

DROMBOUGHIL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)".

Objectives and activities

Purposes and aims

Our charity's purposes are as set out in the objects clause contained in the company's Memorandum of Association:

- to benefit the public through the promotion of the relief of poverty, sickness and the problems associated with ageing, principally in the areas of benefit in the environs of Dromboughil, and
- to maintain and manage, in co-operation with local government, a community resource centre.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

Our aims, objectives and activities are reviewed, monitored and assessed through our ongoing programme of regular committee meetings. The committee ensures adherence to the Charity's Commission's general guidance on public benefit in assessing compliance with stated aims and objectives and in programming future activities.

The focus of our work

Our main objectives are

- the promotion of peace and reconciliation between the communities represented in the area and
- rural regeneration through self-help and self-building programmes.

How our charity activities deliver public benefit

Who use and benefit from our services?

Older people

Older people benefit from attendance at courses and meetings at the community resource centre. Weekly craft courses are well attended by senior citizens. The physical or mental limitations that often accompany ageing make it difficult for some seniors to enjoy certain crafts. The variety of crafts offered at the centre, crocheting, quilting, patch working, embroidery and sundry needlework, ensures there is something which suits everyone. We believe that crafting helps to keep the mind sharp and stimulated and that working with crafts brings people together thereby helping to give the elderly a sense of belonging and enable them to develop friendships.

Other weekly classes include art which we feel can be a therapeutic recreation for the elderly. The creativity classes help the elderly to reduce stress, anxiety and boredom and give them a sense of control assisting to improve self-esteem and confidence. We believe that this all contributes to improving emotional and physical health.

A senior citizen group meets every week and members are provided with refreshments and lunch. They also enjoy outings, age-related talks and participate in physical activity. These regular meetings encourage socialisation and give new opportunities for connecting with others and are, therefore, effective in alleviating loneliness and reducing the risk of social isolation.

DROMBOUGHIL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

The general public

The general public benefit from attendance at courses, functions and gatherings at the community resource centre which promotes community integration. "Variety Crafts", an enterprise which provides an outlet for craft materials and workshops for individuals and groups fills the gap that existed in the local area for those interested in crafts. The art and craft classes provide a means for people to share their culture with others, thereby promoting harmony, understanding, tolerance and co-operation between the different communities. The arts and crafts groups enable people to become involved in community activities that are affordable, close to home, in a neutral environment and appropriate to the backgrounds and aspirations of the participants. We believe that engagement by the public in these groups plays an important role in celebrating and preserving local cultures, traditions and heritage which helps strengthen local identity.

Volunteers

The Charity is very reliant on voluntary help. Volunteers are given the opportunity to pass on their skills. A number of our volunteers are unemployed and benefit on a personal level from gaining new skills such as team work, negotiation, communication and administration – all improving their self-esteem and confidence and better equipping them for employment. We wish to thank our friends for their loyal support and service.

Youth

The local youth benefits from a centre that provides a warm and friendly social meeting place. We find that young people who attend the centre to use the computer facilities tend to get involved in other community activities and voluntary work, for example, helping at social functions. We believe that young people's involvement in voluntary work at the centre helps to relieve boredom, develop new skills, try out new things and have fun. They benefit from the knowledge and skills passed on from senior members and feel that their own talents are appreciated and that they are accepted in the community.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Our main aim for 2024 has been to maintain the growth and increased footfall we enjoyed in 2023 and to ensure the continued promotion and increased profile of the community centre. We have been very fortunate to have secured funding towards the running of our centre, our class programmes and our ongoing community projects from the following sources: Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council, Charles Haywood Foundation, COAST, Awards for All, The Foyle Foundation, Evishagaron & Craiggore Wind Farms, Dungiven Parish Church, Garfield Weston and Children in Need. We are beyond grateful to have received this financial support which has allowed us to continue the amazing work of our charity in the local community. We have continued to grow our numbers throughout all of our programmes with the majority of our classes and groups being fully subscribed. Our community fridge project has gotten excellent feedback from the local community and is providing ongoing support when it is most needed. Our youth club and early years project has grown in numbers and we have enjoyed welcoming lots of new families and children to our centre. We are very pleased with these advancements and the resulting growth which will have a positive long term effect on the financial viability of The Association.

DROMBOUGHIL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Financial review

There has been an decrease in our overall income to £63,669 (2023: £71,162). Total expenditure has increased by £12,070 resulting in a surplus for the year of £1,541 compared to a surplus of £21,104 in the previous year.

Principal Funding Sources

The Association continues to rely principally upon grant funding and donations. Included in the accounts is the sum of £51,700 from grants, a decrease of £1,926 from the previous year.

The association also generates contributions for services, such as courses, classes and workshops, room hire and catering, provided to the local community. This totalled £11,969 in the year (2023: £15,793).

Investment Policy

The charity continues with its policy to endeavour to build the reserves of the Association to facilitate the medium term objective of developing and improving the Association's community resource centre. To further this end, cash funds are held in short-term bank deposits and showed a increase of £9,651 over the year. An amount of £5,119 is held in a building fund account at year end. This will be used to cover general upkeep of the premises.

Reserves policy

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the balance of unrestricted general funds of £17,545 at 31 December 2024 is necessary to allow for fluctuations in levels of income and expenditure, planned commitments which cannot be met by future income alone, the need to spend money in advance of receiving grants and any unforeseen emergencies.

Year end funds include a designated fund reflecting the book value of the building on which grants have been received. The relevant fund is being reduced in line with the building's depreciation and amounted to £225,033 on 31 December 2024.

The trustees consider the reserves retained by the Association as sufficient for the ongoing needs of the company given the current and prospective funding sources and are confident that at this level of reserves, they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 24 July 2003 and registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs and with Charity Commission for NI. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association and is governed by its Articles of Association. Member's liability in the event of the company being wound up is limited to £1.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Alan Miller

John O'Kane

Liam Campbell

Alfred Canning

Kathleen Canning

Ruth Canning

Anne McLaughlin

Robert Buchanan

(Resigned 18 November 2024)

(Resigned 18 November 2024)

DROMBOUGHIL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of Charity Law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association directors are elected at an Annual General Meeting from amongst those persons nominated by the Ordinary Members. The directors have the power at any time to appoint any person to be a director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing directors. Any director so appointed serves only until the next Annual General Meeting at which directors are to be elected and are then eligible for re-election. A retiring director is eligible for re-election.

Following appointment, new trustees are briefed on their legal obligations under the charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

Organisational structure

The board of trustees administers the charity. The board normally meets once per month for ten months of the year.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Dromboughil Community Association for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Risk assessment

The Trustees are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks which the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised through the procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Association. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. These procedures are reviewed periodically to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Signed by:

E955E4AFD04F4BE...
Alfred Canning
Trustee

Signed by:

89C84D5276D64BD...
Kathleen Canning
Trustee

17 September 2025