



Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			To	Period end date	
	01	October	2023		31	March 2025

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

Suite K, Priest House

1624 High Street

Knowle, Solihull

Postcode

B93 0JU

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	Ian Kay		
5	Susan Bennett		Commenced 16 th April 2024

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)

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

Since October 2023, the Forum has undertaken the following key activities in representing the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath community:

- Successfully completed the ‘Community Engagement and Social Infrastructure’ project to broaden the Forum’s reach and engagement across the KDBH community.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive new website
- Continued to grow our profile and membership through community engagement events.
- Established a dedicated Planning Group, Planning application review and responses, building relations with the Council and other key stakeholders
- Provided guidance, assistance and engagement with residents and local organisations on community projects through the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) funding process

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

Successfully completed the 'Community Engagement and Social Infrastructure' project

This project was initiated in May 2023 following a successful bid to Solihull Council for temporary funding. The project had three main aims:

- Broaden our reach and engagement with the KDBH community through the delivery of a range of specific projects in support of community matters identified within the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Strengthen the operational running of the Forum, which is focussed on empowering local people to shape physical, social and economic infrastructure development within Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath.
- Provide capital expenditure items (e.g. portable PA system, projector, gazebo) that will enable the Forum to improve its ability to reach out and engage more effectively with the community.

The project was subject to considerable delay resulting from the pausing of the subsequently withdrawn Local Plan and the protracted Government consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework Review (NPPF). However, it is pleasing to report that the project aims set out have been now been achieved and the project successfully completed in March 2025.

New Website

A key element of the Social Infrastructure project referred to above was to completely renew and update the existing KDBH Neighbourhood Forum website (kdbh-np.org) which had been in place since the Forum was first established. The previous website was costly to operate, not user friendly and difficult to amend or update.

Following receipt of NCIL funding from the Council, a competitive tender process was undertaken and a new website commissioned. The Forum also engaged an external project manager to run the project.

The new website went live in February 2025 and it is now much easier for residents to engage with the Forum, use its site and find useful and helpful information. The website is much simpler for the Forum to operate, now presents information in a more modern and clearer format as well as providing several useful additional features and functionality. This includes:

- Setting out more clearly our purpose and what we do for the Knowle, Dorridge & Bentley Heath communities;
- Planning information on major plans and proposals such as Hampton Road (KN1), Arden Triangle (KN2) and emerging housing proposals such as Blue Lake Road and Golden End Drive;
- The latest planning applications within KDBH, provided on a weekly basis;
- Copies of planning responses submitted by the Forum's Planning Group;
- The KDBH Neighbourhood Plan;

- Updates on Solihull Council's Local Plan;
- Information on applications for Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Funds;
- Useful links including to Solihull Council's planning portal, our local MP, local organisations and how to report a problem to Solihull Council;
- Latest news and topical updates, including newsletters and newsflashes.

The feedback from residents, local councillors and Forum members has been extremely positive. The Forum has received much higher levels of interest on the website as well as regular contacts and enquiries on various matters, including the latest major planning applications proposed in our area.

Grow our profile and membership through community engagement events

Due to the pausing of the Local Plan and the Government's protracted NPPF Review face to face engagement events were put on hold for a time as, effectively, there was little worthwhile news to communicate to Forum members and local residents.

At the end of 2024 the Council relaunched a new Local Plan process with a Call for Sites exercise resulting in a significant increase in the level of interest and engagement with the Forum from the community.

Earlier this year the Forum was invited to present the latest work being undertaken together with details of the latest planning updates to The Knowle Society and the Dorridge and District Residents' Association Annual General Meetings. These events were extremely well attended and the Forum's participation greatly appreciated.

The Forum has continued to grow its membership and following the addition of the new website, engagement of a part-time Marketing and Communications expert on a part time basis and regular member and resident updates, membership has increased by 30% over the period of this report. Followers on our Facebook account have also increased by 12%.

Planning

a) Dedicated Planning Group

A dedicated Planning Group has been established. Their role is to:

- to review all KDBH planning applications and report back to the Forum Team;
- prepare and submit formal responses to the Council Planning Department on the more significant planning applications directly affecting the KDBH area;
- build relations with Council Planning officers and developers;
- assess the role and effectiveness of the KDBH Neighbourhood Plan and prepare an Update to ensure it remains in line with the Solihull Local Plan;
- respond to consultations and matters relating to the review of the Solihull Local Plan;

- prepare a bi-annual KDBH Monitoring report.

b) Planning application review and responses

The Forum has submitted detailed representations to the Council Planning Department on a number of planning applications, including all those that have come before the Planning Committee. In addition, Forum representatives have addressed the Committee on behalf of the community at several meetings.

Notable applications in which the Forum has been involved in this reporting period include those at the 'Arden Triangle' site namely, the Inspired Villages Integrated Retirement Village at Stripes Hill; the application by Kler for up to 450 dwellings on land South of Warwick Road and the application by Taylor Wimpey for up to 220 houses at Lansdowne House.

Other responses include objections to development at Greswolde House (7 houses) and at Pear Tree Farm. Copies of Forum responses are available on the Forum's web site.

c) Building relations with the Council and other key stakeholders

As guardians of the Neighbourhood Plan, meetings have been held with residents, key stakeholders, including developers, agents and councillors to press for proper and due consideration of the policies set out in the KDBH Neighbourhood Plan. This work continues with senior officers in the Planning Department. Efforts have also been made to meet directly with developers with a view to ensuring our NP policies are understood and respected. This has met with mixed success but is still seen as extremely important.

d) Neighbourhood Plan Update

Considerable progress has been made on an update to the Neighbourhood Plan. The intention was to be able to submit this to the Council for formal consideration as soon as the Solihull Local Plan Review was adopted. The withdrawal of the Local Plan has meant that the update of the Neighbourhood Plan has been placed on hold pending preparation of a new Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan remains relevant and is the most up to date part of the Development Plan.

Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) funding process

The Forum has continued to provide guidance, assistance and engagement with organisations wishing to submit NCIL funding applications. It is pleasing to note that the organisations who were successful in bidding for funds in the 2024 bidding round had all been in contact with, and held discussions and follow-on meetings with the Forum.

As a direct result of having an adopted Neighbourhood Plan in place, the Forum has enabled the delivery of significantly higher NCIL benefits to the community as we receive 25% funding for local projects (only 15% without an adopted plan).

Since its introduction in 2020, this has resulted in 20 projects totalling over £300,000 being delivered in the KDBH area, of which £123,000 directly results from having the Neighbourhood Plan in place. With potentially some large housing developments in the pipeline, the additional infrastructure benefits to the community to offset the adverse effects of development are expected to be sizeable.

Section E

Financial review

Year End Accounts

In this reporting period the NCIL Community Engagement and Social Infrastructure project, which received Grant funding of £10,000 in May 2023 has been successfully completed. This project accounted for the majority of expenditure incurred.

Total receipts for the period totalled £7,567 (unrestricted receipts £67) with restricted funds payments totalling £9,260.

It is extremely pleasing to report that the efforts of the Forum in engaging with the wider KDBH community through a number of initiatives has been recognised and that grant funding in 2024-2025 provided some welcome financial breathing space. In addition, the recent news that grant funding has been extended to March 2028 is particularly welcome. This puts the Forum on a much more positive financial footing and will enable us to deliver more for the KDBH community we serve whilst continuing to remain focussed on the costs involved in everything we do.

We wish to place on record our grateful thanks to Solihull Council Members, Officers and Ward Councillors, as well as both the local residents associations, KDBH residents and Forum members and local businesses for the support and encouragement provided to the Neighbourhood Forum.

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)	Elisabeth Hedley
Position	Secretary

Roger Cook

Full name(s)

Position

Chair

Date

31st August 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath
Neighbourhood Forum CIO

1190521

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/10/2023

To

31/03/2025

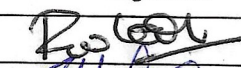

Section A Receipts and payments

	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 Grant Agreement	-	7,500	-	7,500	10,000
Donations	67	-	-	67	732
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	67	7,500	-	7,567	10,732
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	67	7,500	-	7,567	10,732
A3 Payments					
Community Engagement Events	-	64	-	64	377
Equipment	-	401	-	401	180
Printing & Stationery	-	49	-	49	6
Software Support & Services	-	762	-	762	550
Insurance	-	247	-	247	232
Resources	-	4,768	-	4,768	-
Consultancy	-	2,970	-	2,970	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	9,260	-	9,260	1,345
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	9,260	-	9,260	1,345
Net of receipts/(payments)	67	- 1,760	-	- 1,693	9,387
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,465	9,443	-	11,908	2,521
Cash funds this year end	2,532	7,683	-	10,215	11,908

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	2,532	7,683	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,532	7,683	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		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	12/8/25
	E Hedley	12/8/25



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**

31st March 2025

**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 eighteen month period ended 31/03/2025

**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:

12/8/25

Name:

Andrew Mark Dobson

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

ACMA, CGMA

Address:

Rana House

Frog Lane

Ilmington, CV36 4LQ