



## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Charity name: Ambleside Action for a Future (AAFAF)**

**Charity registration number: 1188921**

### **Objectives and Activities**

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by taking action to mitigate climate change and its effects and by promoting biological diversity. To advance the education of the public in the subject of climate change and its mitigation and to promote research for the public benefit in all aspects of that subject and to publish the useful results.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>We ran two workshops for members in January to clarify goals and pinpoint areas where we might engage more people.</p> <p>We have done a great deal of tree planting and tree maintenance this year.</p> <p>The lottery grant enabled us to do an Ambleside wide survey and produce a report which will help us identify land for tree planting in the future.</p> <p>We also produced a booklet for households and businesses.</p> <p>We held several events - the Plant Giveaway and two Retrofit Made Easy events in collaboration with Cumbria Action for Sustainability.</p> <p>We sourced non-plastic stickers for display in members' cars/houses and in businesses. We acquired two new banners with our Logo for use at public events where we have a presence such as Ambleside Sports where we had a stall this year.</p> <p>We held seven monthly meetings to which we invited speakers and which were open to the public.</p> <p>The water group undertook testing for phosphates in Windermere.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have followed the guidance on public benefit provided by the Charity Commission in its document CC3 - "The Essential Trustee"

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Not applicable
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not applicable
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The entire work of AAFAF is carried out by volunteers
Other		-

**Achievements and Performance**

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>We started the year with two workshops to re-engage members and re-focus after the disruptive covid years. As a result of this we formed a new Communications group to publicise meetings and activities and produce a newsletter. We expressed an aim to be more deeply known by and embedded in the community.</p> <p>We supported Friends of the Lake District with their Big Switch Off event in Ambleside and Grasmere, liaising with the schools and going round businesses enlisting their participation. This is a very effective way to raise awareness of the wider environment and to challenge assumptions about the status quo.</p> <p>One Lancaster undergraduate student and one Masters level student did research locally and produced dissertations suggested and supported by us - on food waste in hospitality and nature-based solutions to climate change in built environments. The latter research will be useful in approaching our County Council about</p> <p>At seven of our monthly meetings, we had speakers on a variety of subjects - to which the public were invited. This is part of our aim to educate and inform and inspire practical action. Speakers spoke about divestment from fossil fuels - chiefly by local authority pension funds and what we could do to help bring that about; In one meeting campaigner Matt Staniek talked about Windermere and its rivers and pointed the way to citizen science and lobbying which was very helpful for our recently formed Water Group who came back later in the year with their findings; another speaker spoke about tree planting and wildflower meadows and this was</p>

		<p>followed by an informative and inspiring visit to the land he's caring for; A student talked about Food Waste in hospitality which was the subject of her dissertation and had involved contact and discussion with local restaurateurs and hoteliers thus raising awareness of the issues involved. Lee Schofield Author and manager of RSPB farms at Haweswater came to speak to us in September which was followed by a visit by 20 people to the farms which was full of vital information for us about relating to land and nature, growing and farming, differently.</p> <p>The Growing &amp; Biodiversity Group has been very active planting trees and maintaining saplings as well as taking care of our community orchard in the Park. Beds around the Parish Centre are being planted with plum trees, pollinators and herbs. A Lancaster University student is writing a dissertation on Food Growing in Ambleside. Maintenance of the Wild Flower meadow has continued with the extraction of unwanted saplings and more planting. Our plant giveaway which is now an annual event in the Ambleside calendar was bigger and better than ever. It was attended by 50 people and we gave away more than 400 plants encouraging people to grow vegetables, pollinators and herbs. Members of the group met with a representative of the National Trust and a tenant farmer in November to discuss the possibility of carrying out a project on a field in Ambleside to make it into a nature friendly area for wildlife and the community. Another site visit will take place next year.</p> <p>After a two-hour refresher course on the use of the infra-red camera the Warmer Homes Group continued with the work of doing free surveys of resident's homes to enable them to better target their energy saving and heat retaining efforts. Similarly, the two Retrofit Made Easy events organised with Cumbria Action for Sustainability attracted 34 people in total who were seriously intent upon retrofitting their homes. Some of our members had valuable experiences to share to help them make good decisions. This was in line with our aim to educate and disseminate information to help residents adapt to climate breakdown.</p> <p>The Comms group, Growing and Biodiversity Group (G&amp;B) and Water Group (WG) have been holding regular meetings on Zoom and - in the case of the WG in person - throughout the year.</p>
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		<p>Warmer Homes and Transport and Lobbying have met less frequently preferring to get on with their agreed activities.</p> <p>With the help of members of the Transport Group, a guide - Ambleside Walking Companion - has been produced. AAFAF gets 50p from the sale of each copy and of course, this helps to keep people out of their cars.</p> <p>The Water Group has been very active indeed testing water in Windermere and its rivers for phosphates, monitoring, recording and reporting sewage spills and engaging with the water company, United Utilities to press for long term actions such as riparian planting upstream to prevent flooding and increased storm storage capacity to prevent sewage spills.</p> <p>Lobbying has taken the form of signing petitions, signing open letters on matters of environmental concern, supporting opposition to the West Cumbria Coal Mine by going to demonstrations at the site in person and speaking there. Some Members went down to London to join in the demonstrations at The Big One in April. Some members have also written letters of objection to environmentally destructive and harmful planning applications locally.</p>
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#### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	No specific objectives were set.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	A target of £700 of income from donations was set. The total income achieved was £2038.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	No investment objectives were set.
Other		-

#### Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity remains in a sound financial position. Most expenditure on charitable projects was from restricted funds donated by external funders. Sufficient unrestricted funds were generated to increase the reserves to the higher level determined by trustees and still retain a small surplus.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves are held for the following reasons: - to meet the costs of essential routine items (e.g. insurance, ICT), in the event of a failure to raise sufficient funds to cover them; a contingency fund for unexpected essential costs; a cushion for cash flow, in case of a need to incur planned

		expenditure before receiving the income to cover it.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£2300
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Not applicable

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Grants from charitable trusts, and donations by individuals.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	No such policies have been adopted.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The trustees have adopted a risk management policy which identifies potential financial, reputational, legal, operational and environmental risks. With the controls that have been put in place, none of these risks is currently regarded as significant.
Other		-

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Foundation model constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Apart from the initial trustees, every trustee is appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the trustees have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO and who has an interest in the charitable objectives.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Trustees are provided with the Charity Commission trustee welcome pack.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider	Para 1.51	AAFAF has eight formal members who are the charity trustees, and a wider membership of about 150. There are several working groups

network with which the charity works		organised around specific topics or projects, each of which is led by a volunteer coordinator who reports to the trustees.  AAFAF works with many partners including Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CaFS) and the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	None
Other		-

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Ambleside Action for a Future
Other name the charity uses	AAFAF
Registered charity number	1188921
Charity's principal address	Dillygarth, Loughrigg, Ambleside, LA22 9HF

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Gillian Kelly	Chair		
2	Caroline Caple	Secretary		
3	Steve Lenartowicz	Treasurer		
4	Ursula Brendling			
5	Clare Humphrey			
6	Sharon Holt		until 28/03/23	
7	Peter Martin		from 28/03/23	
8	Jane Beenstock		from 28/03/23	
9	Susan Mathieson		from 28/03/23	
10				

### Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

### Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

### Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this	Not applicable

falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Not applicable

#### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
None		

None		

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Not applicable

#### Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Not applicable

#### Other optional information

None

#### Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)





Full name(s)

Steve Lenartowicz

Caroline Caple

Position (eg  
Secretary, Chair, etc)

Treasurer

Secretary

Date

27/03/2024



Charity Name Ambleside Action For A Future		No (if any) 1188921		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date 01/01/23	To	Period end date 31/12/23	

## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	2,038	-	-	2,038	2,491
Gift Aid	183	-	-	183	94
Funds raised at events	131	-	-	131	-
Bank Interest	83	-	-	83	1
Grant from National Lottery	-	-	-	-	8,900
Compensation from NatWest Bank	-	-	-	-	500
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	2,435	-	-	2,435	11,987
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,435	-	-	2,435	11,987

<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Subscriptions	219	-	-	219	219
Insurance	157	-	-	157	157
Website	44	-	-	44	44
Room hire for meetings	269	-	-	269	209
Publicity & fundraising	490	-	-	490	28
Plant Giveaway event	-	146	-	146	116
Bees & Trees project	-	7,075	-	7,075	-
Other Growing & Biodiversity projects	80	-	-	80	1,214
Warmer Homes project	-	726	-	726	-
Water testing project	59	199	-	258	-
Creative workshops for children	-	-	-	-	120.00
Picnic in the Park	-	-	-	-	16.40
Climate Action Day & community engagement	-	-	-	-	139.40
Other project costs	-	13	-	13	-
Miscellaneous	28	-	-	28	-
Sub total	1,347	8,159	-	9,506	2,263



<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Warmer Homes survey equipment	-	-	-	-	72
3x Hanna phosphate testers	-	216	-	216	-
Sub total	-	216	-	216	72
Total payments	1,347	8,375	-	9,722	2,335

Net of receipts/(payments)	1,088	(8,375)	-	(7,287)	9,652
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,230	11,999	-	15,229	5,577
Cash funds this year end	4,319	3,624	-	7,943	15,229

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted	Restricted funds	Endowment
B1 Cash funds	Cash reserve	1,800	-	-
	Other unrestricted funds	2,519	-	-
	Pam Williamson Memorial Fund	-	1,799	-
	Zero Carbon Bees & Trees (Lottery)	-	1,825	-
	Total cash funds	4,319	3,624	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted	Restricted funds	Endowment
	N/A	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A	N/A	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Warmer Homes survey equipment	Unrestricted	2,667	-
	3 Hanna phosphate testers	Unrestricted	216	-
	Wheelbarrow	Unrestricted	70	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	N/A	N/A	-	N/A

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Approval date
	STEVE LENNOX	27/3/24
	CAROLINE CAPLE	27/3/24