunch** – this took the place of the Warm Hub café once winter was over. It has been attended by approximately 8 volunteers each week, with 23 volunteers attending at least once. (Also links to Methods 1 & 6)
- **Working Events** – we have held 3 volunteer work days, including a full day with buffet lunch and chippy supper to get to know each other and work on FAN’s 5 year goals, a Sunday Lunch that brought the information from the former event together, and a Fun Day prep day with chippy supper.

TRAINING

We have tried to support out volunteers to access any training they feel would benefit them, and through the Levelling Up 3rd Sector Growth Fund, this has included:

- Carbon Literacy Training (1 attendee)
- Funding and Bid Writing Courses (5 attendees)
- Minute Taking (2 attendees)
- Charity Finance (1 attendee)
- Safeguarding (2 attendees)
- Food Hygiene (6 attendees)
- Allergy Awareness (1 attendee)
- Emergency 1st Aid (9 attendees)

- RHS Gardening (1 attendee)

We have had approx.. 60 individuals volunteer at some point through the year, aged from 6-93 years old. Of these, 20 have signed up to receive Tempo Time Credits through us – an increase from 2 last year.

5. Supporting Mini F.A.Ns Youth Group

Mini FANs have floundered a bit this year and it has been difficult trying to give them autonomy whilst simultaneously providing guidance. They tried to organise a few events, but they were cancelled due to lack of interest and availability come the time. Similarly, they currently have very few members, with many failing to attend the group meetings this year.

We will continue to support Mini FANs however we can, but we are refocussing energy on the young people in our wider community. By doing this we may be able to help regrow the Mini FANs group.

6. Promoting Environmental Awareness, Responsibility & Sustainability

Climate Declaration:

FAN acknowledges the connection between the climate and other environmental crises and the threat of current and future homelessness, disease, food and water shortages and poverty for millions of people around the world, as well as the major damage being caused to our natural ecosystems.

We recognise that we are in a climate & ecological emergency and it needs to be treated as such. We therefore identify that we have a responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint to net zero, along with any other harmful effects our activities have on both the local and global environment by 2025.

To do this we have 6 focus areas and have in 2023-24 have taken the following action:

I. Reducing Carbon Emissions

- **ELECTRIC**
 - In 2023, the centre was 72% solar powered and exported twice as much to the national grid than we consumed from it. Overall electricity consumption (including power generated from our solar panels) was approx. 25% lower than in 2022, which we believe is due to behaviour change through use of the portable batteries, utilising hot water from flasks to do dishes, and using low energy lamps rather than the large overhead lights. The volunteers should be commended on this reduction despite the ongoing electrification of the building. In addition, our electricity is sourced 100% from renewables, so the power we have used from the grid is already produced with net zero emissions. (Also links to Methods 2 & 4)
 - We have expanded our portable power system to include an additional emergency battery, so we do not need to worry about empty batteries during power cuts. We have also added a number of smart plugs which can be used to switch the fridges / freezers onto the portable system at times of high consumption or low power generation. (Also links to Method 2)
 - We took part in all 15 of Octopus Energy's Winter "Saving Sessions" aimed at providing evidence that, if given energy information, the public are able to shift their consumption pattern to prevent blackouts (or the need for fossil fuel back-up energy). We were ranked in the top 4% of participants for the energy reduction savings we made during the sessions, with 6.95kWh of power saved prevented 2383g

of CO2 from entering the atmosphere. We have just started taking part in their Summer Free electricity scheme which, conversely, aims to show that, given the information, people are able to make use of extra power when the grid is cleanest (and therefore use less when it is using fossil fuels).

- **GAS**

Winter 2023-24 was mild but long, and operating as a warm hub through the winter meant our heating was on longer than it would otherwise have been. However, compared to last year we achieved a 35% drop in our gas consumption, equivalent to a 70% reduction from our 2019 baseline. Whilst weather may have played a part, this is also the result of:

- Installation of the under-sink water heater in the kitchen, which has reduced our summer gas consumption by 75%. (Also links to Method 2)
- EWI and triple glazing installed last year has now been put to the test and is keeping the hall warmer on cold days, and cooler on hot ones. The heat is also holding better, so the hall stays warmer for longer after the heating has turned off.
- A portable room thermostat has been connected to the boiler, enabling us to better control the heating and prevent the hall from overheating when people are in and out of the front door. (Also links to Method 2)

As of March 24, our combined gas and electricity consumption show an 80% reduction from our 2019 baseline (36% from 2022-23), without taking our 100% green energy tariff into consideration. With that added in, we are 93% along our net zero carbon journey for scopes 1 and 2.

II. **Reducing Waste & Recycling** (in favour of re-use / rehome)

The council removed trade waste sacks this year. For those with low waste presentation, they were replaced with a slimline wheelie bin, which we qualified for. We present the bin for collection roughly every 3 months. In order to help combat waste at the centre, we have maintained the following:

- Having range of teracycle streams that are included in our public drop-point. (also links to Methods 2 & 3)
- Using a “Zero Waste” box for a variety of waste items generated at the centre that cannot be recycled through the council or free teracycle schemes
- Re-using boxes through our food projects to ensure cardboard remains below 2 sacks per week (also links to Method 3)
- Using plastic free recycled toilet paper
- Offering a range of reusable sanitary products
- Using a supplier for our refill products who offers a closed loop system
- Running FAN Pantry and utilising the community fridge & freezer to minimise food waste (also links to Methods 3 & 4)
- Composting as much as possible on site (also links to Methods 2 & 4)
- Reducing the size of our internal general waste bin and have a sorting crate(s)

present at all events and activities to ensure as much is recycled as possible.

In addition, our clothes re-homing rail and free to take bookshelves remain popular. The Dragon Bags bin remains in place for clothing that is not taken from the rail. (also links to Method 3)

III. Reducing Water Usage

We haven't made a great deal of progress in this area, but despite higher plant watering needs, we have more or less remained steady with our overall water consumption by:

- Utilising 5 water butts in use around the centre with an additional 2 waiting to be connected. (Also links to Method 2)
- Behaviour changes, e.g. checking hot water canisters for water left over at the end of events / activities, before running the tap to do the dishes. (Also links to Method 4)

IV. Improving Local Biodiversity (preventing species loss)

- Mini habitats have been installed around the Centre through the Local Nature Partnership Grant. This includes raised ponds and wetland, a living wall, mini woodland meadow and potted hedge. (Also links to Methods 2, 4 & 7)
- Cleaning products used at the Centre, and available through our Eco-Hub, are eco-friendly, vegan approved alternatives that are refillable on site. (also links to Methods 2, 3 & 4)
- Toiletries sold through our eco-hub and distributed with emergency parcels, and other forms of support, are all plastic free and eco-friendly. (Also links to Method 3)
- Monthly woodland litter picks continue, helping to protect wildlife from the dangers associated with littering, as well as aquatic life by preventing it entering the waterways. (Also links to Methods 1, 4 & 7)

V. Raising Awareness

- **Climate Conversations Event** - Family friendly event to bring community voices to the Welsh Government climate consultations. Attended by 27 people, with 4 generations participating. (Also links to Methods 1, 3 & 4)
- We hosted a Family friendly "Green Mingle" for Great Big Green Week 2024, funded by Warm This Winter, bringing together a number of local and national organisations to speak and share information with the public. The event included a photo booth for people to leave a message for UK Government relating to the climate crisis and/or cost of living crisis. (Also links to Methods 1, 3 & 4)
- We have been promoting the Warm This Winter campaign with a range of flyers, social media posts and conversations through out the year to encourage people to engage with politicians for a Green Transition where nobody gets left behind. (Also links to Method 3)
- Although we didn't fundraise this year, we still hosted an event for Earth Hour, highlighting our ability to go off-grid whilst running an event, generating discussions

around Net Zero. (Also links to Methods 1 & 2)

- Our Eco-Hub includes a range of items to improve energy efficiency and support off-grid needs. We also have a selection of planet-friendly toiletries that can be purchased, which are also utilised in food bank parcels when donations are low. We regularly run eco-themed competitions, offers and Cost of Living projects that help people to get started with refills and to try out various products. (Also links to Methods 3 & 4)
- Our climate film “The Planting of A Seed” has been working the film festival circuit this year! It was selected for the Activist Without Borders Film Festival, WOW Wales One World Film Festival, and a finalist in the South London Film Festival. It was also shown in Yale, USA as part of their environmental film festival circuit.

VI. Prepare for Life on a Warmer Planet

- Funding through the Levelling Up 3rd Sector Growth Fund, planning permission and equipment is all in place for the installation of 3 small heat pumps. They should be functional by the end of 2024, not only helping to reduce our emissions from heating, but also providing a way to keep the Centre cool in the summer. The funding also includes an extension to our solar panels which will keep the additional burden on the national grid low. (Also links to Method 2)

7. Promoting Health and Wellbeing Activities

- **Gentle Exercise Classes** (also links to Methods 1, 3 & 4)
Aimed at older people and those with limited mobility, this lively class is attended by approximately 15-20 people per week. Our instructor and substitute instructor are both volunteers. Although it is advertised as a keep fit class, the sessions are just as much about preventing isolation and promoting friendship. The group have also organised 3 meals out together over the year.
- **Chair Based Yoga with a Qualified Physio** (also links to Methods 1 & 3)
Our yoga class has now been running for a year with steady numbers and a slight increase in weekly participants, currently with 10 attendees per session. The class has been funded by The Community Foundation’s Older Persons Grant, however, despite the costs of hiring an instructor for this session, it is close to sustaining itself. The classes are blended, so people have the opportunity to join virtually if they prefer. We also provide refreshments for after the class, but few have taken us up on this to date. The presence of a physio has helped reassure people who would not normally consider yoga as an option for them, even though they are often the most in need of it. Many have expressed improved mobility, flexibility and balance, enabling to do things that they had lost the ability to do before starting the class.

DECLARATIONS

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees’ Report for 2023-2024 contained herein.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees:

J M Knight

SL Tipping

Signature(s)		
Name(s)	Irene Knight	Sarah Tipping
Position(s)	Chair Person	Treasurer
Date	13th September 2024	13th September 2024

FAN Community Alliance

Statement of Financial Activities For the Year Ended 31st July 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and Legacies	2	7,139	2,030	9,169	11,738
Charitable Activities	3				
FAN Community Alliance		45,085	74,624	119,709	66,242
Total		52,224	76,654	128,878	77,980
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable Activities					
FAN Community Alliance		45,424	56,868	102,292	80,853
NET INCOME		6,800	19,786	26,586	(2873)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total Funds Brought Forward		68,788	66,192	134,980	137,853
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARDS		75,588	85,978	161,566	134,980

FAN Community Alliance

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

31 July 2024

	Note s	Unrestricted Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	-	56,360	56,360	60,051
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	441	1,941	2,382	1,476
Cash at bank		69,131	34,407	103,538	73,892
Total Current Assets		69,572	36,348	105,920	75,368
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(547)	(167)	(714)	(439)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		69,025	36,181	105,206	74,929
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		69,025	92,541	161,566	134,980
NET ASSETS		69,025	92,541	161,566	134,980
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				75,588	68,768
Restricted Funds				85,978	66,212
TOTAL FUNDS				161,566	134,980

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on

..... and were signed on its behalf by:

.....

Irene Knight – Chair Person

.....

FAN Community Alliance

Sarah Tipping – Treasurer

(SEE PHOTO BELOW FOR SIGNATURES)

The notes form part of these financial statements

FAN Community Alliance

Balance Sheet 31 July 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	-	56,360	56,360	60,051
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	441	1,941	2,382	1,476
Cash at bank		69,131	34,407	103,538	73,892
Total Current Assets		69,572	36,348	105,920	75,368
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(547)	(167)	(714)	(439)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		69,025	36,181	105,206	74,929
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		69,025	92,541	161,566	134,980
NET ASSETS		69,025	92,541	161,566	134,980
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				75,588	68,768
Restricted Funds				85,978	66,212
TOTAL FUNDS				161,566	134,980

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on

5th MAY 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

I. Knight

Irene Knight – Chair Person

SL Tipping

Sarah Tipping – Treasurer

The notes form part of these financial statements

Page | 2

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is charged at the following rates in order to write off the value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings – 20% of cost price

Motor Vehicles – 10% of cost price

Computer equipment – 20% of cost price

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Page | 6

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued

For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

4	TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS			
.	<p>There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 July 2024 (31 July 2023 - Nil)</p> <p>Trustees' expenses</p> <p>There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 July 2024 (31 July 2023 - Nil)</p>			
5	COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES			
.		Unrestrict ed Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
	INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
	Donations and legacies	7,438	4,300	11,738
	Charitable Activities			
	FAN Community Alliance	22,339	43,903	66,242
	Total	29,777	48,203	77,980
	EXPENDITURE ON			
	Charitable Activities			
	FAN Community Alliance	16,352	64,501	80,853
	NET INCOME	13,425	(16,298)	(2,873)
	RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	55,363	82,490	137,853
	Total funds brought forward			
	TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	68,788	66,192	134,980

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued

For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

6	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				
		Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipmen t £	Totals £
	COST				
	At 1 August 2023	30,503	47,536	9,858	87,897
	Additions	11,419	-	-	11,419
	At 1 August 2024	41,922	47,536	9,858	99,316
	DEPRECIATION				
	At 1 August 2023	11,038	11,489	5,319	27,846
	Charge for year	8,384	4,754	1,972	15,110
	At 31 July 2024	19,422	16,243	7,291	42,956
	NET BOOK VALUE				
	At 31 July 2024	22,500	31,293	2,567	56,360
	At 31 July 2023	19,465	36,047	4,539	60,051

7	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2024 £ 2,382	2023 £ 1,476
----------	---	--------------------	--------------------

8	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2024 £ 714	2023 £ 439
----------	---	------------------	------------------

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued

For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Purposes of Restricted Funds:

Community Foundation Wales - Older People's Fund

Support and activities for older members of the community

NPT Food Poverty Grant

Part 1 to fund a series of food growing workshops. Part 2 to fund the continuation and development of our food projects.

National Grid (Weston Power) Community Matters Fund

To fund warm packs for the elderly and vulnerable, improve comfort, privacy and safety of attending our warm hub, and the expansion of our off-grid power system

LocalGiving Magic Little Grant

2022: towards cost of running our food projects

2023: towards installation of an under-sink water heater

NPTCBC Bus Services Support Grant

Towards the cost of operating our community transport service

National Lottery Community Fund

Funding towards the installation of wall insulation for the FAN Centre

Regional Heath, Social Care and Wellbeing Small Grants

Funding to pilot a Yoga for Balance project

NPTCBC Warm Hub

Funding towards the costs of running our winter warm hub & associated activities

Co-Op Local Community Fund

Funding to increase food-growing and the use of home-grown produce around the FAN Centre

Neighbourly

Provision of fresh fruit and vegetables and surplus food tip cards to struggling families

Levelling Up Third Sector Growth Fund

Installation of a heat pump, expansion of solar PV system and volunteer training

Local Nature Partnership

Installation of mini habitats to support biodiversity around the Friends And Neighbours Centre

	<p>Climate Conversations To host a public event to promote engagement with Welsh Government climate consultation</p> <p>Third Sector Discretionary Cost of Living Grant To enhance our Warm Hub, introduce a grab bag scheme, and towards the cost of our community car insurance and winter power bills</p> <p>Uplift / Warm This Winter To help promote the Warm This Winter campaign, including hosting two climate themed events</p> <p>Air Conditioning Fund Funding towards the purchase of air conditioning equipment for the FAN Centre</p> <p>Gentle Exercise Group Money raised to support the group and enable social events together</p> <p>S&A Electrical Carbon Offsetting Donation provided to support FAN's reduction of carbon emissions</p> <p>Making A Difference Locally Award given to support our food bank</p> <p>External Charity Fundraising Money raised in order to donate to: British Heart Foundation and Macmillan</p> <p>Easter Donation Private donation given towards the costs of running an Easter Egg Hunt</p>
10.	<p>RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES</p> <p>Trustee Mairead Finn is married to our paid Yoga instructor. However, Mairead Finn was not present for, nor a part of, the discussion around his appointment or the agreed fee. In addition, Mairead Finn has no role in relation to our financial procedures, accounting or payments.</p>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	9,169	11,738
Charitable activities		
Weekly fundraising	4,891	5,325
Raffles	1,233	323
Community events	4,849	3,578
Services	5,230	2,377
Sales	577	398
External Charity Fundraising	482	1106
Grants	102,436	53,135
	<u>128,858</u>	<u>77,980</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

EXPENDITURE	2024 £	2023 £
Charitable Activities		
Community Events	8,737	8,125
Charity Donations	4,129	1,407
Cleaning & Refuse	443	1,007
Licenses & Subscription	1,124	1036
Repairs & Equipment Renewals	5,204	1,913
Equipment Purchased	1,826	1,445
Catering & Food Projects	6,271	8,894
Youth	299	4,495
Gardening	8,551	3,653
Community Car	717	1,528
Volunteers	1,199	681
Climate	28,015	14,857
Eco / Warm hub	11,717	5,865
Fitness Activities	1,517	5,768
Depreciation of Tangible Fixed Assets	15,110	12,826
	94,922	73,500
Support Costs		
Management		
Rent, Rates & Water		
Insurance	581	726
Light & Heat	3,908	2,982
Phone & Internet	875	1,259
Office	457	509
Sundries & Training	280	1,073
	1,148	683
Finance	7,249	7,232
Bank Charges		
	121	121
Total Resources Expended	102,292	80853
Net Income	26,586	(2,873)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of

F.A.N. Community Alliance

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of F.A.N Community Alliance

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of F.A.N. Community Alliance (the Trust) for the year ended 31st July 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

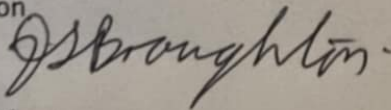
Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 13 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 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Mr D S Broughton



2 Geoffrey Street

NEATH

SA11 1HU

Date:

05/05/2025