



## BCC CIO AGM Chairperson Report

March 2024 to April 2025

This report covers the period April 2024 to May 2025. At the end we take the opportunity to reflect on the period from May 2025, then later in the Agenda we will look ahead to our thoughts that will shape our plans and focus for the coming year.

We were busy from early in 2024 when amongst other things we upgraded the kitchen area, installed a new boiler and Hive system, a new Fire and Security system and made huge progress on the 'Secret Garden' project, as well as reviewing our bookings processes and governance.

During Spring 2024 we saw steady numbers at the Monday Warm Hub, along with similar in Green Therapy; a group funded and led by Forest of Hearts who, since being awarded the contract, had taken on and accomplished a large amount on the 'Secret Garden'. We also took the opportunity to work with them to tidy the paths and planters leading up to the building.

We worked on our Volunteer Policy, with help from Rachel and Karen at CAVA, and produced a handbook that we shared with a new volunteer who had approached us to try out a Lego club. Initially it proved very popular, with support from Trustees to run the sessions. Saturday afternoon was the best time available within our regular bookings, however this slot may have been a barrier to continued success. It was chosen to pause the sessions over the school holidays with a view to promoting and relaunching in the Autumn. Unfortunately, the volunteer was unable to lead the sessions and, without sufficient resource, it didn't continue.

Simon, the Landlord at the Squirrel and a great supporter of the community and our Community Centre sadly died early in the summer. We are grateful to his parents who generously donated proceeds from the collection at his funeral to BCC. This, along with donations received following the passing of community members who have been a part of the WRAP Café held here every Friday, will be put towards a memorial area in the garden.

A number of community events were planned and held to get input for, and ultimately to open, the garden. Highlights included a visit from our then Deputy Mayor Dani Hunter who chose the winning children's designs for our new mural and further suggesting how these might be combined. The Mural was completed and, during a workshop led by Ali Glover from Paint Stratford, inspirational & important words were chosen and added to the mural. Another event was for Mike Strophair's retirement, the founder of WRAP and one of the initiators of the garden project; Manuella Perteghella, our MP, joined for this celebration showing great interest and support.



Events kept coming and a final one was a Farewell Presentation for Rachel Knight the first Community Builder for Bishopton and Clopton. The whole community was sad to see her leave and our gratitude was passed on during this informal ceremony. She was pleased to leave a legacy by the opening of the community noticeboards to keep everyone apprised of events and support in our areas. These were almost immediately effective with notices from each area generating interest in the other.

As the Autumn began the students from the Welcombe Hills hub were not able to join us at the Monday sessions as they had before the holidays. A disappointing change that greatly reduced overall numbers and the energy once experienced by all attending

The Foodbank changed their distribution focus and changed from using their van situated in the Car Park and are now based here on a Monday afternoon, a move that has proved successful and continues to support those in most need within our community.

We extend huge thanks to all our friends from a myriad of support organisations as we work together to meet the needs of our community. Namely Orbit, CAVA, VASA, Stratford Town Trust, Act on Energy, Forest of Hearts and our Police Community Support Officers.

A number of projects are ongoing which I'll briefly outline.

In October we welcomed Abi Hall as Community Builder and during the first months her support helped us to make much needed progress with our Social Media presence, spreading the word about the Centre and activities held here. She also redeveloped a leaflet to spread the word about the Monday hub and these were delivered to homes in the new Bishopton estate and some specific roads in the existing estate.

Following the extremely successful Halloween event in 2023 we put on a 'getting ready for trick or treating' event in 2024, again with free, very popular facepainting. We are fortunate and grateful to have volunteer support for events from the Timebank, Ken Kennett and WRAP and thank all of these individuals.

Summer activities in 2025 included a children's book club, a puppet making workshop and a uniform swap in collaboration with the Town Trust Community Hub. Shakespeare Lions have run BINGO on the first Monday of the month during the Autumn and we continue to welcome our friends from support organisations.

The Community Builder project is about half way through it's current iteration and we continue to work with Ken Kennett, Stratford District Council, Stratford Town Trust and the Town Council to ensure it meets the needs of our communities.

Another community development project is progressing from early meetings, and with support and guidance from Chris Freeman at CAVA, this project is now in the stage where funding applications are being written to submit in 2026. This project, if funding applications



are successful, will see a 'Facility Manager' type role in place to support the trustees in continuing to run and develop the centres.

We were grateful to receive funding from Stratford Town Trust to improve our mobility access and toilets. This project stalled due to complications but thanks to flexibility from the Trust we are moving forward with this. Watch this space.

Following the 'Stratford Centres Together' meetings, some much needed buildings, fire & security expertise were given to us (and gratefully received) by Richard at the Town Trust. We sent an e-mail to Bishopton Primary School next door to request a meeting to discuss the Fire access. This 'discussion' has since grown legs and became about the suitability of the existing Fire Door not our original comments.

Without going into the details of this we are pleased that a meeting has been convened by Warwickshire County Council and will take place in December to bring various parties together with a view to finding a resolution. We are grateful for ongoing support from the County Council and indeed our former councillor Jenny Fradgley and incoming councillor Steve Albon for support as these discussions have continued.

During 2025 our resilience as a small CIO has been tested. The 'threat' to any small group of volunteers is always their own resources. We have each faced personal challenges that have ultimately effected abilities to fulfil our ongoing responsibilities.

Most notably, during the year Penny stepped down as chair to rightly focus on family. That tough decision has allowed a period of 'soul searching' for all of us and a refocus on our core; the CIO and ultimately ourselves, the Trustees.

We have been delighted in recent months to welcome Penny back to the fold as an active trustee, her support as we look forward, and reflect on the last 18 months has been invaluable. Not to mention throwing herself into the Halloween planning when we decided to commit to an annual Trustees Halloween event.

As you can appreciate a busy and eventful 18 months for our little CIO. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported us in whatever way. Our aims have been simple; to support our community and we couldn't do this without our community.

BISHOPTON COMMUNITY CENTRE CIO  
Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

|                    | Mar-25                 | Mar-24                 |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>      |                        |                        |
| Rental of Hall     | 9854.41                | 8913.61                |
| Grants & Donations | <u>9550.00</u>         | <u>36240.00</u>        |
| Total              | <u><u>19404.41</u></u> | <u><u>45153.61</u></u> |

|                       |                        |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>    |                        |                        |
| Rates                 | 99.80                  | 657.71                 |
| Water Rates           | 197.03                 | 163.22                 |
| Gas/Electricity       | 2151.61                | 1125.76                |
| Insurance             | 1102.11                | 1100.08                |
| Telephone/Broadband   | 793.39                 | 503.36                 |
| Music Licence         | 648.00                 |                        |
| Maintenance           | 3063.57                | 17711.27               |
| Consumables           | 0.00                   | 1538.38                |
| Cleaning              | 4482.00                | 2846.72                |
| Tutoring              | 0.00                   | 505.57                 |
| Warm Hub              | 674.88                 | 1797.81                |
| Secret Garden         | 1869.27                | 0.00                   |
| Kitchen Grant paid    | 3479.98                | 0.00                   |
| Miscellaneous         | 1615.33                | 10866.30               |
| Hall Wizard repayment | 280.00                 | 0.00                   |
| Furniture & Fittings  | <u>4860.69</u>         | <u>0.00</u>            |
|                       | <u><u>25317.66</u></u> | <u><u>38816.18</u></u> |

**BALANCE SHEET**

|                           |                        |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Fixed Assets              | 0.00                   | 0.00                   |
| <b>Net Current Assets</b> |                        |                        |
| Cash at Bank              | 28696.91               | 34610.21               |
| Petty Cash                | 0.00                   | 44.70                  |
| Receivables               | 0.00                   | 0.00                   |
| Prepaid Expenses          | 0.00                   | 0.00                   |
| Accrued Expenses          | 0.00                   | 0.00                   |
| Grants received not spent | <u>0.00</u>            | <u>0.00</u>            |
|                           | <u><u>28696.91</u></u> | <u><u>34654.91</u></u> |
| Net Assets b/f            | 34654.91               | 28565.98               |
| Income/(Loss)             | <u>-5958</u>           | <u>6337.43</u>         |
|                           | 28696.91               | 34903.41               |
| Adjustment for            |                        |                        |

|                      |                 |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Accruals/Prepayments | 0               | -248.50         |
|                      | <u>28696.91</u> | <u>34654.91</u> |