

Doury Road Development Group Annual Trustees Report



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Introduction

Doury Road Development Group

The Doury Road Development Group (DRDG) was formally established in 2010 to act as an advocate for community change in the Doury Road housing estate in Ballymena.

DRDG have provided a range of services and programmes in the community to develop capacity and confidence at a local level.

The additional benefits include improving community engagement, and addressing the serious issues that continue to have a detrimental impact on social, economic, physical and environmental living conditions of local residents.

The group have made significant improvements to the quality of life of local residents and have progressed with a number of support programmes and initiatives.

Doury Road Development Group is governed by a Constitution that was adopted by the membership on 22/08/11

DRDG was successful in registering with Northern Ireland Charity Commission in May 2014.

Public Benefit Compliance

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission NI's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

The following report reflects the work of Doury Road Development Group during the period of 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Like other communities, our group is still trying to recover from the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. Many groups have found it difficult to regain previous levels of involvement as people have become used to a different way of living.

Therefore, we are grateful for the funding and the faith shown in us by the organisations we work with, particularly the Department for Communities, Mid and East Antrim Council, NI Housing Executive and the Tudor Trust.

Whilst we emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic, we have been able to start to return to the previous level of programmes on offer. We continued the Fairy Good Wood on Saturdays, which pulled in up to 38 youngsters and adults at its height. As we couldn't have an Easter party we offered the alternative of Easter packs, including Spring clean kits with relevant Covid information for the time and biscuits and tea and coffee.

The Ladies' afternoon club enjoyed a variety of activities including ceramics, flower arranging, making birdboxes and planters, jewellery and soap making and also working with Bill in the community allotments.

We held Halloween parties in the allotments and in Fairy Good Wood for young people providing each child with a Halloween gift pack.

Christmas was again an alternative to the annual Christmas party, whereby we supplied 25 cooked Christmas lunches to the elderly and vulnerable at home, with Christmas veg supplied to every home.

With the recent cost of living crisis, we have also delivered 170 warm packs to each house and the 30 children who attended the fairy trail were also provided with a Christmas themed warm pack. We have also joined the Council funded warm spaces programme.

The Tudor Trust grant continues to enable us to employ the two part time workers. Bill is doing a great job with the Allotments and the grounds work on Fairy Good Wood. Jan's role as community development worker is keeping her busy on the organising and running of all the programmes. Both have done a great job, and we thank them both.

Unfortunately, our previous finance and admin assistant did not work out and left due to personal issues within a few weeks and after another recruitment process, again assisted by Supporting Communities NI, we welcomed George into the position. One which he has fitted into really well and we certainly hope funding comes through to continue his good work. On which note, we welcome Paddy Kearney of the DfC who has recently taken over from Louise on our Areas at Risk programme.

We are very grateful, as usual, to Gillian Forrest and all at Supporting Communities for all their guidance and help.

The Building Successful Communities project, funded by the Department for Communities, has helped us achieve many of the improvements such as the new houses built by Triangle housing and the last of the derelict houses being rebuilt. Thanks to Triangle for their engagement and further funding for community projects including the "English as a second language" course. Our latest news is that the long-planned Council community centre, funded by DfC, is now progressing well. We would particularly like to thank Frances Brown, who recently retired from the DfC for her extremely supportive work on the project.

As this report covers a longer period than usual it is unfortunate to have to say that most of us have lost people dear to us over that time. Only very recently, George's Father passed away, a particularly sad time as his Partner lost her Father only two weeks previous. Our own Secretary, Sandra McCahon, Bob's Wife, passed away and previous to that Jan's Mother died in England, while a few months before that again, I lost my own Father. It comes to us all, but it doesn't make it any easier. Our thoughts and condolences to all that have lost someone close.

Given all that, the continued hard work and determination from our staff and all of our Committee is remarkable and the progress of all the projects would not be possible without it.

As always, we would welcome any other residents who wish to join the group as volunteers or to help in any way and look forward to working with any individual or organisation who are willing to assist us as we are only a few residents trying to affect these large organisations.

On behalf of all our committee, I can say that our aim is always to act on behalf of all of the community in order to work towards "Supporting, developing and improving the quality of life for all the residents of Doury Road."

We look forward to being able to continue to do so over the next 12 months.

David McGuckin
Chairperson

DOURY ROAD DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of DOURY ROAD DEVELOPMENT GROUP

I report on the accounts of DOURY ROAD DEVELOPMENT GROUP for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act 2008;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

I have examined your Charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

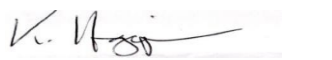
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland; I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



KHA Higgins FCA
Chartered Accountant

9 Knockanully Road
Martinstown
Ballymena
BT43 7LZ

DOURY ROAD DEVELOPMENT GROUP

31 March 2023

	Current Year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current Year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current Year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2022 £
RECEIPTS				
<i>Revenue grants from government and public bodies</i>				
Dept for Communities		26,196	26,196	17,866
Mid & East Antrim Council		2,831	2,831	
<i>Revenue grants and donations from non- public bodies</i>				
Tudor Trust		22,000	2,000	22,000
Allotments	925		925	
Room Hire & Sundry Income	897		897	410
	1,822	51,028	52,850	40,276
PAYMENTS				
Staff Costs & Expenses		33,132	33,132	21,846
Programme & Development Costs		17,004	17,004	14,291
Rates, Electricity, Room Hire	1,399		1,399	1,055
Stationery & Postage		798	798	450
Insurance		1,406	1,406	1,300
Bank fees	131		131	93
Tudor Trust Wellness Fund		391	391	
Telecoms		762	762	601
Professional Fees		350	350	431
Miscellaneous				150
	1,530	53,843	55,373	40,216
Asset / Investment Purchases				
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	292	(2,815)	(2,523)	60

DOURY ROAD DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Statement of Assets & Liabilities - Year End:

31 March 2023

FUNDS RECONCILIATION	Current Year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current Year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current Year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2022 £
Total Funds brought forward 01.04.22	14,172	5,442	19,614	19,554
Surplus / Deficit this Year:	292	(2,815)	(2,523)	60
Total Funds carried forward 31.03.23	14,464	2,626	17,091	19,614
FINANCED BY:				
Bank & Cash Balances	Ulster Bank		17,091	19,614
			17,091	19,614
Other Assets (Unrestricted Fund)			-	-
Liabilities (Unrestricted Fund)			-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS			17,091	19,614

This report was approved by the Trustees on 05 July 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

David McGuckin

Mr David McGuckin
Chairperson

Doury Road Development Group Office bearers were elected as follows:

Chairman - David McGuckin

Proposed by Mark Rainey & seconded by Bob McCahon

Treasurer - Bob McCahon

Proposed by David McGuckin & seconded by Mark Rainey

Secretary - to be recruited considering recent bereavement.

Committee Members:

Mark Rainey

Charity Name: Doury Road Development Group (DRDG)

Address: The Blue Box
1 Wayside Green
Ballymena
BT43 6JZ

Tel: 07879 767878

Charity Number: NIC101700

Signed for as a true and accurate report and on behalf of Doury Road Development Group

Signed: David Mc Guckin

Print Name: DAVID MCGUCKIN

Position: Chairman

Date: 22/11/23