

Bensham Grove Community Centre
Registered Charity No. 1188101

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 December 2024**

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **Bensham Grove Community Centre**

Charity no: 1188101

Structure: Unincorporated association governed by a constitution.

Trustees:

<i>Chair</i>	Shirley Brown
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Vikas Kumar
<i>Treasurer</i>	Angela Knox
<i>Secretary</i>	Shirley Allen
<i>Others</i>	Susan Adamson

Trustees are elected by the membership at each Annual General Meeting.

Address: Sidney Grove
Bensham
Gateshead NE8 2XD

Bankers: Lloyds
15 West Street
Gateshead NE8 1DP

Independent Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle
NE6 5LB

Trustees' Annual Report

Background

The Community Centre was established to provide a community venue for the benefit of people living in Bensham, Gateshead and the wider area. The Centre works with volunteers, local voluntary organisations, the local authority and other groups to provide opportunities and facilities to help improve the social and personal education, (including social cohesion) health and welfare, and recreational opportunities of local people.

The Centre became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in February 2020 changing its charitable status and governance. Its aims however remain similar, although the concierge of the Grade 2 listed building has been added to its objectives. The Centre held its AGM in July 2024, but elections were not required following the details set out in the constitution; new appointments are due 2024 from those members still in post.

The centre employs a full-time caretaker and a part-time cleaner. The Board continue to support the part time Community Centre Manager who is now supported by a part time administrator. The Centre also employs part time pottery technical staff and consultants as the pottery studio has increased its programme significantly during the year.

The Centre have been funded once again by Lankelly Chase charitable funds to employ a full time and part time Community Development workers (Bridgebuilders) to work across the diverse communities in the area. This continues to be working well and brings a new audience to the project. ESOL courses, diverse social groups and refugee support groups have been further developed to support people from a wide range of cultures arrived in the area. The Centre was particularly busy during Ramadan and several organisations held Iftar events.

Review of activities and performance

The Centre provides a wide range of activities, with a central focus remaining of adult education and learning. There are a wide variety of classes, groups, and activities available at the centre, ranging from Craft groups through to groups for older people, those that support the diverse community's and the adult education programmes. The Centre has good internet facilities which supports members and learners including on Basic Skills programmes. Job clubs, including some specific to neurodiversity, and voluntary sector/not for profit organisations hire rooms on an ad hoc basis, increasing the footfall and range of opportunities available. In 2024 the centre was able to support a great many people who had been affected and traumatised by the summer riots and some very specific social cohesion projects have been held with noteworthy results. There were more than 1000 participants every week using the Centre which is supported largely by volunteer input. The Centre has an arrangement with Gateshead Council learning Skills and the WEA in the provision of accommodation and support for adult learning courses.

The Main House of Centre which reopened in September 2013 following a highly successful Heritage Lottery Project is continuing to flourish and further develop. In 2022, the studio rooms which had opened in 2021, were fully occupied bringing sustainability to the centre. Plans to develop new stained-glass installations with funds from the Queens Jubilee Awards were developed. These works showed a splendid example of what community groups can achieve when they are determined and supported. All works within the centre are of exceptional standard and continue to be a highlight to visitors. During this year too, a book was written about the history of Bensham Grove and the families who lived here and those who donated the building to local people. This was a key step forward and a unique project for Bensham Grove and funds from the sale of the book continues to raise much appreciated funds for the Centre.

During this year we have been pleased to see the numbers of people involved with the centre increase. New staff and local projects have increased the number of organisations that are frequently using the project. The wonderful garden at the Centre remains to be well used and appreciated. The gardening group have continued to develop their Bee Garden and also have created a kitchen garden to show how they are developing their horticultural skills. The raised beds that were developed for local people to use are still used by a small number of local residents whose homes do not have gardens. We have been delighted to develop an Urban Physic Garden to support well-being and appreciation of the impact of working in outdoor spaces to address anxiety and stress. These initiatives have brought new interest and volunteers to the project keeping it a very important community hub valued by those near and far.


The Community Centre is used seven days a week from early morning till 9pm. There are a wide range of groups, classes and courses using the facilities. The project, continues to be used by a diverse range of people reflective of both the multi-cultural nature of the local community, and also by people with learning disabilities who enjoy being part of an open and inclusive community.

Risks, reserves and investments

Staff carry out risk assessments on all our projects, and these are reviewed on a regular basis. This has been particularly important in terms of general safety. All funds not immediately required are held in interest-bearing accounts. The Centre has updated its financial procedures, safeguarding, Equality and Diversity and H&S documents over the last year and is working to update its current business plan.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Signed:  .Chair, on behalf of the Trustees, date: 30th March 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the
trustees of

Bensham Grove Community Centre

On accounts for
the year ended

31 December 2024

Charity no 1188101

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and
examiner

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of
independent
examiner's
statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent
examiner's
statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 29 April 2025

Name:
Address:

Mark Thompson MAAT
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle
NE6 5LB


Bensham Grove Community Centre
Receipts and payments account for the period
1 January to 31 December 2024

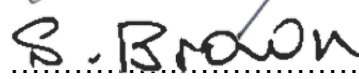
	Notes	2024 Unrestricted	2024 Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
Income					
Grants	2		78921	78921	109681
Rent and Room Hire		83307		83307	68177
Donations		1098		1098	583
Classes Fees		29465		29465	2080
Subscriptions		23815		23815	12970
Sales		2808		2808	4193
Reimbursements		256		256	860
Membership		1993		1993	1016
Bank Interest		2079		2079	861
Studio Hire		17240		17240	15900
BG Womens Group		1750		1750	2000
Contribution to Pottery Tech		14496		14496	3034
Pottery Fundraising		1645		1645	1329
Pottery Resources		25783		25783	1289
Total Receipts		205734	78921	284655	223973
Expenditure					
Activities and Events					
Events		1323		1323	4186
Payments from Grants			93636	93636	74239
Dawn Brown Fund Grants			1647	1647	986
BG Womens Group		1000		1000	703
HLF Project		7830		7830	
Pottery Project		1620		1620	1191
Pottery Expenditure		18537		18537	9584
Equipment, Materials and Maintenance		11800		11800	16473
Transport/Volunteers Expenses		782		782	1348
Performing Rights Licence		240		240	231
Staff Wages	3	91512		91512	51414
Refreshment Sales		755		755	450
Management and Administration					
Gateshead Council (Running Costs)				0	0
Insurance		6816		6816	5582
Accountancy	4	810		810	765
Printing, Post & Stationery		634		634	125
Refuse Collection		572		572	286
Utilities		47742		47742	44715
Reimbursements		1894		1894	1218
General Administration		111		111	168
Total Payments		193978	95283	289261	213664
Surplus for the period		11756	-16362	-4606	10309
Transfers between Funds		17409	-17409		
Balance at 1 January 2024		156569	68137	224706	214397
Balance at 31 December 2024		185734	34366	220100	224706

Bensham Grove Community Centre
Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
Current Assets Assets			
Business instant access		277	274
Treasurer's account		64855	71533
Virgin Deposit		154968	152892
Cash in Hand			7
Total Current Assets		220100	224706
Current Liabilities			
Net Assets at 31 December 2024			
		220100	224706
Represented by:			
	5		
Restricted Funds		34366	68137
Designated Funds		95072	94927
Unrestricted Funds		90662	61642
Total		220100	224706

The financial statements were approved by the following members of the Management Committee :

Signed  Position Treasurer

Signed  Position Chair

Date 08-05-2025

Bensham Grove Community Centre
Notes to the accounts, 2024

1. Accounting Policies

- a** The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

Bensham Grove Community Centre meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

- b** Grants received are accounted for on a received basis and credited to income.
- c** Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Receipts and Payments Account when received.

2. Grants receivable

Community Foundation (Admin)	10000
Grant - Ballinger Trust LC Funding	17668
Software City Grant	500
Community Funding (Wages)	22580
Gateshead Council UP (Garden Grant)	6000
Social Change Grant - Grief Café	3040
Dawn Brown Fund	1685
Unique B Women	1750
Lankelly Chase (Staffing)	15698

Total Grants **78921**

3. Trustees, staff and related party transactions

The organisation employed 9 members of staff during the period of the accounts. No payments were made to trustees.

4. Costs of financial services

During the year £750 was paid for the independent examination of the 2023 accounts.

5. Analysis of Funds:

Restricted Funds	Open Bal	Income	Expend	Transfers	End Bal
Dawn Brown Fund	501	1685	1647		539
Ballinger Trust	4612	17668	15817		6463
Lankelly Chase	63025	15698	53052	-17409	8262
Community Foundation Grant (admin)		10000	6671		3329
Software City Grant		500	500		0
Community Funding (Wages)		22580	9568		13012
Gateshead Council UP Garden Grant		6000	5719		281
Social Change Grant - Grief Café		3040	560		2480
Unique B Women		1750	1750		0
Total	68138	78921	95284	-17409	34366

Designated Funds**1. Legal Liability Fund** 35000

(Funds set aside should the organisation wind-up, to pay for Redundancy & other contractual obligations).

2. Buildings & Maintenance Fund 58000

(Funds for replacement and upkeep of the building)

3. Womens Group

Balance b/fwd	1297	
Income (from Ballinger Trust)	1750	
Expenditure	-999	2048

4. Pottery Fundraising

Income	1645	
Expenditure	-1620	25

Total Designated Funds		95073
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Total Funds:

Restricted Funds	34366
Designated Funds	95073
General Funds	90661
	220100

The Charity aims to keep six months running costs in General Funds, as recommended by The Charity Commission.