

DOWNPATRICK COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

The trustees of Downpatrick Community Collective are pleased to submit their annual report and accounts for the period 1st April 2022 to March 31st 2023.

Charity Status

Downpatrick Community Collective was awarded Registered Charity Status by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 28th August 2018 – Registered Number **NIC 107063**.

Executive Committee (from 1st April 2022– 31st March 2023) elected AGM 8th February 2023

Chairperson:	Dan McEvoy
Treasurer:	Cadogan Enright
Vice Chair:	Macartan Digney
Secretary:	Susan Casement
Ass Secretary:	Donna M Gill
Events:	Deborah Finlay
Health & Safety:	Jeff Watt
Ass Events:	Liam Quinn

DCC Trustees from 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

Dan McEvoy
Macartan Digney
Peter Smyth
Lilian Horrox

Group Membership

As of the 31st March 2023 our DCC membership consists of the following groups:

Bridge Street and Mount Crescent Residents Association (BS&MCRA)

Knocknashinna Residents Association (KRA)

Meadowlands Community Association (MCA)

Model Farm Community Association (MFCA)

Gallaun Residents Association (GRA)

Rathkeltair Community Association (RCA)

Vianstown Heights Residents Association (VHRA)

Ballyalton Community Association (BCA)

Hunters Mill Community Association (HMCA)

Thomas Russell Park Group (TRPG)

Associate Members:

Downpatrick Men's Club (DMC)

DOWNPATRICK COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Membership of Forums

DCC continue to meet our main aims and objectives through our representation on the following key forums that operate within the Downpatrick DEA:

Downpatrick District Electoral Area Forum
Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
Downpatrick Housing Community Network
Downpatrick Town Committee

In addition to the above local forums our members continue to be involved in various community planning activities, youth activities and other local initiatives that help to improve the residential environment including Neighbourhood Watch network.

Year Ending March 2023

The past 12 months (like the previous year) again proved challenging due to the impact from the global pandemic - Coronavirus. Downpatrick Community Collective's calendar of events was adapted accordingly to ensure compliance with appropriate guidance and legislation. DCC were still in a position to deliver in part our regular events and continue our work as one of the main community entities within the greater Downpatrick town area.

Communication

Downpatrick Community Collective were able to host "in person" member meetings during the period of this report but also continued with our online platforms such as Zoom, Teams & Skype and internally our reliance on social media platforms such as WhatsApp & Facebook private group pages was high.

Partnership Working

Partnership working continued and the Collective continued to engage with NM&D District Council, PSNI, NIHE, PCSP, DfC (NH), on a range of issues that impacted on our member groups and their respective community areas. These included addressing antisocial behaviour (ASB) related incidents and assisting with activities related to the bigger statutory body lead Coronavirus response.

Annual events

During this reporting period DCC did deliver our main annual public community events including:

Annual BBQ beach event 21st August 2022
Culture Night 23rd September 2022
Halloween Festival 31st October 2022
Downpatrick Christmas Light Switch On event – 4th December 2022
Mobile Santa Event 5th December to 9th December 2022

DOWNPATRICK COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

DCC Membership

No new groups joined the Collective membership during the period of this report.

Main Achievements Projects

Despite the continuing restrictions placed on society as a result of the global pandemic, the Collective continued to deliver against our key aims and objectives, in addition to the annual events detailed above DCC completed:

DCC Executive meetings x4

DCC Events Sub Committee meetings x 8

Other meetings x23 (DEA, Downpatrick NHR, NIHE HCN, Markets, Downpatrick Town Committee)

Volunteers engaged x30

DCC continue with our interest in Bees and during the period of this report relocated our hive to a new location and are now members of the Ballyalton Bee group. Our hive survived during the 22-23 season and we hope to have some products during the 23/24 season.

Training

DCC members participated in three training events during the period of this report:

First Aid - May 2022

Financial Assistance – Dec 2022

Events Management – Feb 2023

Artisan Market – Downpatrick & Warrenpoint

We agreed a 5th Service Level Agreement contract with NM&D District Council for a period of one year, ending March 31st 2023.

Artisan Markets x 33 (Downpatrick x11, Warrenpoint x11 & Newry x11)

Social Enterprise – Celtair Lodge

No progress was achieved during this reporting period. However, it still remains an objective of DCC to pursue our social enterprise proposal and where possible to assist in the regeneration of Downpatrick Town Centre through the creation of new jobs and through the partnership's work to increase tourism in the area which in turn will generate a much needed funding stream to local businesses throughout the local DEA – our proposal will benefit the whole of our DEA.

DOWNPATRICK COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Financial Review

Financial performance in the year end to March 31st 2023 has been consistent with previous years and despite the impact from the pandemic it has been in line with what trustees had forecast and expected. The year end bank account showed a balance of £12,251 compared to £16,209 from the previous year. Detailed accounts can be found further below in this report.

Accounts show income of £53,500 and expenditure of £55,458 i.e. deficit of £1,958 (2022 deficit £4,480).

Aims and Objectives:

The Collective was formed in August 2012, when a group of community representatives came together to try and collectively reduce the continuing rise in the incidents of recorded Anti-Social Behaviour associated with the traditional Halloween bonfire period. Whilst we still strive to reduce anti-social behaviour, the Collective continues to develop.

Our main aims and objectives are:

1. The advancement of community development for the public benefit within the Downpatrick District Electoral Area (DEA), in particular the promotion of the community and voluntary sector for the benefit of the public by:
 - (i) Supporting and developing initiatives and projects that strengthen the community and voluntary sector in charitable activity and seek to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of the area of benefit including the promotion and development of Social Enterprise schemes.
 - (ii) Organising or assisting in organising activities & events to promote health and well-being for residents in the area of benefit.
 - (iii) Providing support services, information, education and training.
 - (iv) Providing and maintaining a forum where members can come together to find mutual support, exchange views, share common issues and information, create a collective voice.
2. To promote good community relations, religious and racial harmony, equality and diversity through engagement with local communities and working in partnership with recognised private and statutory bodies.

DOWNPATRICK COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Our current Constitution (8th February 2023) records in more detail our many other aims and objectives. **A copy of the current constitution is available upon request.**

Transactions with related parties

During the year the Collective transacted with the chairman and a number of trustees for work undertaken in the stewarding of events, running the Artisan Market and the supply of services for collective public events, on an arm's length basis.

Thanks

As chairperson, I would like to acknowledge and record my thanks to every committee member within the Collective and in particular the officers of the committee. It is only through the dedication, commitment and willingness (on a voluntary basis) of members to get involved that the Collective continues to grow as a prominent community organisation within the Downpatrick and wider area.

I would like to acknowledge & record the Collective's thanks to the assistance offered through the CDRCN

Dan McEvoy

Dan McEvoy
Chairperson
Downpatrick Community Collective

