



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/02/2024 Period start date To 31/01/2025 Period end date

Charity name: Sussex Coast Talking News

Charity registration number: 1194816

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Provide support for the blind, and the visually impaired (VIP), and those who have some temporary or permanent incapacity or disability which makes reading a strain, by the provision of audio local news.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The editing, and audio recording of local news, plus the provision and distribution of recorded CDs and USB memory sticks and the equipment for playing or reproducing the same as well as placing the recordings on the website.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have been sent copies of and have regard to the latest guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All of the charity's operations (management, editing, recording, reading copying and distribution etc) are conducted entirely by volunteers.

Other		
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Volunteers phoned listeners (the beneficiaries) to explain any changes and to help them access the recordings when required, and this enabled the charity to maintain its listener base. Many listeners expressed their thanks for the service the charity provided in keeping them in touch with local news.</p> <p>In addition, a survey of all listeners was carried out early in the year. Again, listeners were very positive about the service they received. For example, around 80% said that the sound quality and reading of broadcasts was good or very good. They rated the local news as the most popular part, but also indicated that they enjoyed the magazines. Amongst comments were two that summed up listeners experience:</p> <p><i>"I enjoy the connection with the wider community"</i></p> <p><i>"I appreciate the time given by volunteers providing the service"</i></p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	The charity has promoted our services to the blind and visually impaired in our catchment area.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity's financial position at the end of the period is a healthy one, with strong reserves and expenditure in line with previous years.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The charity holds reserves in order to safeguard its future as it has in this last year, as in the previous year, had to vacate its current premises and to find and pay for alternative costly studio premises.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£50,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity's principal sources of funds are from donations and its investment reserves.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Where it is seen to be financially possible and appropriate once the charity's own financial needs are considered, the trustees of the charity have given financial support other like-minded charities and organisations (with objectives to provide support for the blind, and the visually impaired).
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>The principal risks facing the charity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining its listener base; a number of similar Talking News charities have had to fold because listener numbers are too low (listener numbers fall due to age attrition). • Recruiting and maintaining trustees and volunteers with suitable skills to enable good quality in all of its varied operations. • Listeners have reported late postal delivery
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Memorandum and articles of association
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	New trustees are nominated by existing trustees, volunteers and the management group and elected to post.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	New trustees are inducted and trained by existing trustees. Training for existing trustees is encouraged and implemented where necessary (eg for data protection).
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The charity is managed by a management group which comprises the trustees and volunteers who lead on specific operations (eg outreach and editing) and which is chaired by the director. All the members are nominated by volunteers and are subject to re-election.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Sussex Coast Talking News
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1194816
Charity's principal address	88A The Street Rustington BN16 3NJ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Thomas Batho	Director		
2	Julie Pearce			
3	Ann Ridley			
4	Mike Wood			
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information


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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Thomas Robin Batho	
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Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Director	
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Date

07/01/2025

SUSSEX COAST TALKING NEWS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 January 2025

SUSSEX COAST TALKING NEWS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS and TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 January 2025

The directors and trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2025. The directors and trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Objectives and activities

The objective of the charity is to provide a newspaper and magazine service for the blind and the visually impaired. Sussex Coast Talking News is a talking newspaper. The charity creates, records and distributes local news as we its own magazine, every fortnight. The recordings are distributed free of charge in the form of a CD or USB stick. The charity covers an area from Shoreham to Bognor Regis and to Storrington in the north.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Achievements and performance

The charity has been running for over 50 years and has an audience of between 100 and 150 listeners. The charity provides a free service to anyone who is blind or VIP.

Financial review

The charity relies mainly on donations and legacies. In most years the charity breaks even. It is fortunate to have received a number of large legacies, which are reflected in the accounts in investments. The income from those investments makes up any shortfall.

Investment policy

The charity's investments are managed by financial advisors, and are held in listed investments. Their market value was £426,835 at the year end.

Reserves policy

The charity's policy on reserves is reviewed annually by the trustees. The charity aims to maintain cash reserves equivalent to 12 months operating costs.

Plans for future periods

The trustees plan to continue to create and develop services for the blind and VIP.

Structure, governance and management

Sussex Coast Talking News is a non-profit making charity and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 29 March 1982. It is also registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. It consists of director trustees, and more than 40 volunteers.

The day to day management of the charity is carried out by a mixture of the directors and experienced volunteers.

Risk management

Systems and regular reviews have been established to manage and mitigate the major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees.

SUSSEX COAST TALKING NEWS

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS and TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 January 2025**

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity number

1,194,816

Registered office

Sussex Coast Talking News
88A The Street
Rustington
West Sussex
BN16 3NJ

Directors and trustees

The directors and trustees throughout the year were:

Mrs J A Pearce
T R Batho
Mrs A Ridley
Mr M J Wood

Treasurer

Mr R Jerome

T R Batho

Director and trustee

SUSSEX COAST TALKING NEWS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 January 2025

	Notes	2025 £
Unrestricted funds		
Income		
Donations and legacies		188
Investment income		754

		942
Expenditure		
Charitable activities	3	(14,539)
Net surplus/(deficit) on revaluation of investments		35,459

Net income and net movement in funds for the year		21,862
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward		410,443

Total funds carried forward		£432,305

SUSSEX COAST TALKING NEWS

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 January 2025

		2025	20
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	2,229	
Investments	5	426,835	

		429,064	
Current assets			
Debtors		0	0
Cash at bank and in hand		3,241	8,389
		-----	-----
		3,241	8,389
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)		0	0
		-----	-----
Net current assets		3,241	

Net assets		£432,305	

Funds of the charity			
<i>Unrestricted funds:</i>			
General fund		432,305	

Total funds		£432,305	

The financial statements were approved by the directors and trustees on 20 January 2026 and signed on their behalf by



T R Batho

Director and trustee

SUSSEX COAST TALKING NEWS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 January 2025

1. Statutory information

Sussex Coast Talking News is a registered charity, No.1194816. Its registered office is
88A The Street Rustington, West Sussex, BN16 3NJ.

On the 1 October 2022 the charity changed its name from Voice of Progress to Sussex Coast Talking News.

2. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments.

(b) Fund accounting

The general fund is unrestricted and can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

(c) Income

Income represents donations and legacies received, and interest and dividends receivable.

Income is accounted for on a receivable basis when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be measured reliably.

(d) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised when a liability is incurred.

Costs are allocated to appropriate headings in the financial statements. Costs relating to more than one cost category are apportioned according to the purpose for which the expenditure was incurred.

(e) Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

SUSSEX COAST TALKING NEWS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 January 2025 continued

2. Accounting policies -continued

(f) Fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of fixed assets over their expected useful economic lives at the following annual rates:

Studio building	4% reducing balance
Equipment	15% reducing balance

(g) Investments

Listed investments are stated at market value at the year end. Changes in value are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year.

3. Charitable activities expenditure

	2025 £
Audio consumables	838
Premises expenses	10,911
Donations	200
Telephone and internet	393
Printing, stationery and promotion	353
Other	1,740
Depreciation	104

	£14,539

4. Tangible fixed assets

	Studio building £	Equipment £
Cost		
At beginning of year	21,888	49,126
Additions in year	0	900
	-----	-----
At end of year	21,888	50,026
	-----	-----
Depreciation		
At beginning of year	21,436	48,145
Provision for the year	21	83
	-----	-----
At end of year	21,457	48,228
	-----	-----
Net book amount		
At 31 January 2025	£431	£1,798
	-----	-----
At 31 January 2024	£452	£981
	-----	-----

SUSSEX COAST TALKING NEWS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 January 2025

continued

5. Investments

	2025
Listed investments	£
At beginning of year	400,621
Additional investment in the year	0
Withdrawals	(10,000)
Investment income	755
Net surplus/(deficit) on revaluation of investments	35,459

At end of year	£426,835

d (VIP).
all as

2024
£

1,944
1,052

2,996

(11,900)

11,809

2,905

407,538

£410,443

24

£

1,433
400,621

402,054

8,389

£410,443

410,443

£410,443

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2024**£**

723

9,392

0

76

53

1,552

104

£11,900

Total

£

71,014

900

71,914

69,581

104

69,685

£2,229

£1,433

2024**£**

392,760

0

(5,000)

1,052

11,809

£400,621
