

Always Community
(Registered charity, number 1189909)
Financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

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**Always Community
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 30 June 2023**

Full name Always Community

Other names by which the charity is known AC

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1189909

Principal address

8 Experian Way, NG2 Business Park, Nottingham, NG2 1EP

Trustees

Jacqueline Bowen, Chair
Colin Hyde, Vice Chair, from 01/08/23
Ruth Imeson, Treasurer, from 01/08/23
Alcot Walker

Maureen Robinson
Tracy Lloyd, from 01/08/23
Adam Baker, from 01/08/23

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 11/06/20.

When required, the Trustee roles are advertised and/or suitable prospective Trustees approached and appointed once approved by the Trustees.

Objectives and activities

To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public, in Nottingham by:
(a) the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources; (b) the relief of poverty and the improvement of the conditions of life in socially and economically disadvantaged communities; (c) the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration. Sustainable development means "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Grassroots community project development. We achieve this through the introduction of innovative needs-led community projects. Projects support the local Nottingham community in cultivating, from a grassroots level, sustainable social and economic growth that will promote the ongoing development and maintenance of diverse grassroots community initiatives that advance and regenerate the social and economic wellbeing of the Nottingham community.

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Always community is also keen to support fledgling grassroots community groups in the development of ground-level community enterprise initiatives. We look to facilitate this through engaging and demystifying learning that enables communities to effectively tap into the wider, and often unknown, potential that community enterprises can have in their local communities which they can readily harness.

Always Community also has a sincere interest in exploring and implementing new and innovative approaches to community cohesion that builds on the commonalities Nottingham shares as a multicultural community, rich in diversity. Always Community continues to explore new and innovative ways of enhancing and unlocking the hidden potential of the diverse strengths of the communities of Nottingham through partnership and new ways of working that build on and continue to unlock its ground level hidden strengths.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

This year has seen Always Community continuing to establish our aims and objectives through two main projects "Connected Communities" and "The Windrush Decision". We have also been able to initiate the "Hand Up" project alongside a small portion on community group capacity building work. All of the above have again been supported by a variety of funders and we have been most grateful for their support and the work that it has allowed us to do. We are also pleased to have established our website this year, giving us the opportunity to share our aims and work. We are also pleased to report that we have been successful in recruiting four new Trustees form a wide variety of grassroots community focussed groups and initiatives. We are immensely grateful for the skills and experience and commitment that each of them bring to the charity.

In terms of the Connected Communities project, we have continued to expand the work of our Connected Communities project to include an even wider group of diverse communities and have held over 15 small events this year with an attendance of over 350 attendees, 120 up on last year's attendance proving the success of the project. As the project receives more and more attention and recognition as an enjoyable, positive and insightful community cohesion shared experience, the attendance continues to grow and we are also being increasingly approached by small community groups wanting to put on a small culturally insightful event. In light of the growing interest, we are now exploring other aspects (with the help of the copious feedback forms amassed) of insightful next step community cohesion opportunities that the new project may bring. At the core of this project is the informal grassroots mutual value, respect and understanding informally cultivated between the different communities in Nottingham.

We are now in the final stages of the Windrush Decision project that shares the sacrifices, joys and difficulties the Windrush Generation had in making that life changing "Windrush Decision". Over 53 oral interviews were held last year and

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alongside small presentations we were also able (following extensive research) to hold an open "Windrush Decision" event on June 22nd with the much appreciated help of Inspire Culture and Learning Nottingham Archives who supported us with the venue and contributed to Caribbean food available. The event was a great success with over 102 people attending from the diverse communities of Nottingham seeking to gain a rare and valuable insight into the 'Windrush Decision' experience. The event included calypso music, Caribbean food, a Windrush Decision Exhibition, opportunity to directly speak with Windrush generation elders and much more. The project ends October 2023.

A small amount of work has been done on Capacity Building this year supporting grassroots community groups in the development of their community projects but this has unfortunately been substantially limited due a distinct lack of funding. This has proved a difficult area to acquire funding. It is hoped that the new financial year will see us accessing suitable funding to support this important and much needed grassroots community needs led work. This would also apply to grassroots community enterprise support and development, again funding has limited the impact we would like to make in this area. However, we still continue to explore new and innovative projects that will allow us to meet the above needs and many more.

We are very pleased to have started our "Hand Up" project in June 2023 working in partnership with Refugee Roots offering valuable advice and guidance for Migrants eligible for Universal Credit. The collaboration aims to support individuals by giving them the knowledge they require to understand the benefits they are entitled to access crucial welfare assistance. Refugee Roots are committed to Migrant Community support and development and we are excited to be working in partnership with them on this project. Together we will be offering 1-to-1 advice sessions for those seeking help with Universal Credit. Individuals will be supported by two CPAG trained advisors. It is of course in its earliest stages of development and therefore further information will be provided in the next report.

Always Community aims to ensure that the benefits of our work not only impact socially on the communities we serve but also economically, as part of an integrated community development strategy. We truly want to unlock the hidden skills and talents within all the diverse communities of Nottingham. We consider it vital that we are in touch with the needs of the communities we serve and work to leave a legacy of community initiatives of impact; This, we believe, is one of the ways that we can best demonstrate or give a true reflection of being 'Always Community'. A hearty thanks goes to our Trustees and staff but most importantly to the commitment and unquestionable resilience of the diverse communities we serve.

As previously, Always Community would like to express a hearty THANK YOU to our funders who have enabled us to deliver the above work. Without their (and our previous year funders) recognition of the particular needs of grassroots communities and willingness to support our aims and objectives and provide a starting point for new and innovative approaches, none of the above could have been achieved.

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Financial review

At the end of the financial reporting period we are very pleased to report that the charity has the funds to meet its project delivery requirements for the next financial year.

Always Community has secured funding for the 2023-24 financial year and is in the process of acquiring ongoing funding to further secure the ongoing delivery of our current projects and the introduction of new grassroots community projects.

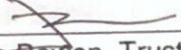
The charity's policy on reserves

Always Community's ongoing aim is to develop a general reserve to cover a minimum of 6 months running costs:

- To ensure that the Always Community can meet its obligations in the short term and in the event of late payment of grants;
- To cover any outstanding liabilities such as staff redundancy payments and remaining commitments;
- To ensure that Always Community's core activities can continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty.

Our policy is reviewed annually.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed 
Jacqueline Bowen, Trustee

Date 28.11.23

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Always Community
for the year ended 30 June 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Always Community (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity'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 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed  Date 19/12/23
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Always Community
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 30 June 2023

2022				2023
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£	£
	Receipts			
49011	Grants & donations	2	-	37013
49011	Total receipts		37013	37013
	Payments			
-	Advertising	-	59	59
2169	Computer & internet expenses	-	2312	2312
1207	Engagement expenses	-	541	541
2413	Events	-	1912	1912
192	Insurance	-	-	-
216	Legal & professional	-	759	759
337	Office supplies	12	481	493
365	Payroll service	-	-	-
444	Printing & stationery	-	137	137
-	Publications & subscriptions	-	72	72
175	Recruitment	-	433	433
97	Rent & room hire	-	2199	2199
1498	Sessional workers	-	528	528
100	Staff training	249	1162	1411
780	Teaching resources	-	-	-
99	Telephone, internet & postage	-	182	182
33	Travel & subsistence	-	245	245
29	Volunteer expenses	-	-	-
15579	Wages, NI & pension	-	38409	38409
25733	Total payments	261	49431	49692
23278	Net receipts/(payments)	(261)	(12418)	(12679)
12981	Cash funds at start of this period	480	35779	36259
36259	Cash funds at end of this period	219	23361	23580

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Statement of assets and liabilities
at 30 June 2023

2022			2023
£		Note	£
<u>36259</u>	Cash assets		
<u>36259</u>	Bank accounts		<u>23580</u>
			<u>23580</u>
	Other monetary assets		
<u>96</u>	Prepayments - insurance		<u>-</u>
<u>96</u>			<u>-</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	General equipment.		
	Laptop, purchased June 2022, cost £1,330.		
	Liabilities		
<u>(4123)</u>	Creditors	4	<u>(1655)</u>
<u>(4123)</u>			<u>(1655)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed Ruth Imeson Dated 19 DEC 2023
Ruth Imeson, Trustee

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Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 30 June 2023

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	22023	22023
Awards for All	-	9990	9990
The Foyle Foundation	-	5000	5000
	<u>-</u>	<u>37013</u>	<u>37013</u>

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance	Receipts (Payments)		Closing balance
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
Connected Communities	11400	9990	(15570)	5820
Hand Up Project	4600	-	(1162)	3438
The Windrush Decision	19779	22023	(32699)	9103
Cohesive Communities (CCV)	-	5000	-	5000
	<u>35779</u>	<u>37013</u>	<u>(49431)</u>	<u>23361</u>
Unrestricted funds				
General	480	-	(261)	219
	<u>480</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(261)</u>	<u>219</u>

The Connected Communities fund, funded by grants from Postcode Places Trust and Awards for All, supports our Connected Communities Community cohesion initiative.

The Hand Up fund, funded by a grant from the Allen Lane Foundation, is to support our Migrant Community Universal Credit Advice Worker initiative for which we are currently awaiting match funding.

The Windrush Decision fund, funded by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage fund, is for the delivery of our Windrush Decision Project journaling the difficulties and sacrifices of the Windrush generation in making the decision to come to Nottingham from the Caribbean.

The Cohesive Communities (CCV) fund, funded by a grant from The Foyle Foundation, is for the delivery of diverse community exchanges and insightful volunteer placement events.

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4. Creditors

	£
Legal & professional - Independent examination	636
Legal & professional - payroll fees	88
Wages, NI & pension - HMRC	790
Wages, NI & pension - NEST	141
	<u>1655</u>

5. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

6. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period.

7. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.