

DOWNPATRICK COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The trustees of Downpatrick Community Collective are pleased to submit their annual report and accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to March 31st 2024.

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 2023– 31st March 2024) elected AGM 8th February 2024

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

Conor Holland co-opted onto DCC Executive 20th March 24 (approved through DCC Exec whatsApp).

DCC Trustees from 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

Dan McEvoy
Macartan Digney
Peter Smyth
Lilian Horrox

Group Membership

As of the 31st March 2024 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

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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 31st March 2024

Downpatrick Community Collective's delivered a full calendar of events throughout this reporting period having due regard to current guidance and legislation. DCC delivered all their regular events with the weather & funding being the two key factors that could impact. As ever DCC were delighted to continue their 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.

DOWNPATRICK COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Annual events

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

Annual BBQ beach event 20th August 2023

Culture Night 22nd September 2023

Halloween Festival 31st October 2023

Downpatrick Christmas Light Switch On event – 3rd December 2023 (enhanced by Council through additional DfC funding awarded to address the devastation caused by flooding at the end of Oct/Nov 23).

Mobile Santa Event 4th December to 8th December 2023

DCC Membership

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

Main Achievements Projects

The Collective continued to deliver against our key aims and objectives, in addition to the annual events detailed above the DCC completed:

DCC Executive meetings x4

DCC Events Sub Committee meetings x 1 (other business confirmed through Whatsapp messages)

Other meetings 18 (DEA, Dpk NHR, NIHE HCN, Markets, Downpatrick Town Committee, living high streets & Bees)

Volunteers engaged x30

DCC continue with our interest in Bees through the Ballyalton Bee group. Our hive survived during the 23-24 season and we hope to have some products during the 24/25 season.

Training

No formal training sessions

Artisan Market – Downpatrick & Warrenpoint

We agreed a 6th Service Level Agreement (SLA) contract with NM&D Council for a period of one year, ending March 31st 2024. This SLA also included the delivery of Newcastle Artisan Market. 44 Artisan Markets were hosted in total (Downpatrick x11, Warrenpoint x11 & Newry x11 & Newcastle x11).

DOWNPATRICK COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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.

Financial Review

Financial performance in the year end to March 31st 2024 has been consistent with previous years and despite the impact from the pandemic it has more or less been in line with what trustee's had forecast and expected. However the devastating flooding that occurred in Oct/Nov 23 resulted in increased funding to DCC. The year end bank account showed a balance of £20581.00 compared to £12251.00 from the previous year. Detailed accounts can be found further below in this report.

Flooding

DCC assets were impacted directly by the devastating flooding that occurred on the evening of our annual Halloween event (material stored within the Grove shopping centre and subsequently damaged through the flooding) – DCC insurance claim submitted for losses suffered and an award was made in November 2023.

Income

Receipts confirm an income of £88,262.00.

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.

DOWNPATRICK COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

- (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.

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.

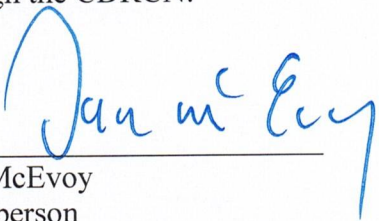
Transactions with related parties

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.

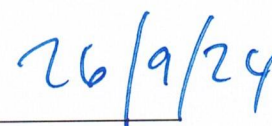
Thanks

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
Chairperson
Downpatrick Community Collective



Date