



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	October	2022		30	September	2023

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	
4	Andrew Marston		
5	Ian Kay		Commenced 13 th October 2022

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 currently prepares a full and detailed report on its activities on a biennial basis. The latest full report covering the two year period April 2021 to March 2023 has been completed and available on our website (www.kdbh-np.org).

In summary, since October 2022, the activities in which the Forum has performed a key role representing the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath community has included:

- maintaining and improving communication with residents
- engaging with Solihull Council, residents and key stakeholders with regard to matters associated with the Emerging Local Plan and the Government National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation
- review and input to local Planning Application matters
- Neighbourhood Plan monitoring and preparation of a draft update for consultation
- community projects – Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)
- broadening the Forum’s reach and engagement on community matters including setting out a path to ensure the Forum has a firm financial footing so we can continue to serve our community.

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

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**Maintaining communication**

The Forum has communicated to its members, residents and local businesses 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
- resident surveys – e.g. undertaking a comprehensive survey on the Governments consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- participation in local community events e.g. Knowle Heritage weekends, Dorridge Day, Coronation Event (including the Big Help Out) etc enabling direct, positive and valued feedback
- Public Open Forum Events attracting up to 200 local residents

Emerging Solihull Local Plan

The Solihull Local Plan has unfortunately been paused at the examination stage following challenges to the Inspectors' preliminary conclusions and the subsequent Government consultation on possible amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Forum has been proactive in the following areas:

- Issued a comprehensive questionnaire on the proposed changes to National Planning Policy and how they may affect the KDBH Area, particularly in regard to green belt policy, housing density and local infrastructure. Over 200 responses received with 70% also providing detailed comments, including a number very supportive of the Forum's contribution in representing the wishes of the community
- Provided detailed responses to outline planning applications submitted by promoters on the larger KN2 'Arden Triangle' site
- Pressed Solihull Council Officers and Councillors to be included in discussions and preparation of the comprehensive masterplan for the 'Arden Triangle' site
- Submitted detailed responses to the NFFP consultation on behalf of the community
- Ensured members and residents were regularly updated on emerging developments regarding the Local Plan

Planning Application monitoring, review and input:

The Forum has reviewed, on a weekly basis, the planning applications under consultation for the KDBH Area to monitor adherence to Neighbourhood Plan policies and where appropriate, responds accordingly.

- A schedule of all applications received, reviewed and responded to were posted on our website
- Objections were submitted to 14 planning applications, considered to be of KDBH wide significance. Of these, six were approved, three were refused and five were withdrawn or a decision still awaited by the reporting year-end 30th September 2023
- Regular meetings were established with the Head of Planning, Design and engagement Services at Solihull Council to review and discuss objections to planning applications received and responded to
- Following the recent Forum AGM a highly interactive question and answer session was conducted with attendees on local planning matters which was extremely well received and also provided valuable feedback to the Forum team.

Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring and Update:

Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring - The Neighbourhood Plan includes a commitment by the Forum to review its policies, monitor adherence and delivery to ensure it remains relevant and the policies are effective. The Monitoring Report is prepared and issued on a biennial basis. The latest Report, covers the period from April 2021 to March 2023 and is published on our website (www.kdbh-np.org).

Overall, the Monitoring Report demonstrates there is now far greater awareness and consideration of NP policies by the Council and developers alike which is very positive.

The Monitoring Report requires a considerable amount of work and analysis by the Forum and at a recent review meeting with the Council it was agreed to streamline and align the production of the next report. A working group has been set up to take this initiative forward.

Neighbourhood Plan Update - It is now five years since the Neighbourhood Plan was approved following a 96% supportive vote in 2019 by residents at referendum. A great deal has happened since then and last year, anticipating the conclusion of the Solihull Local Plan review, we set to work reviewing and updating the Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

A first draft update of the NP has been produced by the Forum planning team and posted on our website together with an explanatory note. Preliminary consultation with Solihull Council has commenced and shortly we will be seeking views and comments from the wider KDBH community prior to finalising and issuing the Plan Update.

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) project funding totalling £250,000 for the KDBH community has been secured.

In the 2022 NCIL funding round five community projects were successful in bidding for funds amounting to £103,000. The projects were Dorridge Cricket Club – second pitch and changing facilities (£48,000), Dorridge Scouts Group – roof

modifications and replacement (£15,000), Knowle and Dorridge Cricket Club – clubhouse redevelopment (£20,000), KDBH Neighbourhood Forum – community engagement and social infrastructure building (£10,000) and the Northern Gateway to Knowle – landscaping and public realm improvements (£9,960).

An on-line resident consultation and voting preferences exercise was conducted, as in previous years, on bids submitted and the results provided to the Council prior to the final assessment. As the Forum had submitted a bid for funding, on this occasion, we did not play a role in the review, assessment and consideration of the bids.

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 had existed on dwindling remaining funds and 'one-off' ad-hoc donations which severely limited the scope of its activities. Costs had been kept to an absolute minimum by a small team of dedicated volunteers. Last year in an effort to address this the Forum:

- 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 although no funding had been forthcoming by the end of last year
- sought to strengthen relationships with other local community organisations including The Knowle Society, Dorridge and District Residents Association (DDRA) and Visit Knowle to discuss other ways of delivering our objectives.

We are extremely pleased to confirm that following a successful bid for NCIL funding from Solihull Council for £10,000, announced in March 2023, the Forum is now on a much-improved financial footing. We have identified a number of projects to achieve the outcome of broadening the Forum's reach and engagement on community matters including:

- Substantially increasing Forum membership including younger members - in the past twelve months we have increased our membership by an impressive 18%
- Resident consultation on prioritisation of Community infrastructure projects
- Consultation and engagement with the community following the Inspectors' recommendations on the Solihull Local Plan
- Review and refresh of Community Actions set out in the Neighbourhood Plan
- Creation of a master-plan for the KDBH Area, including highways, parking, cycle and pedestrian routes etc – in association with key stakeholders to include Solihull Council, residents and key local community groups and organisations: Visit Knowle, The Knowle Society, DDRA and other members of the 'B93 Together' Group.

Section E

Financial review

Year End Accounts

In March 2023 the Forum was successful in applying for grant funding of £10,000 from the Solihull Council Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Structure Levy (NCIL) 2022/2023 budget to undertake a community engagement and social infrastructure project across the KDBH Area. In addition, other donations totalling £732 were received, primarily from the Knowle Society as well as £500 at the end of the previous financial year from the Dorridge & District Residents Association.

The NCIL grant is reported in the accounts as 'restricted funds' and may only be expended on project items specifically identified and agreed within the grant application.

Total receipts for the year totalled £10,732 with payments amounting to £1,345, of which restricted funds payments totalled £557. The majority of the remaining NCIL grant funding will be spent during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Post year-end the Forum received notification at the end of February 2024 that Solihull Council had approved a budget contribution in the sum of £10,000 per annum from 2024/25 onwards, subject to the necessary agreements being put in place to enable the funding to be drawn down as required.

We wish to place on record our grateful thanks to Solihull Council Members, Officers and Ward Councillors, as well as the 'residents' associations, KDBH residents and local businesses for the support and encouragement provided to the Neighbourhood Forum. This has enabled us to achieve longer term funding so that we can continue to serve and represent the KDBH community.

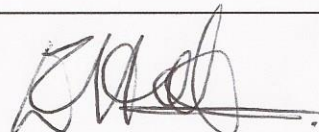
Section G

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

21st March 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath
Neighbourhood Forum CIO

1190521

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01/10/2022

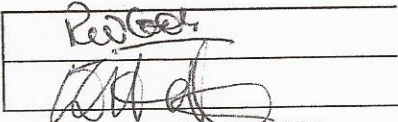
To

30/09/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
SMBC Council NCIL Fund Award	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Donations	732	-	-	732	622
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	732	10,000	-	10,732	622
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	732	10,000	-	10,732	622
A3 Payments					
Community Engagement Events	-	377	-	377	20
Equipment	-	180	-	180	-
Printing & Stationery	6	-	-	6	33
Software Support & Services	550	-	-	550	451
Insurance	232	-	-	232	226
Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	40
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	788	557	-	1,345	770
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	788	557	-	1,345	770
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 56	9,443	-	9,387	148
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,521	-	-	2,521	2,669
Cash funds this year end	2,465	9,443	-	11,908	2,521

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Metro Bank	2,465	9,443	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,465	9,443	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			R W Cook E Hedley	14/2/24 14/2/24



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**

Charity Name

Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum CIO

**On accounts for the year
ended**

30th September 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1190521

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/09/2023.

**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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) 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:

15/2/24

Name:

Andrew Mark Dobson

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

ACMA, CGMA

Address:

Rana House

Frog Lane

Ilmington, CV36 4LQ