COMMUNITY TRANSFORM

England & Wales · Charity number 1186368

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2019-11-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	5 Camden Court Northern Road Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP19 9RF
Phone	01628533143
Email	nsingeisen@aol.com

Activities

Objects: TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY AND SKILLS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY ARE BETTER ABLE TO IDENTIFY, AND HELP MEET, THEIR NEEDS AND TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN SOCIETY

Activities: COMMUNITY TRANSFORM IS A COMMUNITY CAPACITY-BUILDING CHARITY BASED ON ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, Economic/community Development/employment, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People

Geography

- Buckinghamshire

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Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,680	£1	-	-
2024-03-31	£818	£802	-	-
2023-03-31	£10,649	£1	-	-
2022-03-31	£36,075	£444	-	-
2021-03-31	£32,236	£2	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr David Furze		2019-11-15
Dr JOHN MOORCROFT WALTON		2019-11-15
JOHN GARNIER RICHARDS		2019-11-15

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COMMUNITY TRANSFORM

England & Wales - Charity number 1186368

Accounts

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO, No: 1186368

Trustees' Annual Report

Reporting on the period April 2024 to March 2025

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity Community Transform, charity number 1186368, for the year ended 31st March 2025.

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ORGANISATION, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2025

The name of the charity is Community Transform. The CIO has established schemes known as Community Grow and Play Street Bucks.

Trustees

Dr David Charles Furze (Chair)
Nicolas Richard Singeisen
Dr John Moorcroft Walton
John Garnier Richards

Charity registered number

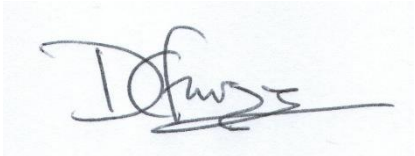
1186368

Principle Office

Community Transform CIO
Westwood
44 Westwood Green, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9DE
Telephone: 01628-533143
Mobile: 0771-457-7478
Email address: NSingeisen@aol.com

Signature

Name: Dr Dave Furze – Chair of Trustees



Signature: Date: 31st March 2026

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2025

Contents

This report has the following sections:

1. **Charity Objectives, Legal Structure and Ethos**
   a. Charity Objectives
   b. Our Mission: What we aim to do
   b. Changes to the legal structure of Community Transform – a transition of responsibility
   c. Community Transform Ethos:

2. **Charity Activities**
   a. Public Benefit
   b. There are three distinct project areas
      1) *Community Grow Network*
      2) *Company CSR Employee Teams*
      3) *Play Street Bucks*

3. **Charity Achievements and Performance**
   a. **Chair's personal reflection**:
   b. In Aylesbury
      Community Food Growing Network
         (a) *St Peter's Community Garden, Quarrendon*
         (b) *The Storehouse Community Garden*
         (c) St Mary's Church Church Yard Youth Project

      (2) Aylesbury Station Platform Flower Beds Revamp and Friends of Aylesbury Station Group

   c. Update on other projects
      (1) Sierra Road Community Allotment
      (2) Play Streets in Harlow Road

   d. In County-wide and National Networks

      (1) Play Streets Bucks Steering Group
      (2) Other Local Networks and Groups
         a) *The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB), Integrated Care System. BOD ICS*
         (b*) Faith Groups – Bucks-wide Faith Forum*

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM
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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2025

1. Charity Objectives, Legal Structure and Ethos

a. Charity Objectives

The Charity Commission recognise our charitable objectives as:

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM IS A COMMUNITY CAPACITY-BUILDING CHARITY BASED ON ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION.

We work with beneficiaries:

……to develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas, in such a way that they are better able to identify, help meet their needs, and participate more fully in society.

b. Our Mission: What we aim to do:

Community Transform has the strapline *"Transforming lives, Transforming communities".* As a social purpose organisation, we base our work on the principles of community development (ref 1) and social transformation. At the heart of what do is to take a relational, bottom-up approach with both individuals and communities. Focusing on creating positive social change and improving the wellbeing of the communities.

c. Changes to the legal structure of Community Transform – a transition of responsibility

Our charity status was confirmed by the Charity Commission on 15th November 2019, with charity number 1186368. The responsibility for all project activity, contracts, assets, and strategy, which previously had been delivered by the social enterprise Community Transform (2017) Ltd, company number 7712998, was transferred to the charity, officially taking effect at the beginning of April 2020. This was also the time when the charity began to receive grants and sign contracts to deliver services and projects.

Historically, the focus of the organisation's project work was located mainly in the High Wycombe area under Community Transform (2017) Ltd. However, we have always held a longer-term aim to work across other parts of Buckinghamshire. This aim has been realised in part by developing our work in Aylesbury, working in partnership with the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) team and other projects during the last 3 years. Over this time, we have also extended our involvement in county-wide networks and initiatives.

d. Community Transform Ethos:

Community Development, The work of Community Transform is based on the community development principles set out by the International Association of Community Development, IACD. Community development is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline concerned with the organisation, education and empowerment of people within their communities, and the IACD is the global multi-disciplinary network for those who work in this field. The IACD is accredited by the U.N. and has members across the world.

5 Ways to Wellbeing, Community Transform recognises the 5 ways to wellbeing principles – connect, give, take notice, keep learning and be active, in the way it works. (ref 2)

Community Transform is a charity - a social purpose organisation, based on the principles of community development and social transformation. It has taken a

relational, bottom-up approach to work with individuals and communities at the heart. We focus on creating positive social change and improving the wellbeing of communities.

Positive Social Change, PSC, is found to be most effective when the three mechanisms of change are present; these are a) motivation, b) capacity, and c) opportunity. The road to empowerment touches all three of these drivers. Taking a person-centred approach means listening to local people's views and opinions, giving them decision-making power on things that affect them, and developing relationships and trust are all vital elements.

2. **Charity Activities** (For a full history of Community Transform, see the Charity Report ye April 2021 & ye 2022)

a. Public Benefit

The Trustees seek to ensure that the activities of the CIO meet 'Public Benefit' tests in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance. In particular, the Trustees have regard to the Objectives of the CIO, as set out in the Constitution, and how proposed activities will further these. Trustees also judge proposed activities in line with the requirement that they should be beneficial to the public, or a sufficient section of the public.

The Trustees, having reviewed the objectives and activities of the Trust and, having given due consideration to Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit, are satisfied that the Trust's business is properly conducted for the public benefit.

The work of the charity has always had two interlocking aspects – *local projects* in certain areas, particularly areas of deprivation. These local projects are sometimes part of *County-wide* initiatives. We aim to maintain contact and collaborate with local, county, and national networks and strategic groups. Our local project work over the last 5 years has been focused in both High Wycombe and in Aylesbury. The Aylesbury Garden Town, AGT (Buckinghamshire Council) contract, which started in 2019 to work with. The AGT-funded contract finished at the end of May 2022. However, the projects continued to be supported by us, where this was possible. Also note that other local work in High Wycombe has continued.

The county-wide initiatives/networks have involved the Public Health Physical Activity Strategy Group, Community Boards, Play Street Steering Group, BOB Health Alliance and the councils' flagship 'Opportunity Bucks' programme, their local approach to 'Levelling Up'. An initiative focusing on 10 wards in Buckinghamshire, across 3 areas where people are experiencing the most hardship (see www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/opportunity-bucks/)

b. There are three distinct project areas that the charity focuses on:

1) *Community Grow Network* - using local green spaces as a tool to engage with residents and improve the public realm.
2) *Company CSR Employee Teams* – using the resources of the employees of local companies for the benefit of communities and working with VCSE organisations
3) *Play Street Bucks* – supporting short & regular resident-led street closures to facilitate social capacity building where residents in a neighbourhood interact, and children play.

In the Achievements and Performance section below, the Trustees set out how we have moved forward in these areas of activity during the review period to the end of March 2024.

3. **Charity Achievements and Performance**

a) Chair's personal reflection:

As a result of personal circumstances, I have had to with draw for work ov over the last three months of this year to end of March 2025. Throughout 2024 from April 2024 to December, the work

concentrated on three key projects and stayed in contact with the other projects previously mentioned in last year's report.

b) <u>Community Grow Network</u>:

The Community Grow is the collection of growing spaces we have been involved in establishing over the last 10 years in Buckinghamshire. It gives a sense of cohesion and lessons learnt at one can be very helpful in another. Sharing of equipment and tools, seeds and knowledge. There is facebook page as well that was set up during the COVID days to keep everyone connected. At the heart of the green spaces we have established, we have a communal area. This is because one of the key reasons for putting the hard graft into it is the community/social aspects that have such a benefit for all involved. Obviously, there are physical benefits as well as the menal heath benfits. But physical health is not only related to exercise. Being outdoors in nature has les well know benefits. Search online for thebenefits of nature by Dr William Bird and Intelligent Health. www.intelligenthealth.co.uk. Just a short walk in naural environmt releases chemicals that are known to make you feel healthy and happy. At the same time surpressing unhealthy enzymes that make us feel sad or stressed.

c) In Aylesbury – The Legacy of the Community Grow network in Aylesbury is based the work we did under contracts with Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT), for three years in the Community Stakeholder Partnership Programme team.

In the last year, we have continued to focus on 3 key projects:

1) **StPeter's Church Community Garden** is in its 6th season of growing. There is a core team who work in the project and several others who give their time less often but willingly. In recent years, an after-school club meeting in the garden that is run by the church. Occasionally, I have been involved with the club or assisted behind the scenes in preparation. For the club.

We have become more involved with area-based work assisting and advising churches through the Oxford Diocese to help set up green spaces and other ecological and Net Zero matters. As a result of networking the project at St. Peter's Church in Quarrendon, North Aylesbury has become more widely known. The project was shortlisted (1 of 3) for the National Awards organised by The Church Times in the category “Green Health”. The ceremony was attended by three from the core team in the London ceremony. We were highly commended in joint second place.

2) The Friends of Aylesbury Railway Station (FARS) – The group has continued to grow. The team is a dedicated group who come every week if the weather is fine. As an official Chiltern Rail Station adoption group, we get an invite to the annual conference. This year, at the conference, I was presented with an award in recognition of the work we do. This is a reflection on the dedicated work all the volunteers have done over the three years of the FARS Group at the Station.

Well done and thank you for all you do!

(3) Sierra Road Community Allotment in High Wycombe, an agreement has been reached with the developer to finish off the work so the plot can be used productively again as a community allotment. But the final stage will not be completed until mid 2025.

(4) **Play Street events** – the potential for promoting play Streets projects in Bucks increased as the Public Health team has a new strategic focus on child activity and tackling obesity. We are inveersigation option, and the Playing Out Uk Organised have given the charity £1,000 grant towards the costs.

See our Play Streets Bucks Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/2047104868939449/

Find out more & how to organise a Play Streets session and apply for permission from Buckinghamshire Council here:
https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/.../organise-a-play.../

and see a short video here:
https://shorturl.at/hVMPB
We have some money to do this piece of work, but we need more. This project will be put on hold for a while until we can find additional funding.

In County-wide and National Networks

We continue to support these networks and build knowledge and connections as they support our strategic aims.

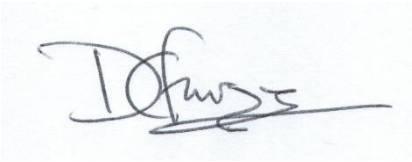
(1) Play Streets beacon project
We continue to look for funding and opportunities to play this role
(2) Other Local Networks and Groups
a) *The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB), Integrated Care System. BOD ICS – are consulting on working in partnerships of VCFSE sector and social prescribing. This work is ongoing.*
(c) *Faith Groups – Bucks-wide Faith Forum*
The forum was launched in September 2024 and meets every two months. We continue to be engaged.

4. In conclusion, this year has seen some reduction in our project and achievements, but we are confident that when funding becomes available, we can do more. The projects we are concentrating on are doing well and bringing good results. The methods and strategies are sound.

We have struggled as an organisation due to the long-standing Trustee's absence and illness, who has been our administrator/treasurer since the start of Community Transform in 2010. In December 2024 Nick Singiesen passed away. These are big boots to fill, and although we're looking for a replacement and a few additional trustees, we're sure it is only for a while until we can return to effective working.

This is the report of the Trustees signed on their behalf by:

Signatures



Dr Dave Furze
Chair of Trustees

Dr John Walton
Trustee

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO
Charity Number: 1186368

ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31 March 2022

The charity was incorporated on 15 November 2019 and its activities started on 21 February 2020

Community Transform cio
44 Westwood Green
Cookham
Maidenhead
Berkshire SL6 9DE

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO
Charity Number: 1186368

The Charity was incorporated on 15 November 2019 and its activities started on 21 February 2020

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
Year ended 31 March 202

		Year ye 2025 £		Year ye 2024 £		Year ye 2023 £		Year ye2022 £		Period ye 2021 £	
RECEIPTS											
Contributions received towards communtiy events:											
Buckinghamshire Council		-		-		10,276.11		36,059.26		20,128.03	
Global Feedback		-		-		-		-		2,100.00	
Locality		-		-		-		-		5,000.00	
The Rothschild Foundation		-		-		-		-		5,000.00	
Chiltern Railways		250.00		250.00		250.00		-		-	
Playing Out Beacond Fund		1,000.00									
Project expences fund 2		-	1250.00	175.00	425.00	-		-		-	
							10526.11		36,059.26		32228.03
Other income:											
Bank Interest		429.64	429.64		393.31		122.77		15.31		7.47
	Total Income		**1679.64**		**818.31**		**10648.88**		**36,074.57**		**32,235.50**
PAYMENTS											
Management Expenses	Bank Charges	0.70		1.00		1.00		2.30		2.00	
	Liability Insurance - Note 1	-	0.70	496.59	497.59	-	1.00	441.42	443.72	-	2.00
Projects Expences	Project Costs	-	-	180.00		-		-		-	
	Project expences	-	-	125.00	305.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Outgoings		**0.70**		**802.59**		**1.00**		**443.72**		**2.00**
SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS			**1,678.94**		**15.72**		**10,647.88**		**35,630.85**		**32,233.50**
Apportioned: Management Fund (10% of contract funding - Management expenses)						946.85		3,475.60		3,214.75	
Co-ordinator's Fund						9,329.26		32,583.66		28,068.28	
Restricted Funds		2,565.00		1,265.00		1,195.00		945.00		945.00	
		2,565.00		1,265.00		11,471.11		37,004.26		32,228.03	

BALANCE SHEET
At 31 March 2025

Bank Balance			**80,206.89**		**78,527.95**		**78,512.23**		**67,864.35**		**32,233.50**
Unrestricted Fund											
Management Fund	brought forward	7,231.75		7,336.03		6,267.41		3,220.22		-	
10% of some contract funding		-		-		946.85		3,475.60		3,214.75	
Banking: Interest - charges		428.94		392.31		121.77		13.01		5.47	
Management expenses)	for the year/period	-	7,660.69	- 496.59	7,231.75	-	7,336.03	- 441.42	6,267.41	-	3,220.22
Designated - Co-ordinator's Fund	brought forward	69,981.20		69,981.20		60,651.94		28,068.28		-	
	for the year/period	-	69,981.20	-	69,981.20	9,329.26	69,981.20	32,583.66	60,651.94	28,068.28	28,068.28
Restricted Funds											
1 Project expences fund 1	brought forward	945.00		945.00		945.00		945.00		-	
	for the year/period	-	945.00	-	945.00	-	945.00	-	945.00	945.00	945.00
2 Friends of Aylesbury Railway Station, FARS Grp,	brought forward	320.00		250.00		-					
- from Chiltern Railways		250.00		250.00		250.00	250.00	**Total**	**67,864.35**	**Total**	**32,233.50**
	for the year/period	-	570.00	- 180.00	320.00						
3 Project expences fund 2	brought forward	50.00		175.00		**Total**	**78,512.23**				
	for the year/period	-	50.00	- 125.00	50.00				-		
4 Play Streets Beacon Fund	brought forward	-									
	for the year/period	1,000.00	1,000.00	**Total**	**78,527.95**						
		Total	**80,206.89**								

Notes

1. In July 2020, July 2022 and July 2024 Liability insurance was paid by the associate organisation *Community Transform (2017) Limited*

Signed Dr DC Furze - Trustee .....

Nicolas Singeisen - Trustee .....

Date .....

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM

England & Wales - Charity number 1186368

Accounts

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO, No: 1186368

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Reporting on the period April 2023 to March 2024

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Nicolas Richard Singeisen
Dr John Moorcroft Walton
John Garnier Richards

Charity registered number

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Westwood
44 Westwood Green, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9DE
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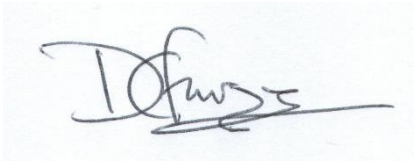
Signature

Name: Dr Dave Furze – Chair of Trustees



Signature: Date: 23rd May 2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2024

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   b. Changes to the legal structure of Community Transform – a transition of responsibility
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COMMUNITY TRANSFORM
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1. Charity Objectives, Legal Structure and Ethos

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2. **Charity Activities** (For a full history of Community Transform, see the Charity Report ye April 2021 & ye 2022)

a. Public Benefit

The Trustees seek to ensure that the activities of the CIO meet 'Public Benefit' tests in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance. In particular, the Trustees have regard to the Objectives of the CIO, as set out in the Constitution, and how proposed activities will further these. Trustees also judge proposed activities in line with the requirement that they should be beneficial to the public, or a sufficient section of the public.

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3) *Play Street Bucks* – supporting short & regular resident-led street closures to facilitate social capacity building where residents in a neighbourhood interact, and children play.

In the Achievements and Performance section below, the Trustees set out how we have moved forward in these areas of activity during the review period to the end of March 2024.

3. Charity Achievements and Performance

a) Chair's personal reflection:

Generally, this year has seen a curtailing of our work that started while the Aylesbury Garden Town Program. During the 3 years from 2019 to 2023, many projects were established with a strategy of sustainability, and many have gained a life of their own now. Which is excellent to see.

Others have not continued or have gone into hibernation. With any community development project, sustainability can be an issue. Key people move away or have life changes that change their availability; the permission to continue is changed. Lack of funding and changes in the charity team. Loss of Trustees and difficulties with the recruitment of replacements. Some volunteers lose the vision and commitment they had. They have busy lives. We have experienced most of these in recent years. Particularly, ill health with trustees can cause a hiatus that retards effective working, particularly in areas like administration and accoutancy. Our poor record of late returns is testimony to this. But, catching up quickly again now!

COVID was a difficult time for the charity. The number of volunteers has not really recovered even now. Those who are still involved are amazing and go the extra mile. So much relies on them for us to be effective. So, a huge thank you to you all. The focus we take is that those involved in what we do are the ones who benefit most. To give is to receive. And particularly if it is in one of our Community Grow projects. The benefits of being in nature are huge and ticking all of the 5-ways to wellbeing. That is why we do it!

b) Community Grow Network:

The Community Grow is the collection of growing spaces we have been involved in establishing over the last 10 years in Buckinghamshire. It gives a sense of cohesion and lessons learnt at one can be very helpful in another. Sharing of equipment and tools, seeds and knowledge. There is facebook page as well that was set up during the COVID days to keep everyone connected. At the heart of the green spaces we have established, we have a communal area. This is because one of the key reasons for putting the hard graft into it is the community/social aspects that have such a benefit for all involved. Obviously, there are physical benefits as well as the menal heath benfits. But physical health is not only related to exercise. Being outdoors in nature has les well know benefits. Search online for thebenefits of nature by Dr William Bird and Intelligent Health. www.intelligenthealth.co.uk. Just a short walk in naural environmt releases chemicals that are known to make you feel healthy and happy. At the same time surpressing unhealthy enzymes that make us feel sad or stressed.

We have been involved with something called 'social prescribing' since before Community Transform was established in 2010. A definition is:

> *"It is an approach that connects people to activities, groups, and services in their community to meet the practical, social and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing. "*
>
> www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/social-prescribing/

There are also additional benefits of growing. When you grow vegetables or fruit, most people will admit that eating food you have cared for from seed to being on your plate is great, and food will always taste better than food from the supermarket.

b) In Aylesbury – From 2019 to 2022, we worked under contract with Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT), for three years in the Community Stakeholder Partnership Programme team. Its purpose was to put local people at the heart of the AGT program. This embodied the principle of Community Stewardship, a key focus of the Garden Town Principle. An explanation of Garden Town principles can be found here: www.tcpa.org.uk/garden-city-principles/

In the last year, we have continued to focus on key projects:

1) **StPeter's Church Community Garden** is in its 5th season of growing now and is greating largereand larger each year. There is a core team who work incredibly hard, particularly in the summer

months, serving on the watering rota. We supply fresh veg for the people who come to the Food Bank pick-up while the community café is open. There are a lot of people who spectate all that is going on. When in conversatoin we suggest they try to help. It is interesting to hear people speak about their disastrous attempts in the past to grow, so that is why they won't help, even for 10 minuts weeding. It's a bad experience with failure. But what they misunderstand is that we all startout that way, with huge 'L' plates on our backs. The key is to search for the reason why something was unsuccessful and apply the learning next time you try it. Even the best of gardeners will say that is how they become experts.

So many people benefit from the ‘place’. People come and sit when no one else is about, early in the morning and at sunset, after work to unwind or even as a quiet place to say their prayers in a natural setting. Being open access, it is used well.

In recent years, we have put more thought into creating our compost. Researching different approaches can create some lively discussion, as some advice seems contradictory.

2) The Friends of Aylesbury Railway Station (FARS) group is a dedicated group who come every week if the weather is fine. As an official Chiltern Rail Station adoption group, we get an invite to the annual conference – it widens our imagination, and it is good to meet others list to others doing similar work up and down the tracks. The most satisfying thing is when a passenger comes up, while working on the neds or weeding and has a nice thing to say about what a difference it makes to see a tidy colourful growing bed. Over the artwork we have commissioned.

The FARS Group entered the Aylesbury In Bloom Garden Competition for the first time this year and received a silver award. Well done and thank you for all you do!

3) ***The Storehouse Community Garden*** is part of the Grow It Cook It Eat It (GICIEI) Public Health program. In Aylesbury, this has been based at the Vineyard Church, Gatehouse Way. Community Transform fulfils the ‘Expert Gardener’ role to develop the garden area and establish a group of volunteers. Over three years, there has been outreach work to the surrounding housing, and we have established a regular session with volunteers. The associated Foodbank clients and Ukrainian visitors have been a source of volunteers. Going forward, the present church leadership have decided to maintain the garden as part of new plans to support their Food Bank clients and use it in association with the café they are opening. What a great development going forward.

*4**) St Mary's Churchyard Youth Project***. This project focuses on the development of a memorial garden on the church grounds, intending to help combat community safety issues and bring together local residents and young people, in partnership with the Church and Aylesbury Youth Action. It will give people a chance to sit and reflect, and remember loved ones and will be open to anyone visiting or passing through the graveyard, creating a destination point linking the town's squares with the Old Town conservation area.

This project is on hold again at the moment – but it will happen later this year. This has great potential, and there are a lot of people interested who are adjacent to the church and graveyard.

b) An update on a few other projects

(1) Sierra Road Community Allotment in High Wycombe is out of bounds until the original developer of the site responds to repair the fence that surrounds the site.

(2) **Play Street events** started in Bucks on Sierra Road, High Wycombe, in 2018, close to the community allotment. I have playstrees across the Bucks, though I needed premission of the council. There is an inherent danger associated with closing a road, so the transport division in the council is naturally reluctant. But since now nearly 150 council do allow it ther ways to mitigate the dangers.

After two years and Covid partway through the process, permission was granted in May 2023 for resident led Playstreet. Up take has been slow because someone is really needed to coach people through the processes of applying and support then in the process.

We have always been closely associated with the National 'Playing Out' organisation in Bristol since we started to run the events 8 years ago. As a result, we are now a beacon organisation to assist people who want to start the process or support existing groups, as well as promote to those who have never heard.

See our Play Streets Bucks Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/2047104868939449/

Find out more & how to organise a Play Streets session and apply for permission from Buckinghamshire Council here:
https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/.../organise-a-play.../

and see a short video here:
https://shorturl.at/hVMPB
We have some money to do this piece of work, but we need more. This project will be put on hold for a while until we can find additional funding.

(**d)In County-wide and National Networks**

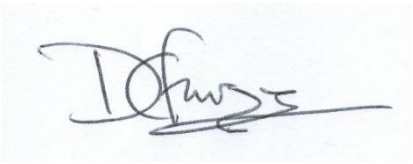
(1) Play Streets beacon project
We continue to look for funding and opportunities to play this role
(2) Other Local Networks and Groups
a) *The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB), Integrated Care System. BOD ICS – are consulting on working in partnerships of VCFSE sector and social prescribing. This work is ongoing.*
(c) *Faith Groups – Bucks-wide Faith Forum*
The forum was launched in September 2024 and meets every two months. We continue to be engaged.

(e) In conclusion, this year has seen some reduction in our project and achievements, but we are content that when funding becomes available, we can do more. The projects we are concentrating on are doing well and bringing good results. The methods and strategies are sound.

We have struggled due to illness for a long-standing Trustee who has been our administrator/treasurer since the start of Community Transform in 2010. These are big boots to fill, and although for looking for a replacement and a few additional trustees we are doing less as a charity, we're sure it is only for a while.

This is the report of the Trustees signed on their behalf by:

Signatures



Dr Dave Furze
Chair of Trustees

Dr John Walton
Trustee

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO
Charity Number: 1186368

The Charity was incorporated on 15 November 2019 and its activties started on 21 February 2020

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
Year ended 31 March 2024

		Year ye 2024 £		Year ye 2023 £		Year ye2022 £		Period ye 2021 £	
RECEIPTS									
Contributions received towards communtiy events:									
Buckinghamshire Council		-		10,276.11		36,059.26		20,128.03	
Global Feedback		-		-		-		2,100.00	
Locality		-		-		-		5,000.00	
The Rothschild Foundation		-		-		-		5,000.00	
Chiltern Railways		250.00		250.00		-		-	
Project expences fund 2		175.00	425.00		10526.11		36,059.26		32228.03
Other income:									
Bank Interest		393.31	393.31	122.77	122.77	15.31	15.31	7.47	7.47
	Total Income		**818.31**		**10648.88**		**36,074.57**		**32,235.50**
PAYMENTS									
Management Expenses	Bank Charges	1.00		1.00		2.30		2.00	
	Liability Insurance - Note 1	496.59	497.59	-	1.00	441.42	443.72	-	2.00
Projects Expences	Project Costs	180.00		-		-		-	
	Project expences	125.00	305.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Outgoings		**802.59**		**1.00**		**443.72**		**2.00**
SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS			**15.72**		**10,647.88**		**35,630.85**		**32,233.50**
Apportioned: Management Fund (10% of contract funding - Management expenses)				946.85		3,475.60		3,214.75	
Co-ordinator's Fund				9,329.26		32,583.66		28,068.28	
Restricted Funds		1,265.00		1,195.00		945.00		945.00	
		1,265.00		11,471.11		37,004.26		32,228.03	

BALANCE SHEET
At 31 March 2024

Bank Balance			**78,527.95**		**78,512.23**		**67,864.35**		**32,233.50**
Unrestricted Fund									
Management Fund	brought forward	7,336.03		6,267.41		3,220.22		-	
10% of some contract funding		-		946.85		3,475.60		3,214.75	
Banking: Interest - charges		392.31		121.77		13.01		5.47	
Management expenses)	for the year/period	- 496.59	7,231.75	-	7,336.03	- 441.42	6,267.41	-	3,220.22
Designated - Co-ordinator's Fund	brought forward	69,981.20		60,651.94		28,068.28		-	
	for the year/period	-	69,981.20	9,329.26	69,981.20	32,583.66	60,651.94	28,068.28	28,068.28
Restricted Funds									
1 Project expences fund 1	brought forward	945.00		945.00		945.00		-	
	for the year/period	-	945.00	-	945.00	-	945.00	945.00	945.00
2 Friends of Aylesbury Railway Station, FARS Grp,	brought forward	250.00		-					
- from Chiltern Railways		250.00		250.00	250.00	**Total**	**67,864.35**	**Total**	**32,233.50**
	for the year/period	- 180.00	320.00						
3 Project expences fund 2	brought forward	175.00		**Total**	**78,512.23**				
	for the year/period	- 125.00	50.00						
		Total	**78,527.95**						

Notes

1. In July 2020, July 2022 and July 2024 Liability insurance was paid by the associate organisation *Community Transform (2017) Limited*

Signed Dr DC Furze - Trustee .....

Nicolas Singeisen - Trustee .....

Date .....

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM

England & Wales - Charity number 1186368

Accounts

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO, No: 1186368

Trustees' Annual Report

Reporting on the period April 2022 to March 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity Community Transform, charity number 1186368, for the year ended 31st March 2023.

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ORGANISATION, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2023

The name of the charity is Community Transform. The CIO has established schemes known as Community Grow and Play Street Bucks.

Trustees

Dr David Charles Furze (Chair)
Nicolas Richard Singeisen
Dr John Moorcroft Walton
John Garnier Richards

Charity registered number

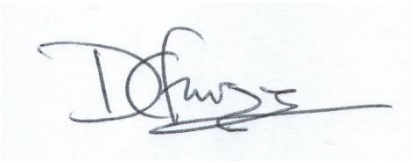
1186368

Principle Office

Community Transform CIO
Westwood
44 Westwood Green, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9DE
Telephone: 01628-533143
Mobile: 0771-457-7478
Email address: NSingeisen@aol.com

Signature

Name: Dr Dave Furze – Chair of Trustees



Signature: Date: 23rd April 2024

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2023

Contents

This report has the following sections:

1. **Charity Objectives, Legal Structure and Ethos**
   a. Charity Objectives
   b. Our Mission: What we aim to do
   b. Changes to the legal structure of Community Transform – a transition of responsibility
   c. Community Transform Ethos:

2. **Charity Activities**
   a. Public Benefit
   b. There are three distinct project areas
      1) *Community Grow Network*
      2) *Company CSR Employee Teams*
      3) *Play Street Bucks*

3. **Charity Achievements and Performance**
   a. In Aylesbury
      (1) Aylesbury Station Platform Flower Beds Revamp and Friends of Aylesbury Station Group
      (2) Kingsbrook New Community Development
      (3) Community Food Growing Network
         (a) *The Storehouse Community Garden*
         (b*) St Peter's Community Garden, Quarrendon*
         (c) *At Healthy Living Centre*
         (d) *The Hampden Gardens*
         (e) *Bearbrook Community Orchard and Garden*
         (f) The Bierton Community Allotment

   b. In High Wycombe
      (1) Sierra Road Community Allotment
      (2) Play Streets in Harlow Road

   c. In County-wide and National Networks

      (1) Play Streets Bucks Steering Group
      (2) Other Local Networks and Groups
         a) *The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB), Integrated Care System. BOD ICS*
         (b*) Faith Groups – Bucks-wide Faith Forum*

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2023

1. Charity Objectives, Legal Structure and Ethos

a. Charity Objectives

The Charity Commission recognise our charitable objectives as:

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM IS A COMMUNITY CAPACITY-BUILDING CHARITY BASED ON ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION.

We work with beneficiaries:
……to develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas, in such a way that they are better able to identify, help meet their needs, and participate more fully in society.

b. Our Mission: What we aim to do:

Community Transform has the strapline *"Transforming lives, Transforming communities".* As a social purpose organisation, we base our work on the principles of community development (ref 1) and social transformation. At the heart of what we do is to take a relational, bottom-up approach with both individuals and communities. Focusing on creating positive social change and improving the wellbeing of the communities.

c. Changes to the legal structure of Community Transform – a transition of responsibility

Our charity status was confirmed by the Charity Commission on 15th November 2019, with charity number 1186368. The responsibility for all project activity, contracts, assets, and strategy, which previously had been delivered by the social enterprise Community Transform (2017) Ltd, company number 7712998, was transferred to the charity, officially taking effect at the beginning of April 2020. This was also the time when the charity began to receive grants and sign contracts to deliver services and projects.

Historically, the organisation's project work was mainly located in the High Wycombe area under Community Transform (2017) Ltd. However, we have always held a longer-term aim to work across other parts of Buckinghamshire. This aim has been realised in part by developing our work in Aylesbury, working in partnership with the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) team and other projects during the last 3 years. Over this time, we have also extended our involvement in county-wide networks and initiatives.

d. Community Transform Ethos:

Community Development, The work of Community Transform is based on the community development principles set out by the International Association of Community Development, IACD. Community development is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline concerned with the organisation, education and empowerment of people within their communities, and the IACD is the global multi-disciplinary network for those who work in this field. The IACD is accredited by the U.N. and has members across the world.

5 Ways to Wellbeing, Community Transform recognises the 5 ways to wellbeing principles – connect, give, take notice, keep learning and be active, in the way it works. (ref 2)

Community Transform is a charitable Incorporated Organisation - a social purpose organisation, based on the principles of community development and social

transformation. It takes a relational, bottom-up approach to working with individuals and communities. We focus on creating positive social change and improving the wellbeing of communities.

Positive Social Change, PSC, is found to be most effective when the three mechanisms of change are present; these are 1) motivation, 2) capacity, and 3) opportunity. The road to empowerment touches all three of these drivers. Taking a person-centred approach means listening to local people's views and opinions, giving them decision-making power on all things that affect them, and developing relationships and trust; all of these are vital elements.

2. **Charity Activities** (For a full history of Community Transform, see the previous Charity Report April 2021)

a. Public Benefit

The Trustees seek to ensure that the activities of the CIO meet 'Public Benefit' tests in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance. In particular, the Trustees have regard to the Objectives of the CIO, as set out in the Constitution, and how proposed activities will further these. Trustees also judge proposed activities in line with the requirement that they should be beneficial to the public, or a sufficient section of the public.

The Trustees, having reviewed the objectives and activities of the Trust, have given due consideration to Charity Commission Guidance on safeguarding and public benefit. We are satisfied that the Trust's business is properly conducted for the public benefit.

The work of the charity in Buckinghamshire has always had two interlocking aspects – *local projects* in certain areas, particularly areas of deprivation and involvement in *County-wide* initiatives, networks and strategic groups. Local projects over the last 4 years have been focused on Aylesbury, through our contract to work with Aylesbury Garden Town, AGT (Buckinghamshire Council). The AGT-funded contract finished at the end of May 2022. However, the projects continued to be supported by us, where this has been possible. Also note that our other local work in High Wycombe has continued.

The county-wide initiatives/networks have involved the Public Health Physical Activity Strategy Group, Community Boards, Play Street Steering Group, BOB Health Alliance and the councils' flagship 'Opportunity Bucks' programme, the local approach to 'Levelling Up'. This initiative focuses on 10 wards in Buckinghamshire, across 3 settlement areas where people are experiencing the most hardship. (see www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/opportunity-bucks/)

b. There are three distinct project areas that the charity focuses on:

1) *Community Grow Network* - using local green spaces as a tool to engage with residents and improve theirwellbing and the public realm.
2) *Company CSR Employee Teams* – using the resources of the employees of local companies for the benefit of communities and working with VCSE organisations
3) *Play Street Bucks* – supporting short & regular resident-led street closures to facilitate social capacity building where residents in a neighbourhood can interact, and children can play outdoors safely.

In the Achievements and Performance section below, the Trustees set out how we have moved forward in these areas of activity during the review period – April 2022 to March 2023.

3. **Charity Achievements and Performance**

a. In Aylesbury – Working as part of the Aylesbury Garden Town Team, AGT. The purpose of the Community Stakeholder Partnership Programme, CSPP, was to put local people at the heart of the wide-reaching AGT program. It embodies the principle of Community Stewardship (a key focus of Garden Communities – See The Town and Country Planning Association, TCPA website, www.tcpa.org.uk). TheTCPA promote giving people the chance to take greater ownership of the

area where they live. The council received Garden Town Status from the Conservative government in 2017. The initial phase involved listening and planning. In 2019, the next phase we secured the contract to work more closely with local stakeholders, including the Town council, parish councils, VCFSE sector, community representatives and residents. We developed a grant scheme for local people to encourage engagement in partnership projects to improve & enhance the garden town. A key strategic reason for the government granting Garden Town Status was to encourage a greater sense of pride and place.

Two very controversial planning decisions were due to impact the town and the surrounding countryside communities. 1) Building 16,000 new homes. In addition to the initial AGT funding, further £172 million, through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), was offered to see the council partner up with Homes England to enable the building of homes, roads and schools stretching to 2035.The development surrounding the western and southern edges of the town. 2) The second very large infrastructure project HS2 railway line, will pass within less than a mile of the town border, with disruption for years to come.

In the final phase of the 3-year contract (2019 to 2023) and for the months beyond, we hve focused on 4 key project areas: Aylesbury Railway Station, Community Development in the Kingsbrook New Community, establishing the Bucks Playstreet project and Community Food Growing Network initiatives.

(1) Renovating large platform flower beds at Aylesbury Station and establishing a station adoption group of volunteers in association with Chiltern Rail – to be called the Friends of Aylesbury Station.: Greening/improving the station has been a continuing focus of the AGT Community Program, to make it a more vibrant and welcoming key arrival point for the town. Previously, we have worked closely with Chiltern Railways and other community partners to give the roundabout outside a facelift, constructing high-raising planters, hanging baskets and eye-catching murals reflecting a range of Aylesbury-centric themes – para-olympic games, the history of the town, the surrounding countryside, and culture. One mural features a scheme to create an 18 km orbital park around Aylesbury called the Aylesbury Gardenway. This will provide a green corridor and accessible radial walking, cycling and wheeling connections around Aylesbury.

We led a community project to revamp the three pairs of large flower bed areas on the two separate platforms, which have been neglected and become unsightly. Work experience students from Pebble Brook School and a team from Community Payback helped to clear the beds. We collaborated with local partners to establish a design brief that requires minimal maintenance going forward, which will help form the first impression that visitors have on arriving in Aylesbury and also provide a welcome home for regular travellers. Structured Growth Garden Design provided three distinctive designs, one for each pair of beds. 1) A Gravel Garden with Japanese influences, 2) Wildflower Meadow with native fruit trees and 3) An Evergreen Garden, including rosemary, pine and box-leaf holly.

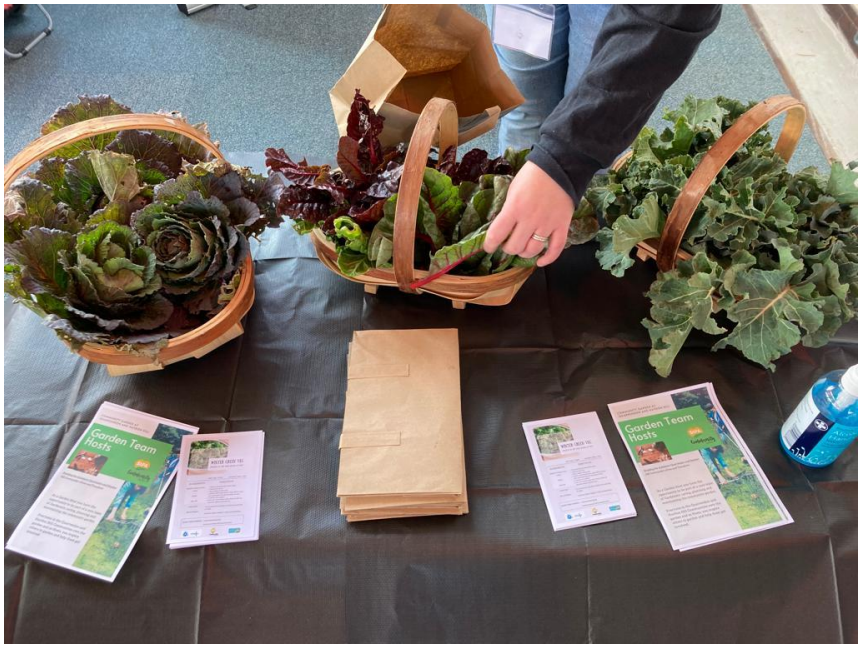
The Friends volunteer group has been established, and they are helping to tend the plants and green spaces going forward. They have added flower planters at ticket office entrances and a large 'Tranquil Herb Planter' for passengers to take a sprig of herb for their journey home.

(2) Kingsbrook New Community Development: As part of our commitment to support new community development in AGT, along with encouraging community stewardship, we worked with Kingsbrook Parish Council to establish a community food-growing initiative. The development incorporates a large area allocated for allotment use and a portion of this will be used by the Parish Council for community food growing, working with several partners including the scouts and local church, as well as AGT. We shared insight and experience gained through establishing a network of community food-growing projects across the town. The Parish Council have taken this forward independently.

(3) Community Food Growing Network: There are now 7 AGT Community Food Growing Projects established in the last 3 years. We have worked with our partners to ensure there is a sustainability strategy with each one, with funding and ongoing development support. Positive links have been made with VCS organisations to incorporate the use of the sites by small groups of clients in their programmes (PACE, Whiteleaf Centre, Talkback, Pebble Brook School, Healthy Living Centre).

(a) *The Storehouse Community Garden* is part of the Grow It Cook It Eat It Public Health program based at the Vineyard Church. Separate from the AGT contract, the charity has funding for the role of 'Expert Gardener', to develop a garden area and establish a group of volunteers. Regular support has been provided by the Community Payback team. A lot of work has been necessary to turn what was a derelict building site into a fruitful community garden. There is outreach work to the surrounding housing, and we have established regular sessions with volunteers. The associated Foodbank clients are a potential source of volunteers.

(b*) St Peter's Community Garden, Quarrendon, started in March 2019,* now has after-school activities and new work is due to start with with Aylesbury Youth Action. This was the first community garden to be developed in the town and is in its 3rd season. There is funding for a Garden Facilitator to support the local volunteers.


Garden Team Hosts
Garden Team Hosts

StPA Community Garden
PICNIC IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN
Bring an afternoon tea picnic and join others for 'Picnic In The Garden' 3pm on Wednesday 17th August
check social media for updates in case of bad weather!

Community Food Growing Project

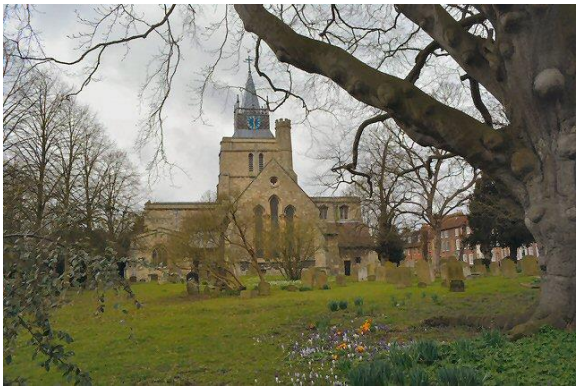
(c) *At Healthy Living Centre in Walton Court,* there are now two gardening groups for volunteers linking directly with clients attending activities at the Centre and Nursery. The future of this garden is uncertain as a new leaseholder has not been agreed, which means we have temporarily stopped the sessions.

(d) *The Hampden Gardens site*, in partnership with Vale of Aylesbury Housing, VAHT, was enlarged this year. Regular involvement with residents and activity days in school holidays.

(e) *Bearbrook Community Orchard and Garden*, this neglected site, located in Prebendal Farm, was identified as requiring an overhaul to become a community focal point and resource. Over twenty fruit trees were planted on the site, and three large planters were located there. A meeting with potential partners, including owners VAHT, residents, local schools and the Chiltern Society, was held in January. VAHT are now supporting this project and Hampton Gardens projects independently of the charity.

(f) The Bierton Community Allotment acquired a neighbouring plot to double its growing area. The volunteer group has increased greatly in size. It is now a self-sustaining group.

(g) St Mary's Churchyard Youth Project - This project focuses on the development of a memorial garden on the church grounds, intending to help combat community safety issues and bring together residents and young people, in partnership with the Church and Aylesbury Youth Action. The emphasis is to give a safe place to sit and reflect, and remember loved ones and will be open to anyone visiting or passing through the graveyard, creating an other destination point linking the town's squares with the Old Town conservation area.



Aylesbury in Bloom Competition: We entered four of the gardens in our Community Grow Network into this annual competition in both the Community Garden and Community Edible Garden categories. They gained Silver-gilt awards for two and Gold Awards for the other two gardens. The St. Peter's Community Garden was also awarded the overall Best Garden Award - Cup.

b. In High Wycombe

(1) Sierra Road Community Allotment: The community allotment in Sierra Road, High Wycombe, has been cultivated since 2017. It was our original Community Grow project. In the past year, it has been maintained by a small group of volunteers. However, the work there has now been suspended since August 2021 because the boundary fence, which is made of large poles, became unstable rotting at their base and falling into the site, causing a safety risk to volunteers. The resolution of the situation has taken many months of discussion between the Wycombe District Council, the developer of the housing estate, Berkeley Homes, and the Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing Association, MTVH. At the time of writing this report, the matter has still not been resolved.

(2) Play Street events started in Bucks on Sierra Road, High Wycombe, in 2018, and the Harlow Road events were used as a location for one of the two pilots required for Transport for Bucks to approve Play Streets approval across the county. We have supported three further events in Harlow Road this year. A fourth Play Streets event Location was supported to take place in Layters Ave, Chalfont St Peter. The first event was in October 2022.

The photos are of the Harlow Road Play Street event in September 2022.

c. *In County-wide and National Networks*

(1) Play Streets Bucks Steering Group: Following two successful pilots in October 2021, we worked closely with Transport for Bucks to gain sign-off from the Service Director for Highways and Technical Services and key Cabinet representatives to roll out the scheme in Bucks (May 2022). There is now an established application process through the BC website (www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/helping-your-community/organise-a-play-streets-session).

We have set up a *Play Streets Bucks Steering Group* of key partners including TfB, Public Health, an independent Play Therapy social enterprise, Leap Mk and Bucks, Buck Council Schools and Bucks Council Community Boards to help promote Play Streets as an initiative which has many benefits, including encouraging physical activity, tackling social isolation and creating community cohesion.

We have developed a *Facebook* page to promote, inform and support residents interested in setting up a group in their street. We were able to support a new Play Street location in Chalfont St Peter in October and another in High Wycombe to run three over the year. No agreement has been made between Public Health and the charity regarding a grant to provide Play Streets Activator for Buckinghamshire, with a focus on the 10 Opportunity Bucks areas. Discussions are ongoing.

We work closely with the national body Playing Out UK CIC (https://playingout.net/) is a parent and resident-led movement restoring children's freedom to play out in the streets and spaces where they live, for their health, happiness and sense of belonging.

(2) Opportunity Bucks was the Council's local partnership approach to levelling up, working in partnership across the county to improve outcomes for people who were experiencing the most hardship. *"Outcomes for people across the county were, on average, good. Income was above the national average, educational attainment was high, and the proportion of people claiming out of work benefits was low.*

However, the county averages masked the challenges that some people in some specific parts of the county were facing. 10 Ward areas had been identified where outcomes were substantially worse for residents, with more people in these Wards claiming benefits, having worse health outcomes, experiencing higher crime and having limited opportunities. The Council's aim, through the Opportunity Bucks programme, was to ensure that everyone in the county had the opportunity to succeed, that we grow together as a place and that nobody was left behind. "

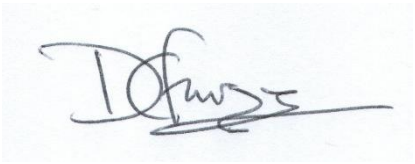
Opportunity Bucks presents the charity with an opportunity to work in partnership across the county since the CIO shares the same geographic areas of concern as the program.

(3) Other Local Networks and Groups

a. *The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB), Integrated Care System. BOD ICS* is our local ICS. The CIO has been involved in the formation of this network. It has four main aims: 1) Improve outcomes in population health, 2) Tackle inequalities in health outcomes, experience and patient access, 3) Enhance productivity and value for money, 4) Help the NHS support broader social and economic development.
b. *Faith Groups – we have been involved in discussions to help establish the Bucks Forum Faiths. W*e have facilitated a similar group some years ago for High Wycombe Faith Leaders. But this group will be a county-wide group. We are also assisting the Oxford Diocese Ecological department, where ther is a church looking to start a community garden space and work towards a Net Zero church building.
c. Also with the North Aylesbury Resource Network, NARN. Also working closely with the voluntary sector groups Talkback, Aylesbury Youth Action AYA, Social Prescribing Networks, Pace, and the Local Buckinghamshire Community Boards.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 23rd April 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Signatures



Dr Dave Furze
Chair of Trustees

Dr John Walton

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO
Charity Number: 1186368

ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31 March 2022

The charity was incorporated on 15 November 2019 and its activities started on 21 February 2020

Community Transform cio
44 Westwood Green
Cookham
Maidenhead
Berkshire SL6 9DE

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO
Charity Number: 1186368

The Charity was incorporated on 15 November 2019 and its activties started on 21 February 2020

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
Year ended 31 March 2023

			Year ye 2023 £	Year ye2022 £	Period ye 2021 £
RECEIPTS					
Contributions received towards communtiy events:					
Buckinghamshire Council			10,276.11	36,059.26	20,128.03
Global Feedback			-	-	2,100.00
Locality			-	-	5,000.00
The Rothschild Foundation			-	-	5,000.00
Chiltern Railways			250.00	-	-
			10526.11	36,059.26	32228.03
Other income:					
Bank Interest			122.77	15.31	7.47
		Total Income	**10648.88**	**36,074.57**	**32,235.50**
PAYMENTS					
Management Expenses	Bank Charges		1.00	2.30	2.00
	Liability Insurance - Note 1		- 1.00	441.42 443.72	- 2.00
Projects Expences	Project Costs		-	-	-
	Project expences		- -	- -	- -
		Total Outgoings	**1.00**	**443.72**	**2.00**
SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS			**10,647.88**	**35,630.85**	**32,233.50**
Apportioned: Management Fund (10% of contract funding - Management expenses)			946.85	3,475.60	3,214.75
Co-ordinator's Fund			9,329.26	32,583.66	28,068.28
Restricted Funds			1,195.00	945.00	945.00
			11,471.11	37,004.26	32,228.03

BALANCE SHEET
At 31 March 2023

Bank Balance			**78,512.23**		**67,864.35**		**32,233.50**
Unrestricted Fund							
Management Fund		brought forward	6,267.41		3,220.22	-	
10% of some contract funding			946.85		3,475.60	3,214.75	
Banking: Interest - charges			121.77		13.01	5.47	
Management expenses)		for the year/period	- 7,336.03	-	441.42 6,267.41	-	3,220.22
Designated - Co-ordinator's Fund		brought forward	60,651.94		28,068.28	-	
		for the year/period	9,329.26 69,981.20		32,583.66 60,651.94	28,068.28	28,068.28
Restricted Funds							
1 Project expences fund 1		brought forward	945.00		945.00	-	
		for the year/period	- 945.00		- 945.00	945.00	945.00
2 Friends of Aylesbury Railway Station, FARS Grp,		brought forward	-				
- from Chiltern Railways			250.00 250.00	**Total**	**67,864.35**	**Total**	**32,233.50**
		for the year/period					
		Total	**78,512.23**				

Notes

1. In July 2020, July 2022 and July 2024 Liability insurance was paid by the associate organisation *Community Transform (2017) Limited*

Signed Dr DC Furze - Trustee .....

Nicolas Singeisen - Trustee .....

Date .....

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM

England & Wales - Charity number 1186368

Accounts

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO, No: 1186368

Trustees' Annual Report

Reporting on the period April 2021 to March 2022

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity Community Transform, charity number 1186368, for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared following the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts following the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) published in October 2019.

This report has the following sections:

1) Chairman's Statement
2) Community Transform Strategy - 2022
3) The three distinct project themes of Community Transform CIO
4) Community Transform CIO Contracts and Funding for Projects from April 2021 to March 2022
5) A review of Community Transform CIO work for our beneficiaries from April 2021 to March 2022 - What Have We Achieved?

Appendix A - The Historical Background to Community Transform
Appendix B – Project themes of the Charity Community Transform CIO

References

Trustees

Dr David Charles Furze (Chair)
Nicolas Richard Singeisen
Dr John Moorcroft Walton
John Garnier Richards

Signature

Name:

Signature: Date:

Principle Office

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COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO, No: 1186368

Trustees' Annual Report

Reporting on the period April 2021 to March 2022

1) Chairman's Statement

This is the second annual report of the newly formed Charity, Community Transform CIO, (CT), registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The report covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022.

a. Charity Objectives

The Charity Commission recognise our charitable objectives as:

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM IS A COMMUNITY CAPACITY-BUILDING CHARITY BASED ON ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION.

We work with beneficiaries:

……to develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas, in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

b. Changes to the legal structure of Community Transform – a transition of responsibility

Our charity status was confirmed by the Charity Commission in November 2019, with charity number 1186368. The responsibility for all project activity, contracts, assets (but not financial), and strategy, which previously had been delivered by the social enterprise Community Transform (2017) Ltd, company number 7712998, was transferred to the charity. This officially took effect at the beginning of April 2020. This was also the time when the charity began to receive grants and sign contracts to deliver services and projects.

Historically the focus of the organisation's project work was located mainly in the High Wycombe area under Community Transform (2017) Ltd. However, we have always held a longer-term aim to work across other parts of Buckinghamshire. This aim has been realised in part by developing our work in Aylesbury, working in partnership with the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) team and others projects during the last 2 years. Over this time we have also extended our involvement in county-wide networks and initiatives.

c. Key External and Internal factors that affected the work of the charity from 2021 to 2022.

External Factors

i. **The Formation of the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council.** The 1st of April 2020 marked the beginning of a new unitary council in Buckinghamshire, where Buckinghamshire County Council and the four district councils, merged to become Buckinghamshire Council (BC). This began an extensive program of review, reorganisation, and redeployment of assets, staff, strategies, and financing. Since the largest contract the charity has is with the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) team, which is now a part of Buckinghamshire Council (BC), the changes made internally have a direct impact on our contract and further new continuation contracts with them.

   Over the last two years, it has become clearer what the implications of the formation of the new Buckinghamshire unitary council will be for our work and the AGT Team. (see ref 1 – for an internet link to the Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan). To achieve a unified approach to regeneration and growth strategies across the council area, we assess that there has been a decisive move away from recognising community engagement and demonstration of Garden Town Principles through a separate Community and Stakeholder Partnerships Program, CSPP. This will have an impact on the continuation of our contract with the council.

ii. **The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**. In the short term, the council had to focus as a priority on the work for supporting the individuals, the most vulnerable in the community and households across the

country. But face-to-face community development work with volunteers in groups was restricted to following the physical distancing restrictions.

The positives: There have been new opportunities for us to engage with a different/new sector of people. Particularly, as the trend to 'grow your own food' has become more prominent in times of lockdown, as people are confined to home, needing different forms of exercise, and rethinking their priorities in life.

Internal Factors – responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

i. Reassessment of working practices to maintain community development outcomes for our beneficiaries
ii. Developing new ways of working virtually – Zoom and Teams software
iii. Providing information and gathering feedback in different ways through - social media, Facebook pages/groups, website, online consultations, etc
iv. Safety of volunteers when restrictions on face-to-face were relaxed but still working personally distanced - Risk assessments, PPE, signage, safe working procedures.
v. We have observed the 'COVID hesitation' of volunteers following the lifting of the pandemic restrictions. In some areas of work volunteering numbers have recovered very slowly and in others, they have not returned to pre-pandemic numbers. This is more likely in our work because we often have volunteers who are vulnerable and have gotten involved in the first place to socialise or improve their activity levels. These people would be the most likely to have lived isolated lives and lack the confidence to re-engage socially.
vi. The trustees have been affected by ill health as a result virus and this has affected our effectiveness

d. Highlights of the year April 2021 to March 2022, Progress and Growth (see section 5 - What have we achieved)

Community Food-Grow Network (Community Grow):

There is now a network of seven Community Food Growing Projects in Aylesbury, that have been established through AGT: St Peter's Community Garden (Quarrendon); Healthy Living Centre (Walton Court); Storehouse Foodbank (Aylesbury Vineyard); Bierton Community Allotment; Bear Brook Community Orchard (Prebendal Farm), Hampden Gardens (Southcourt). They have been set up in different ways, with a variety of local partners including Fairhive Homes Ltd (formerly VAHT) and Public Health. Two are now fully self-sustaining (St Peter's and Bierton). The others will continue to be supported through the charity.

A number of the gardens are in some of the most deprived areas of Aylesbury and have successfully brought local communities together, of all ages. They have engaged members of the BAME community and have also offered support to the elderly, as well as to people with learning difficulties, mental health issues and mobility challenges, to help them connect and engage with others and learn new skills. This has been particularly beneficial following the impact of the Covid pandemic. The gardens also won several awards in the 2021 Aylesbury in Bloom Awards, organised by the Town Council.

Play Streets

The Play Streets scheme, to enable residents to apply to temporarily close their road so children can play safely together on their doorstep and adults can chat and interact, bringing communities together, has now launched on the Buckinghamshire Council website https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/organise-a-play-streets-session/ The initiative has received excellent feedback on social media. It was set up through a partnership between AGT, Public Health, Transport for Bucks and Highways. Going forward, Community Transform (through Dave) is going to undertake the role of Bucks Activator for Play Streets and is in talks with Public Health and LEAP regarding funding for this. A Steering Group, led by Public Health and including other key partners, will help facilitate the roll-out of the scheme and its future promotion.

Aylesbury Station Platform Flower Beds Revamp and Friends of Aylesbury Station Group: Greening/improving the station has been a continuing focus of the AGT Community Programme, to make it a more vibrant and welcoming key arrival point for the town. We have worked closely with Chiltern Railways and other community partners to give the roundabout outside a face-lift, install planters and hanging baskets and also have eye-catching murals reflecting AGT themes. We are now leading a community project to revamp the large flower bed areas on the platforms, which have been neglected and become unsightly. Work experience students from Pebble Brook School and a team from Community Payback are helping to clear the beds and the next phase will be to collaborate with local partners to carry out a re-design that will require minimal maintenance going forward. We have been working with Chiltern Railways and have now set up a 'Friends of Aylesbury Station', FARS Grp, to help tend the plants and green spaces going forward

The COVID-19 Pandemic Coronavirus Restrictions and Lockdown regimes: COVID restrictions had a dramatic impact on the work of the charity. The Community Grow projects were recognised as part of the COVID response of the council. We were able to use our network of contacts and experience to play a wider role across the county by helping to establish and participate in weekly Emergency Food Groups in Aylesbury and High Wycombe. This has led to CT now being a part of the Buckinghamshire Food Partnership Steering Group.

Our community engagement adapted to change and has continued throughout being redirected to achieve similar aims but in different ways. Some of the projects that were in the development stage continued to be planned using email and virtual meetings. Inevitably some projects were delayed until COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed.

Summary - A firm foundation: Going into this 2nd year, we were in a stronger position than at the beginning of the pandemic, since there is a greater need for services that help people to re-engage with society and a greater understanding and desire to grow and to eat healthy food. We are about to add a new contract in Aylesbury with Public Health (Bucks Council) that is broadly based on the community Grow model, including the area that we have been attempting to initiate as part of Community Grow – learning how to cook healthy food and to move to more healthy diets. This was the original motivation for Community Grow back in 2015 when we developed the Community Grow strategy as part of a Public Health Task & Finish Group. The new contract that began in April 2021 was as the "Aylesbury Expert Gardener" for the Grow It, Cook It, Eat It project.

During this second year, of functioning as a charity, we have seen further significant developments and considerable growth in the organisation's reach. The pandemic presented us with considerable challenges that we were able to accommodate and survive. This was largely due to being part of the wider AGT Team, as part of the Bucks Council. The secured contract income has helped us to be more resilient than we would have been if we were dependent on grant income alone. Being a part of the AGT Community Partnerships Program Projects Team put our work in the spotlight of the response to the COVID Pandemic across the county and provided the charity with a greater profile and credibility. This will be a firm foundation going forward in **our mission – Transforming lives, Transforming Communities**.

2) Community Transform Strategy - 2022

a. Community Transform Mission: What we aim to do – our Strapline:

Community Transform has the strapline "Transforming lives, Transforming communities".
By working relationally (with individuals) and by valuing everyone's contributions to their community life as assets, we believe they can be empowered to shape and influence their community in the long term. This approach is known as Asset Based Community Development (ABCD).
Its definition is:

> *….. an approach to sustainable community-driven development. Asset Based Community Development's premise is that communities can drive the development process themselves by identifying and mobilizing existing, but often unrecognised assets. Thereby responding to challenges and creating local social improvement and economic development.*

The underlying desired outcomes of our work, are to build community capacity by encouraging sustainable positive social change that leads to social, economic, environmental, and spiritual wellbeing and wholeness. As a social purpose organisation, we recognise the terms, building social capital, community capacity building and creating social change. This is a relational, bottom-up approach to working, where individuals and communities are at the heart of their decision-making.

Community Transform Ethos:
Community Transform is a charity - a social purpose organisation, based on the principles of community development and social transformation. It has taken a relational, bottom-up approach to work with individuals and communities at the heart. We focus on creating positive social change and improving the wellbeing of communities.

Positive Social Change, PSC, is found to be most effective when the three mechanisms of change are present; these are motivation, capacity, and opportunity. The road to empowerment touches all three of these drivers. Taking a person-centred approach means listening to local peoples' views and opinions, giving them decision-making power on things that affect them, and developing relationships and trust are all vital elements. This then forms the basic building blocks of what Community Transform sets out to do. As a priority, we have the intention that eventually they lead by taking part in the day-to-day running of projects. Where they don't have the skills or capacity for this we will temporarily stand in the gap and take on the leadership roles to get things started and established until we can hand them over to local ownership and control. From experience, we know that some degree of long-term oversight or supervision is often necessary to ensure clarity of purpose is maintained in the long term, but this is a very light touch.

b. Our Theory of Change:
This recognises the central element of community development that when people are empowered to make the changes that they want to make happen in their own lives and their communities, then positive social change is possible. We consider it as a process, or journey, to transformation – not an event! We describe this as developing different types of 'spaces': "physical spaces", "social spaces", and "learning spaces", or a combination of these. Where the learning space is seen as where activities proactively create an intentional learning environment, but these are guided by the participants with assistance from civil society agencies. In these spaces, all involved will develop skills, abilities, and knowledge through the experience of being involved and doing activities together. This may be in the context of informal learning, peer learning, or learning that is more formal.

We see the most effective positive social change is not only working at a *surface-level* as an event or short series but by continued involvement in taking a person-centred approach. It will then bring *deep-cutting social change* – creating an impact through changed lives. Co-creating these "spaces" together is a core value and activity of Community Transform. Ultimately, we work to create activities that deliver wellbeing and wholeness for individuals and communities. Sustainable and inclusivity can be achieved when local people play a role in owning the concept and running the projects.

c. The Five Way to Wellbeing. The work of Community Transform supports the 5 ways to wellbeing principles – connect, give, take notice, keep learning and be active, in the way it works.

3) The three distinct project themes of Community Transform CIO (See Appendix B)

There are three distinct project areas that the organisation has been involved in since 2017 and that the charity has continued to be involved in. These are:

a) Community Grow Network - using local green spaces as a tool to engage with residents and improve the public realm.
b) Company CSR Employee Teams – using the resources of the employees of local companies for the benefit of communities and working with VCSE organisations
c) Play Street Events – short & regular resident-led street closures to facilitate social capacity building where residents in a neighbourhood interact and children play.

Our aims, objectives and activities for each of these are explained in Appendix B

4) Community Transform CIO Contracts and Funding for Projects from April 2021 to March 2022

In October 2019, the company, Community Transform (2017) Ltd, secured a contract to join the AGT Community Partnership Projects Team (CPP Team), to deliver community development and liaison services. These contracts and funding were transitioned in April 2020 to the charity.

At the beginning of April 2020, there were four streams of funding for the charity. The core strand of funding was from the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) partnership contract, where we became a part of the AGT team working within the Community and Partnership Program team, working closely with Ceri Perkins as the Program Lead. This was the primary contract to be transferred from CT Ltd to the charity CT CIO.

We also received grant funding to deliver three other projects over this period that ran concurrently with the AGT work. Details of the project work are reviewed in last year's report. When the funding application was made, they were both scheduled to begin in April 2020. But, due to the COVID pandemic, the start dates and duration were negotiated and modified accordingly

We are indebted during 2020 – 2022 to:

a) London Housing Corporation Community benefit fund: (Locality are the fund managers) to establish a community garden at the Healthy Living Centre (HLC), Walton Court, Aylesbury. This project would be later incorporated into the overall AGT contract.

b) Rothschild Foundation for and supervision of volunteering sessions and networking, with residents, Social Prescribing Groups, and the Voluntary Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sectors. for additional time to engage, design, set up and run volunteer sessions in all our projects and to network widely with residents, Social Prescribing Groups, and the Voluntary Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sectors.

c) Feedback Global - Seed Fund Grant to work on our long-standing project at the Community Allotment at Sierra Rd, High Wycombe. To deliver practical and informative sessions on 'growing your own food' and reducing food waste in the kitchen. These were sessions were delivered at the Sierra Rd Site in High Wycombe. But, due to the COVID pandemic, the start dates and duration for this project were also negotiated and modified accordingly. Four sessions were arranged for August Bank Holiday 2020. A second set of four sessions were arranged in late April 2021. The uptake of these face-to-face sessions was low - we believe because of the pandemic and COVID hesitancy.

   The sessions and subject theme of reducing food waste were however promoted widely by, contacting volunteers (85 people) by phone, local publicity, letter posting, social media, and posters on local noticeboards. The literature developed for the volunteer sessions and the session planning has refined our understanding incorporating the subject of reducing food waste and we are indebted to FeedBack Global for this opportunity.

These projects were complimentary to the core AGT contract work and designed to bring added value to the opportunity that was afforded by having the public profile from being part of the AGT Team. The legacy of these projects continued into this year as the funders allowed flexibility in the end date due to the pandemic.

During the year 2021-22, the charity has continued to deliver community development and liaison services as part of the AGT team under a continuing contract with Buckinghamshire Council for 2.5 days full-time equivalent.

In addition, there was a separate contract with Public Health, also Buckinghamshire Council funded, for the Grow It, Cook It, Eat It project as the Aylesbury 'Expert Gardener' role, to establish a community garden at Storehouse Vineyard Church, the location of an Aylesbury Foodbank. This project was delivered as a partnership with Public Health, AGT and Community Transform.

5) A review of Community Transform CIO work for our beneficiaries from April 2021 to March 2022 - What Have We Achieved?

a) Introduction Our Community Development Project Work – how have our projects progressed over the 2nd year of the charity? This section will review the work with the Aylesbury Garden Town team and the Public Health funded Storehouse Community Garden – 'Grow It Cook It Eat It' project. will be reviewed as a community food-growing project.

b) Objectives set by Aylesbury Garden Town Community and Stakeholder Partnership Programme (CSPP) Following the success of the Community Partnership Programme(CPP) 2019 to 2021, a set of objectives were put in place for 2021/22, to build on the strong foundations that had been established and also to develop further opportunities to deliver on the commitments in the Aylesbury Garden Town Capacity Funding Award from Homes England. There was an emphasis to work more closely with stakeholders and this was reflected in the name of the program. The focus was on placemaking, reinforcing Aylesbury's status as a sustainable and economically viable town, asserting a stronger sense of identity for existing residents and encouraging them to remain and invest in the Garden Town proposition. Aligned with this, placemaking helps to establish community spirit on the new developments, to attract new economic opportunities and money into the town and is a focus of both Homes England's and the TCPA's current agenda for their Garden Community programme.

The objectives/outcomes for the year drew on key sections of the Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan as follows:

A Green & Healthy Garden Town (Chapter 6)

"Support active lifestyles and good physical and mental health by making it easier for all of Aylesbury's residents of all ages and abilities to access clean air, natural areas and food growing, sports and leisure opportunities, within the town and the wider landscape"

- Objective: Ongoing expansion of the Community Food Growing Programme
- Objective: Re-claiming the streets by encouraging active travel and lifestyles, piloting the Play Streets initiative and developing greening projects

Supporting the Highest Quality of Life For All (Chapter 5)

"The design and development of new communities and infrastructure will maximise opportunities for community cohesion through shared access and use.
To ensure those who want to make Aylesbury Garden Town their home are supported and empowered to do so."

- Objective: Working with communities on new AGT sites to develop a strong sense of pride and place. Working with Kingsbrook Parish Council to develop community-based projects
- Objective: Developing greater community stewardship within the town. In all of the CSPP projects, there is an investment of time to work towards local resident involvement and ownership in running the project in the long term. This is particularly case with community food growing and the Railway Station enhancement work by creating the Friends of Aylesbury Railway Station, FARS Grp.

Aylesbury Central Area: Putting the Town Centre First (Chapter 4)

"Create an attractive arrival experience and first impression of the Town Centre.
Build community spirit through welcoming events and activities."

- Objective: Working with key partners and stakeholders to support enhancements that make the town centre more attractive and vibrant for residents and visitors alike. The revamping of the Railway Station as a key destination point to give a good impression of the town. Also, ongoing encouragement through the Aylesbury Community Board to promote more wildflower verges and public spaces.

c) Community Food Growing Network

The partnership with Aylesbury Garden Town started in March 2019 with grant funding to establish a community food-growing project adjacent to St Peter's Church in Quarrendon, Aylesbury. The organisation that the charity transitioned from had activities that had previously been focused in the High Wycombe area since 2011. The approach taken in the St Peter's project used the principles and strategy of the 'Community Grow' project that had been successfully developed at the Sierra Road Community Allotment in High Wycombe and was funded by Aylesbury Garden Town, at that time a part of Aylesbury District Council

There is now a network of seven Community Food Growing Projects in Aylesbury, that have been established through our work with AGT: St Peter's Community Garden (Quarrendon); Healthy Living Centre (Walton Court); Storehouse Foodbank (Aylesbury Vineyard) (Gatehouse); Bierton Community Allotment; Bear Brook Community Orchard (Prebendal Farm), Hampden Gardens (Southcourt) and The Manse Garden (Fairford Leys).

They have been set up in different ways, with a variety of local partners including Fairhive Homes Ltd (formerly VAHT) and Public Health. Two are now fully self-sustaining (St Peter's and Bierton).

A number of the gardens are in some of the most deprived areas of Aylesbury and have successfully brought local communities together, of all ages. They have engaged members of the BAME community and have also offered support to the elderly, as well as to people with learning difficulties, mental health issues and mobility challenges, to help them connect and engage with others and learn new skills. This has been particularly beneficial following the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Four gardens in the network won awards in the 2021 Aylesbury in Bloom Awards, organised by the Aylesbuty Town Council.

St Peters Church Community Garden (Quarendon)

Three years after its launch, the St Peter's Community Garden is now in its 4th growing season. Quarrendon is an open-access site and there was some concern initially that this may prompt anti-social behaviour, but this has not proved to be the case. The leadership of St Peter's Church have set up a legacy committee to take it forward, with a focus on local stewardship. They received separate funding and appointed a Garden Facilitator and installed a tool shed and cabin for participants to meet in.

There is a large amount of involvement and participation from within the church and the wider neighbourhood. Re-engagement with local resident volunteers was slow and began again when the regular community café started again on Thursday as the COVID restrictions were relaxed. The continuous harvest is shared amongst the volunteers, as well as with regular supporters of the garden who have been shielding over the last year. Now

that the beds are established there is also a plan to extend the growing area to facilitate a contribution to the Aylesbury foodbank.

Activity sessions with local organisations are now taking place regularly e.g., PACE, schools, and after-school clubs as well as the potential of social prescribing working with the GP surgery and the primary care network. The project was entered into the Aylesbuty in bloom competition 2021.

There is a potential for a Neighbourhood Hub with involvement from Adult Learning, Aylesbury Youth Action and the Hayden Abbey Nursery if easier access can be established through the shared fence. This would create a new sense of place and is a good example of community stewardship.

Healthy Living Center (HLC) Community Garden (Walton Court)
The Healthy Living Centre (HLC) is a 'community-led service aiming to build opportunities that support the development of individuals and groups in Bucks'. The HLC Community Food Growing Project, which was embarked upon in January 2020, as a partnership between AGT, LHC Community Benefit Fund and other local organisations, was unfortunately held up by the COVID pandemic after initial work had been carried out to plan and prepare the garden growing beds.

Despite the challenges, there had already been considerable engagement with local people and schools. Pebble Brook Secondary, utilising student support and Ashmead Primary on a competition to design the potager garden. Work began again in the spring, of 2021, unfortunately, the growing bed required a lot of renovation work. In June we started the 'Growing Healthier Together' initiative. The Healthy Living Centre had secured a grant from the AGT Community Funding Pot to develop a scheme to allow local families to learn about growing through regular growing sessions in June and later nutrition and cooking, using the produce from the garden in August. The garden volunteers have continued to meet beyond the planned 5 weeks of sessions, and are still meeting regularly as spring 2022 moves into summer nearly a year later. The project was entered into the Aylesbuty in bloom competition 2021.

Growing Bed Spring 2021

Raised Growing Bed June 2021

Growing Healthier Together Sesson

HLC Community Garden Team

Hampden Gardens (Southcourt)

We are working in partnership with Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT) to support a community-led food growing project, in the centre of four blocks of housing association-owned flats in Southcourt. Located in a large under-used communal area, the project provides an area, not just for growing together, but a place for residents to meet socially, as lockdown regulations are relaxed. An encouraging outcome has been that young residents are using the skills developed during the events we have held to grow on their own balconies and outside their front doors.

A resident survey showed an encouraging response. Comments include *"Lots of daffodils, tulips, spring flowers, shrubs for seasons and raised beds for vegetables etc. and for 'grow your own' food". "We can also grow other new vegetables from different countries and can be self-sufficient, kids can respect food and the hard work involved in growing them." "My kids love growing food."* The garden was launched in the spring of 2021. Other community events have been held during school breaks to raise interest with our partner VAHT.

Havest-time August 2021

Further expansion Spring 2022

Aylesbury in Bloom Judges at Hampden Gardens

The project was entered into the Aylesbuty in bloom competition in August 2021 and received a Bronze Award.

In the spring of 2022, the garden area was enlarged and we held events to develop great involvement in the project. We are looking for a suitable funding stream for regular weekly sessions now to further develop the interest we have gained.

Bear Brook Orchard (Prebendal Farm) – working with Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT)
A new project at Prebendal Farm, Bear Brook Community Orchard, is being re-established to provide a new community resource after falling into a state of neglect. This is another partnership with VAHT, along with a community food growing project at Hampden Gardens site. this in conjunction also with the local primary school. We are keen to encourage involvement from within the BAME community and particularly young people and Asian women in the Prebendal Farm area through resident engagement.

The plan in May 2022 is to plant a range of fruit trees (x17) and a row of 12 cherry trees on a large grassy area adjacent to the Bear Brook Primary school.

Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse Community Garden – Grow It Cook It Eat It project (Public Health)

The garden is the first of six 'Grow It, Cook It, Eat It' projects to be rolled out across the county by Buckinghamshire Council. The scheme is aimed at supporting people who are struggling to access healthy, nutritional food. As part of the Grow It, Cook It Eat It, project, there are also introductory courses to learn how to cook simple nutritious food linked to the community garden.

Getting the garden established on a piece of rough ground to the side of the foodbank's offices proved quite a challenge, as it had to be completely cleared and revamped before raised beds and a pathway could be put in.

The community food growing project is at Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse one of the town's main foodbanks. The project is a partnership between Buckinghamshire Council's Public Health Service, Aylesbury Garden Town, Community Transform and Storehouse. It brings together local volunteers to run the garden and grow fresh produce.

The community garden was officially opened by Councillor Bill Chapple, Vice Chairman of the Aylesbury Garden Town Board and Councillor Anders Christensen, Town Mayor on 27th October 2021. It coincided with a Community Family Lunch event at the Vineyard Church, where local people had the chance to see the garden and the impressive range of fruit and vegetables that are already coming through, including tomatoes, peppers, leeks and more.

We hope that many local people will get involved, as community food growing has so many benefits. Not only is it great for keeping active in the fresh air and giving your mental health a boost, but it connects people together, creating closer-knit neighbourhoods in Aylesbury" A leaflet drop in the local houses

We worked with a team from Community Payback to do this, with support from a team of staff volunteers from the new Sainsbury's Gatehouse store. It's fantastic to be able to offer our foodbank clients fresh produce that's grown here on site and they can also get involved with growing and cooking it too and learning new skills."

Sainsbury's Management Team Building Day At the Storehouse Community Garden
A Management Team Building Day on 20th September with the management team (10 people) of the new Sainsbury's supermarket on the Gatehouse roundabout near-by. This made a big difference to the garden

St Mary's Community Garden
This project focuses on uplifting a green space on the grounds of St Mary's Church in the historic conservation area of the town, which is prone to extreme anti-social behaviour issues, through a coordinated community approach. The churchyard is maintained by Buckinghamshire Council. The project has only just got underway and will be delivered, going forward, in partnership with Aylesbury Youth Action, local residents, the Town Centre Street Association, Bucks Mind and St Mary's Church, under the coordination of Community Transform. Aylesbury Youth Action received a grant from the former County Council youth services team to support this project.

Young volunteers at St Mary's Community Garden Project

Developing new communities - Kingsbrook New Community Development: As part of our commitment to support new community development in AGT, along with encouraging community stewardship, we are working with Kingsbrook Parish Council to establish a community food-growing initiative. The development incorporates a large area allocated for allotment use and a portion of this will be used by the Parish Council for community food growing, working with several partners including the scouts and local church, as well as AGT. We will be sharing insight and experience gained through establishing a network of community food-growing projects across the town. There is potential with support from Community Transform if additional funding can be found.

Nightingale's Rainbow Community Garden

The iconic sculpture, commissioned by the Florence Nightingale Hospice on the grounds of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, pays tribute to the resilience of the people of Bucks during the pandemic. AGT provided a grant to create a community garden around the Rainbow. This is located in the heart of the hospital and provides an area of green space and respite for patients and visitors. Members of the community were invited to get involved in planting the garden, on a special community day. Local schoolchildren, residents and representatives of community organisations took part, along with AGT's Chair, Councillor Gareth Williams.

Nightingale's Rainbow Community Garden Planting with Cllr Gareth Williams

Aylesbury in Bloom Competition 2021

Four community gardens, St Peters (Quarrendon), Healthy Living Centre (Walton Court), Hampden Gardens (Southcourt) and Storehouse Community garden (Gatehouse) were entered into the competition. All won certificates.

The Healthy Living Centre and St Peters both received a Silver Guilt Award

Play Streets Bucks:

The Play Streets scheme enables residents to apply to temporarily close their road so children can play safely together on their doorstep and adults can chat and interact, bringing communities together. Community Transform first encountered Play Streets in 2018 and successfully delivered two events in High Wycombe with the community where the Community Grow project had developed.

The principles of Play Streets aligned well with our strategic objectives to improve the wellbeing of our beneficiaries and Garden Town Principles that are central to the strategic themes contained in the AGT Masterplan and Public Health in the country council. Working initially with colleagues in the Public Health and Highways departments of the country council we had a pilot project in Stock Mandeville that was scheduled for 27th March 2020, but this event was postponed due to the risk of COVID-19 infection.

We have continued to work towards establishing the protocols within the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council re-organisation regime. Following two successful pilots in October 2021 working closely with Transport for Bucks, 18 months later, sign-off has been given by the Service Director for Highways and Technical Services, to roll out the scheme in Bucks. Subject to approval from key Cabinet representatives, the application process will be through the BC website. We will also be setting up a steering group of key partners including TfB, Public Health, Community Boards and the voluntary sector to help promote Play Streets as an initiative which has many benefits, including encouraging physical activity, tackling social isolation and creating community cohesion.

Going forward, Community Transform has undertaken the role of Bucks Activator for Play Streets and is in talks with Public Health and LEAP regarding funding for this. A Steering Group, led by Public Health and including other key partners, will help facilitate the roll-out of the scheme and its future promotion. There is a Facebook page “Play Streets Bucks” for Street Organisers which currently has 37 members.

The Two Pilot events in October 2021 were very successful:

1. Fairford Leys, Aylesbury

26 people attended - 14 adults & 12 children. The street already had a neighbourhood Whatsapp in place. There was a mixture of families and some older adults. Children played on bikes, scooters, hopscotch and swing ball, as well as with giant chalks to create designs on the road; adults socialised

2. Harlow/Queen's Road, High Wycombe

28 people attended – 15 adults & 13 children

Much more diverse community with no previous community group in place. A mixture of families and other neighbours of different ages. Children played on bikes, with footballs, skipped, played in a sandpit and drew pictures with chalk; adults socialised and re-connected

Comments made were collected by the survey at both events were:

Great Fun Sociable Fresh air for kids Happy
Community spirit Active Excellent idea

"Being able to do this regularly will help get the kids away from their devices and interact more with each other." Sarah, organiser and mum

"I've lived here for quite some time, but I've seen people in the road now, that I've never met before." Rosemarie, steward and grandparent

"The little ones seeing new friends, trying new things and being active is really positive." Ollie, resident and dad

"Being a new neighbour, it means my children get to know others within the area." Claire, resident and childminder

Work at the station

The work at the station has focused on making the experience of arriving in Aylesbury by train more vibrant and welcoming for residents and visitors. The town has received considerable criticism in the past, most recently relating to the poor state of the bus station. This demonstrates how important placemaking is, to create a more positive first impression at key entry points. The improvements have included restructuring and replanting the main island beds outside the station to create an impactful display, as well as planters and a series of eye-catching murals, designed by local artists, Dan Wilson and Teakster.

We have worked with major stakeholders to deliver these, including Chiltern Railways, Buckinghamshire Council and the Town Council. The final phase is to revamp the platform beds, which are located on public sector land, through a multi-partnership community project. This has incorporated a work experience programme with students from Pebble Brook School, who have learning difficulties, as well as a team from Community Payback, who have all worked to clear the beds at no cost. AGT and Chiltern Railways are working together to deliver the re-design of the beds and a bid has been put into the Aylesbury Garden Town. Going forward, a community group, Friends of Aylesbury Station, FARS Group has been set up through Community Transform, to oversee the ongoing maintenance of the beds and planters, in line with the Government's Community Rail Strategy, which encourages the community stewardship of station land and promotion of sustainable travel.

Pebble Brook School Work Experience Students

Appendices

Appendix A - The Historical Background to Community Transform

Our history stretches back to 2004 and the Oasis Project based in the village of Lane End, Buckinghamshire. Over the years there have been many changes of emphasis and projects, but the underlying motivations and ethos are rooted in the same fundamental principles. Community Transform was a faith-inspired venture based on the principles of asset-based community development (ABCD) and building hope to bring about social change and ultimately the transformation of communities from within. We work hard to listen to the people in the communities where we work, involving them in decision-making, and training them to eventually take the projects forward for themselves, so achieving sustainability. Community Transform's strapline is, 'Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities.'

The Elim Church in Lane End pioneered the Oasis Project – under the leadership of Pastor John Richards in 2004. The project was a trade skills training project for young people in the Buckinghamshire village who were 18 to 25 years of age and not in education, employment, or training (NEET). Members of the church who were tradespeople (qualified in their trade) were offered a 15-week training course for one evening a week over a cycle of three courses per year. From 2004 until 2013, over 200 young people from the Lane End and Stokenchurch area were beneficiaries of the Oasis Project. The courses were in trades of car mechanics, horticulture, electrical, plumbing, and welding. In parallel to these courses, there was also an option to be tutored in English and maths for those who had not gained these qualifications while at school. Close ties were built with a similar project based in Knowsley, Lancashire, by coincidence, this was also called the Oasis Project.

Over time as the project grew in popularity, it spread to include the High Wycombe area. The Wycombe Partnership Board provided core funding for a part-time project coordinator in 2009. Eventually, in July 2011, the Lane End Oasis Project obtained its charity status, and the project that was based in High Wycombe became a separate social enterprise called Community Transform Ltd. With the introduction of new government provisions and policies for young people who were +18 and NEET, the project no longer had relevance and Community Transform moved on to deliver other projects but with the same fundamental principles of working.

Project themes: Over the past 11 years Community Transform (CT) has been involved in a range of community development and empowerment projects. These included the original Trade Skills Training for NEETs, a community hub based in one of the most deprived areas of High Wycombe (Gayhurst Rd, Micklefield), Play Street events, Corporate Employee Volunteer Team Events and Community Food grow at our community allotment.

Our long-standing project at the Community Allotment at Sierra Rd, High Wycombe, started in January 2017 but was suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown at the end of March 2020. This project has not restarted due to the loss of its volunteers, but the hope is to re-establish the project in January 2023.

Appendix B - Project themes of the Charity Community Transform CIO

There are three distinct project areas that the charity, Community Transform CIO, is involved in.

a) Community Grow Network - using local green spaces as a tool to engage with residents and improve the public realm.
b) Company CSR Employee Teams – using the resources of the employees of local companies for the benefit of communities and working with VCSE organisations
c) Play Street Events – short & regular resident-led street closures to facilitate social capacity building where residents in a neighbourhood interact and children play.

a. Community GROW Network (Community Food Growing)

Growing food (or flowers) in a garden is an activity that has a proven record of improving the wellbeing of participants. But growing together in the community with others has additional benefits

- **Vision Statement:**

To establish a network that supports local Community GROW projects across High Wycombe, working primarily in areas of deprivation to….

- promote healthy lifestyles and choices,
- create community cohesion, resilience, and an improved sense of wellbeing
- in the long term to build a better society.

- **Our Strapline for Community Grow Project is: "Growing Community and Growing in the Community"**

- **The Foundations** of Community GROW are:
  - A passionate belief that "Growing is good for individual & community wellbeing"
  - The Five Ways To Wellbeing are: Connect – with other people, Be active – find an activity you love, Take notice – of the world around you, Keep learning – try something new, and finally Give – a smile, a hug, some time
  - At the heart of what we do is: Community engagement and empowerment
- **Theory of Change:** Embedded into the Community GROW project is our theory of change that involved the three types of space (see section above) that can be instrumental in bringing about Positive Social Change (PSC). A physical space - in this case, a green or garden space, a Social Space – building relationships – this is a safe space where trust is developed. And thirdly, a learning space – peer, kinaesthetic, or formal learning. All these spaces create a *sense of place* for participants, a fertile place where transformation can be nurtured.

b. Company Employee Volunteer Teams – CSR Teambuilding sessions

We broker with local companies for their Employee Volunteers Teams to have a successful and fulfilling team-building day. We create self-contained team-building events where employees feel that they can *'make a difference'* by working in one of Community GROW projects, working in a community garden, or where we provide an event for a local VCSE organisation – such as a renovating care home garden. We have also renovated several local school gardens that fall into disuse.

i. What companies can expect from us:
   - A worthwhile project or cause is identified. We will discuss and create an event that meets the requirements of the company. We negotiate with the project/organisation the tasks required and organise the logistical arrangements, materials, and equipment needed. A full risk assessment is developed, and we will liaise with the company's H&S expert. There will be adequate insurance, health, and safety needs and CRB checks.
     We manage the administration and logistics for the activities on the day. We also provide an experienced team on the day to run their event. After the event, we provide a set of photographs of the day.

ii. What are the outcomes for companies and their employees include:
   - A sense of achievement at a personal and team level. Increased team working and better-working relationships with colleagues. A greater understanding of the local community and increased levels of engagement of the company with their community. This is a good public relations exercise.
   - The event contributes to the company's Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR, impact and ESG. For a practical project, they can literally see the fruits of their volunteering time; in a newly painted building, a newly landscaped garden, or cleared pathway.
   - For everybody involved it is a 'Win-Win-Win' situation.

Good for employees, good for the community and good for business

iii. What are the outcomes for Community Transform CIO:

- The input of many man-hours into projects can be a great encouragement to volunteers who see their project leap forward – particularly at the start of a local project. In addition, the relationship with the company can develop with donations, sponsorship, and new volunteers for future events.
- The donating of useful skills other than physical work can revolutionize the projects' multi-media, legal or financial management – even new trustees.
- By charging fees it is an income stream.

In total, we have hosted fifteen company teambuilding days that have been organised with 12 companies in 9 locations in Buckinghamshire since January 2017.

c. Play Streets Projects

Playing Out is a parent and resident-led movement giving children the chance to play out in the streets and spaces where they live, boosting their health, happiness, and sense of belonging. Play Streets are short, stewarded road closures (usually 2-3 hours), organised by residents who volunteer as stewards to keep things safe. They typically take place once a month, often at weekends.

i. Benefits

Research shows: the events increase activity levels, build intergenerational friendships between neighbours and children, and reduce isolation and loneliness. Also improves community capacity and social cohesion by creating new opportunities for creativity and socialising.

ii. Play Streets are widely acknowledged

They are endorsed by Public Health England, Play England, British Cycling, & Kings Fund. In Buckinghamshire; the Public Health Team, Transport for Bucks, LEAP, CCG, and Community Boards.

More than 90 councils now support Play Streets nationally and there is specific guidance from Dept for Transport for local authorities to support the initiative. The website of the national organisation Playing Out UK is www.playingout.net

iii. Origins of Play Streets

Play Streets started in Bristol in 2012 in a street where a single mother wanted to provide what she had experienced as a child playing out freely. The national organisation Playing Out UK is based in Bristol. The organisation's website is www.playingout.net This has a wealth of very useful resources and advice for setting up Play Street events and ongoing support for Street Organisers.

In India and in the Philippians (2014) a similar strategy has been applied to deliver effective healthcare education to street children and families in some of the most destitute and deprived areas globally.

References

1. The Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan can be found here: www.aylesburygardentown.co.uk/the-masterplan-and-projects/the-masterplan/
2. Garden Town Principles: Garden City Standards for the 21st Century https://tcpa.org.uk/collection/garden-city-standards-21st-century/

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COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO
Charity Number: 1186368

ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31 March 2022

The charity was incorporated on 15 November 2019 and its activities started on 21 February 2020

Community Transform cio
44 Westwood Green
Cookham
Maidenhead
Berkshire SL6 9DE

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO
Charity Number: 1186368

The Charity was incorporated on 15 November 2019 and its activties started on 21 February 2020

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
Year ended 31 March 2022

				Year 2022 £		Period 2021 £
RECEIPTS						
Contributions received towards communtiy events						
	Buckinghamshire Council		36,059.26		20,128.03	
	Global Feedback		-		2,100.00	
	Locality		-		5,000.00	
	The Rothschild Foundation		-	36,059.26	5,000.00	32,228.03
Bank Interest				15.31		7.47
				36,074.57		32,235.50
PAYMENTS						
Bank Charges				2.30		2.00
Liability Insurance				441.42		-
				443.72		2.00
SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS				**35,630.85**		**32,233.50**
Apportioned	General Fund		3,625.00		3,225.00	
	Co-ordinator's Fund		32,005.85		29,008.50	
			35,630.85		32,233.50	
BALANCE SHEET						
At 31 March 2022						
Bank Balance				**67,864.35**		**32,233.50**
Unrestricted Fund						
	General Fund	brought forward	3,225.00		-	
		for the year/period	3,625.00	6,850.00	3,225.00	3,225.00
	Designated - Co-ordinator's Fund	brought forward	29,008.50		-	
		for the year/period	32,005.85	61,014.35	29,008.50	29,008.50
				67,864.35		**32,233.50**

Note
In 2021 Liability insurance was paid by the associate organisation *Community Transform (2017) Limited*

Signed Dr DC Furze - Trustee .....

Nicolas Singeisen - Trustee .....

Date .....

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM

Registered Charity Number: 1186368

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Community Transform

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Community Transform (The Trust) for the period ended 31 March 2022.

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 my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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 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.

Name **R BRIDGEN, FCA**

Address: 18 CRENDON STREET, HIGH WYCOMBE, HP13 6LS

Date: 20th March 2023

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM

England & Wales - Charity number 1186368

Accounts

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO, No: 1186368

Trustees' Annual Report

Reporting on the period April 2020 to March 2021

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity Community Transform, charity number 1186368, for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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) published in October 2019.

Contents:
This report has the following sections:

1) Chairman's Statement
2) Community Transform Strategy 2011-2021
3) The three distinct project themes of the company Community Transform Ltd (2017), from 2016 to 2021
4) Timeline of Community Transform Contracts and Funding (CT Ltd & CT CIO) from March 2020 to March 2021
5) What Have We Achieved? -a review of Community Transform CIO work for our beneficiaries from April 2020 to March 2021

Appendix A - The Historical Background to Community Transform
Appendix B - What is the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) Community Partnership Projects Program
References

Trustees

Dr David Charles Furze (Chair)
Nicolas Richard Singeisen
Dr John Moorcroft Walton
John Garnier Richards

Signature

Name:

Signature: Date:

Principle Office

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Email address: NSingeisen@aol.com

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO, No: 1186368

Trustees' Annual Report

Reporting on the period April 2020 to March 2021

1) Chairman's Statement

This is the first annual report of the newly formed Charity Community Transform (CT), as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, covering the period from April 2020 to March 2021.

a. Changes to the legal structure of Community Transform – a transition of responsibility

Our charity status was confirmed by the Charity Commission in November 2019, with charity number 1186368. The responsibility for all project activity, contracts, strategy), and assets (apart from financial assets) which previously had been delivered by the social enterprise Community Transform (2017) Ltd, company number 7712998, was transferred to the charity. This officially took effect at the beginning of April 2020. This was also the time when the charity began to receive grants and sign contracts to deliver services and projects.

b. Charity Objectives

The Charity Commission recognise our charitable objectives as:

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM IS A COMMUNITY CAPACITY-BUILDING CHARITY BASED ON ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION.

We work with beneficiaries:

……to develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Buckinghamshire in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

c. Key External and Internal factors

External Factors

i. The 1st of April 2020 marked the beginning of a new unitary council in Buckinghamshire, where Buckinghamshire County Council and the four district councils merged to become Buckinghamshire Council. This began an extensive program of review, reorganisation, and redeployment of assets, staff, strategies, and financing. Since the largest contract the charity has is with the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) team, a part of Buckinghamshire Council, it is not yet clear what the implications will be of these changes and may not be realised for months to come (see ref 1 – for an internet link to the Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan and Appendix 2 - What is the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) Community Partnership Projects Program?)

ii. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the short term, the council had to focus as a priority on the work for supporting the individuals, the most vulnerable in the community and households across the country.

The positives: There have been new opportunities for us to engage with a different/new sector of people. Particularly, as the trend to 'grow your own food' has become more prominent in times of lockdown, as people are confined to home, needing different forms of exercise, and rethinking their priorities in life.

Internal Factors – responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

i. Reassessment of working practices to maintain community development outcomes for our beneficiaries
ii. Developing new ways of working virtually – Zoom and Teams software
iii. Providing information and gathering feedback in different ways through - social media, Facebook pages/groups, website, online consultations, etc. We launched a Facebook group called Aylesbury Garden Town Let's Get Growing.

iv. Safety of volunteers when restrictions on face-to-face were relaxed but still working personally distanced - Risk assessments, PPE, signage, safe working procedures.
v. We have observed 'COVID hesitation' of volunteers following the lifting of the pandemic restrictions. In some areas of work volunteering numbers have recovered very slowly and in others, they have not returned to pre-pandemic numbers. This is very likely because we often have volunteers who are vulnerable and have gotten involved in the first place to socialise or improve their activity levels. These people would be the most likely to have lived isolated lives and lack the confidence to re-engage socially.

d. Progress and Growth – a summary (see section 5 - What have we achieved, page 8)

During 2019 the main contract for the company Community Transform (2017) Ltd (referred to here as either the company or CT Ltd), was with Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT).

Community Grow Project: The partnership with Aylesbury Garden Town started in March 2019 with grant funding to establish a community food growing project adjacent to St Peter's Church in Quarrendon, Aylesbury. The company's previous activities had been focused in the High Wycombe area since 2011, so this was a new focus for our work. The St Peter's project used the same principles and strategy as our 'Community Grow' project that had been successfully developed at the Sierra Road Community Allotment in High Wycombe.

In October 2019, the company, CT Ltd, secured a contract to join the AGT Community and Stakeholder Partnership Projects Team (CSPP Team), to deliver community development and liaison services. These contracts and funding were transitioned in April 2020 to the charity.

At the beginning of April 2020, there were four streams of funding for the charity. The core strand of funding was from the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) partnership contract, where we became a part of the AGT team working within the Community and Partnership Program team, working closely with Ceri Perkins as the Program Lead. This was the primary contract to be transferred from CT Ltd to the charity. Two of the other funding streams were new funding streams to add further support to the core AGT contact work in Aylesbury. The first of these was from the London Housing Corporation, LHC, (this fund was managed by Livability). It supported work to establish a new community garden at the Healthy Living Centre, Walton Court, in Aylesbury. The value of the funding was £5,000 over 6 months. This project would be later incorporated into the overall AGT contract. The second funding was from the Rothschild Foundation (for £5,000) for additional time to design, set up and run volunteer sessions at all our projects and to network widely across the VCFSE sector. Both funded projects were designed to add value to the work already established under the AGT contract. When the funding application was made, they were both scheduled to begin in April 2020. But, due to the COVID pandemic, the start dates and duration were negotiated and modified accordingly.

A third smaller grant from Feedback Global (£2,100) was given to deliver four practical/informative sessions on 'growing your own food' and to focus also on how to reduce food waste in the kitchen. These were at the Sierra Rd Site in High Wycombe in August 2020. But, due to the COVID pandemic, the start dates and duration for this project were also negotiated and modified accordingly. The Uptake of the 4 sessions was low due to the pandemic.

Play Streets Bucks: We encountered Play Streets in 2018 and successfully delivered two events in High Wycombe with the community where the Community Grow project had developed. The principles of Play Streets aligned well with Garden Town Principles[ref.2] and the themes contained in the AGT Masterplan (*Chapter 6 – A green and healthy Garden Town:* Play Streets initiatives encourage healthy lifestyles, social interaction and improved mental health and wellbeing.) Working initially with colleagues in the Public Health and Highways departments of the country council we had a pilot project in Stock Mandeville that was scheduled for 27th March 2020. But this had to be postponed since the COVID Lockdown came into effect the day before.

We have worked hard over the last year to re-establish agreement under the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council re-organisation regime. We are hopeful that in Autumn 2021 we will be able to hold two pilot projects to demonstrate that all aspects of the events are compliant with the council's health and safety regulations. Also, the application process for residents to hold a Play Street event can function efficiently and effectively.

The COVID-2 Pandemic Coronavirus Restrictions and Lockdown regimes: These were imposed by the UK Government on 26th March 2020. The restrictions had a dramatic impact on the work of the charity which officially only started to function a few days later at the beginning of April 2020. This significantly restricted the socialising of people from different households for leisure and employment. One of the impacts was that the three additional projects experienced delays in their starting dates and were subject to changes in how they were delivered.

Under the COVID-19 restrictions, we were constrained to fulfil our role in unique ways. Community development is primarily done and is most effective when done face-to-face! Social (physical) distancing requirements made this impossible. In addition, we also had to adapt to working within the Buckinghamshire Council requirements and constraints as a local council, to support the community during this time of the pandemic. We had to respond to new safety regimes, adjusting both short- and medium-term strategies and plans. The practical community development work of face-to-face contact and engagement stopped completely for several months. The restrictions were relaxed and then later tightened up again. When it was possible within the restrictions, the engagement work started again. In the meantime, we resorted to virtual meetings using Zoom or Teams virtual meeting platforms.

There was a redirection of the council's resources during this period towards vulnerable people's needs. The Community Grow projects were recognised as part of the COVID response of the council. We were also able to use our connections and experience to play a wider role across the county in the Emergency Food Groups and this has led to being a part of the founding of the Buckinghamshire Food Partnership.

So, in effect, our community engagement work never stopped throughout the year, but it was redirected to achieve similar aims but in different ways. Some of the projects that were in the development stage continued to be planned using email and virtual meetings. We played a significant role in the AGT consultations on the Gardenway proposal. Inevitably some projects were delayed until COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed.

As COVID restrictions are relaxing we will continue with our new methods of engaging but restart the face-to-face forms – with lessons learnt. We will continue to support existing Community Food Growing projects around Aylesbury and develop new initiatives, the Facebook Group "Let's Get Growing" and Play Streets Bucks

A firm foundation: Going into this 2nd year, we are in a stronger position than at the beginning despite the pandemic, since there is a greater need for services that help people to re-engage with society and for those who now feel the desire to grow and to eat healthy food. We are about to add a new contract in Aylesbury with Public Health (Bucks Council) that is broadly based on the Community Grow model, including the area that we have been attempting to initiate as part of Community Grow, i.e., learning how to cook healthy food and to encourage more healthy diets. This was the original motivation for Community Grow back in 2015 when we developed the Community Grow strategy as part of a Public Health Task & Finish Group. The new contract, to begin in April 2021, is the role as "Aylesbury Expert Gardener" for the Grow It Cook It Eat It project.

During this first year of functioning as a charity, there have been several significant developments and considerable growth of the organisation. The pandemic presented us with considerable challenges that we were able to accommodate and survive. This was largely due to being part of the wider AGT Team, as part of the Bucks Council. The secured contract income has helped us to be more resilient than we would have been if we were dependent on grant income alone. Being a part of the AGT Community Partnerships Program Projects Team (CPPP) put our work in the spotlight of the response to the COVID Pandemic across the county and provided the charity with a greater profile and credibility. This will be a firm foundation going forward in **our mission – Transforming lives, Transforming Communities**.

2) Community Transform 2011-2021 Strategy

a. Community Transform Mission: What we aim to do – our Strapline:

Community Transform has the strapline *"Transforming lives, Transforming communities".* By working relationally (with individuals) and by valuing everyone's contributions to their community life as assets, we believe they can be empowered to shape and influence their community in the long term. This approach is known as Asset Based Community Development (ABCD).

Its definition is:

> ….. *an approach to sustainable community-driven development. Asset Based Community Development's premise is that communities can drive the development process themselves by identifying and mobilizing existing, but often unrecognised assets. Thereby responding to challenges and creating local social improvement and economic development.*

The underlying desired outcomes of our work, are to build community capacity by encouraging sustainable *positive social change* that leads to social, economic, environmental, and spiritual wellbeing and wholeness. As a social purpose organisation, we recognise the terms, building social capital, community capacity building and creating social change. This is a relational, bottom-up approach to working, where individuals and communities are at the heart of their decision-making. Going forward they are best placed to shape, help make decisions and eventually lead projects.

b. Community Transform Ethos:

Community Transform is a social purpose organisation based on the principles of community development and social transformation. Taking a relational, bottom-up approach to working with individuals and communities is at the heart of what we do. We focus on creating positive social change and improving the wellbeing of communities.

Positive Social Change, PSC, is found to be most effective when three mechanisms of change are present; these are motivation, capacity, and opportunity. The road to empowerment touches all three of these drivers. Taking a person-centred approach means listening to local peoples' views and opinions, giving them decision-making power on things that affect them, and developing relationships, skills, and trust are all vital elements. This then forms the basic building blocks of what Community Transform sets out to do. As a priority, we have the intention that eventually they lead by taking part in the day-to-day running of projects. Where they don't have the skills or capacity for this we will temporarily stand in the gap and take on the leadership roles to get things started and established until we can hand them over to local ownership and control. From experience, we know that some degree of long-term oversight or supervision is often necessary to ensure clarity of purpose is maintained in the long term, but this is a very light-touch approach.

c. Our Theory of Change:

This recognises the central element of community development that when people are empowered to make the changes that they want to make happen in their own lives and their communities, then positive social change is possible. We consider it as a process, or journey, to transformation – not an event! We describe this as developing different types of 'spaces': "physical spaces", "social spaces", and "learning spaces", or a combination of these. Where the learning space is where activities can proactively create an intentional learning environment, but these are guided by the participants with assistance from civil society agencies. In these spaces, all involved will develop skills, abilities, and knowledge through the experience of being involved and doing activities together. This includes lessons learnt by any agencies involved. This may be in the context of informal learning, peer learning, or learning that is more formal.

We see the most effective positive social change is not only working at a *surface level,* as an event or short series but by continued involvement in taking a person-centred approach. It will then bring *deep-cutting social change* – creating an impact by changing lives. Co-creating these "spaces" together is a core value and activity of Community Transform. Ultimately, we work to create activities that deliver wellbeing and wholeness for individuals and communities. Sustainable and inclusivity can be achieved when local people play a role in owning the concept and running the projects.

e. The Five Way to Wellbeing. The work of Community Transform supports the 5 ways to wellbeing principles – connect, give, take notice, keep learning and be active, in the way it works.

3) The three distinct project themes of the company Community Transform CIO

There are three distinct project areas in that Community Transform CIO, has been involved. These are:

a) Community Grow Network - using local green spaces as a tool to engage with residents and improve the public realm.
b) Company CSR Employee Teams – using the resources of the employees of local companies for the benefit of communities and working with VCSE organisations
c) Play Street Events – short & regular resident-led street closures to facilitate social capacity building where residents in a neighbourhood interact and children play.

a. Community GROW Network (Community Food Growing)

Growing food (or flowers) in a garden is an activity that has a proven record of improving the wellbeing of participants. But growing together in the community with others has additional benefits

- **Vision Statement:**

To establish a network that supports local Community GROW projects across High Wycombe, working primarily in areas of deprivation to….

- promote healthy lifestyles and choices,
- create community cohesion, resilience, and an improved sense of wellbeing
- in the long term to build a better society.

- **Our Strapline for Community Grow Project is: "Growing Community and Growing in the Community"**

- **The Foundations** of Community GROW are:
  - A passionate belief that "Growing is good for individual & community wellbeing"
  - The Five Ways To Wellbeing are: Connect – with other people, Be active – find an activity you love, Take notice – of the world around you, Keep learning – try something new, and finally Give – a smile, a hug, some time
  - At the heart of what we do is: Community engagement and empowerment
- **Theory of Change:** Embedded into the Community GROW project is our theory of change that involved the three types of space (see section above) that can be instrumental in bringing about Positive Social Change (PSC). A physical space - in this case, a green or garden space, a Social Space – building relationships – this is a safe space where trust is developed. And thirdly, a learning space – peer, kinaesthetic, or formal learning. All these spaces create a *sense of place* for participants, a fertile place where transformation can be nurtured.

b. Company Employee Volunteer Teams – CSR Teambuilding sessions

We broker with local companies for their Employee Volunteers Teams to have a successful and fulfilling team-building day. We create self-contained team-building events where employees feel that they can *'make a difference'* by working in one of Community GROW projects, working in a community garden, or where we provide an event for a local VCSE organisation – such as a renovating care home garden. We have also renovated several local school gardens that fall into disuse.

i. What companies can expect from us:
   - A worthwhile project or cause is identified. We will discuss and create an event that meets the requirements of the company. We negotiate with the project/organisation the tasks required and organise the logistical arrangements, materials, and equipment needed. A full risk assessment is developed, and we will liaise with the company's H&S expert. There will be adequate insurance, health, and safety needs and CRB checks.
     We manage the administration and logistics for the activities on the day. We also provide an experienced team on the day to run their event. After the event, we provide a set of photographs of the day.

ii. What are the outcomes for companies and their employees include:

- A sense of achievement at a personal and team level. Increased team working and better working relationships with colleagues. A greater understanding of the local community and increased levels of engagement of the company with their community. This is a good public relations exercise.
- The event contributes to the company's Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR, impact and ESG. For a practical project they can literally see the fruits of their volunteering time; in a newly painted building, a newly landscaped garden, or cleared pathway.
- For everybody involved it is a 'Win-Win-Win' situation.

Good for employees, good for the community and good for business

iii. What are the outcomes for Community Transform:

- The input of many man-hours into projects can be a great encouragement to volunteers who see their project leap forward – particularly at the start of a local project. In addition, the relationship with the company can develop with donations, sponsorship, and new volunteers for future events.
- The donating of useful skills other than physical work can revolutionize the projects' multi-media, legal or financial management – even new trustees.
- By charging fees it is an income stream.

In total, we have hosted fifteen company teambuilding days that have been organised with 12 companies in 9 locations in Buckinghamshire since January 2017.

c. Play Streets Projects

Playing Out is a parent and resident-led movement giving children the chance to play out in the streets and spaces where they live, boosting their health, happiness, and sense of belonging. Play Streets are short, stewarded road closures (usually 2-3 hours), organised by residents who volunteer as stewards to keep things safe. They typically take place once a month, often at weekends.

i. Benefits (www.playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2021-Resident-Survey-Report-.pdf)

Research shows: the events increase activity levels, build intergenerational friendships between neighbours and children, and reduce isolation and loneliness. Also improves community capacity and social cohesion by creating new opportunities for creativity and socialising.

ii. Play Streets are widely acknowledged

They are endorsed by Public Health England, Play England, British Cycling, & Kings Fund. In Buckinghamshire; the Public Health Team, Transport for Bucks, LEAP, CCG, and Community Boards.

More than 90 councils now support Play Streets nationally and there is specific guidance from Dept for Transport for local authorities to support the initiative. The website of the national organisation Playing Out UK is www.playingout.net

iii. Origins of Play Streets

Play Streets started in Bristol in 2012 in a street where a single mother wanted to provide what she had experienced as a child playing out freely. The national organisation Playing Out UK is based in Bristol. The organisation's website is www.playingout.net This has a wealth of very useful resources and advice for setting up Play Street events and ongoing support for Street Organisers.

In India and in the Philippians (2014) a similar strategy has been applied to deliver effective healthcare education to street children and families in some of the most destitute and deprived areas globally.

4) Timeline of Community Transform Contracts and Funding (CT Ltd & CT CIO) for Projects from March 2019 to March 2021

The focus of the organisation's project work before 2019 was located mainly in the High Wycombe area. But we have always had a longer-term aim to work right across Buckinghamshire.

Since 2019, however, we have been more focused on the Aylesbury area of the county, but we continued to have wider involvement in county-wide networks and initiatives.

a. Projects and Contract for Work During the Period March 2019/March 2020 – with Community Transform Ltd.

Our partnership with Aylesbury Garden Town, AGT has been the primary focus of our work for March 2019 onwards. Initially, this was to establish the community garden at St Peter's Church, Quarrendon in Aylesbury (funded from March 2019 to March 2020).

In October 2019, the relationship was strengthened when we became part of the AGT Community Partnership Program Team (CPP) Team. We were, commissioned to deliver community development and liaison services. The time commitment was initially 1.5 days FTE

b. Projects and Contract for Work During the Period April 2020/21 – as the charity Community Transform CIO

Charity status was granted in November 2019, but the charity didn't start to operate for the benefit of beneficiaries until April 2020.

In addition to the AGT contract, the charity was also funded to deliver several projects over this period that ran concurrently. Details of the project work are reviewed in later sections:

i. London Housing Corporation: (Locality are the fund managers) - £5,000, to establish a community garden at the Healthy Living Centre (HLC), Walton Court. Funding for a period of six months from March to October 2020. But the COVID pandemic delayed the project and the funders allowed for flexibility in the end date.

ii. Rothschild Foundation: - £5,000. From April 2020. For engagement and supervision of volunteering sessions with residents, the Voluntary Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector groups, and Social Prescribing Groups.
The project entailed working with various local groups to develop ongoing activities for their clients to visit community gardens across Aylesbury. The grant was given to establish working relationships with voluntary and statutory agencies, plan the session content, and supervise the sessions. The period of the grant started in April 2020, but the funders agreed to modify the grant terms to reflect the delays due to the COVID Pandemic.

iii. Feedback Global: - Our long-standing project at the Community Allotment at Sierra Rd, High Wycombe, started in January 2017. This project continues but was suspended during the COVID-19 Lockdown at the end of March 2020. In July 2020 we received a small grant from Feedback Global to deliver four practical/informative sessions on 'growing your own food' and to focus also on how to reduce food waste in the kitchen as a bounce-back initiative from the effects of the pandemic. But the COVID pandemic restrictions delayed the project start date. The funders also allowed for flexibility in the end date.

These funded projects (i & ii) were complimentary to the core AGT contract work. They were designed to bring added value to the opportunity that was afforded by having the public profile from being part of the AGT Team.

5) A review of Community Transform CIO work for our beneficiaries from April 2020 to March 2021 - What Have We Achieved?

a. Introduction

Our Community Development Project Work – how our projects have progressed over the 1st year of the charity.

The immediate response to the COVID-19 restrictions - short-term strategies were developed to support existing volunteers and to use our connections across the county to beneficial effect.

- **Emergency Food Response Groups** Working closely with Hannah Fenton we became part of the Emergency Food Response Groups in Aylesbury and High Wycombe. These groups met as a weekly virtual Zoom group and expanded to others in Chesham later in the year. The group's composition was very wide bringing together a lot of key partners in the towns, primarily from the voluntary, community, social enterprise and faith sectors but also includes Bucks County councillors and officers.
- **Let's Get Growing!** - we were keen to create resources to help/encourage people to grow to produce in their green spaces, or even in their homes, that would be beneficial in several ways under the COVID-19 restrictions:
- **Community Food Growing** – when restrictions allowed, we continued to work on community food growing projects without volunteers. A list of interested residents was kept involved through phone, email/newsletter and linked to the Let's Get Growing Facebook Group**.**
- **Project work review -** When COVID restrictions were relaxed in June 2020 we took cautious steps to re-engage with volunteers on practical projects. Some practical work had been done throughout the various lockdowns to maintain minimum upkeep of garden sites but without volunteers meeting.

b. Community Food Growing

Our community food growing programme was launched in Aylesbury in March 2019 and now includes the established St Peter's Community Garden in Quarrendon, along with the Healthy Living Centre in Walton Court and Bierton, Community Allotment, which are all underway. Further projects at Hampden Hall Care Home in Weston Turville, Kingsbrook and Hampden Gardens in Southcourt are in the planning stages, with on-site delivery expected in the coming year, as Covid restrictions ease further.

Community Food Growing addresses the Five Ways to Wellbeing (see section 2e). Connect with people; be active; take notice of the world around you; keep learning and try something new and give some time to help others. It should be noted that Southcourt, Walton Court and Quarrendon are some of the most deprived wards in Bucks.

- **St Peter's, Quarrendon**

Two years since its launch, St Peter's Community Garden now has a large amount of involvement and participation from within the church and the wider neighbourhood. The leadership of St Peter's is setting up a legacy committee to take it forward, with a focus on local stewardship. They have also received separate funding for a Garden Facilitator and have installed a tool shed and cabin for participants to meet in.

Quarrendon is an open-access site and there was some concern initially that this may prompt anti-social behaviour. The church porch is a regular hang-out for a group of young people and at first several beanpoles were pulled up and used for mock sword fights. However, the leadership team has found that by engaging with the group and getting them involved in the process of planting pumpkin seeds, which then grew into an impressive pumpkin crop, they have built a positive relationship which has resulted in no further major problems at the garden, instead nurturing a sense of ownership and pride in the young people.

Community Food Growing at St Peter's Community Garden in Quarrendon

The continuous harvest from spring through autumn and even into winter is shared amongst the volunteers, as well as with regular supporters of the garden who have been shielding over the last year. Now that the beds are established there is also a plan to contribute to the Aylesbury foodbank. Once Covid restrictions end, activity sessions with local organisations are planned e.g., PACE, schools, as well as social prescribing working with the GP surgery and the primary care network.

- **Healthy Living Centre, Walton Court**

The Healthy Living Centre (HLC) is a *'community-led service aiming to build opportunities that support the development of individuals and groups in Bucks'*. The HLC Community Food Growing Project, which was embarked upon early last year, as a partnership between AGT, LHC Community Benefit Fund and other local organisations, was unfortunately held up by the Covid pandemic after initial work had been carried out to plan and prepare the garden.

Despite the challenge, there has already been considerable engagement with local schools Pebble Brook Secondary, utilising student support and Ashmead Primary on a competition to design the potager garden. In a small window last summer, we also managed to draw on the voluntary resource of the National Citizen Service, whereby a group of around 12 enthusiastic young people helped clear the site.

HLC has also secured a grant from the Community Funding Pot to develop a scheme to allow local families to learn about nutrition and cooking, using the produce from the garden they've grown themselves, which will take place once it is more established.

Ashmead School and National Citizen Service at the Healthy Living Centre Community Food Growing Project

- **Bierton Community Allotment**

Bierton Community Allotment – Dec 2020 and March 2021

The idea for this resident-led scheme came from a resident and former teacher, who was keen to establish a community food growing opportunity in Bierton and approached AGT for support, working in conjunction with Bierton Parish Council. Her proposal set out clear aims to expand on the community spirit fostered during the lockdown and overcome barriers to social inclusion, with plans to involve the school, scouting movement and children with special needs. The Community Allotment will be officially opening in April 2021.

- **Hampden Hall, Weston Turville**

A framework is already in place working with the care home and a local community representative to establish the food growing project. The care home is the largest in Aylesbury and has a high proportion of residents who suffer from dementia. The residents are a mix of private and state-assisted care. Our aim is that community gardening will have a positive impact on tackling dementia and social isolation experienced by the people living at the home, by encouraging interaction, engagement, and activity.

- **Hampden Gardens, Southcourt**

We are working in partnership with Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT) to support a community-led food growing project, in the centre of four blocks of housing association-owned flats. Currently, there is a large under-used communal area, and the project will provide an area, not just for growing together, but a place for residents to meet socially, as lockdown regulations are relaxed. A resident survey has already been carried out to garner interest, with an encouraging response. Comments include *"Lots of daffodils, tulips, spring flowers, shrubs for seasons and raised beds for vegetables etc. and for 'grow your own' food". "We can also grow other new vegetables from different countries and can be self-sufficient, kids can respect food and the hard work involved in growing them." "My kids love growing food."* The garden was launched in the spring of 2021.

- **Kingsbrook Nursery and Community Centre**

We are working closely with the newly established Kingsbrook Parish Council to develop a strong sense of community at this site which will incorporate 2,450 new homes. We are supporting the PC and the nursery management team at the local community centre, to deliver their first community food growing project, which will benefit the children and residents alike.

- **Let's Get Growing Facebook Group**

In addition to establishing a network of food growing projects, we also launched an online gardening community when the pandemic hit in the spring 2020 with the Let's Get Growing Facebook Group.

The objective of setting up this support group was initially in response to the Covid-19 crisis to help support, encourage and connect people locally, who were growing their own fruit and vegetables.

- Good for their mental and physical health – give them an activity to focus on whether inside or, preferably, outside
- Give them an awareness of how to produce their own food source – good for nutrition, healthy living, and reducing food waste.

- If they have a larger outside space and they can grow things on a larger scale, then this resource can be used to provide fresh produce to the wider community over the medium term during the health crisis. This could also include the town allotments and Aylesbury Gardens Society.
- develop a network linking local people under the growing theme - social media platforms, such as Facebook Groups, to encourage, motivate, answer questions, and point people to sources of information. A grass root link to the Aylesbury Emergency Food Response work.

It now numbers 180 members, sharing hints and tips and provides an excellent foundation for future stewardship development projects, which will help Aylesbury to become more sustainable.

c. Community Funding Pot

Working in our role within the Aylesbury Garden Town Community and Projects Team we were involved in establishing a Community Projects Funding Pot in October 2019. Through the funding pot we were able to distribute a total of £25,000, awarded in grants to nine not-for-profit organisations in Aylesbury. The grants aligned with key principles within the Masterplan by improving green space, increasing biodiversity or encouraging healthy living. Three of the awards particularly targeted residents in lower socio-economic areas in Aylesbury.

The list is as follows: Carers Bucks for their 'Time Together' project, Empower to Cook for their 'Cooking for Inclusion' project, The Healthy Living Centre for their 'Growing Healthier Together' project, River Thame Conservation Trust for their 'Aylesbury Balsam Bash' project, Green Ridge Primary Academy for their 'Healthy Living Eco Reading Shed' project, Community Youth Ventures for their 'Community YourSpace' project, Southcourt Baptist Church for their 'Bridge The Gap' foodbank project, Bucks County Museum for their 'Maud Grieve Story Garden' project, Haydon Abbey Primary School for their 'Haydon Abbey Healthy Harvest' project.

Only four of the nine projects that received funding were able to get underway in 2020/21 due to Covid-19:
Carers Bucks Time Together: This project enabled young carers in Aylesbury to spend quality "Time Together' with their families to improve their general mental health and wellbeing. The grant was awarded just before the pandemic broke out and had an even greater impact, due to many of the young carers being within families where a person was shielding, leaving them more isolated. The Time Together Project because it enabled Carers Bucks to improve the quality of life and mental health of Young Carers and their families based in the Aylesbury area, through a very challenging period due to the impact of Covid19.

Southcourt Baptist Church Foodbank, Bridge the Gap Project: The Bridge the Gap project, in Southcourt, a ward which has the highest level of socio-economic deprivation in Bucks, became a vital part of the emergency response in Aylesbury to the pandemic. They provide around 70 food parcels a week to families, couples and single people and the money covered the cost of food and toiletries, as well as PPE equipment and a freezer to increase their support. It also funded a money management programme, to help those struggling to deal with financial concerns.

Community Youth Ventures, Youth Outreach Project: The Community YourSpace project is primarily a street-based project using positive activities to target young people in areas suffering from poverty, crime, anti-social behaviour, and lack of services.
River Thame Conservation Trust, Balsam Bash: This scheme to get rid of Himalayan Balsam which is suffocating the other plants around the Bear Brook in Aylesbury and affecting biodiversity, got underway last summer, but still has the final phase of the roll-out to complete this year due to the impact of Covid-19.

d. Stakeholders and Partners Funding

This funding provision allowed the AGT team to support key stakeholders and partners on projects that reflect the main Garden Town Masterplan themes. Working in this way has been instrumental in delivering a range of community-focused 'quick wins', with considerable impacts, such as greening and planting in the town centre. The initiatives require a relatively small amount of support or funding, which the AGT Team can offer. They work to strengthen stakeholder relations, as well as help make the town more vibrant and welcoming, ahead of the large-scale regeneration projects coming through in the medium to longer term.

These have included:

- A new cycle park and planting scheme outside Hale Leys shopping centre, one of the main entry points to the town

Before **New Cycle Park at rear of Hale Leys Shopping Centre** **After**

- Supporting the pedestrianisation of Cambridge Street, George Street and Market Street by putting in planters and branded decorative materials to encourage al fresco dining, working alongside the Town Centre Management Team

This funding offer has also enabled AGT to partner with third-sector organisations to support them in local high-profile initiatives, which serve to raise awareness further of AGT and its commitment to investing in the community:

- Lindengate nature-based mental health charity's Rest and Reflect scheme offers respite and support to NHS staff and keyworkers during the pandemic
- New equipment for Horatio's Garden, the rehabilitation and therapy facility for spinal injuries patients at Stoke Mandeville Hospital
- Community landscaping project for the Florence Nightingale Hospice's Rainbow Sculpture

e. Aylesbury Railway Station enhancements

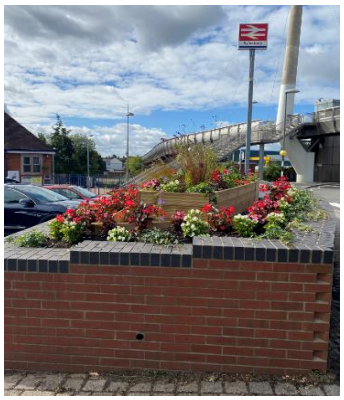
This involved a focus of attention to uplift the appearance of the station as a main arrival point to the town. This project focused on adding colour, culture, flowers, planters and hanging baskets.

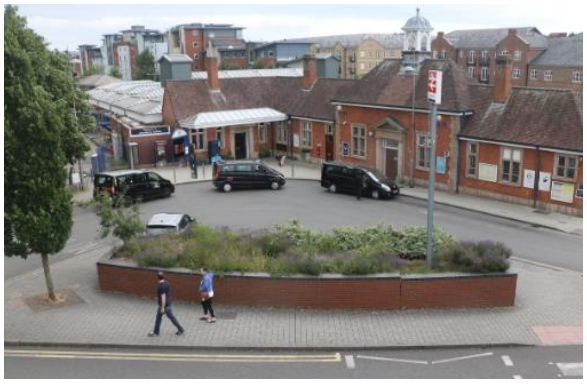
- Aylesbury Station Cycle facilities – to stimulate active travel
  Chiltern Railways (lead delivery partner) has commissioned the installation of cycle racks in Aylesbury and work will commence imminently. The Aylesbury installation has been commissioned alongside three other stations in Buckinghamshire, and it has not been agreed at the time of writing how the installations will be sequenced but confirmed all four installations will hopefully be in place by June 2020 and have an opening ceremony which will be a good marketing opportunity for the facility.

Discussions about the cycle racks at the station prompted a fertile discussion about improvements to the Railway Station in more general terms as a key destination point for the Town. Several new enhancements have been taken forward

- Ticket Office entrances – flower planters were revamped, and additional planters were added.

- Taxi rank & car park forecourt island – a neglected but large prominent island full of weeds will be landscaped giving height and colour. Revamping and replanting the main roundabout outside Aylesbury Station and supplementing with further planters and hanging baskets to create a more vibrant destination and arrival point. Aylesbury Town Council has taken responsibility to maintain the island to the current standards.





Before **The Transformation of Aylesbury Station Island Flower Beds** **After**

The planning for a number of these projects is ongoing but the practical work has been affected by the COVID restrictions.

- The platforms have extensive growing beds that have been neglected for many years. As these are obvious to passengers using the station, a case is being proposed to revamp these and to establish a sustainable Friend of Aylesbury Railway Station (FARS) group to maintain them for the future.

Pebble Brook School students have been on work experience at Aylesbury Station in partnership with Aylesbury Garden Town to initially clear the growing beds.

- Platform Murals – four bricked-up doorways will be transformed by local artists. Each scene depicts a different aspect of the culture and history of Aylesbury Town.

f. Play Streets

Play Streets supports a key principle set out in the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) Draft Masterplan - and backed by Public Health - to encourage healthy living. Through Play Streets, children spend time outdoors exercising, establishing good habits for later life, as well as developing life skills, such as confidence, road safety awareness and the ability to form connections and links within their local community.
With the success of the initiative across the nation, the Department of Transport has expressed its support for the movement and has updated guidance documents, making it easier to apply for temporary traffic restrictions.

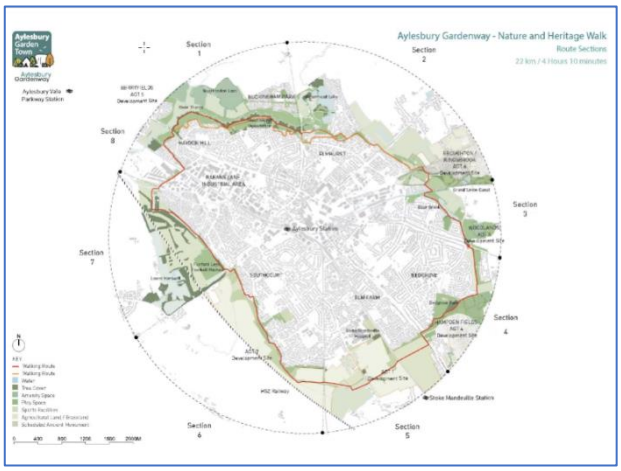
The original Play Streets pilot scheme in Aylesbury Garden Town was due to take place in March 2020 but had to be postponed due to Covid-19. An alternative pilot on Fairford Leys in Aylesbury is now in development with Transport for Bucks, with the aim for it to take place at the beginning of July 2021. If successful, we hope to see the scheme rolled out across Bucks.

g. Gardenway

In our role as a member of the Community Programme, we provided support throughout the initial Gardenway Consultation, working with the Project Lead and Urban Movement (consultants) to help facilitate the engagement with the community, stakeholder and partner contacts that have been generated through our work so far.

The Gardenway is one of the key transformative projects, and the first public realm project to come forward from the Aylesbury Garden Town Master plan. Encircling Aylesbury, the Gardenway will deliver an 18/22 km orbital park of fully connected green and blue infrastructure, local parks, woodlands, playgrounds, community gardens, natural areas, waterways, and cultural and heritage sites. It will be fully accessible around the route and connect existing and emerging neighbourhoods

Urban Movement completed a 16-week community-based approach co-design engagement campaign from December to January. The information gathered will be used to define the parameter route with a report issued at the end of March 2021 for consideration. Their report will be accompanied by an ambitious set of design standards to ensure that the Gardenway delivers over and above national design standards for cycling, walking, and wheeling and that we deliver a special and unique orbital park for Aylesbury as it continues its transformation into a Garden Town



Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the engagement and co-design campaign was delivered online via Zoom meetings and workshops. The response to the campaign was fantastic with a dedicated website receiving over 1000 unique visits, and over 350 comments left on the interactive ‘put a pin in it’ map. In total 13 co-design workshops were held with an average of 30 participants for each.
This has strengthened relationships with the Parish Councils and led to the development of new community partnership projects, such as the Berryfields Community Orchard.

Appendices

Appendix A - The Historical Background to Community Transform

Our history stretches back to 2004 and the Oasis Project based in the village of Lane End, Buckinghamshire. Over the years there have been many changes of emphasis and projects, but the underlying motivations and ethos are rooted in the same fundamental principles. Community Transform was a faith-inspired venture based on the principles of asset-based community development (ABCD) and building hope to bring about social change and ultimately transformation of communities from within. We work hard to listen to the people in the communities where we work, involving them in decision-making, and training them to eventually take the projects forward for themselves, achieving sustainability. Community Transform's strapline is, 'Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities.'

The Elim Church in Lane End pioneered the Oasis Project – under the leadership of Pastor John Richards in 2004. The project was a trade skills training project for young people in the Buckinghamshire village who were 18 to 25 years of age and not in education, employment, or training (NEET). Members of the church who were tradespeople (qualified in their trade) were offered a 15-week training course for one evening a week over a cycle of three courses per year. From 2004 until 2013, over 200 young people from the Lane End and Stokenchurch area were beneficiaries of the Oasis Project. The courses were in trades of car mechanics, horticulture, electrical, plumbing, and welding. In parallel to these courses, there was also an option to be tutored in English and maths for those who had not gained these qualifications while at school. Close ties were built with a similar project based in Knowsley, Lancashire, by coincidence, this was also called the Oasis Project.

Over time as the project grew in popularity, it spread to include the High Wycombe area. The Wycombe Partnership Board provided core funding for a part-time project coordinator in 2009. Eventually, in July 2011, the Lane End Oasis Project obtained its charity status, and the project that was based in High Wycombe became a separate social enterprise called Community Transform Ltd. With the introduction of new government provisions and policies for young people who were +18 and NEET, the project no longer had relevance and Community Transform moved on to deliver other projects but with the same fundamental principles of working.

Project themes: Over the past 11 years Community Transform (CT) has been involved in a range of community development and empowerment projects. These included the original Trade Skills Training for NEETs, a community hub based in one of the most deprived areas of High Wycombe (Gayhurst Rd, Micklefield), Play Street events, Corporate Employee Volunteer Team Events and Community Food grow at our community allotment.

Our long-standing project at the Community Allotment at Sierra Rd, High Wycombe, started in January 2017 but was suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown at the end of March 2020. This project has not restarted due to the loss of its volunteers, but the hope is to re-establish the project in the future.

Appendix B - What is the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) Community Partnership Projects Program

The Community Partnership Projects Program (CPPP) was established so that local people can begin to experience the real and tangible benefits that gaining Garden Town status by Homes England brings. During the Masterplan consultation and engagement phase (from January 2017) it was identified that there was a rather negative perception of Aylesbury's Garden Town status amongst the local community, with many believing it to be centred on the considerable housing growth in the town, rather than recognising it as a significant opportunity for Aylesbury to evolve into a thriving and sustainable location.

The CPPP was put in place to help allay this concern, through work with local organisations/groups, residents, and businesses, to support initiatives that can be delivered in the short to medium term and that align with the Masterplan and Garden Community principles. It is paramount that we have the backing of the community as

we move forward to deliver the longer-term Masterplan (ref. 1), to help ensure that Aylesbury becomes a more vibrant and economically viable place to live, work, visit and invest in.
The programme objectives were:

- Developing *community stewardship*, a key Garden Town principle (ref.2), through backing/funding community-led initiatives
- Working with key stakeholders and community representatives on partnership projects to improve and enhance AGT, making it a more vibrant place to live/work/visit/invest and fostering a greater sense of pride and place
- Helping to develop a strong sense of community on new AGT sites and strengthening community cohesion across AGT to connect residents - old and new - together

The AGT Community Partnerships Programme has been acknowledged as good practice by Homes England, delivering a wide range of community-related projects and developing *community stewardship*, a key principle for the original Town and Country Planning Association Garden Communities (ref. 2). It supports community cohesion between old and new neighbourhoods within AGT, encouraging a greater sense of pride and place. The Programme also reflects the council's wider policy agenda, including the climate change strategy by encouraging sustainability and healthy living and tackling social isolation, to improve mental health and wellbeing.

1. Ongoing Evaluation of the Impact of the Community Partnership Projects Program (CPPP)

At the inception of the CPP Programme, we intended to meet the following aims:

- Working with partners within the community to deliver a range of impactful projects that embody the themes of the AGT Masterplan
- Establishing and improving community and stakeholder and partner relations across AGT
- Developing the principle of community stewardship in AGT

These aspirations are already being met through the course of the programme so far, which started in October 2019. The Community Development and Liaison role was first played by the company Community Transform Ltd. From April 2020 the responsibility for this role transitioned to Community Transform CIO, under a new contract and this is detailed under the Projects Review section below and will continue to evolve as we move forward, following the approval of the AGT Masterplan by the unitary council in summer 2020. There is a clear mandate in the Masterplan that the community should be at the heart of the AGT Programme, through the action plans set out in each chapter and in the 2050 Vision, which states that AGT *'will be an inclusive place, enabling people and communities to reach their full potential.'*

There has been a particular focus within the Community Programme on the following themes in the Masterplan: *Chapter 4 – Aylesbury Central Area*, *Chapter 5 – Quality of life*: The community and stakeholder funding supports projects that encourage community cohesion and stewardship, working particularly with the new AGT communities to develop a strong sense of place and C*hapter 6 – A green and healthy Garden Town*: Community Food Growing and Play Streets initiatives encourage healthy lifestyles, social interaction and improved mental health and wellbeing.

References

1. The Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan can be found here: www.aylesburygardentown.co.uk/the-masterplan-and-projects/the-masterplan/
2. Garden Town Principles: Garden City Standards for the 21st Century https://tcpa.org.uk/collection/garden-city-standards-21st-century/

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Mobile: 0771-457-7478
Email address: NSingeisen@aol.com

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM CIO
Charity Number: 1186368

The Charity was incorporated on 15 November 2019 and its activties started on 21 February 2020

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
15 November 2019 to 31 March 2021

	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Contributions received towards communtiy events		
Buckinghamshire Council	20,128.03	
Global Feedback	2,100.00	
Locality	5,000.00	
The Rothschild Foundation	5,000.00	32,228.03
Bank Interest		7.47
		32,235.50
PAYMENTS		
Bank Charges		2.00
		2.00
SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS		**32,233.50**

BALANCE SHEET
At 31 March 2021

Bank Balance		**32,233.50**
Unrestricted Fund		
General	3,120.20	
Designated - Co-ordinator's fund	29,113.30	**32,233.50**

Note
Liabiity insurance was paid by the associate organisation *Community Transform (2017) Limited*

Signed Dr DC Furze - Trustee .....

Nicolas Singeisen - Trustee .....

Date 6th February 2023

COMMUNITY TRANSFORM

Registered Charity Number: 1186368

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Community Transform

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Community Transform (the Trust) for the period ended 31 March 2021.

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 my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

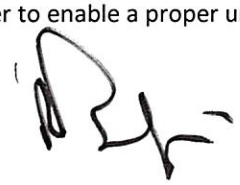
1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

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 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.

Name: **R BRIDGEN, FCA**



Address : 18 CRENDON STREET, HIGH WYCOMBE HP13 6LS

Date 8 February 2023