



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	October	2021		30	September	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum CIO
Other names charity is known by	KDBH Neighbourhood Forum
Registered charity number (if any)	1190521
Charity's principal address	Office 2, Greswolde House 197b Station Road Knowle, Solihull
Postcode	B93 0PU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Roger Cook	Chair	
2	Elisabeth Hedley	Secretary	
3	Gary Green	Treasurer	Commenced 15 th December 2021
4	Andrew Marston		
5	Jane Aykroyd		
6	Tony Aykroyd		

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution; Code of Practice
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

1. To promote for the public benefit, high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Area.
2. The protection, preservation, improvement and revitalisation of the natural and built environment in or affecting the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Area.
3. To promote sustainable development for the public benefit by:
 - the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources;
 - 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".

In furtherance of the above objects but not otherwise the trustees shall run a Neighbourhood Forum for Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath to promote and or improve the social economic and environmental well-being of the Area.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

The Forum prepares a full and detailed report on its activities on a biennial basis. The initial report covering the period to September 2021 is summarised in our Charity Commission Annual Report for last year and the full report is available on our website (www.kdbh-np.org). In the interim period covered by this annual report a high level summary of the main activities is provided.

In carrying out the programme of work, Trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

In summary, since October 2021, the activities in which the Forum has played a key role in representing the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath community has included:

- maintaining and improving communication with residents
- preparing for and attending the Solihull Local Plan Review Hearings
- review and input to local Planning
- Community projects – Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)
- broadening the Forum's reach and engagement on community matters and setting out a path to ensure the Forum has a firm financial footing so we can continue to serve our community.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Maintaining communication

- The Forum communicates to its members and residents using a number of communication channels including:
 - e-newsletters
 - emails, telephone, face to face
 - placing Forum responses to planning applications on our web site
 - on-line consultations enabling residents to vote on their priorities for utilising NCIL funds
 - issuing member alerts covering urgent and important topics
 - surveys – e.g. undertaking a comprehensive car-parking survey for Knowle village
 - participation in local community events e.g. Knowle Heritage weekends, Dorridge Day, Coronation Event etc enabling direct, positive and valued feedback
 - Public Open Forum Events attracting up to 200 local residents
- The impacts of Covid seriously affected the ability of the Forum to communicate directly with the community. Thankfully, the effects of Covid have lessened to the extent where Public Open Forum Meetings have now re-commenced.

Solihull Local Plan Review (SLP)

Forum representatives have:

- Drafted, consulted and submitted written representations to the examination of the SLP
- Responded to the Inspectors written questions
- Attended the Examination sessions and participated in the debates, particularly the sessions on proposed development sites in Knowle
- Issued a 'Member Alert' to residents regarding concerns about the relocation of the Arden Academy secondary school
- Organised a public meeting to update residents and seek views on the interim findings of the Inspectors of relevance to the Knowle sites.

Planning Application monitoring:

The Forum has:

- Reviewed 197 planning applications
- Objected to 5 applications considered to be of KDBH wide significance. The largest application related to the redevelopment of St John's Shopping Centre, Knowle. Whilst overall in support of that development, the Forum liaised with residents and local businesses to seek local views before drafting an initial consultation response.
- Engaged with Solihull Council to discuss objections where possible.
- 3 planning applications were withdrawn following KDBH objections – all were resubmitted in amended form. These were not determined by September 2022.
- The number of applications affecting green belt land and involving trees was notable.

- Two appeal decisions were made in respect of applications the Forum had objected to. Both were allowed on appeal.

Note: as indicated above the Forum prepares a detailed Monitoring report on a biennial basis so the next report will be available covering the period to September 2023.

Knowle Parking Survey:

In order to inform its response to the St John's Shopping Centre application, the Forum, together with the Knowle Society and Visit Knowle initiated and undertook an online car parking survey to understand the views and concerns of local businesses, residents and visitors. The results of the Parking Survey were made available on our web site. The need to produce a coordinated plan to improve parking and traffic circulation around Knowle village centre will be a priority project for the Forum going forward provided necessary funding can be secured.

Community Projects- Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy:

This is a vital part of the Forum's work and engagement with the local community. Since the Neighbourhood Plan was approved in April 2019 (and as a direct result of having additional funding available to the community by virtue of it) already in excess of £100,000 additional project funding for the KDBH community has been made available.

In the 2021 funding round the Forum received over 700 resident responses to an on-line survey issued to give our residents the opportunity to consider and vote on six projects submitted for funding. The Forum then provided detailed analysis of the outcomes to inform the Council decision making process. Four projects were successful and received funding of just over £45,000 to provide a disabled and wheelchair bound access lift at St Philip's Church, Dorridge, a basketball court in Knowle Park, new tables and chairs in the Platinum Suite at the Royal British Legion and funds to enable the car-park at Dorridge Scouts Group to be re-surfaced.

Broadening the Forum's reach and Future of the Forum:

Funding: All Government funding for the Forum ceased when the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in April 2019. Since then, the Forum has existed on dwindling remaining funds and 'one-off' ad-hoc donations which has severely limited the scope of its activities. Costs have been kept to an absolute minimum by a small team of dedicated volunteers. In an effort to address this the Forum has:

- consulted residents on possible funding options
- met with local Councillors to seek their views and lobby for funding. The Forum was pleased to receive very positive feedback from local Councillors although no funding has been forthcoming (by September 2022).
- sought to strengthen relationships with other local community organisations including The Knowle Society, Dorridge and District Residents Association (DDRA) and Visit Knowle to find other ways of delivering our objectives.

Community Actions: The Forum is keen to pursue a number of Community Actions that were raised by residents during the Neighbourhood Plan development process but were not suitable to take forward within the Plan as they were not land use based. These were subsequently included as Appendix 4 to the Plan. Outstanding

matters include: mobile phone and broadband coverage is poor in some areas but residents do not want masts introduced in unsuitable areas; and identifying roads where speed needs to be reduced, there is a need to draw up proposals and consult on their introduction. Parking and traffic issues were also a local concern. There are many more community initiatives that need taking forward but action has been constrained by Covid and also a lack of funding and resources.

Other initiatives: During the early stages of the pandemic the Forum introduced a number of new initiatives to help people including:

- developing interactive maps of local walks
- detailed listings and information about nearby heritage sites and
- an events calendar for local clubs and organisations.

The Forum is currently working with a number of local organisations (Visit Knowle, The Knowle Society, Knowle Round Table, Arden Academy etc). This informal group known as 'B93 Together' recently started to meet and as a result other organisations, including ourselves, were brought in to identify areas of mutual interest where we can all work together to deliver greater benefit for our community. Key initiatives include attracting more volunteers, sharing of resources and engaging with younger people.

Section E

Financial review

Year End Accounts

The impact of Covid-19 has been a recurring feature of Forum operations since it became a registered charity and prevented virtually all face-to-face community interaction over the first two financial reporting periods. As a result, the Trustees decided towards the end of 2021 it was inappropriate to actively pursue fund raising activities at that time. In addition, in this financial period the 'cost of living' crisis has also started to have an effect on the ability of small charities such as ourselves, to raise funds.

As a consequence, only very limited donations were received in the year ended 30th September 2022 and payments exceeded receipts by £148, a commendable outcome as a result of the Trustees decision to incur only very essential expenditure.

The Forum continues to engage proactively with the local Council and Councillors to explore opportunities for longer term funding and remains hopeful that the situation will improve in 2023. The financial situation will continue to remain under close scrutiny at all times.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Roger Cook

Elisabeth Hedley

Position

Chair

Secretary

Date

10th June 2023

Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum CIO
Registered Charity Number: 1190521
Receipts and Payments for year-ended 30th September 2022

	£	£
Receipts		
CAF Donations	122	
Other Donations	500	
Total Receipts		622
Payments		
Software & Website Hosting Services	451	
Printing & Stationery	33	
External Public Meetings, Room Hire etc	20	
Insurance	226	
Bank Charges	40	
Total Payments		770
Net of receipts and (payments)		-148
Cash funds last year end		2669
Cash funds this year end		2521

Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum CIO
Registered Charity Number: 1190521
Statement of assets and liabilities at 30th September 2022

	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	2521	
		2521
Current Liabilities		
	0	
		0
Net Current Assets		2521

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Roger Cook
Trustee



Date 21/11/22

Elisabeth Hedley
Trustee

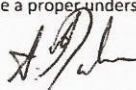


Date 21/11/22

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 which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Andrew Mark Dobson CIMA, CGMA
Independent Examiner

Date 3/11/22



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

30th September 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1190521

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/09/2022.

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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

3/11/22

Name:

Andrew Mark Dobson

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACMA, CGMA

Address:

Rana House

Frog Lane

Ilmington, CV36 4LQ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.