



Queen's Park and Charminster Neighbourhood Forum
(a charitable incorporated organisation)

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for
the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Charity Number: 1193653

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Achievements and Performance

The Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum was designated by Bournemouth Borough Council on 6th April 2018. In the year prior to this, a number of public consultation activities took place, which indicated positive support for the establishment of a neighbourhood forum for the Queen's Park ward area.

A local authority reorganisation formed Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council on 1st April 2019 and local ward boundaries changed with effect from that date. The Neighbourhood Forum's Designated Area currently remains the former Queen's Park Ward boundaries, which are Charminster Road in the East, Queen's Park Avenue in the North, Wessex Way to the West and the railway line to the South. The exception to this former ward boundary is that our Neighbourhood Forum's Designated Area takes in both sides of Charminster Road, as an important local district for shopping, eating and other recreation.

In 2019, the Neighbourhood Forum's Annual General Meeting agreed to seek registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and to rebrand as Queen's Park and Charminster Neighbourhood Forum, which was felt to be a more representative name for our area. After a pause in the Charity Commission approval processes due to the pandemic; on 24th February 2021, our application was successfully registered and Queen's Park and Charminster Neighbourhood Forum became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

To develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Neighbourhood Area, any neighbourhood planning policies proposed must be in general conformance with the strategic planning policies set out within the adopted Local Plan. Unfortunately, the existing Local Plan for Bournemouth is very old – a Bournemouth Core Strategy dated 2012 which incorporates some saved planning policies from a 2002 Local Plan is the 'current' Local Plan for the area. In the absence of the context of a current Local Plan, it has not proven possible to advance the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for our Designated Area.

From January to March 2022, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) Council held a Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation, which our Neighbourhood Forum's Chair responded to. BCP Council's aim had been to have a new Local Plan covering Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole adopted by summer 2023, but this target date slipped, partly because the response rate to the Council's Issues and Options Consultation was poor.

In March 2024, BCP Council considered a draft Local Plan and approved this for public consultation. The Public Consultation runs from 20th March until 3rd May 2024. In parallel, a consultation exercise on the BCP Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) draft charging schedule will run from 25th April to 6th June 2024.

It is evident from the number of objections which some individual planning applications receive that many members of the general population have strong views about planning decisions and their impact on where they live. Also, the attendance that our Neighbourhood Forum achieved when we have held public meetings in the past strongly suggests that people value having the opportunity to get together to discuss what they appreciate in their locality and what positive changes they would like to see. Local residents have shown their support by delivering leaflets to promote Neighbourhood Forum meetings and thanks go to everyone who has provided such assistance over the years.

At the 9th July 2022 Annual General Meeting, our Trustees shared with attendees the watershed point that the Neighbourhood Forum was at – they advised that whilst they each firmly believed in the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the value which it has the potential to bring to the locality, they did not alone have the capacity to advance the organisation's aims. Trustees sought to identify what appetite existed for the Queen's Park and Charminster Neighbourhood Forum to continue, in particular whether any people within our neighbourhood area were willing and able to take on the role of Charity Trustee and what skills and experience anyone would be able to contribute which could make a tangible difference to the development of the neighbourhood planning policies which are required to underpin the drafting of a neighbourhood plan.

Unfortunately, whilst there was clearly expressed support for the Neighbourhood Forum to continue, this did not galvanize into the identification of a critical mass of people with the time, interest, skills and commitment to make progress with the drafting of the neighbourhood planning policies which would comprise our Neighbourhood Plan. The charity trustees, being mindful that a core trustee responsibility is to advance the objects of the charitable incorporated organisation, and conscious that the Board of Trustees was not then achieving this took a decision that if this did not change by the end of the 2023/24 year, they would to approach the Charity Commission to seek to wind up the charity.

There were local elections in the BCP area in May 2023, which resulted in two new ward councillors. The trustees have liaised positively with Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown and Cllr Alasdair Keddie, who are both enthusiasts for the neighbourhood planning process. At a meeting with the Board of Trustees on 26th January 2024, they acknowledged the existing trustees' desire to stand down on or before 31st March 2024 but expressed confidence that there were other local people who wished to drive forward with the CIO's objectives, including to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.

As at 31st March 2024, Roger Tomlins and Michael Rowland stood down as trustees and three new trustees – James Sheehy, Karen Laird and Jessica Hewison were appointed to the Board of Trustees.

Plans for Future Periods

The initial couple of months of the 2024/25 year will be spent in building the new Board of Trustees, to handover historic information and to bring on board other people willing and able to act as trustees (up to the maximum permitted of 12 people).

As noted above, BCP Council has commenced two consultation exercises on the draft Local Plan and the draft charging schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which have consultation closing dates of 3rd May and 6th June 2024 respectively. These are important documents for future local planning policy, which will need to be considered and a response submitted as trustees think appropriate.

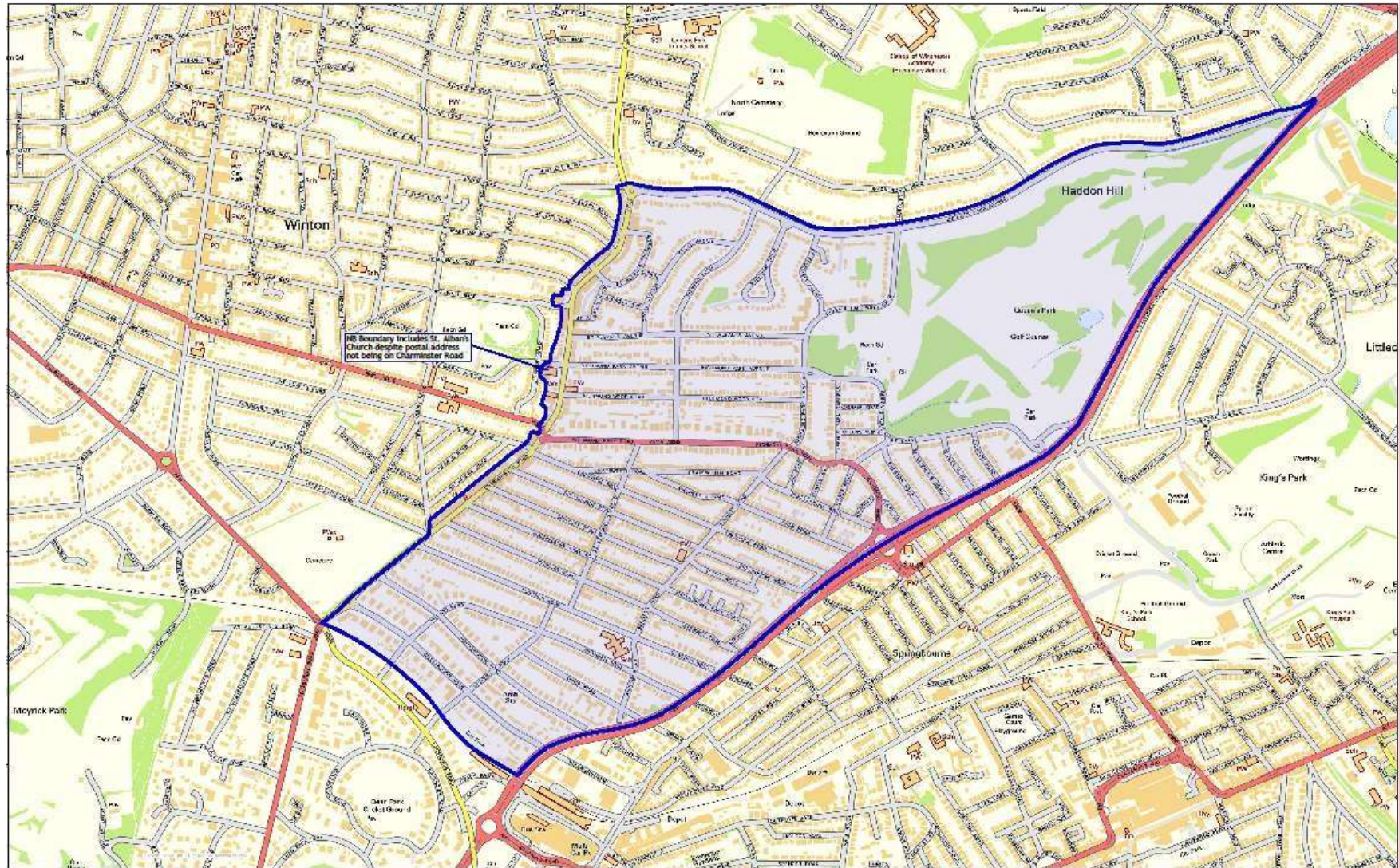
The Neighbourhood Forum was originally designated for a period of five years on 6th April 2018. There should have been a consultation exercise led by BCP Council to re-designate the area on the fifth anniversary, but due to the workload of the democratic services team this cannot happen until after the significant consultation exercises mentioned above. This gives an opportunity for the incoming Board of Trustees to consider whether the pre-April-2019 ward boundary remains the best Neighbourhood Area to designate for the Neighbourhood Plan, or if an alternative map should be specified. This question will require careful consideration, with input from our membership and the wider population.

Our Aims and Objectives

The object of Queen's Park and Charminster Neighbourhood Forum, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is:

1. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the Neighbourhood Area.
2. To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of the Neighbourhood Area.
3. To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features or areas of historic or public interest in the Neighbourhood Area.

In furtherance of the above objects, but not otherwise, the trustees shall have the power to establish a neighbourhood forum for the Neighbourhood Area (within the blue boundary lines on the following map) to promote and or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.



Queen's Park Ward Area Neighbourhood Forum boundary: —
 Boundary revised post-consultation to include verge (not properties) north of Queen's Park Avenue plus the Flyways roundabout.

Scale 1/10000

Centre = 410107 E 93038 N

Date 14/9/2017

QP Neighbourhood boundary v.2 11/3/2018

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The scale indicated on this drawing is approximate only
 and should not be used for taking accurate measurements.

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How our Activities Deliver Public Benefit

We deliver public benefit through holding Neighbourhood Forum meetings which facilitate community engagement in dialogue about i) promoting high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the Neighbourhood Area; ii) educating the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of the Neighbourhood Area; and iii) securing the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features or areas of historic or public interest in the Neighbourhood Area.

Financial Review

During the year, the CIO did not advance any activities in furtherance of its objectives. Expenditure in the year was limited to bank charges, which totalled £60.

The CIO did not recognise any income during the year ended 31st March 2024. The deficit for the year was therefore £60.

As at 31st March 2024, the CIO held cash at bank totalling £3,644, £2,416 of which is deferred income which had been received from the Co-Op Community Fund.

As at the end of the year, the CIO had £1,223 unrestricted funds, the original source of which was Bournemouth Council's Local Improvement Fund (LIF) and we remain grateful to our former ward councillors for arranging for this to be allocated to advance the Neighbourhood Forum's aims.

Risk Management

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed.

Recent years have seen a rapid change in planning law and national planning policy, such as changes to what is permitted development. The ability of the emerging Local Plan to appropriately respond to these changes is a risk consideration, as decisions made at this conurbation-wide level will impact on the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the locality, due to any neighbourhood planning policies being required to be in general conformity with the adopted Local Plan.

The most significant risk faced by our CIO is the availability of people with the time, skills, knowledge and commitment to dedicate to advancing the charity's work. The former Trustees reached a watershed point whereby they wished to step down from the Board of Trustees and therefore the future of the Neighbourhood Forum is now in the hands of the people (between three and twelve in number) who generously indicate that they are willing and able to take on the role of trustee and to positively take forward the neighbourhood planning agenda.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Queen's Park and Charminster Neighbourhood Forum is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation – a CIO Association, registered with the Charity Commission on 24th February 2021.

Charity Trustees

Every charity trustee must be a natural person aged 16 or more. There should be not less than 3 nor more than 12 appointed trustees. Subject to this maximum number, the members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee.

The charity trustees shall manage the affairs of the CIO and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of the CIO.

Trustee Induction and Training

All Trustees are provided with a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance, CC3 – 'The Essential Trustee' and C15b – 'Charity Reporting and Accounting: The Essentials'.

In addition, Trustees have access to a range of Community Action Network (CAN) training courses, such as 'Being a Charity Trustee' and 'Better Governance'.

Reference and Administrative Information

<u>Charity Name</u>	Queen's Park and Charminster Neighbourhood Forum
<u>Charity Registration Number</u>	1193563
<u>Registered Office</u>	67 St Alban's Avenue Bournemouth BH8 9EG
<u>Trustees</u>	Julie Currin Jessica Hewison (appointed 31 st March 2024) Karen Laird (appointed 31 st March 2024) William Lennon (appointed 10 th April 2024) Michael Rowland (resigned 31 st March 2024) James Sheehy (appointed 31 st March, resigned 10 th April 2024) Roger Tomlins (resigned 31 st March 2024)
<u>Bankers</u>	HSBC Old Christchurch Road Bournemouth BH1 1EH

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA)

	2023/34 £s	2023/24 £s	2022/23 £s	2022/23 £s
Income		-		-
Bank Charges	60		61	
Expenditure		60		61
(Deficit) / Surplus of Income over Expenditure		(60)		(61)

Balance Sheet

	31/3/24 £s	31/3/24 £s	31/3/23 £s	31/3/23 £s
Bank		3,644		3,704
Groundworks – Repayment of Grant	-		-	
Deferred Income – Co-Op Community Fund	2,416		2,416	
Bank Charge re March	5		5	
Sub-total Creditors		2,421		2,421
Net Assets		1,223		1,283
Funds Brought Forward	1,283		1,344	
Funds Applied in Year	60		61	
Funds Carried Forward		1,223		1,283