

**Our Social Space Ltd**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)**  
**Year ended 30 September 2023**

---

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2023.

**Reference and administration details**

**Registered charity name** Our Social Space Ltd

**Charity registration number** NIC108664

**Company registration number** NI655540

**Principal office and registered Office** 74 Sunnyside Street  
Belfast  
BT7 3EY

**The Trustees** Mr Seamus Young  
Dr Richard Turner  
Mr Philip Whyte  
Dr James Gallagher

**Company secretary** Carrie Montgomery

**Independent Examiner** Mickey Ghanni  
24 Ayrshire Lodge  
Lisburn  
BT28 2YZ

**Bankers** Santander  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L30 4GB

**Our Social Space Ltd**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) (*continued*)**  
**Year ended 30 September 2023**

---

### **Structure, Governance & Management**

Our Social Space Ltd is a company limited by guarantee with charity status. It was incorporated on 7 September 2018. It has been registered as a charity with the Charities Commission Northern Ireland since 22 February 2022.

The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 29 January 2019 (amended). In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

### **Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Articles of Association the number of trustees shall not be less than three appointed by the board. The initial term of office will be two terms of three years. Upon satisfactory completion of two terms Trustees are eligible for further terms at the Board's request. The trustees of the company have a mix of skills. In the event of particular skills being lost due to retirement or resignation, suitable individuals are approached to offer themselves for appointment as trustees.

### **Trustee induction and training**

Most new trustees are already familiar with the work of the charity. New trustees are encouraged to attend suitable training courses to familiarise themselves with both the work of the charity and their responsibilities as directors.

### **Risk Management**

The trustees have carried out a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and where appropriate have put in place systems and controls to mitigate the effects of those risks.

### **Key management**

During the year in review the day to day running of Our Social Space Ltd was overseen by the CEO reporting to the Board of Trustees.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **Why are we here?**

To create space for social connections within local communities, with a vision that no one feels lonely or socially isolated.

We are a group of local residents who value: strong communities creating a sense of belonging; passion and drive to inspire each other; accountability to do what we say we'll do; communication and building trust and; environmentalism.

#### **The Charity's objects ("Objects") are to:**

Promote the benefit of residents of the Ballynaveigh/Ormeau Area without discrimination, in an effort to provide (or assist in providing) facilities in the interests of social welfare, for health, recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions and quality of life for the entire community to help in supporting those most socially vulnerable within our community.

**Our Social Space Ltd**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) (continued)**  
**Year ended 30 September 2023**

---

## **Achievements and performance**

### **The Flicks Hut**

In November 2019 we were awarded a grant from Film Hub NI as part of the BFI Film Audience Network to support development of a local community cinema. The project delivered a programme of five film screenings and facilitated post-screening debates addressing social issues affecting men during this initial pilot phase (2020-2021).

In March 2023, The Flicks Hut was hosted a screening of *Happening* in partnership with Informing Choices NI who co-facilitated a post-screening debate discussing the issues raised from "Happening" marking sexual health awareness week.

### **Socially Active Communities**

Our Social Active Communities project has continued throughout 2022/23 providing opportunities for social connections via a programme of six social dance classes across three evenings per week. In 2021/22 this project was developed through an award of a grant from Halifax Foundation NI and has continued through donations, including a social dance event fundraiser organised by beneficiaries.

Engagement and retention rates were very good with 81% of participants reporting attending classes regularly, with 74% still attending at time of completing the reporting.

When asked if/how participation in classes benefited health, 84% affirmed classes had experienced benefits to their mental health, 77% their social health e.g. met new people/sense of belonging/part of a community and 74% their physical health.

Beneficiaries have reported: *"This new life of social dancing with these groups of wonderful people has been totally life changing for me. My physical and mental health has improved 10 fold. My confidence has grown and I have a whole new circle of wonderful supportive friends. I now have a whole new outlook on life."*

and explained that *"The tutors and organisers have been fantastic in an effort to reduce barriers for all. They take into account people's personal circumstances and identify how they help to reduce any personal barriers that people may have, particularly those with issues relating to confidence, health and caring responsibilities."*

Our Social Space is considering the future development of The Flicks Hut and Socially Active Communities as part of our strategic review.

### **Financial review**

It is the view of the Board of Directors that Our Social Space Ltd operated prudently and effectively within the parameters of the financial resources which were available.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Charity's policy is to retain a level of unrestricted funds that are needed to provide funds which can be applied to specific projects to be undertaken at short notice and to cover the running costs of the Charity for a limited period, should there be a significant shortfall in projected income.

**Our Social Space Ltd**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) (continued)**  
**Year ended 30 September 2023**

---

The Trustees consider it prudent that unrestricted reserves should be sufficient to avoid the necessity of realising fixed assets held for the Charity's use and to cover six months unrestricted expenditure. The level of unrestricted funds needed for these purposes are shown as designated funds.

The Boards strategy is to build reserves to ensure the Charity's obligations are met and also to build surpluses which can be reinvested in developing further services. The Charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board will review the appropriateness of the policy annually.

**Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Independent Examiner**


Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

**Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 20 June 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

  
Dr R Turner  
Trustee