

# Seymourhill & Conway Residents Association

## Trustees Report 2024-2025

### Legal & Administrative Details

Charity Name: Seymourhill & Conway Residents Association

Charity Address: 7-9 Elm Corner, BT17 9PZ

Registered Charity Number: 103759

Trustees:

Mr Stephen Taylor, Mr Gary Stewart, Miss Natalie Graham, Mrs Cathy Stewart, Mr William Smith, Miss Jayne Huddleston, Mr Graeme Moore, Mrs Julieann Jackson, Mr Clifford McVeigh

### Structure, Governance & Management

Seymourhill & Conway Residents Association was registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in 2016. The committee is comprised of residents from the local community, elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The committee consists of the following roles: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and committee members.

The trustees are committed to adhering to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit.

### Aims & Objectives

The Association was established to improve the quality of life for residents of the Seymourhill estate. We organise a range of activities and events, provide signposting services, and lobby for improvements in partnership with agencies including the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP), Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Education Authority (EA), Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Transport NI, and others.

We operate two Housing Executive community lets: one serves as our community office, while the other is utilised for daily advice surgeries, including Citizens Advice.

### Achievements and Performance

Over the past year, significant progress has been made towards securing a new community hub. A comprehensive feasibility study has demonstrated the community's need for this facility, and strategic planning has been completed. Thanks to a generous

gift of land from Choice Housing and planning permission granted by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, the project is moving forward.

Our recently constructed Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) pitch continues to thrive, hosting cross-community football tournaments enjoyed by children of all ages. Health and wellbeing programmes for older users have seen increased participation, particularly in men's walking football. We have recently signed a new licence on our MUGA from LCCC which will see us take control of all bookings and the day to day running of it for the next 5 years. Our walking club has also grown, with members enjoying excursions to various forest parks across Northern Ireland.

Currently, we have approximately 90 members ranging from young children to adults. Weekly local walks have attracted new volunteers, further strengthening our community.

Our Shedders Club continues to flourish, with daily use dedicated to delivering good relations programmes. These initiatives include active collaboration with the local primary school, and to date, around 250 young people have engaged with our elderly group on a variety of projects, fostering intergenerational understanding and inclusion across men, women, and youth. Recently, we have further strengthened this partnership by purchasing a new poly tunnel for the school, allowing us to expand our good relations work. Additionally, over 50 members routinely take part in gardening, cooking, and healthy eating programmes, with all freshly grown produce shared amongst the wider community.

Our offices are open four days a week, offering Citizens Advice, weekly advice surgeries, and housing clinics. Additionally, our out-of-hours social media page provides residents with access to emergency advice.

The Association proudly facilitates a range of thriving community groups, including the Women's Group, Men's Shed, and Youth Club, each of which operates continuously throughout the year and serves as a cornerstone for social engagement within Seymourhill. These groups provide invaluable opportunities for personal development, social interaction, and the fostering of community spirit among residents of all ages. Their ongoing activities contribute significantly to the wellbeing and cohesion of our local community.

In addition to our regular programming, we host seasonal festivals that have become highly anticipated fixtures in the community calendar. Our recent Christmas Festival drew an impressive attendance of approximately 400 residents. The event was thoughtfully organised to ensure inclusivity and support for all: children were delighted with complimentary selection boxes, while elderly residents living alone received a complimentary Christmas dinner, delivered directly to their homes on Christmas Day, ensuring no one felt isolated during the festive period.

Similarly, our Summer Festival proved to be a resounding success, welcoming over 500 attendees and providing a vibrant setting for families to come together and celebrate. These festivals not only offer entertainment and enjoyment but also play a vital role in strengthening community bonds and promoting a sense of belonging across Seymourhill.

Through our commitment to delivering high-quality events and maintaining well-attended groups, the Association continues to enhance the quality of life for residents and foster a welcoming and supportive environment for all.

As we approach the new year, we remain hopeful and determined to continue collaborating with agencies to further enhance the wellbeing of our community and provide essential resources. We also remain committed to advocating for our much-needed Community Hub, which will be an invaluable asset for Seymourhill.

### **Financial Review**

The trustees have implemented robust financial procedures governing the income and expenditure of the Association. The principal expenditures were related to programming costs for community projects and events, as well as overheads for our facilities. Our primary sources of income were grants from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all volunteers and funders whose support has been instrumental throughout the year. We look forward to continuing our partnership in 2026.