

Annual Reporting Information

Charity Name: Mid Waterside Residents Association (MWRA) Charity no **106201**

Reporting Period: Most recent financial year (ending 2025)

Charity Purpose: Community development, environmental improvement, and public benefit

1. Public Benefit Statement

The Mid Waterside Residents Association exists to improve the quality of life for residents living in the Mid Waterside area, including Benvardeen, Primrose Street, Dervock Place, and Upper and Lower Violet Street, an area the charity has adopted through Live Here Love Here. The charity operates for the public benefit by improving shared environments, fostering community cohesion, and encouraging civic pride and responsibility. Our activities directly benefit residents by transforming neglected back alleyways into clean, safe, welcoming, and environmentally sustainable shared spaces. These improvements reduce antisocial behaviour such as fly-tipping and littering, increase safety, and promote positive community use of previously underutilised areas.

The charity also delivers wider social benefits by reducing isolation, particularly among older residents, encouraging intergenerational participation, and supporting cross-community and culturally inclusive engagement.

2. What the Charity Does

MWRA is a resident-led voluntary organisation that meets monthly as a committee, with meetings open to all members of the local community. The charity works collaboratively with residents, statutory bodies, and voluntary organisations to improve the local environment and service provision.

Key areas of activity include:

Environmental clean-ups, street and alleyway clearance

Community-led planting and biodiversity projects

Public art and mural projects

Community workshops and engagement events

Fundraising and responsible management of public and donated funds

3. Main Activities During the Reporting Period

During the reporting year, the charity focused on the Alleyways in Bloom project and associated community improvement initiatives.

Environmental Improvements

Completion of major site clearance works in Dervock Place and surrounding streets using skips and machinery

Installation preparation for planters, trees, and foundations for future greening works

Purchase of a power cleaner to support ongoing maintenance

Securing ten donated water butts for sustainable water use

Community Greening & Biodiversity

Delivery of planting workshops, including window box projects distributed across streets

Planting of small urban garden plots within alleyways to encourage biodiversity

Planning for further bulb planting and tree installation in Phase 2

Public Art & Place-Making

Completion of a competitive tender process and commissioning of an artist for a community-designed mural

Securing wall usage permissions and progressing site preparation

Community Engagement

Ongoing community-led alleyway cleaning initiatives

Study visit to Belfast Alleyways Group to inform best practice

Regular communication through meetings and social media

Planning for door-to-door engagement to increase volunteer participation

Infrastructure & Safety

Installation of alleyway lighting (10 lights) improving safety and accessibility

Environmental assessments carried out with specialist input, with signage planned to encourage positive use of space

Partnership with council on lifting and cleaning

4. Achievements and Impact

The charity has:

Transformed neglected alleyways into safer, cleaner, and more attractive shared spaces

Increased resident participation and ownership of shared environments

Reduced incidents of fly-tipping and antisocial behaviour

Encouraged pride in place and stronger neighbour relationships

Delivered inclusive activities involving residents of different ages, backgrounds, and nationalities

Supported intergenerational projects with local schools and older people's centres

Resident feedback during the year has been overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating clear community benefit.

5. Governance and Management

The charity is governed by a voluntary committee of trustees and residents.

Good governance is supported through:

Regular committee meetings

Clear record keeping of decisions, finances, and activities

Monitoring of expenditure against approved budgets

Preparation of annual accounts with professional support

Planning for Annual General Meetings and trustee recruitment

6. Financial Oversight and Resources

Funding during the reporting period came from:

Community Fundraising activities

Grants and donations

Funds were used responsibly for environmental works, equipment, workshops, public art, and community engagement activities. Financial records are maintained, and reports are prepared for funders and the Charity Commission as required.

7. Plans for the Coming Year

Planned activities include:

Completion of Phase 2 planting and tree installation across all alleyways

Continued mural development and signage installation

Expansion of community workshops and volunteer engagement

Ongoing maintenance of alleyways using project-owned equipment

Strengthening governance through recruitment of new members