

The Local Community Centre

Annual General Meeting

13th September 2021

1. Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I present this annual report, the first in the history of The Local Community Centre.

This report covers our operational period of 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020. The Annual General Meeting for the same period was scheduled to be held during March 2021. However, the Government COVID guidelines prevented us from doing so.

Stuart Davidson

Stuart Davidson
Chairman
The Local Community Centre



2. The Local Community Centre

In April 2019, a group of like-minded people came together to identify how a neglected and under resource asset, the building know as Pensioner's House, could be used for the benefit of all people living in Boston and the surrounding areas. The concept of The Local Community Centre was born.

A committee was created and work began on securing charitable status.

In October 2019 the Charity Commission granted charitable status to The Local Community Centre (Charity number 1185735) and steps were taken to transfer ownership of the building and its fixtures, together with its financial assets to the new charity.

Whilst the Centre enjoyed the patronage of a couple of groups from the very start, more pressing matters occupied the trustees. A lack of investment and neglect had impacted some of the very basic but essential fittings in the Centre. For example, there was no hot water available at the toilet sinks and simple, but legally required actions, such as PAT testing of electrical goods and servicing of firefighting appliances had not been undertaken.

The committee worked hard to address outstanding issues to ensure that those who book the Centre could undertake their group's activities knowing the environment was safe.

Today, groups including Safer Places, The Butterfly Hospice, Lincolnshire Sensory Society and Singing for Fun are amongst those who enjoy the Centre and its resources.

3. Formal Opening

On Monday 16th March 2021, the Local Community Centre was formally opened by Councillor Anton Dani, the Mayor of Boston.



Friends, supporters and children from a local school came to witness the formal opening and at the time, the trustees thought it marked a key event in what had, up to that point, been a very busy programme of preparing the Centre for use by local groups and organisations.

Unfortunately, the euphoria of that day was quickly diminished two days later when the trustees had to decide to close the Centre because of the first major lockdown imposed by the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the various measures introduced by the Government to tackle it was to have a significant effect on the Centre.



4. Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 impacted the fortunes of the Centre in a number of ways.

Being unable to accept bookings for the Centre from groups immediately removed the Centre's income. Extensive work had been undertaken to identify formal targets for the trustees, in terms of bookings that were required to ensure the viability of the Centre, and these quickly became irrelevant. Notwithstanding the loss of the Centre's income, the trustees still had to pay for utilities such as gas and electricity. In addition, ongoing issues needed to be addressed and that continued to place a major strain on the Centre's financial assets.

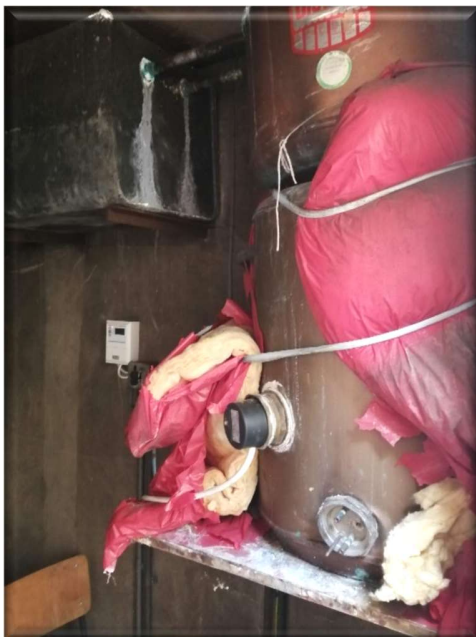
Uncertainty and concern, within the trustees and previous groups who had used the Centre, regarding some of the measures introduced to combat COVID-19 at various times meant that the Centre did not welcome groups back until 2021.

5. Finances

The opening balance for the year was £8,648. In addition there was a small income from bookings prior to the COVID-19 Lock-Down.

Expenditure for the year was £6,344. This included £4,835 which was spent on insurance, health and safety measures and repairs to the building infrastructure.

The Centre received a grant of £10,000 from the Local Authority Discretionary Fund and a grant of £911 from Boston Big Local which was used to install internet access across the Centre.



6. Looking Forward

As we approach autumn, the trustees still have the resolve and appetite to succeed that drove us all to create The Local Community Centre.

We have continued to replace or repair aspects of the building fabric to further improve the user experience, an important fact that will be reported on in our 2021 annual report.

We have attracted new groups to the Centre which demonstrates the success that the trustees have had in creating a model that appeals to all across our community. This gives the trustees a positive outlook for the future of the Centre and its viability for the coming years.

We continue to look for more individuals who may want to join us as either a Trustee or Volunteers and help us drive the Centre forward for the benefit of the community. If you feel that you could contribute to the work of the Centre, please contact us through our Facebook page.

The Local Community Centre

Accounts

Financial Year 2020

Income and Expenditure y/e 31/12/20						
Opening Balance - Account						8,540.77
Opening Balance - Petty Cash						107.48
						8,648.25
Income						
Donations					-	
Lettings					272.50	
Grants					10,000.00	
Fund Raising					-	
Restricted Funds					911.66	
Petty Cash					100.00	
Other					925.00	
					12,209.16	
Expenditure						
Gas				245.27		
Water				195.48		
Electricity				347.33		
Rates				420.90		
Insurance				1,015.61		
Health & Safety				492.00		
Repairs				3,228.67		
Grant Expenditure				0.00		
Postage				0.00		
Other				399.12		
					6,344.38	
						5,864.78
			c/fwd			14,513.03
Bank Balance					14474.37	
Petty Cash					38.66	14513.03
						0.00

The Local Community Centre Y/E 31/12/20												
Income												
Date	Deposit Number			Current Account	Petty Cash Account	Donations	Letting/Booking	Grants	Fund Raising	Restricted Funds	Other	Petty Cash
Balanc Bfwd 01/01/20				8540.77	107.48							
06/02/2020	500067		*	700.00	100.00						700.00	
28/02/2020	direct	Butterfly Hospice	*	75.00			75.00					
09/03/2020												100.00
10/03/2020	500068		*	25.00							25.00	
20/03/2020	direct	Lincolnshire Community	*	37.50			37.50					
24/03/2020	direct	Age Uk	*	160.00			160.00					
22/06/2020	direct	Boston BC	*	10,000.00				10,000.00				
06/11/2020	500069		*	200.00								200.00
25/11/2020	direct	Boston Big Local	*	911.66							911.66	

