

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100098

Details

Status Received

Registered 2014-05-30

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address Omagh Community House
2 Drumragh Avenue
Omagh
County Tyrone.
Bt78 1dp
BT78 1DP

Phone 028 82 251559

Email info@omaghforum.org

Website www.omaghforum.org

Activities

Purposes: The objects of the company are: a) to improve the efficiency of the administration of charities in rural Omagh (hereinafter called “the area of benefit”) in direct pursuance of their objects, in particular by the provision of advice, management and technical support, training facilities and services to charitable organisations within rural Omagh b) to promote the benefit of people living in socially and economically disadvantaged areas of rural Omagh by developing their capacity and skills in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society c) the advancement of any other exclusively charitable purpose as the trustees may decide in accordance with the law of charity in Northern Ireland.

What the charity does: The advancement of citizenship or community development, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Community development, Community enterprise, Cross-border/cross-community, Economic development, Grant making, Rural development, Volunteer development

Who the charity helps: General public, Specific areas of deprivation, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£495,733	£408,223	£-33,122	7

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Aidan Bunting		
Audrey Adams		
Breige Kelly		
Cathal Mcenhill		
Dympna Mccann		
Gareth Mcfarland		
George Kerr Mbe		
Gerry Mccaffrey		
Kenny Fisher		
Kerry Crawford		
Louise Leonard		
Marie Meenagh		
Monica Coyle		
Ryan Tracey		

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100098

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI042973
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 100098

**Omagh Forum for Rural Associations
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2025**

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Omagh Forum for Rural Associations
Charity registration number	100098
Company registration number	NI042973
Principal office and registered office	Omagh Community House 2 Drumragh Avenue Omagh BT78 1DP Tyrone

The trustees

Ann Doherty
Dympna McCann
George Kerr
Monica Coyle
Briega Kelly
Cathal McEnhill
Gerry McCaffrey
Conor Keys
Audrey Adams
Ann McSorley
Louise Leonard
Kenny Fisher

Company secretary Ann Doherty

Independent examiner Rachel Donnell
Unit B15
Omagh Enterprise Centre
Great Northern Road
OMAGH
Co Tyrone
BT78 5LU

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2025

		2025	2024		
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Charitable activities	5	128,240	362,592	490,832	313,125
Investment income	6	4,901	–	4,901	3,122
Total income		<u>133,141</u>	<u>362,592</u>	<u>495,733</u>	<u>316,247</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	7	81,610	326,611	408,223	257,616
Total expenditure		<u>81,610</u>	<u>326,611</u>	<u>408,223</u>	<u>257,616</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>51,531</u>	<u>35,981</u>	<u>87,510</u>	<u>58,631</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		156,074	42,517	198,591	139,960
Total funds carried forward		<u>207,605</u>	<u>78,498</u>	<u>286,103</u>	<u>198,591</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 16 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	11	1,435	2,123
Current assets			
Debtors	12	37,360	20,101
Cash at bank and in hand		298,555	210,402
		<u>335,915</u>	<u>230,503</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>33,122</u>	<u>14,985</u>
Net current assets		<u>302,793</u>	<u>215,518</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		304,228	217,641
Accruals and deferred income		18,127	19,050
Net assets		<u>286,101</u>	<u>198,591</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		78,498	42,517
Unrestricted funds		<u>207,605</u>	<u>156,074</u>
Total charity funds		<u>286,103</u>	<u>198,591</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The statement of financial position
continues on the following page.
The notes on pages 16 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

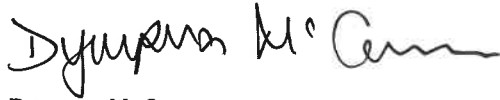
Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position *(continued)*

31 March 2025

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 10 September 2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Dymphna McCann
Trustee



Gerry McCaffrey
Trustee

The notes on pages 16 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100098

Accounts

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2024

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

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Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Omagh Forum for Rural Associations
Charity registration number	100098
Company registration number	NI042973
Principal office and registered office	Omagh Community House 2 Drumragh Avenue Omagh BT78 1DP Tyrone

The trustees

Ann Doherty
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George Kerr
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Unit B15
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Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

i) Governing document

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations is a Company Limited by guarantee, incorporated on 16th April 2002, and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 30th May 2014. The governing document of the charity is a Memorandum & Articles of Association which sets out the objects and powers of the charitable company.

ii) Recruitment and appointment of management committee

The directors of the company are also trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the management committee is elected for a year and must have between five and fifteen directors. We seek to have geographical representation across the rural Omagh district.

iii) Trustees induction and training

An induction pack is available for new directors who are taken through the induction pack prior to him/her joining the management committee. Many new directors will already be aware of the work of the organisation through the regular mail outs to member groups' and one to one support to groups.

iv) Risk management

The management committee take risk management seriously and have in place a series of policies and procedures about how the organisation should be managed. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers and visitors.

v) Organisational structure

Omagh Forum has a management committee of twelve trustees, eleven of whom are directors of the company and one is an advisor with no voting rights. The committee meet monthly with the exception of August and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity.

Day to day responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Network Managers who operate on a job share basis to fill the one role, with a Rural Development Officer and an administrator supporting this work. The Network Managers have responsibility for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that key targets are met particularly in relation to the operational plan for services being delivered for the main funder, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

The company's objective and principal activity is to provide development support to rural community groups in the Fermanagh and Omagh district. They do this by:

- a) improving the efficiency of the administration of charities in rural Omagh and Fermanagh in direct pursuance of their objects, in particular by the provision of advice, management and technical support, training facilities and services to charitable organisations within rural Omagh and Fermanagh;
- b) promoting the benefit of people living in socially and economically disadvantaged areas of rural Omagh and Fermanagh by developing their capacity and skills in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society; and
- c) advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the trustees may decide in accordance with the law of charity in Northern Ireland.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance

This report covers the year 1st April 2023 until the 31st March 2024.

For the first part of the financial year Omagh Forum continued to deliver the South West Rural Community Development Service, working with groups across the Fermanagh and Omagh Council area. Mid-year we tendered for a new contract with Fermanagh Rural Community Network which began on 1st November 2023 with Omagh Forum as the lead partner. This is the core work of Omagh Forum, funded by DAERA - the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, through the TRPSI Programme (Tackling Rural Poverty and Isolation). We still deliver MMC, Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas but we had no Rural Micro Capital Grants Programme this year. Having this core work enables us to deliver other smaller scales programmes such as Hunters Hill and Slieve Divena Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds and to develop new initiatives, which we did this year with Omagh Healthy Living Network, and work on new initiatives such as the WRAP Programme.

Rural Community Development Service

The new DAERA tender was published on 17th August 2023 and officers and staff from Omagh Forum met with Fermanagh Rural Community Network to discuss submitting a joint bid for the area which we subsequently did on 20th September. The new contract began on 1st November and Omagh Forum will work primarily, though not exclusively, with Omagh groups and FRCN with Fermanagh groups. Omagh Forum staff continue to help groups with various capacity building needs under the themes of Community Planning; Isolated Rural People; Sustainability for Rural Villages and MMC - Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas. This takes the form mainly of one-to-one meetings with groups in their premises or our office in Omagh. We also talk by phone or over zoom.

The most common supports are:

Governance issues such as the role of officers on a committee; changes to governing documents; changes to organisational structure such as changing from an Unincorporated Association to a Co Ltd by Guarantee; succession planning for Officers.

Funding - over the year we provided six funding ebulletins packed with information on grants and other useful support; we can't complete an application form for a group, but we have helped many to talk through an application; identify a funder and review applications.

Information provision - we issue ebulletins approximately once a fortnight to almost 1,200 recipients who are group members or organisations working in the community and voluntary sector. We also regularly post on social media.

Poverty - this year we saw the challenges groups faced with cost-of-living increases and reductions in funding meaning groups had to dip into reserves and some even decided to wind up their organisations.

FODC Community Plan - We encourage groups to link into the Fermanagh and Omagh Community Plan and staff are represented on the Fermanagh and Omagh CVS Forum.

Group activity - We help groups consider how they might diversify their activities and meet the needs of the community they serve.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Omagh Forum staff and Directors met the new Director of Rural Affairs, Teresa O'Neill, from DAERA in the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre on 27th June 2023 with the other Rural Support Networks and DAERA staff. Teresa was new to the work of the Rural Support Networks (RSN's) and to community development and was impressed with what we do. A representative from Seskinore Rural Community Group came along to speak about the work of their group and how Omagh Forum helped them.

Rural Micro Capital Grants Programme

There was no programme this financial year however staff were working on claims from the 2022 programme into June 2023. There was a total of 181 completed projects to the value of £314,434 and there were 34,503 total project beneficiaries.

MMC, Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas

Tiernach organised a visit for members of the MMC Community on 18th November 2023. Kirlish Ulster Scots travelled to the Battle of the Boyne sites and interpretative centre. John Hall, Tievemore LOL, led the tour and gave a very interesting insight into the history of the battle, its impact on Ireland at the time and the setting up of the interpretative centre. The 25 attendees found it most informative with this being the first time the majority had been to the Boyne. Several young people took part, and they found it most interesting. Thanks to Tom Buchannan MLA for his help in organising. This visit was funded by the Department of Foreign affairs (DfA).

Hunters Hill and Slieve Divena Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds

We have been operating these two funds for many years now and they provide great financial support to the groups in the catchment area. We bring together a panel, including external representation, to assess the applications. Slieve Divena opened for applications on 27th March 2023 and closed on 17 April 2023 with many applications. The applications were assessed on 25th April 2023 with 15 successful groups and an allocation of £15,104. Claims were to be submitted by 30th November 2023. Hunters Hill opened on 1st June 2023 and closed on 23rd June 2023. The Fund was way over subscribed with 23 applications looking £68,022. After the panel assessment there were 14 successful groups to a value of £23,915. Claims were to be submitted by 31st January 2024.

Omagh Healthy Living Network

Omagh Healthy Living Network was formally launched on 17th May 2023 and was a great celebration of the efforts that went into its development.

The funding of £499,595 from the National Lottery Community Fund is for the delivery of a range of health promotion programmes across the rural and urban areas of Omagh as well as the roll out of Social Prescribing.

Three new jobs were created this year, and the following took up appointment in September 2023: Tiernach Mahon as Co-ordinator; Kerrie Grugan as Social Prescriber and Alaine Ward as Monitoring and Finance Officer.

Omagh Healthy Living have had a very productive and successful first year. During the year 37 people availed our social prescribing service (41 predicted), 211 people attended our programs (200 predicted) and 359 people have availed of information sessions (155 predicted) so we met our targets. Examples include Links to Wellbeing in September, with 14 participants and Transform your Trolley in November hosted by Gortin Men's Shed with 13 participants. Links To Wellbeing commenced in Dromore in March 2024, in conjunction with Dromore & Trillick GP Practice, as did Smoking Cessation in Fintona on 13th March. During the year we identified areas of health inequalities and have addressed them where possible. An example of this is the very successful event we held based

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

around Living with Menopause and the follow-on program 'Your Time to Thrive'. We were asked to be involved in helping to develop a Traveller-led group in conjunction with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Western Trust.

Other areas identified will be addressed over the coming year using relationships built up with other voluntary and statutory organisations. During the first year we also developed our branding and building our name within the local community, the local groups, the voluntary and community sector and the statutory organisations.

Tackling Poverty

This is an important context for the work we do in both the community development and Healthy Living Network aspects of Omagh Forum.

WRAP - Western Response and Action on Poverty

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council issued a tender, through funding from the Department of Communities, for a Food Poverty - Financial and Wraparound Support programme. We became a partner with Fermanagh Rural Community Network leading a consortium of six organisations, also including Lakeland Community Care Limited; Erne East Community Partnership-OAK Healthy Living Centre; ARC Healthy Living Centre; and The Courthouse Kesh Limited. The programme began on 21st November 2023 and across the district a total of 143 households comprising 411 individuals received direct support to maximise income and reduce household costs. Highlights were: 39 households to St Vincent de Paul and British Red Cross for emergency fuel support; 69 households were referred to independent advice services based in the district, primarily for benefit advice and entitlement checks; 70 households were referred to the Housing Executive oil saving club and 60 were referred to the Affordable Warmth Scheme. Other advice was provided on budgeting, healthy eating, housing, physical and mental health referral, education, training and volunteering opportunities to enhance employability skills. Omagh Forum staff worked with 52 families in the Omagh area with face-to-face visits and telephone calls over an 8-week period November '23 - March '24. The visits highlighted the many issues that families / individuals are facing like very poor mental health, social anxiety and struggles to pay bills. Referrals came from trusted partner organisations such as Sure Start, Together with Solace, Care for Cancer, BFriend Hub, and self-referral.

Bryson Emergency Relief Cost of Living Initiative

We delivered this initiative in the Omagh area which involved the provision of assistance to those in urgent need of help to cover the cost of fuel, food and/or essential household necessities. It started on 3rd October 2023 through to 28th March 2024, targeting 14,400+ households across N Ireland. We supported 34 households in the Omagh area with electricity costs with a monetary value of £6,800, and this was a great support to people, one participant said "I am employed but on a low wage, my husband can't work due to ill health, and we are expecting our second child so it would be great to get this help, I won't have to worry so much ..."

FODC Anti-Poverty Strategy working group

Omagh Forum is part of this group who are meeting to draft a strategy/action plan for the Fermanagh and Omagh area. Others are involved such as the Advice Sector, Western Health & Social Care Trust, Community Transport etc. The food poverty tender came from the work of this group.

Other events and activities

Cost of Living Crisis - We held a joint event with NICVA on 9th May 2023 entitled "Cost of Living Crisis - Tough Times, Smart Solutions". A number of local organisations came together to discuss the challenges people were facing and we met the new NICVA CEO Celine McStravick.

NIO Office - We met a representative of the NI Office on 14th June 2023 as he wanted to hear the concerns of local people, so we brought in a few organisations as well as some Directors. Those

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

present talked about various issues such as the difficulties presented by withdrawal of funding from the community and voluntary (c/v) sector; loss of services from rural areas especially Banks and the problems that poses for people; the cost of living crisis; the lack of rural transport which heightens social isolation; the Protestant community facing barriers in applying for grants and the need for public service transformation, among others. This has opened a channel of communication between NIO and local communities.

People and Place Review - Cashel Community Association helped us facilitate a meeting with the Department for Communities to talk to people about the issues they face in rural and border areas as part of their People and Place Review (known as Neighbourhood Renewal).

Networking visit - Directors attended a networking visit to Derry in August 2023 and met with representatives of groups in Sion Mills to learn from their experiences. This visit was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, and we gained an increased knowledge of our shared history through the tour walking guide and the hosts in the Siege Museum and the Museum of Free Derry.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place in October 2023 in Mountfield with speakers Margaret McCloskey, from the Money and Pension Services (MAPS) and Edel Browne, Peace Plus, FODC and a welcome from Declan McAleer MLA. We also had the community group launch of Omagh Healthy Living Network.

Peace Plus Partnership

Our Network Manager, Mary T Conway, sits on the FODC Peace Plus Partnership. An action plan has been agreed under three themes and working groups have been set up: Community Regener & Transformation - up to 40%, €2.24m (2,450 participants); Thriving and Peaceful Communities - up to 40%, €2.24m (2,250 participants); Celebrating Cultural Diversity - minimum of 20%, €1.12m (980 participants). There will be funding opportunities for groups, but applicants interested in participating in delivery of the action plan must be able to demonstrate the core requirement of cross-community and how it will lead to increased and sustained cross-community interaction and make a lasting contribution to peacebuilding in the district. FODC Agricultural Liaison Group Meeting. George Kerr, a long-standing Director, has been representing Omagh Forum at the quarterly WebEx meeting of FODC Agricultural Liaison Group.

Charity Commission

We held two sessions on Charity Commission Annual Reporting, one in Omagh Community House on 11th October 2023 and one for Fermanagh Trust on Wed 29th November 2023. Staff help groups to register an Expression of Intent to register; we help them with the registration process and to complete their Annual Monitoring Return to Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, as well as other contact that a group might have such as updating details with the CCNI or reporting a serious incident. Our Network Manager, Mary T Conway, sits on the Charity Commission Stakeholder Engagement group which facilitates regular meetings between community, voluntary sector reps and the Deputy Chief Commissioner and Charity Commission Staff. Discussions are detailed and varied, and we have been able to bring many messages from local groups to the Commissioners. Mary T has also reviewed four draft documents and three letters as a Critical Friend for CCNI.

Members survey

We had two surveys over the year, the first in October 2023 and the second in March 2024. It is important for our members and the groups we work with to take part and the results of these help to plan our work ahead and are used as evidence for the need in funding applications.

Area Integrated Partnership Board

Mary T & Tiernach were involved in the roll out of the AIPB's - Area Integrated Partnership Board (AIPB) - which is a local planning body with the overarching aim of improving health and social care outcomes and reducing health inequalities for its local population. Tiernach was subsequently

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

selected as a user representative on the Western AIPB.

Council Funding Fair

Omagh Forum and Omagh Healthy Living Network staff had a table at the Funding and Advice Fair held in Omagh Leisure Centre on 13th February 2024 and had a lot of enquiries from groups.

Food Safety course

We ran the Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene course in St Patrick's GAA Tattyreagh in March 2024 which was attended by 13 people from groups across the district

Members Meeting

At the tail end of this financial year, we were organising a Network Meeting in April 2024 with three speakers - The National Lottery; The Fundraising Regulator - Code of Fundraising Practice and FODC Sustainable Food Programme.

Financial review

Principal Funding Sources

The main source of funds is from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), which equates to 42% of the overall income for the year with the lottery at almost 31% for Omagh Healthy living Network. The charity has always sought and secured funding from other sources to assist with ongoing expenditure by way of management of two community wind farm grant schemes, tendering opportunities, management fees of other projects and other income from and sponsorship to name but a few.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risk to the charity, namely the availability of funding from third parties, and agreed that the unrestricted funds not committed should be 6 months of the charity's annual expenditure. The reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the receiving and spending of income and to cover unplanned emergency spending.

The trustees conclude that based on secured funding combined with reserves already held, the accounts should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 4 September 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Gerry McCaffrey
Trustee

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 65 of the 2008 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Chartered Accountants Ireland, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my 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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rachel Donnell

Rachel Donnell
Independent Examiner

Unit B15
Omagh Enterprise Centre
Great Northern Road
OMAGH
Co Tyrone
BT78 5LU

28th October 2024

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
	Note				
Income and endowments					
Charitable activities		52,725	260,399	313,125	184,983
Investment income	5	3,122	–	3,122	1,425
Total income		<u>55,847</u>	<u>260,399</u>	<u>316,247</u>	<u>186,408</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	39,733	217,882	257,616	162,831
Total expenditure		<u>39,733</u>	<u>217,882</u>	<u>257,616</u>	<u>162,831</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>16,114</u>	<u>42,517</u>	<u>58,631</u>	<u>23,577</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		139,960	–	139,960	116,383
Total funds carried forward		<u>156,074</u>	<u>42,517</u>	<u>198,591</u>	<u>139,960</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 14 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	2,123	1,868
Current assets			
Debtors	10	20,101	6,826
Cash at bank and in hand		210,402	174,165
		<u>230,503</u>	<u>180,991</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>14,985</u>	<u>10,719</u>
Net current assets		<u>215,518</u>	<u>170,272</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		217,641	172,140
Accruals and deferred income		<u>19,050</u>	<u>32,180</u>
Net assets		<u>198,591</u>	<u>139,960</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		42,517	–
Unrestricted funds		<u>156,074</u>	<u>139,960</u>
Total charity funds		<u>198,591</u>	<u>139,960</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The statement of financial position
continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 14 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee


Statement of Financial Position *(continued)*

31 March 2024

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 4 September 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Dymphna McCann
Trustee



Gerry McCaffrey
Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

1. General information

The registered charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is Omagh Community House, 2 Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, County Tyrone, BT78 1DP.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Going concern

Funding from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, despite having been approved for a further year, it isn't guaranteed. However, through other sources of funding and current reserves already held, the trustees conclude that the accounts should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Disclosure exemptions

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. As such, advantage has been taken of the disclosure exemption available under paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102 which allows no cash flow statement to be presented for the company.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT, and is classified under the heading 'Expenditure on charitable activities' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

This includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	- 20% reducing balance
Computers	- 25% straight line
Equipment	- 20% reducing balance

Government grants

Government grants in respect of capital expenditure are treated as deferred income and credited to the Statement of Financial Activities over the estimated useful life of the assets to which they relate.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

4. Limited by guarantee

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>3,122</u>	<u>3,122</u>	<u>1,425</u>	<u>1,425</u>

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Charitable activities	39,643	216,022	255,666
Support costs	<u>90</u>	<u>1,860</u>	<u>1,950</u>
	<u>39,733</u>	<u>217,882</u>	<u>257,616</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Charitable activities	37,706	123,180	160,887
Support costs	<u>84</u>	<u>1,860</u>	<u>1,944</u>
	<u>37,790</u>	<u>125,040</u>	<u>162,831</u>

7. Staff costs

The average head count of employees during the year was 5 (2023: 4). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Management and project coordinators	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

8. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

During the year trustees claimed expenses or had their expenses met by the charity totalling £Nil, (2023: £355).

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2023	1,937	9,075	9,730	20,742
Additions	—	2,646	—	2,646
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,937</u>	<u>11,721</u>	<u>9,730</u>	<u>23,388</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2023	1,918	7,380	9,576	18,874
Charge for the year	4	2,356	31	2,391
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,922</u>	<u>9,736</u>	<u>9,607</u>	<u>21,265</u>
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2024	<u>15</u>	<u>1,985</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>2,123</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>19</u>	<u>1,695</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>1,868</u>

10. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	18,798	5,833
Other debtors	1,303	993
	<u>20,101</u>	<u>6,826</u>

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	9,878	6,901
Social security and other taxes	5,107	3,818
	<u>14,985</u>	<u>10,719</u>

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

12. Related parties

Gerry Mc Caffrey, Breige Kelly & Audrey Adams are all deemed related parties as they are trustees of other organisations which cumulatively benefited by £4,700 from the various grants available through Omagh Forum for Rural Associations. No amounts were outstanding at the year end.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100098

Annual report



OMAGH FORUM
FOR RURAL ASSOCIATIONS

Annual Report 2023– 2024

34th Annual General Meeting

5th November 2024

Hosted by Ecclesville LOL 34

Fintona Orange Hall



Our staff



The staff team: L-R Kerrie Grugan - Social Prescriber, Alaine Ward - Monitoring and Finance Officer, Tiernach Mahon, - OHLN Co-ordinator and Rural Development Officer, Mary T Conway - Network Manager and Claudine Devenney - Admin Officer

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations Trustees Annual Report

Period ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report of the charity for the Period ended 31 March 2024.

Registered charity name Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Charity registration number 100098

Company registration number NI042973

Principal office and registered office
Omagh Community House
2 Drumragh Avenue
Omagh
Co Tyrone
BT78 1DP

The trustees

Ann Doherty
Dympna McCann
George Kerr
Monica Coyle
Briege Kelly
Cathal McEnhill
Gerry McCaffrey
Ann McSorley
Audrey Adams
Conor Keys
Louise Leonard
Kenny Fisher

Independent examiner Nial Colhoun

Chairperson's report

It is my pleasure to once again present the annual report for Omagh Forum for Rural Associations, a detailed document focussing on the great work carried out by our staff in the year to April 2024.

Each year seems to throw up a new crisis with the pressure on our Health Service showing no signs of abating and the cost of living crisis still affecting many families. These issues impact directly on many of the services we deliver but we continue to be a leading voice for the many rural groups we support through advice, training and funding opportunities.

This time last year, we were about to embark on a new DAERA contract delivered through a new partnership agreement with Fermanagh Rural Community Network. Whilst it was a short 11-month contract, it did pave the way for a more secure contract arrangement and we are pleased that it has been extended for another year. I would like to pay tribute to the staff of both OFRA and FRCN for their commitment to delivering this service for the benefit of all our rural community groups.

We also partnered with FRCN and a number of other organisations in delivering the WRAP project on behalf of FODC – a project offering financial support to families in need. This was quite a demanding project but staff responded to the challenge, providing much-needed help to families over the winter months.

Omagh Healthy Living Network has just completed the first year of its four-year term and has been very successful – consistently outperforming targets. The hard work and professional approach by the team is commendable with its benefits addressing a major health and well-being service gap in the wider Omagh area.

Whilst we always appreciate the work of our staff, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board of Directors of OFRA to publicly thank our dedicated and hardworking team, Network Manager Mary T Conway and Administrator Claudine Devenney, the Healthy Living Network team led by Tiernach Mahon along with Kerrie Grugan and Alaine Ward and a warm welcome to our newest team member, Catherine McManus, who joined the OHLN in September.

I would also like to thank my fellow board members who give their time freely and are a great support to myself and to the staff. And finally thank you to our funders, detailed further in the report, who support the delivery of our work.

I would encourage any rural community in our area to get in contact with us to see how we can offer support. For more information on our work please visit our website www.omaghforum.org or follow us on Facebook or X (twitter) @ofrarsn.



Gerry McCaffrey

Structure, governance and management

i) Governing document

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations is a Company Limited by guarantee, incorporated on 16th April 2002, and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for N Ireland on 30th May 2014. The governing document of the charity is a Memorandum & Articles of Association which sets out the objects and powers of the charitable company.

ii) Recruitment and appointment of management committee

The directors of the company are also trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the management committee is elected for a year and must have between five and fifteen directors.

iii) Trustees' induction and training

An induction pack is available for new directors, and they are taken through this prior to them joining the management committee. Many new directors will already be aware of the work of the organisation through the regular mail outs to member groups' and one to one support to groups.

iv) Risk management

The management committee take risk management seriously and have in place a series of policies and procedures about how the organisation should be managed. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers and visitors.

v) Organisational structure

Omagh Forum has a management committee of twelve trustees, eleven of whom are Directors of the company, and one is an advisor with no voting rights. The committee meet monthly with the exception of August and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity.

Day to day responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Network Manager, with an administrator supporting the community development work. The Network Manager has responsibility for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that key targets are met particularly in relation to the operational plan for services being delivered for the main funder, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Omagh

Healthy Living Network is a project within Omagh Forum receiving funding this year from the National Lottery Community Fund for four years. Three staff were employed in the financial year 23-24, a Co-ordinator, a Social Prescribing Link worker and a Monitoring and Finance officer.

Objectives and activities

The company's objective and principal activity is to provide development support to rural community groups in the Fermanagh and Omagh district. They do this by:

- a) The advancement of community development in Northern Ireland but particularly in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area (the area of benefit) and in particular the promotion of the community and voluntary sector for the benefit of the public by providing services, training, support, information, facilities and amenities to community and voluntary groups and encouraging and assisting such groups and organisations to cooperate to achieve their aims.
- b) To develop the capacity and skills of residents of communities in the area of benefit that suffer social and economic disadvantage in such a way that they are better able to identify and help meet their needs and participate more fully in society.
- c) The advancement of health and wellbeing.
- d) The advancement of any other exclusively charitable purpose as the trustees may decide in accordance with the law of charity in Northern Ireland.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

Annual Report 2023-2024

For the first part of the financial year Omagh Forum continued to deliver the South West Rural Community Development Service, working with groups across the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area. Mid-year we tendered for a new contract with Fermanagh Rural Community Network which began on 1st November 2023 with Omagh Forum as the lead partner.

This is the core work of Omagh Forum, funded by DAERA – the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, through the TRPSI Programme (Tackling Rural Poverty and Isolation). We still deliver MMC, Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas but we had no Rural Micro Capital Grants Programme this year.

Having this core work enables us to deliver other smaller scales programmes such as Hunters Hill and Slieve Divena Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds and to develop new initiatives, which we did this year with Omagh Healthy Living Network, and work on new initiatives such as the WRAP Programme and so on. We will look at each in turn.

Rural Community Development Support Service

The new DAERA tender was published in August 2023 and officers and staff from Omagh Forum for Rural Associations met with Fermanagh Rural Community Network to discuss submitting a joint bid for the area which we subsequently did on 20th September and the new contract began on 1st November 2023.

Omagh Forum staff continue to help groups with various capacity building needs under the themes of Community Planning; Isolated Rural People; Sustainability for Rural Villages and MMC - Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas.

This takes the form mainly of one to one meetings with groups in their premises or our office in Omagh. We also talk by phone or over zoom. The most common supports are:

Governance issues such as the role of officers on a committee; changes to governing documents; changes to organisational structure such as changing from an Unincorporated Association to a Co Ltd by Guarantee; succession planning for Officers, etc.

Funding – over the year we provided six funding ebulletins packed with information on grants and other useful support; we can't complete an application form for a group, but we have helped many to talk through an application; identify a funder and review applications.

Information provision – we issue ebulletins approx. once a fortnight to almost 1,200 recipients who are group members or organisations working in the community and voluntary sector. We also regularly post on social media.

Poverty – this year we saw the challenges groups faced with cost-of-living increases and reductions in funding meaning groups had to dip into reserves and some even decided to wind up their organisations.

FODC Community Plan - We encourage groups to link into the Fermanagh and Omagh Community Plan and staff are represented on the Fermanagh and Omagh CVS Forum

Group activity – We help groups consider how they might diversify their activities and meet the needs of the community they serve.

Omagh Forum staff and Directors met the new Director of Rural Affairs, Teresa O'Neill, from DAERA in the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre on 27th June 2023 with the other Rural Support Networks and DAERA staff. She was new to the work of the Rural Support Networks (RSN's) and to community development and was impressed with what we do. A representative from Seskinore Rural Community Group came along to speak of the work of their group and how Omagh Forum helped them.

Rural Micro Capital Grants Programme

There was no programme this financial year however staff were working on claims from the 2022 programme well into June 2023. There were a total of 181 completed projects in the FODC area to the value of £314,434 and there were 34,503 total project beneficiaries.

MMC, Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas

Tiernach organised a visit for members of the MMC Community on 18th November 2023. Kirlish Ulster Scots travelled to the Battle of the Boyne sites and interpretative centre. A representative of Tievemore LOL led the tour and gave a very interesting insight into the history of the battle, its impact on Ireland at the time and the setting up of the interpretive centre. The 25 attendees found it most informative with this being the first time the majority had been to the Boyne. Several young people took part, and they found it most interesting. Thanks to Tom Buchannan MLA for his help in organising. This visit was funded by the Department of Foreign affairs (DfA).

Omagh Healthy Living Network

Omagh Healthy Living Network was formally launched on 17th May 2023 and was a great celebration of the efforts that went into its development.



The funding of £499,595 from the National Lottery Community Fund is for the delivery of a range of health promotion programmes across the rural and urban areas of Omagh as well as the roll out of Social Prescribing.

Launch of Omagh Healthy Living Network

Three new jobs were created this year, and the following took up appointment in September 2023: Tiernach Mahon as Co-ordinator; Kerrie Grugan as Social Prescriber and Alaine Ward as Monitoring and Finance Officer.

Omagh Healthy Living had a very productive and successful first year - 37 people availed of our social prescribing service (41 predicted), 211 people attended our programmes (200 predicted) and 359 people availed of information sessions (155 predicted) so we met our targets. Examples include Links to Wellbeing in September, with 14 participants and Transform your Trolley in November hosted by Gortin Men's Shed with 13 participants. Links To



Living with Menopause Information Session

Wellbeing commenced in Dromore in March 2024, in conjunction with Dromore & Trillick GP Practice, as did Smoking Cessation in Fintona on 13th March. During the year we identified areas of health inequalities and need and have addressed them when possible. For example the very successful event we held based around Living with Menopause and the follow-on programme 'Your Time To Thrive'. We were asked to be involved in helping to develop a Traveller led Omagh Traveller group in conjunction with FODC and the Western Trust.

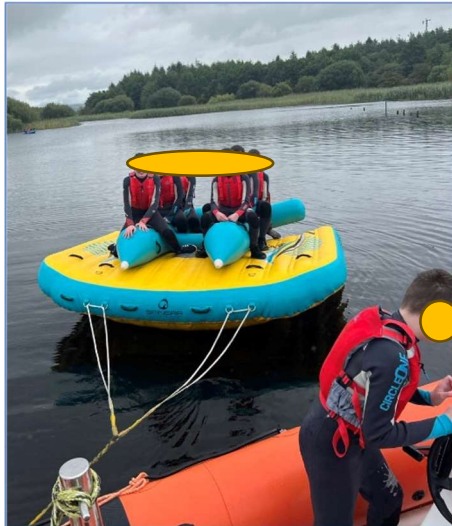
Other areas identified will be addressed over the coming year using relationships built up with other voluntary and statutory organisations. During the first year we also developed our branding and building our name within the local community, local groups, the voluntary and community sector and the statutory organisations.

Hunters Hill and Slieve Divena Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds

We have been operating these two Funds for many years now and they provide great financial support to the groups in the catchment area. We bring together a panel, including external representation, to assess the applications. See below some successful projects

- Slieve Divena opened for applications on 27th March 2023 and closed on Monday 17 April 2023 with a large number of applications. 15 groups were successful with an allocation of £15,104. Claims were to be submitted by 30th November 2023.

-
- Hunters Hill opened on 1st June 2023 and closed on Monday 23rd June. The Fund was way over subscribed with 23 applications looking £68,022. After the panel assessment there were 14 successful groups to a value of £23,915.48. Claims were to be submitted by 31 January 2024.



Successful projects from the Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds

Tackling Poverty

This is an important context for the work we do in both the community development and Healthy Living Network aspects of Omagh Forum.

1 WRAP – Western Response and Action on Poverty

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council issued a tender, through funding from the Department of Communities, for a Food Poverty – Financial and Wraparound Support programme. We became a partner with Fermanagh Rural Community Network leading a consortium of six organisations, also including Lakeland Community Care Limited; Erne East Community Partnership-OAK Healthy Living Centre; ARC Healthy Living Centre; and The Courthouse Kesh Limited.

The programme began on 21st November 2023 and across the district a total of 143 households comprising 411 individuals received direct support to maximise income and reduce household costs. Highlights were: 39 households to St Vincent de Paul and British Red Cross for emergency fuel support; 69 households were referred to independent advice services based in the district, primarily for benefit advice and entitlement checks; 70 households were referred to the Housing Executive oil saving club and 60 were referred to the

Affordable Warmth Scheme. Other advice was provided on budgeting, healthy eating, housing, physical and mental health referral, and education, training and volunteering opportunities to enhance employability skills.

Omagh Forum staff worked with 52 families in the Omagh area with face to face visits and telephone calls over an 8 week period November '23 – March '24. The visits highlighted the many issues that families / individuals are facing like very poor mental health, social anxiety and struggles to pay bills.

2 Emergency Relief Cost of Living Initiative

We delivered this initiative in the Omagh area which involved the provision of assistance to those in urgent need of help to cover the cost of electricity. It lasted from October 2023 through to March 2024, targeting 14,400+ households across N Ireland with funding from a large charity. We supported 34 households in the Omagh area with electricity costs with a monetary value of £6,800, and this was a great support to people, one participant said “I am employed but on a low wage, my husband can’t work due to ill health, and we are expecting our second child so it would be great to get this help, I won’t have to worry so much ...”

3 FODC Anti-Poverty Strategy working group.

Omagh Forum is part of this group who are meeting to draft a strategy and action plan for the Fermanagh and Omagh area. Others are involved such as the Advice Sector, Western Health & Social Care Trust, Community Transport etc. The food poverty tender – WRAP - came from the work of this group.

Other events and activities

Cost of Living Crisis - We held a joint event with NICVA on 9th May 2023 entitled “Cost of Living Crisis – Tough Times, Smart Solutions”. A number of local organisations came together to discuss the challenges people were facing and we met the new NICVA CEO Celine McStravick.

NIO Office - We met a representative of the NI Office on 14th June 2023 as he wanted to hear the concerns of local people, so we brought in a few organisations as well as some Directors. Those present talked about various

issues such as the difficulties presented by withdrawal of funding from the community and voluntary (c/v) sector; loss of services from rural areas especially Banks and the problems that poses for people; the cost of living crisis; the lack of rural transport which heightens social isolation; the Protestant community facing barriers in applying for grants and the need for public service transformation, among others. This has opened up a channel of communication between NIO and local communities.

People and Place Review - Cashel Community Association helped us facilitate a meeting with the Department for Communities to talk to people about the issues they face in rural and border areas as part of their People and Place Review (known as Neighbourhood Renewal).

Networking visit - Directors attended a networking visit to Derry in August 2023 and met with representatives of groups in Sion Mills to learn from their experiences. This visit was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and we gained an increased knowledge of our shared history through the walking tour guide and the hosts in the Siege Museum and the Museum of Free Derry.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place in October 2023 in Mountfield with speakers Margaret McCloskey, from the Money and Pension Services (MAPS) and Edel Browne, Peace Plus, FODC and a welcome from Declan McAleer MLA. We also had the community group launch of Omagh Healthy Living Network.

Peace Plus Partnership

Our Network Manager, Mary T Conway, sits on the FODC Peace Plus Partnership. An action plan has been agreed under three themes and working groups have been set up:

*Community Regeneration & Transformation – up to 40%, €2.24m (2,450 participants)

*Thriving and Peaceful Communities – up to 40%, €2.24m (2,250 participants)

*Celebrating Cultural Diversity – minimum of 20%, €1.12m (980 participants)

Groups interested in participating in delivery of the action plan must be able to demonstrate the core requirement of cross-community and how it will lead to increased and sustained cross-community interaction and make a lasting contribution to peacebuilding in the district.

FODC Agricultural Liaison Group Meeting

George Kerr, a long standing Director, has been representing Omagh Forum at the quarterly WebEx meeting of FODC Agricultural Liaison Group.

Charity Commission

We held two sessions on Charity Commission Annual Reporting, one in Omagh Community House on 11th October 2023 and one for Fermanagh Trust on Wed 29th November. Staff help groups to register an Expression of Intent to register; we help them with the registration process and to complete their Annual Monitoring Return to Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, as well as other contact that a group might have such as updating details with the CCNI or reporting a Serious Incident.

Our Network Manager, Mary T Conway, sits on the Charity Commission Stakeholder Engagement group which facilitates regular meetings between community, voluntary sector reps and the Deputy Chief Commissioner and Charity Commission Staff. Discussions are detailed and varied, and we have been able to bring many messages from local groups to the ear of the Commissioners. I also reviewed 4 draft documents and 3 letters as a Critical Friend for CCNI.

Members survey

We had two surveys over the year, the first in October 2023 and the second in March - April 2024. It is important for our members and the groups we work with to take part and the results of these help to plan our work ahead and are used as evidence of need in funding applications.

Area Integrated Partnership Board

Mary T & Tiernach were involved in the roll out of the AIPB's – Area Integrated Partnership Board (AIPB) – which is a local planning body with the overarching aim of improving health and social care outcomes and reducing health inequalities for its local population. Tiernach was subsequently selected as a user representative on the Western AIPB.

Council Funding Fair

Omagh Forum and Omagh Healthy Living Network staff had a table at the Funding and Advice Fair held in Omagh Leisure Centre on 13th February 2024 and had a lot of enquiries from groups.

Food Safety course

We ran the Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene course in St Patrick's GAA Tattyreagh in March which was attended by 13 people from groups across the district.

Members Meeting

At the tail end of this financial year, we were organising a Network Meeting in April with 3 speakers – The National Lottery; The Fundraising Regulator - Code of Fundraising Practice and FODC Sustainable Food Programme.

Financial Information

2023/24 was a successful year for Omagh Forum for Rural Associations as we managed to have a surplus.

Principal Funding Sources

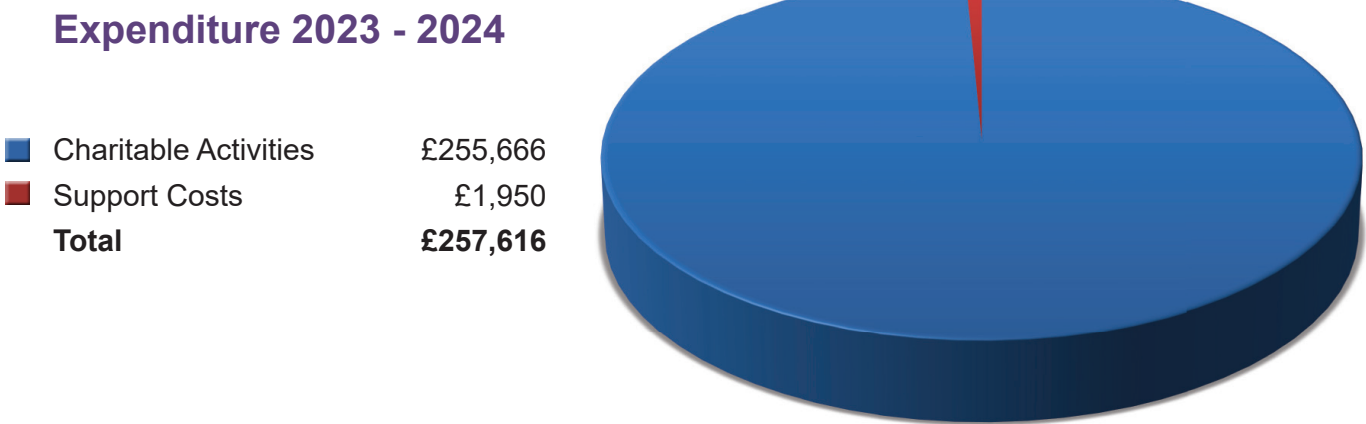
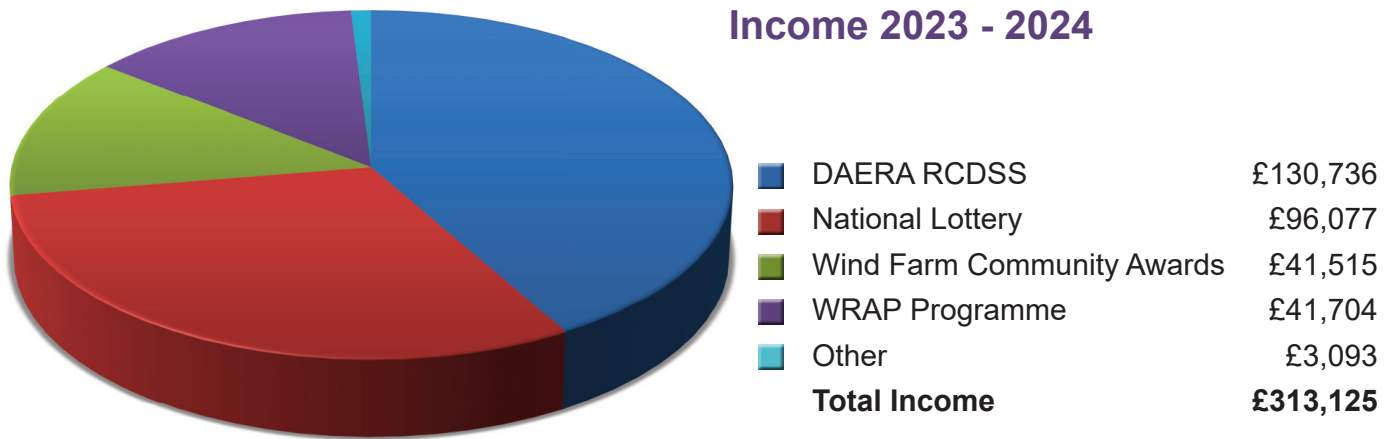
The main source of funds is from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), which equates to 42% of the overall income for the year with the lottery at almost 31% for Omagh Healthy living Network. The charity has always sought and secured funding from other sources to assist with ongoing expenditure by way of management of two community wind farm grant schemes, tendering opportunities, management fees of other projects and sponsorship to name but a few.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risk to the organisation, namely the availability of funding from third parties, and agreed that the unrestricted funds not committed should be 6 months of the charity's annual expenditure. The reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the receiving and spending of income and to cover unplanned emergency spending.

Income 2023 -24

DARD RCDSS	£130,736
National Lottery	96,077
Wind Farm community awards	£41,515
WRAP programme	£41,704
Other	£3,093
Total Income	£313,125



EXPENDITURE

Charitable activities	£255,666
Support costs	£1,950
Total expenditure	£257,616

This generated net income and net movement in funds of £58,631. The majority of this is restricted as advance payment for programmes and £16,114 is unrestricted. At the yearend we had net assets of £198,591.

Acknowledgements & Thanks

We wish to express our thanks to our Funders during the period April 2023 – March 2024.

Core funding:

- The Rural Community Development Support Service is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) through the Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme.

With project funding coming through

- The National Lottery Community Fund – for Omagh Healthy Living Network
- The Department for Communities via a Fermanagh & Omagh District Council tender consortium bid led by Fermanagh Rural Community Network - WRAP
- ESB International
- Greencoat
- Department of Foreign Affairs (in a previous year)

Last but not least

Thank you to our hosts tonight – Ecclesville LOL 34.

Charity Commission Helper Group

Rural Micro Capital Grants Scheme

Community Development

Good Relations

Omagh Healthy Living Network

Wind Farm Community Grants

Rural Community Development Support Service



Omagh Forum for Rural Associations



**Omagh Community House
2 Drumragh Avenue
Omagh
BT78 1DP**

Tel: 028 82 251559

Email: info@omaghforum.org

Website: www.omaghforum.org

 **Twitter: [@ofrarsn](https://twitter.com/ofrarsn)**



Company Limited by guarantee – NI42973

Registered as a Charity by the Charity Commission for NI – NIC100098



Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100098

Annual return

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 65 of the 2008 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Chartered Accountants Ireland, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my 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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rachel Donnell

Rachel Donnell
Independent Examiner

Unit B15
Omagh Enterprise Centre
Great Northern Road
OMAGH
Co Tyrone
BT78 5LU

29th October 2024

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100098

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI042973
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 100098

**Omagh Forum for Rural Associations
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2023**

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

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Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Charity registration number 100098

Company registration number NI042973

Principal office and registered office Omagh Community House
2 Drumragh Avenue
Omagh
BT78 1DP
Tyrone

The trustees

Ann Doherty
Dympna McCann
George Kerr
Monica Coyle
Briege Kelly
Cathal McEnhill
Gerry McCaffrey
Conor Keys
Audrey Adams
Ann McSorley
Louise Leonard
Kenny Fisher

Company secretary Ann Doherty

Independent examiner Rachel Walls
Unit B15
Omagh Enterprise Centre
Great Northern Road
OMAGH
Co Tyrone
BT78 5LU

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

i) Governing document

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations is a Company Limited by guarantee, incorporated on 16th April 2002, and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 30th May 2014. The governing document of the charity is a Memorandum & Articles of Association which sets out the objects and powers of the charitable company.

ii) Recruitment and appointment of management committee

The directors of the company are also trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the management committee is elected for a year and must have between five and fifteen directors. We seek to have geographical representation across the rural Omagh district.

iii) Trustees induction and training

An induction pack is available for new directors who are taken through the induction pack prior to him/her joining the management committee. Many new directors will already be aware of the work of the organisation through the regular mail outs to member groups' and one to one support to groups.

iv) Risk management

The management committee take risk management seriously and have in place a series of policies and procedures about how the organisation should be managed. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers and visitors.

v) Organisational structure

Omagh Forum has a management committee of twelve trustees, eleven of whom are directors of the company and one is an advisor with no voting rights. The committee meet monthly with the exception of August and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity.

Day to day responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Network Managers who operate on a job share basis to fill the one role, with a Rural Development Officer and an administrator supporting this work. The Network Managers have responsibility for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that key targets are met particularly in relation to the operational plan for services being delivered for the main funder, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

The company's objective and principal activity is to provide development support to rural community groups in the Fermanagh and Omagh district. They do this by:

- a) improving the efficiency of the administration of charities in rural Omagh and Fermanagh in direct pursuance of their objects, in particular by the provision of advice, management and technical support, training facilities and services to charitable organisations within rural Omagh and Fermanagh;
- b) promoting the benefit of people living in socially and economically disadvantaged areas of rural Omagh and Fermanagh by developing their capacity and skills in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society; and
- c) advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the trustees may decide in accordance with the law of charity in Northern Ireland.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance

This report covers the year 1st April 2022 until the 31st March 2023.

Omagh Forum continued to deliver the South West Rural Community Development Service, this year being the fourth year of working with community and voluntary organisations in the rural areas of Fermanagh and Omagh. This is the core work of Omagh Forum, funded by DAERA - the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, through the TRPSI Programme (Tackling Rural Poverty and Isolation). We also manage the RMCG, Rural Micro Capital Grants Programme, as well as MMC, Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas. Having this core work enables us to deliver other smaller scales programmes such as Hunters Hill and Slieve Divena Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds and to develop new initiatives, which we did this year with Omagh Healthy Living Network. This year saw a hybrid approach to staff working from home and the office and a return to face to face meetings with the option for zoom also. In most cases Board meetings took place as both zoom and face to face.

South West Rural Community Development Service

Omagh Forum staff continue to help groups with various capacity building needs under the themes of Community Planning; Isolated Rural People; Sustainability for Rural Villages and MMC - Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas. This takes the form mainly of one to one meetings with groups in their premises or the office in Omagh or the Hub in Fermanagh House. We also talk by phone or over zoom. The most common support is:

Governance issues such as the role of officers on a committee; changes to governing documents; changes to organisational structure such as changing from an Unincorporated Association to a Co Ltd by Guarantee; succession planning for Officers Charity Commission - helping groups to submit an Expression of Intent; Registering with Charity Commission; Annual Reporting; Reporting a Serious Incident Funding - over the year we provided ten funding ebulletins packed with information on grants and other useful support; we can't complete an application form for a group, but we have helped many to talk through an application; identify a funder and review applications Info provision - we issue ebulletins approx. once a fortnight to 1000+ recipients who are group members or organisations working in the c/v sector. We also regularly post on social media Poverty - this year in particular we saw the challenges groups faced with cost of living increases and reductions in funding meaning groups had to dip into reserves and some even decided to wind up their organisations. We encourage groups to link into the Fermanagh and Omagh Community Plan and staff are represented on the Fermanagh and Omagh CVS Forum. Group activity - We help groups consider how they might diversify their activities and meet the needs of the community they serve. Omagh Forum staff met the new Director of Rural Affairs from DAERA in Greenmount Agricultural College on 28th Feb 2023 with the other Rural Support Networks. Teresa O'Neill was new to the work of the RSN's and to community development and was impressed with what we do.

Rural Micro Capital Grants Programme

The closing date for claims for the 2022 scheme was 31st March 2022 and we received a total of 123 claims on time. All but two were paid by 31st May which was very good. Staff met with DAERA personnel in May to give feedback on the process and make suggestions for improvement for next year. This year's scheme opened on 6th September 2022 and the deadline for receipt of applications was extended until 14th October due to IT issues. A total of 193 applications were received with Total Project Costs amounting to £320,783 and the Letter of Offer value was £240,880. This is a 50% increase on last year and shows the need for ongoing support. Letter of Offer workshops took place the week beginning mid December. The scheme highlights where weaknesses exist in terms of governance and allows us the opportunity to help groups with issues such as constitutions; accounts; deeds and so on.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

MMC, Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas

Tiernach arranged a series of targeted One to One Governance workshops. These took place in

- Blacksessiagh Hall
- The Market House Hall, Maguiresbridge
- Tievmore Pipe Band
- Dernashesk LOL

All were very well attended.

Specific RMCG workshops took place in Omagh Orange Hall on 21st Sept and Enniskillen Orange Hall on 22nd Sept. This resulted in a significant increase in the number of RMCG applications from the MMC/PUL community, a total of 81 applications, 17 of which were first time applicants.

Hunters Hill and Slieve Divena Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds

Slieve Divena opened for applications on Monday 30 May 2022 and closed on Friday 17 June. The applications were assessed on Monday 4 July with 13 successful groups. Claims were to be submitted by 30th November. Hunters Hill closed on Monday 4th July and there were 14 successful groups. Claims were to be submitted by 31st January 2023.

Omagh Healthy Living Network

We made an application to The National Lottery Community Fund in Feb 2022 and met with others to help develop the concept while awaiting a reply. This included various staff from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, the WHSCT and the Healthy Living Centre Alliance as well as a GP in the South West Federation. We received the great news of a successful application in December 2022. The inaugural meeting of the steering group took place on 1st March 2023 with representation from FODC and WHSCT as well as Omagh Forum directors. Advertising for staff began late March with the Co-Ordinator being the first of four posts to be filled. Transform your Trolley was delivered in Eskra Community Centre October - November 2022 - in association with SafeFood and the Healthy Living Centre Alliance. Participants gave very good feedback about the course. Omagh Forum participated in the Smoking Cessation Programme over the month of March 2023 with stands in various outlets such as Supervalu, Omagh; Omagh Leisure Centre Health Promotion event and Healey Park, Omagh. We engaged with approximately 300 people and our target was 50. We submitted a tender to the FODC Winter Wellness programme with the Oak Healthy Living Centre in Lisnaskea as a partner. The aim was to deliver a series of wellbeing programmes over the District but we were unsuccessful in this. A series of Well Being sessions was developed for those in Omagh Community House and included aromatherapy massage and stress management, and was delivered by Fiona Curran. A stress management programme also took place in Cashel Community Centre in November 2022. Staff were involved in the development of the Integrated Care System (ICS) and Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPB's).

COVID Test Kits

We continued to supply COVID Lateral Flow Test kits in the foyer of Omagh Community House. A total of 4,710 packs (7 kits in each pack) were distributed until the end of April 2022. This service started on 14th Dec with Drop in on Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-2pm in the foyer, Omagh Community House and next day collection also available 9am - 4pm, Monday - Friday. We continued to supply vulnerable groups until Winter 2022. This was administered on behalf of the Department of Health.

Dementia Bus

We helped organise the Dementia Bus to come to Omagh Library on 20th September which had full attendance.

Members Meeting

Took place on 13th April 2022 via zoom. Topics included Carbon Literacy, Peace Plus and Mental Health.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Omagh Place Shaping

FODC and FOCF employed consultants to look at what Omagh Town Centre might look like in the future, we participated in meetings which began in April 2023.

Other networking

Omagh Forum took the July Board of Directors meeting to Cashel, Co Fermanagh. Thanks to Louise and Pauline for hosting us. We also visited the busy Belleek Men's Shed where we spoke to group members and saw some of the handiwork they were carrying out. We also travelled south of the border to Kiltyclogher to visit the Heritage Centre. A good practice visit to Garvagh took place in March 2023 where members of the Seskinore Rural Community group were able to meet and view the excellent work carried out by Garvagh People's Forest. This visit was financed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and was open to groups who previously took part in the Sharing Rural Spaces programme

Charity Commission

Mary T Conway sits on the Charity Commission Stakeholder Engagement group which facilitates regular meetings between community, voluntary sector reps and the Deputy Chief Commissioner and Charity Commission Staff. Discussions are detailed and varied and we have been able to bring many messages from local groups to the ear of the Commissioners. Staff attended the Charity Commission event on the Charities Act and new questions on OLAR (online registration) and AMR (annual monitoring return) 27th April 2022.

Awards for All

We were successful with an application to Awards for All in Feb 2021. We spent the last of the funding this financial year with a Managing Sleep workshop in Loughmacrory in June 2022.

Financial review

Principal Funding Sources

The main source of funds for the charity is by way of tender income from DAERA. The charity has always sought and secured funding from other sources to assist with ongoing expenditure by way of local authority grants and pieces of work from the health authority. They currently manage two community wind farm grant schemes with a small management fee and generate additional income through tendered pieces of work and sponsorship as it sees fit.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risk to the charity, namely the availability of funding from third parties, and agreed that the unrestricted funds not committed should be between 3 to 6 months of the charity's annual expenditure. The reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the receiving and spending of income and to cover unplanned emergency spending.

Funding from DAERA is guaranteed until October 2023 and other sources of funding are believed to continue. The trustees therefore conclude that based on this secured funding combined with reserves already held, the accounts should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

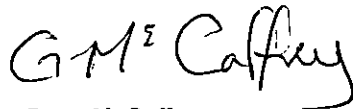
Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 19 June 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Gerry McCaffrey
Trustee

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Year ended 31 March 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my 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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rachel Walls

Rachel Walls
Independent Examiner

Unit B15
Omagh Enterprise Centre
Great Northern Road
OMAGH
Co Tyrone
BT78 5LU

7th November 2023

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2023

		2023	2022		
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Charitable activities		59,942	125,040	184,983	197,747
Investment income	5	1,425	–	1,425	253
Total income		<u>61,367</u>	<u>125,040</u>	<u>186,408</u>	<u>198,000</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	37,790	125,040	162,831	169,267
Total expenditure		<u>37,790</u>	<u>125,040</u>	<u>162,831</u>	<u>169,267</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>23,577</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>23,577</u>	<u>28,733</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		116,383	–	116,383	87,650
Total funds carried forward		<u>139,960</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>139,960</u>	<u>116,383</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	1,868	2,476
Current assets			
Debtors	10	6,826	7,524
Cash at bank and in hand		174,165	133,202
		<u>180,991</u>	<u>140,726</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>10,719</u>	<u>21,554</u>
Net current assets		<u>170,272</u>	<u>119,172</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		172,140	121,648
Accruals and deferred income		<u>32,180</u>	<u>5,265</u>
Net assets		<u>139,960</u>	<u>116,383</u>
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds		<u>139,960</u>	<u>116,383</u>
Total charity funds		<u>139,960</u>	<u>116,383</u>

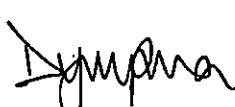
For the year ending 31 March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

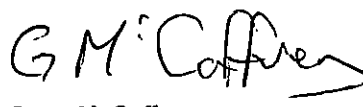
- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 19 June 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Dympha McCann
Trustee



Gerry McCaffrey
Trustee

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

1. General information

The registered charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is Omagh Community House, 2 Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, County Tyrone, BT78 1DP.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Going concern

Funding from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, despite having been approved for a further two years, it isn't guaranteed. However, through other sources of funding and current reserves already held, the trustees conclude that the accounts should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Disclosure exemptions

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. As such, advantage has been taken of the disclosure exemption available under paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102 which allows no cash flow statement to be presented for the company.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT, and is classified under the heading 'Expenditure on charitable activities' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

This includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	- 20% reducing balance
Computers	- 25% straight line
Equipment	- 20% reducing balance

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

4. Limited by guarantee

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	<u>1,425</u>	<u>1,425</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>253</u>

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	37,706	123,180	160,887
Support costs	<u>84</u>	<u>1,860</u>	<u>1,944</u>
	<u>37,790</u>	<u>125,040</u>	<u>162,831</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	25,789	141,701	167,491
Support costs	<u>-</u>	<u>1,776</u>	<u>1,776</u>
	<u>25,789</u>	<u>143,477</u>	<u>169,267</u>

7. Staff costs

The average head count of employees during the year was 4 (2022: 4). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Management and project coordinators	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

8. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

During the year trustees claimed expenses or had their expenses met by the charity totalling £355,(2022: £505).

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	<u>1,937</u>	<u>9,075</u>	<u>9,730</u>	<u>20,742</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2022	1,913	6,815	9,538	18,266
Charge for the year	5	565	38	608
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,918</u>	<u>7,380</u>	<u>9,576</u>	<u>18,874</u>
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2023	<u>19</u>	<u>1,695</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>1,868</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>24</u>	<u>2,260</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>2,476</u>

10. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	5,833	6,664
Other debtors	993	860
	<u>6,826</u>	<u>7,524</u>

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	6,901	18,419
Social security and other taxes	3,818	3,135
	<u>10,719</u>	<u>21,554</u>

12. Related parties

Gerry Mc Caffrey, Kenny Fisher, Breige Kelly, Louise Leonard & Audrey Adams are all deemed related parties as they are trustees of other organisations which cumulatively benefited by £15,400 from the various grants available through Omagh Forum for Rural Associations. No amounts were outstanding at the year end.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100098

Annual report



OMAGH FORUM
FOR RURAL ASSOCIATIONS

Annual Report 2022– 2023

33rd Annual General Meeting



19th October 2023

Hosted by Mountfield Community Association

Mountfield Community Centre



The staff team: L-R Claudine Devenney, Admin Officer, Tiernach Mahon, Rural Development Officer, Aidan Bunting and Mary T Conway, Network Managers.



Directors and staff visit Derry/Londonderry

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations Trustees Annual Report

Period ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report of the charity for the Period ended 31 March 2023.

Registered charity name Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Charity registration number 100098

Company registration number NI042973

Principal office and registered office
Omagh Community House
2 Drumragh Avenue
Omagh
Co Tyrone
BT78 1DP

The trustees

Ann Doherty
Dympna McCann
George Kerr
Monica Coyle
Briege Kelly
Cathal McEnhill
Gerry McCaffrey
Ann McSorley
Audrey Adams
Conor Keys
Louise Leonard
Kenny Fisher

Independent examiner Nial Colhoun

Chairperson's report

I started my report to last year's AGM by referencing the difficulties we had faced during the Covid-19 Pandemic and looked forward to returning to some sort of normality. Little did we realise that we were about face into another crisis period – this time a cost-of-living crisis as many costs spiralled out of control. We are still feeling the effects of these, and many people and families are struggling to maintain even a basic living standard.

This has had a knock-on effect on the work we do, as more people turn to the community and voluntary sector for help and, with much less funding available, our resources are stretched even further.

The ongoing issues around the renewal of the DAERA contract has put our staff under undue pressure – however they continued to deliver a high-quality service to community groups across the district, continually exceeding targets in many areas.

The good news story was the successful application to the National Lottery People and Communities Programme that will fund a new Healthy Living Network for the Omagh area over the next four years. We look forward to developing and delivering that much-needed service in the Omagh district and believe it will achieve its objective in reducing the pressure on the health service and deliver better outcomes for the people in our area.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated and hardworking staff, Network Managers Mary T Conway and Aidan Bunting, Rural Development Officer Tiernach Mahon, and Administrator Claudine Devenney. Aidan retired in April after 16 years dedicated service to Omagh Forum and we wish him a long and healthy retirement. I would also like to thank my fellow board members who give their time freely and to the volunteers who sit on our South West Rural Community Development Service steering committee to ensure the voice of our Fermanagh members is well articulated. And finally thank you to our funders, detailed further in the report, who support the delivery of our work.

I would encourage any rural community in our area to get in contact with us to see how we can offer support. For more information on our work please visit our website www.omaghforum.org or follow us on Facebook or twitter @ofrarsn.



Gerry McCaffrey

Structure, governance and management

i) Governing document

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations is a Company Limited by guarantee, incorporated on 16th April 2002, and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for N Ireland on 30th May 2014. The governing document of the charity is a Memorandum & Articles of Association which sets out the objects and powers of the charitable company.

ii) Recruitment and appointment of management committee

The directors of the company are also trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the management committee is elected for a year and must have between five and fifteen directors. We seek to have geographical representation across the rural Fermanagh and Omagh district.

iii) Trustees' induction and training

An induction pack is available for new directors, and they are taken through this prior to them joining the management committee. Many new directors will already be aware of the work of the organisation through the regular mail outs to member groups' and one to one support to groups.

iv) Risk management

The management committee take risk management seriously and have in place a series of policies and procedures about how the organisation should be managed. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers and visitors.

v) Organisational structure

Omagh Forum has a management committee of twelve trustees, eleven of whom are Directors of the company, and one is an advisor with no voting rights. The committee meet monthly with the exception of August and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity.

Day to day responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Network Managers who operate on a job share basis to fill the one role, with a Rural Development Officer and an administrator supporting this work. The Network Managers have responsibility for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that key targets are met particularly in relation to the operational

plan for services being delivered for the main funder, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Objectives and activities

The company's objective and principal activity is to provide development support to rural community groups in the Fermanagh and Omagh district. They do this by:

a) improving the efficiency of the administration of charities in the rural Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area in direct pursuance of their objects, in particular by the provision of advice, management and technical support, training facilities and services to charitable organisations within rural Fermanagh and Omagh.

b) promoting the benefit of people living in socially and economically disadvantaged areas of rural Fermanagh and Omagh by developing their capacity and skills in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society; and

c) advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the trustees may decide in accordance with the law of charity in Northern Ireland.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

Annual Report 2022-2023

Omagh Forum continued to deliver the South West Rural Community Development Service, this year being the fifth year of working with community and voluntary organisations in the rural areas of Fermanagh and Omagh. This is the core work of Omagh Forum, funded by DAERA – the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, through the TRPSI Programme (Tackling Rural Poverty and Isolation). We also manage the RMCG, Rural Micro Capital Grants Programme, as well as MMC, Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas. Having this core work enables us to deliver other smaller scales programmes such as Hunters Hill and Slieve Divena Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds and to develop new initiatives, which we did this year with Omagh Healthy Living Network.

This year saw a hybrid approach to staff working from home and the office and a return to face to face meetings with the option for zoom also. In most cases Board meetings took place as both zoom and room

South West Rural Community Development Service

Omagh Forum staff continue to help groups with various capacity building needs under the themes of Community Planning; Isolated Rural People; Sustainability for Rural Villages and MMC - Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas.

This takes the form mainly of one to one meetings with groups in their premises or our office in Omagh or the Hub in Fermanagh House. We also talk by phone or over zoom. The most common supports are:

Governance issues such as the role of officers on a committee; changes to governing documents; changes to organisational structure such as changing from an Unincorporated Association to a Co Ltd by Guarantee; succession planning for Officers.

Charity Commission – helping groups to submit an Expression of Intent; Registering with Charity Commission; Annual Reporting; Reporting a Serious Incident

Funding – over the year we provided ten funding ebulletins packed with information on grants and other useful support; we can't complete an

application form for a group, but we have helped many to talk through an application; identify a funder and review applications.

Information provision – we issue ebulletins approx. once a fortnight to 1000+ recipients who are group members or organisations working in the community and voluntary sector. We also regularly post on social media.

Poverty – this year we saw the challenges groups faced with cost-of-living increases and reductions in funding meaning groups had to dip into reserves and some even decided to wind up their organisations.

FODC Community Plan - We encourage groups to link into the Fermanagh and Omagh Community Plan and staff are represented on the Fermanagh and Omagh CVS Forum

Group activity – We help groups consider how they might diversify their activities and meet the needs of the community they serve.

Omagh Forum staff met the new Director of Rural Affairs from DAERA in Greenmount Agricultural College on 28th Feb 2023 with the other Rural Support Networks. Teresa O’Neill was new to the work of the RSN’s and to community development and was impressed with what we do.

Rural Micro Capital Grants Programme

The closing date for claims for the 2022 scheme was 31st March 2022 and we received a total of 123 claims on time. All but two were paid by 31st May which was very good. Staff met with DAERA personnel in May to give feedback on the process and make suggestions for improvement for next year.

This year’s scheme opened on 6th September 2022 and the deadline for receipt of applications was extended until 14th October due to IT issues. A total of 193 applications were received with Total Project Costs amounting to £320,783 and the Letter of Offer value was £240,880. This is a 50% increase on last year and shows the need for ongoing support. Letter of Offer workshops took place the week beginning mid-December. The scheme highlights where weaknesses exist in terms of governance and allows us the opportunity to help groups with issues such as constitutions; accounts; deeds and so on.

MMC, Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas

Tiernach provided community development support to groups from Minority and PUL communities including a series of targeted One to One Governance workshops. These took place in

- Blacksessiagh Hall
- The Market House Hall, Maguiresbridge
- Mountjoy LOL
- Archdale Hall, Ballinamallard

All were very well attended.

Specific RMCG workshops took place in Omagh Orange Hall on 21st Sept and Enniskillen Orange Hall on 22nd Sept. This resulted in a significant increase in the number of RMCG applications from the MMC/PUL community, a total of 81 applications, 17 of which were first time applicants.

Other individual one to one sessions were held with groups in their own premises e.g. Dernashesk LOL, Tubrid Parish Group, Cloughfin LOL.

Hunters Hill and Slieve Divena Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds

- Slieve Divena opened for applications on Monday 30 May 2022 and closed on Friday 17 June. The applications were assessed on Monday 4 July with 13 successful groups. Claims were to be submitted by 30th November.
- Hunters Hill closed on Monday 4th July and there were 14 successful groups. Claims were to be submitted by 31st January 2023

Omagh Healthy Living Network

Following extensive consultation last year about the health needs of local people in the Omagh area we made an application to The National Lottery Community Fund in Feb 2022 and met with others to help develop the concept while awaiting a reply. This included various staff from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, the WHSCT and the Healthy Living Centre Alliance as well as a GP in the South West Federation. We received the great news of a successful application in December 2022. The inaugural meeting of the steering group

took place on 1st March 2023 with representation from FODC and WHSCT as well as Omagh Forum directors. Advertising for staff began late March with the Co-Ordinator being the first of four posts to be filled.

Transform your Trolley was delivered in Eskra Community Centre October – November 2022 – in association with SafeFood and the Healthy Living Centre Alliance. Participants gave very good feedback about the course.

Omagh Forum participated in the Smoking Cessation Programme over the month of March 2023 with stands in various outlets such as Supervalu, Omagh; Omagh Leisure Centre Health Promotion event and Healey Park, Omagh. We engaged with approximately 300 people and our target was 50.



We submitted a tender to the FODC Winter Wellness programme with the Oak Healthy Living Centre in Lisnaskea as a partner. The aim was to deliver a series of wellbeing programmes over the district, but we were unsuccessful in this.

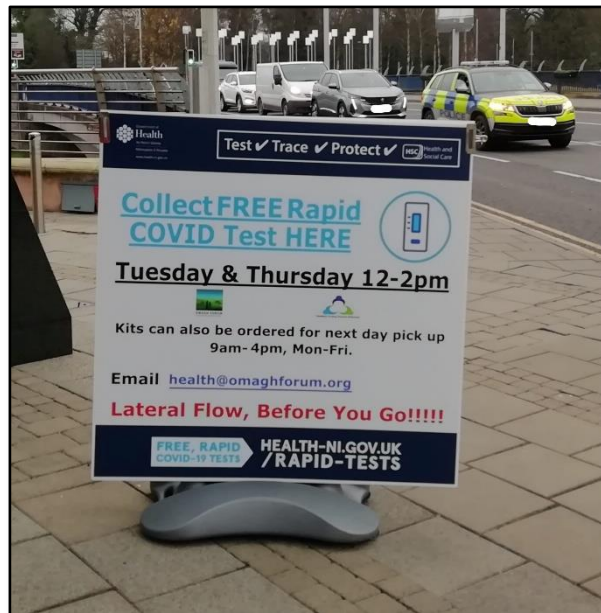
A series of Well Being sessions was developed for those in Omagh Community House and included Aromatherapy massage and stress management.

A stress management programme also took place in Cashel Community Centre in November 2022.

Staff were involved in the development of the Integrated Care System (ICS) and Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPB's).

COVID Test Kits

We continued to supply COVID Lateral Flow Test kits in the foyer of Omagh Community House. A total of 4,710 packs (7 kits in each pack) were distributed until the end of April 2022. This service started on 14th Dec with Drop in on Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-2pm in the foyer, Omagh Community House and next day collection also available 9am – 4pm, Monday – Friday. We continued to supply vulnerable groups until Winter 2022. This was administered on behalf of the Department of Health.



Dementia Bus

We helped organise the Dementia Bus to come to Omagh Library on 20th September which had full attendance.

Members Meeting

Took place on 13th April 2022 via zoom. Topics included Carbon Literacy, Peace Plus and Mental Health

Omagh Place Shaping

FODC and FOCP employed consultants to look at what Omagh Town Centre might look like in the future; we participated in meetings which began in April 2023.

Other networking

Omagh Forum took the July Board of Directors meeting to Cashel, Co Fermanagh. Thanks to Louise Leonard and Pauline Carson for hosting us. We also visited the busy Belleek Men's Shed where we spoke to group members and saw some of the handiwork they were carrying out. We also travelled

South of the border to Kiltyclogher to visit the Heritage Centre. A very informative good practice visit.



Omagh Forum's tour of Fermanagh in Summer 2022 ended in Belleek with a visit to the Belleek Men's Shed and a chance to try out the cot on dry land.



Staff and Directors of Omagh Forum met with members of Kiltyclogher Heritage Centre, Co Leitrim to hear about their great work in the Seán MacDiarmada Exhibition, the Kiltyclogher Community & Holiday Centre and the Village Sensory Garden.

A good practice visit to Garvagh took place in March 2023 where members of the Seskinore Rural Community group were able to meet and view the excellent work carried out by Garvagh People's Forest. This visit was financed

by the Department of Foreign Affairs and was open to groups who previously took part in the Sharing Rural Spaces programme.

Charity Commission

Staff help groups to register an Expression of Intent to register; we help them with the registration process and to complete their Annual Monitoring Return to Charity Commission Northern Ireland, as well as other contact that a group might have such as updating details with the CCNI or reporting a Serious Incident.

Our Network Manager, Mary T Conway, sits on the Charity Commission Stakeholder Engagement group which facilitates regular meetings between community, voluntary sector reps and the Deputy Chief Commissioner and Charity Commission Staff. Discussions are detailed and varied, and we have been able to bring many messages from local groups to the ear of the Commissioners.

Staff attended the Charity Commission event on the Charities Act and new questions on OLAR (online registration) and AMR (annual monitoring return) 27th April 2022.

Awards for All

We were successful with an application to Awards for All in Feb 2021. We spent the last of the funding this financial year with a Managing Sleep workshop in Loughmacrory in June 2022

Financial Information

2022/23 was a successful year for Omagh Forum for Rural Associations as we managed to have a surplus.

Principal Funding Sources

The main source of funds is from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), which equates to 76% of the overall income for the year. The charity has always sought and secured funding from other sources to assist with ongoing expenditure by way of local authority grant, management of two community wind farm grant schemes and other income from hot desking, donations and sponsorship to name but a few.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risk to the organisation, namely the availability of funding from third parties, and agreed that the unrestricted funds not committed should be between 3 to 6 months of the charity's annual expenditure. The reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the receiving and spending of income and to cover unplanned emergency spending.

Insert pie chart please

Income 2022 -23

DARD RCDSS	£142,282
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Wind Farm community awards	£40,701
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Other health programmes	£2,000
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Total Income	£184,983
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EXPENDITURE

Charitable activities	£160,887
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Support costs	£1,944
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Total expenditure	£162,831
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Acknowledgements & Thanks

We wish to express our thanks to our Funders during the period April 2022 – March 2023.

Core funding:

- The Rural Community Development Support Service is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) - Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI).

With project funding coming through

- ESB International
- Greencoat
- Department of Foreign Affairs (in a previous year)

Last but not least

Thank you to our hosts tonight – Mountfield Community Association.

Inside back page

Swirly tree –instead of Health and Well Being add Omagh Healthy Living Network

BACK cover page same as 2018-2019 if you have it but take off Council logo
(purple and white)

Add this logo – same size as DAERA one



Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100098

Annual return

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Year ended 31 March 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my 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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Omagh Forum for Rural Associations *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rachel Walls

Rachel Walls
Independent Examiner

Unit B15
Omagh Enterprise Centre
Great Northern Road
OMAGH
Co Tyrone
BT78 5LU

7th November 2023