

Bells Lane Community Association
(Registered charity, number 1195948)
Financial statements
for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2024

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**Bells Lane Community Association
Trustees' annual report
for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2024**

Full name Bells Lane Community Association

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1195948

Principal address

194 Amesbury Circus
Cinderhill
Nottingham
NG8 6DD

Trustees

Natasha Elaine Bryan
Kelvin Ugwonna, from 01/10/25

Sarah Wright, from 17/05/25
Samantha Banton, until 17/05/2025

Independent examiner

Eva Stevens, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 28 September 2021.

We recruit trustees from among users of the community centre, and others who are involved in the local community.

Objectives and activities

To further or benefit the residents of the Bells Lane area of Nottingham and the neighbourhood without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents. In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power: to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Bells Lane Community Association

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

We provide premises for community organisations to hire for the benefit of the local community, and for members of the public to hire for social events. We also run our own activities for the benefit of the local community, such as a food bank, and special events and celebrations that are open to all.

Children and young people in our area benefit from the activities provided by youth and children's organisations which hire the Centre, such as; Girl Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, a nursery, a youth club for teenagers and an after school club. Older members of the community benefit from the work the NHS do in the Centre on a long-term basis, through the help they provide to members of the local community who are suffering from cardiac issues. Aspley Mentors use the Community Centre to offer support to people in our community, and in addition the three churches which are based in the Centre, help to bring the community together. Local people also benefit through participating in parties and other functions, when the premises are hired out. The special events we organise from time to time also help to bring members of the local community together.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

Bells Lane Community Centre hosted a number of projects during the period which the centre supported in its delivery.

Youth Project

The project started 3rd October 2023 and ran until 26th November 2024.

The AKA Youth Group at Bells Lane Community Centre ran a weekly programme designed to provide a safe, fun, and engaging space for children aged 13-17 years. Running every Tuesday from 7pm to 9pm, the project aimed to support children's social development, confidence, and well-being through a variety of structured and creative activities. Sessions included arts and crafts, team games, football, computer games, sports, music and dance, group challenges, and free-play opportunities, all delivered in a welcoming environment where children could learn new skills, make friends, and express themselves.

They enjoyed refreshments from our Tuck Shop! 40 children per week attended the sessions with 1080 children for the year.

Children engaged enthusiastically in the activities, developed new skills, and built positive relationships with both peers and staff. Feedback from parents and the community indicated that the group provided a much-needed safe, supportive, and enjoyable environment. Overall, the project achieved its goals of building confidence, creativity, teamwork, and social development among the young participants.

We received a grant of £1,000 from our local councillors which supported the project activities. The sessions were funded by the AKA group.

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Food Bank Project

The project started 13th October 2023 and ran until 15th December 2023.

The Food Bank at Bells Lane Community Centre was a weekly support service designed to help local families facing food insecurity. Running every Wednesday from 10am to 12pm, the project provided essential food supplies in a welcoming, dignified, and confidential environment. Alongside food provision, the sessions also offered valuable talking slots from Nottingham City Council (NCC) and other partner organisations, giving families access to guidance on well-being, benefits, and community services. Additional support was available through information provided by our adjoined nursery, health visitors, and the NHS heart health team, ensuring families could connect with broader health and early-years support. The project aimed not only to meet immediate needs, but also to strengthen overall well-being and community connection.

Between 51-62 families attended each week.

The Food Bank project at Bells Lane Community Centre was highly successful. The weekly sessions consistently supported families in need, with steady attendance demonstrating the value of the service within the community. In addition to providing essential food supplies, the project effectively connected families with wider well-being and support services through regular talking slots from NCC, health visitors, the NHS heart health team, and our adjoined nursery. Feedback from families highlighted that the food bank not only eased financial pressures but also improved access to information, support, and early-years and health resources. Overall, the project achieved its aims of reducing hardship, strengthening community well-being, and increasing awareness of local services.

The food bank project was funded from HIMA and collected by Diversify Education. The sessions were run by our volunteer committee.

Funder Fair and Grant Support

The Funder Fair and Grant Support project at Bells Lane Community Centre was designed to help residents access financial support and practical guidance, particularly around heat in the home and cost-of-living pressures. The event brought together funders, support organisations, and community services to provide information on available grants, energy-efficiency schemes, and help with heating costs. Residents were able to speak directly to advisors, explore eligibility for funding, and gain a better understanding of how to reduce household energy expenses. The project aimed to strengthen financial resilience, improve home warmth and safety, and ensure the community had clear, accessible pathways to the support they needed.

34 people attended The Funder Fair and Grant Support project at Bells Lane Community Centre, it was a big success. Residents who attended gained valuable information about funding opportunities, heating support, and ways to make their homes more energy efficient. Advisors and partner organisations were able to provide tailored guidance, and attendees reported increased confidence in accessing grants and understanding available support.

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While the event achieved its aims, there was capacity for more people to attend, and future sessions could reach even more residents with additional promotion and engagement. Overall, the project provided meaningful benefits to those who took part and remains a strong foundation for continued community support.

The project was funded by the local councillors.

Painting & Gardening Project

The project started 22nd January 2024 and ran until 26th January 2024.

This was delivered over a one-week period by volunteers from a Volunteering Project Group. They focused on painting and garden improvement at the centre and opened the invitation to helpers from our local community. The project brought young people together to take pride in their community space by refreshing indoor areas with new paintwork and revitalising the outdoor garden. Through hands-on teamwork, the volunteers developed practical skills, built confidence, and contributed to creating a brighter, more welcoming environment for all centre users. The project aimed to encourage responsibility, community ownership, and positive engagement among local young people.

47 people attended, the Painting & Gardening Project was a great success. The young volunteers made a significant impact through their painting and garden improvement work, creating a cleaner, greener, brighter, and more welcoming space for everyone who uses the community centre. Their teamwork, commitment, and enthusiasm were evident throughout the project. To recognise their contribution, certificates were presented to all helpers, celebrating their efforts and highlighting the value of their community involvement. Overall, the project achieved its goals and left a lasting positive difference to both the centre and the young people who took part.

Day Trip to Skegness

This year also saw the centre providing an outing for persons who may not have otherwise visited Skegness on the 23rd August 2024.

The Day Trip to Skegness organised by Bells Lane Community Centre was created to provide families from a deprived area with the opportunity to enjoy an affordable day out they might not otherwise be able to experience. Thanks to funding from local councillors, the centre was able to offer cheap tickets, making the trip accessible to families who may never be able to afford holidays or excursions. We took two 80-seat buses, and all seats were sold, showing the high interest and engagement from the community.

The day was filled with fun and memorable activities. Families sang and laughed together on the coaches, enjoyed the fresh air and sand at Skegness Beach, and savoured a traditional fish and chips meal. The trip not only provided a joyful day out but also promoted community cohesion, allowing residents to make new friends, spend quality time together, and create lasting memories in a relaxed and happy environment.

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160 persons enjoyed this trip. Yes, the Day Trip to Skegness was a resounding success. Both 80-seat buses were fully booked, showing strong demand and engagement from the local community. Families from a deprived area who may never have had the chance to enjoy a day out experienced a fun, memorable, and affordable trip. The children and adults sang on the coaches, played on the beach, and enjoyed a traditional fish and chips meal, creating shared experiences that strengthened community bonds.

The trip achieved its goals of promoting community cohesion, helping families make new friends, and providing a safe, joyful environment for everyone to relax and have fun. Feedback from participants highlighted their appreciation and the positive impact the day had on both families and the wider community.

The trip was funded by the Local Councillors Fund and £5 ticket fees from passengers.

Health & Well-being Project

The project started 5th December 2023 and ran until 17th December 2024.

The project involved the NHS using Bells Lane Community Centre as a supportive, accessible space to assist with GP referrals. Sessions ran weekly from 9am–4pm, operating through a booking system while also offering walk-in appointments to make healthcare support even more accessible. Each week, the service supported around 20–25 people, giving residents the opportunity to speak directly with NHS staff, receive guidance, and be referred to the most appropriate health services in a familiar and comfortable community setting.

These sessions reduced barriers to healthcare, helped people get timely support, and provided a friendly environment where individuals felt more at ease asking questions and seeking help. The project also brought more residents into the centre, increasing awareness of the facilities and services the community centre offers. As a result, the initiative not only improved access to healthcare but also strengthened community engagement and highlighted the centre as a valuable local resource.

1500 people attended the project over the year. The project was highly successful. The weekly NHS referral sessions consistently supported 20–25 people each week, showing strong community demand for accessible healthcare guidance. Running from 9am–4pm with both booked and walk-in appointments ensured that residents could receive timely support in a flexible, convenient way.

The service not only improved access to healthcare but also encouraged more people to visit the community centre, increasing awareness of the facilities, programmes, and support available. Feedback showed that residents valued the familiar, welcoming environment and found it easier to speak with NHS staff in a community setting. Overall, the project strengthened community well-being, improved access to essential services, and reinforced the centre's role as a trusted local hub.

The project was funded by the NHS.

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Cook and eat Project

The project started 8th March 2022 and ran until 27th June 2024.

The project involved Small Steps Big Changes delivering weekly Cook and Eat sessions at Bells Lane Community Centre for parents and carers. During the sessions, parents were able to take part in practical cooking activities while their children were safely looked after in our tenants' nursery, allowing families to fully engage without worry.

All ingredients were provided free of charge by Small Steps Big Changes, and at the end of each session families were able to take the prepared food home. Each week featured a new menu, including cultural dishes that reflected and celebrated the diverse backgrounds of the families attending. The project aimed to support healthy eating, build confidence in cooking, encourage families to try new foods, and create a warm, inclusive environment where parents could learn, connect, and share experiences.

Over the period 24 people attended.

The Cook and Eat project delivered by Small Steps Big Changes at Bells Lane Community Centre was very successful. Parents engaged enthusiastically each week, enjoying the opportunity to learn new cooking skills while their children were safely cared for in our tenants' nursery. The free ingredients varied weekly menus, and inclusion of cultural dishes made the sessions both accessible and meaningful for families from diverse backgrounds.

Families reported increased confidence in cooking, a better understanding of healthy eating, and appreciation for being able to take food home at no cost. The sessions also encouraged social interaction, peer support, and community connection, helping parents build new friendships in a relaxed and supportive environment. Overall, the project achieved its aims and had a positive impact on family well-being, confidence, and community engagement.

Aspley Family Mentor Team SSBC funded this project.

Stay and play sessions

The project started 25th February 2022 and ran until 18th April 2024.

The project involved Small Steps Big Changes delivering Stay and Play sessions at Bells Lane Community Centre for parents and their children aged 0–3 years. These sessions provided a warm, stimulating space where parents could spend quality time interacting with their children through guided play. Activities included sensory play, music and movement, story time, and age-appropriate learning games designed to support early development, confidence, and bonding.

During each session, some children were also able to be booked into our tenants' nursery, giving parents the chance to take part in focused activities, access advice, or simply enjoy a short break while knowing their child was being safely cared for.

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The sessions ran in a relaxed, friendly format, with staff offering support, demonstrating play ideas, and encouraging positive parent-child interaction. The overall aim was to promote early learning, strengthen relationships, and create a supportive environment where families felt welcomed and included.

16 families attended weekly. The Stay and Play sessions delivered by Small Steps Big Changes at Bells Lane Community Centre were highly successful. The sessions were well attended by parents and children aged 0–3, with families engaging enthusiastically in the sensory activities, music, storytelling, and play-based learning opportunities. Parents reported feeling more confident in supporting their child's early development and appreciated the friendly, welcoming atmosphere created by staff.

The option for some children to be booked into our tenants' nursery also proved valuable, giving parents time to participate in focused activities, access advice, or take a short break. Many families commented on how much their children enjoyed the sessions and how the structured play helped them learn new skills.

Overall, the project strengthened parent-child relationships, encouraged social interaction, and increased engagement with the community centre. It successfully provided a safe, supportive, and fun environment that benefited both children and their families.

Aspley Family Mentor Team SSBC Funded this project.

Financial review

We are pleased to have been able to continue to increase our income through the hiring of our facilities by community groups and members of the public.

The charity's policy on reserves

The purpose of our reserves policy is to outline Bells Lane Community Association approach to holding adequate financial reserves to ensure the continuation of the work of the organisation.

Reserves are part of our charity's unrestricted funds that is freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes. Which excludes restricted income funds and endowment funds.

Financial risks

Most of our income comes from the hiring out of the community centre, therefore, one of the major risks where we would be adversely affected is if a significant proportion of our long-term bookings were to cease to use the centre.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____ Date _____
Natasha Elaine Bryan, Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Bells Lane Community Association
for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bells Lane Community Association (the charity) for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed _____ Date _____

Eva Stevens BSc, CPFA

Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Bells Lane Community Association
Receipts & payments account
for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2024

2023 (As restated) £		Note	2024 (15 months) £
	Receipts		
9996	Grants & donations	2	17825
24105	Rents and room hire		28458
-	Tuck shop		17
-	Trip income		737
300	Sundry receipts		15
<u>34401</u>	Total receipts		<u>47052</u>
	Payments		
3377	Cleaning		1101
1792	Equipment, repairs & renewals		1630
-	Events		1900
-	Facilitator fees		1265
700	Gardening		7715
755	Insurance		764
-	Office costs		305
3036	Payroll		454
-	Professional fees		564
-	Refreshments		907
250	Refunds		824
-	Training		85
-	Travel costs		1790
638	Utilities		15038
-	Volunteer expenses		290
-	Wages		15433
3067	Unidentified		-
1857	Sundry payments		80
<u>15472</u>	Total payments		<u>50145</u>
18929	Net receipts/(payments)		(3093)
2271	Cash funds at start of this period		21200
<u>21200</u>	Cash funds at end of this period		<u>18107</u>

Bells Lane Community Association
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 December 2024

2023 (As restated)			2024
£	Cash assets	Note	£
20900	Bank accounts		18107
300	Cash in hand		-
<u>21200</u>			<u>18107</u>
	Other monetary assets		
229	Prepayments - insurance		232
<u>229</u>			<u>232</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	General equipment		
	Liabilities		
(564)	Creditors	3	(1049)
<u>(564)</u>			<u>(1049)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed _____ Date _____
 Natasha Elaine Bryan, Trustee

Bells Lane Community Association
Notes to the accounts
for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2024

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	£
Nottingham City Council	17675
Sundry donations	150
	<u>17825</u>

3. Creditors

	£
Professional fees	834
Wages (pensions)	215
	<u>1049</u>

4. Premises & staff

The premises are provided by the local authority.

5. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

6. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period.

7. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.