

Massford Project Association

Annual Report 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Charity No: 109780

Statement of MPA charity purposes:

- (i) To develop and implement social, recreational, physical, educational, economic and cultural projects and activities to improve the quality of life of local residents in the rural area of Finnis, Dromara.
- (ii) To maintain and manage Peter Morgan's Cottage as a community venue and facility.

The charity's beneficiaries are the people living in Finnis and the surrounding Dromara area.

MPA was established to support and develop our rural community in Finnis in accordance with our charity purposes and continues to do so by:

- **Maintaining and running the community venue**, Peter Morgan's Cottage, as a centre for private and community hire available to all local individuals and groups/clubs in the heart of the community.
- **Organising and delivering activities/events** creates opportunities for all ages to socialise, learn, develop skills and to participate more fully within their community.

Summary of Main Activities and Events Undertaken by MPA:

Weekly Activities include:

- Twice weekly Yoga Classes.

Monthly Activities include:

- Traditional Music & Social Evenings with Supper (7 evenings held from September to May). Halloween and Christmas Tree Switch On included a festive supper.
- Monthly Committee Meetings for MPA and Local Vintage Club
- Women's Tec delivered 2 courses (7 weeks for each course) DIY for women
- EA hire for Youth Development Course Spring 2025
- Vintage Club Meetings Spring/Early Summer Meetings in lead up Vintage Car and Tractor Event for Charity

Annual and Occasional Events:

- Annual Cairns Sunday Walk (First Sunday in August)
- GAA Club 5 & 10k run from Cottage to top of Slieve Croob & return
- Cycling Club 10K cycle from Cottage to top of Slieve Croob & return
- Children's Birthday Party Hire
- Hire by local groups e.g Lourdes Fundraising Committee
- Seasonal events – Private hire for Easter Crafts Fundraiser
- Hire by local private individuals e.g Christening Family Tea
- History Talk with Local Historian
- Christmas Tree Switch On – Intergenerational Funding awarded for this event
- How to use a Defib and Basic Resuscitation Information Evening

The Direct Public Benefits are:

1) **access to the community venue** facilities within the community, removing the barrier of poor transport links to towns and urban areas.

2) **activities and events** reduce social isolation in the rural area and improve opportunities, education, increase health and wellbeing and personal development. The activities listed above continue to build community confidence and resilience post-Covid especially in the 60plus age group, carers and those living alone.

These benefits are demonstrated by the:

- increased interest and requests for hire of the venue
- strong attendance at activities and events
- positive feedback from the participants and those who hire the venue.

Further Achievements of MPA for Public Benefit in 2024/25:

- 1) **The Placement of a Defibrillator at the Cottage for the Community** – a new local resident donated the Defib from his company and a local couple who fundraise for local charities raised enough to purchase the cabinet and lighting. The local voluntary Slieve Croob Community First Responders delivered an Information Evening on using a Defib and Basic Resuscitation.
- 2) Another successful year in the utilization of the Cottage and the delivery of activities. **New individuals and groups hired the Cottage during the year.** Community participation continues to build strongly post-Covid.
- 3) **Identifying local needs and opinions** - MPA undertook a community survey with the assistance of RCDN in 2024 both online and on paper – analysis of this

survey highlighted new interests and activities which the committee are working towards. Achieving an up-to-date Community evaluation in a formal survey builds on our on-going verbal feedback with locals for their opinions and ideas.

- 4) **Continuing to build our social media presence** through Facebook with a new volunteer to manage the admin and posting of information – meaning that we are reaching more of the community who may not access local printed bulletins/flyers or through word of mouth.

Mitigate Harm:

The purposes of MPA will not lead to harm. Throughout the year, a risk assessment is required for all hire and activities. Advice is sought from our Insurance Company if the committee have a query and the Insurance Company is informed of any occasional or less frequent activities.

Private Benefit:

A private benefit to trustees may occur from taking part in activities when helping to organise or run the event. These benefits are incidental – any knowledge and skills gained by trustees may be transferrable and utilized in the community.

Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit: During the year, the trustees have given careful regard to and complied with the guidance from the Charity Commission for NI on public benefit – developing and benefiting the local community is the central focus of all our trustees working together as a small group of committed volunteers.

Sources of Funding/Money Generated:

Cottage Hire

Funding Granted

Donations:

Sources of Money spent:

Utility and Runnings Costs: Electricity; Water Rates; Insurance;

Massford Project Association Charity No: 109780

Annual AGM Report June 2023- June 2024

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- Seasonal events – Private hire for Easter Crafts Fundraiser
- Hire by local private individuals e.g Christening Family Tea
- History Talk with Local Historian
- Christmas Tree Switch On – 'across the generations' event for all the family
- How to use a Defib and Basic Resuscitation Information Evening

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Achievements of MPA for Public Benefit in 2024/25:

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- 2) The local voluntary Slieve Croob Community First Responders delivered an Information Evening on using a Defib and Basic Resuscitation.
- 3) Another successful year in the utilization of the Cottage and the delivery of activities. New individuals and groups hired the Cottage during the year.
- 4) Identifying local needs and opinions - MPA undertook a community survey with the assistance of RCDN in 2024 both online and on paper – analysis of this survey highlighted new interests and activities which the committee are working towards. Achieving an up-to-date Community evaluation in a formal survey builds on our on-going verbal feedback with locals for their opinions and ideas.
- 5) Continuing to build our social media presence through Facebook with a new volunteer to manage the admin and posting of information – meaning that we are reaching more of the community who may not access local printed bulletins/flyers or through word of mouth.

Summary:

We have enjoyed another busy year at the Cottage.

We are continuing to build our range of activities and events successfully with the main benefit of reducing social isolation in the rural area and improving opportunities for all ages.

The activities listed above continue to build community confidence and resilience post-Covid especially in the 60plus age group, carers and those living alone.

Vision:

We plan within the next 2 years to:

- Continue to work with the Housing Executive re: purchase of their outdoor space and develop a plan for improving the outdoor area and parking area
- To focus on the Awards for All grant application to fund the outdoor area and maintenance of the Cottage and new activities.
- To introduce new members and 'friends of the Cottage' to the Committee to increase our resources re: more volunteers and a wider skill set.

