



**WHITEHEAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FINANCIAL YEAR: 1 APRIL 2019 – 31 MARCH 2020**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Registered Charity Name: Whitehead Community Association

Charity Registration Number: 104912

Company Registration Number: NI605135

Principal and registered office: 20 Balmoral Avenue
Whitehead
Co. Antrim
BT38 9QD

Trustees/Directors: Mr P C Abraham
Mr M R Clarke
Mr B Luney
Mrs V E Reynolds
Mr D T Robinson
Mr W Dornan
Mr J Jones

Company Secretary: Mrs A Abraham

Company Members: 283 (at 21 January 2020)

Whitehead Community Association (The Association) is a company, limited by guarantee. It is administered in accordance with its articles of association and was registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19 May 2016.

The Association was formed in 1981 and is managed by a voluntary committee of up to 17 members, drawn from local residents who serve as individuals, or, representative members who serve on behalf of local organisations. This management team contribute to the output of the organisation. The 17 posts are made up of executive members (directors) and non-executive members.

Directors: The legal, financial and governance matters of The Association are managed by a Board of Directors. The first directors were selected from persons willing to serve at the formation of the company. New directors are identified by the board, or, by application to the board and are appointed subject to demonstrating a strong support for the aims of the organisation. Having demonstrated a commitment to The Association, new directors are

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appointed, subject to successful interview. The executive committee, i.e. the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, are appointed from within the board each year, at the first committee meeting following the AGM. In the 2019/2020 financial year two new Directors were appointed namely, Jeremy Jones and Bill Dornan.

Non-Executive Members: In partnership with the directors, the non-executive members form the remainder of the general committee, and are responsible for providing support and guidance to the output of the organisation. This includes activities to support its aims and the long-term sustainability of The Association.

Company Membership: Any resident of Whitehead, (defined by the electoral wards of Blackhead and Whitehead) who is supportive of the aims of organisation is eligible to apply to become a member of The Association. Applications are made to the board, they are vetted, and once approved at a committee meeting, the applicant becomes a member of the Association and has voting rights at the AGM.

Employees: There are two part time Centre Managers and a part time cleaner who look after the day to day operation of Whitehead Community Centre and its activities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives:

The organisation promotes diversity, especially cross-community, and endeavours to make every person welcome, regardless of religion, ethnic identity, political beliefs, disability, sex, race, creed or nationality.

The objectives of the Association are to promote the benefit of the Whitehead area by associating with the statutory and local authorities, voluntary organisations, residents and visitors, in a common effort to advance education, promote and foster a community spirit in favour of equality and diversity, and to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation.

Activities:

The Association owns and manages the Community Centre, situated at 20 Balmoral Avenue, Whitehead. The residents of Whitehead acquired the property (a former cinema) in 1977, to form a Community Centre which is located in the heart of the town's Conservation Area. Subsequently, a major refurbishment in 2007/08 and a second project in 2011/12 to extend the community space, have been successfully delivered. In the 2019/2020 financial year the Association applied for and received grant funding to refurbish the King's Road side of the building, which will provide a new Welcome Centre, a Community Hub and three additional units for start-up businesses in the Community. At the time of writing, this project is still

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ongoing. The Centre will become a vibrant focal point for community activities. From the Centre, the Association delivers 3 main activities:

Community Support: By providing a range of community spaces, consisting of a large hall including kitchen, 2 function rooms and a meeting room, the Association is able to support multiple leisure, education and community groups. The Centre will become a conduit for Community & local Tourism information, providing signposting for welfare and leisure activities, together with being a focal point to promote the town to visitors.

Business Accommodation: The Centre provides and manages a range of small business units that are available to local residents. The Association offers business accommodation on flexible terms to support new employment for the benefit of local residents and to add to the diversity of commercial offerings within the town.

Annual Events: The Association aims to deliver 3 annual events in support of its objects, each of these events are run to foster community spirit and pride in the town.

The Easter Monday 5-mile Road Race: The road race is the oldest non champion race in Ireland and has been contested since 1924. The Association has facilitated this event since 2006. It attracts competitive and fun runners from clubs locally and also across N.I.

The Whitehead Festival: The festival is run over a 2-week summer period and brings together a wide range of groups and organisations to celebrate the best of Whitehead in a broad spectrum of activities and events.

The Victorian Street Fair: Established in 2008 and run on the last Saturday in November, the street fair celebrates the heritage of the town with its Victorian theme. Street entertainers, craft and Christmas stalls, together with street vendors offer the perfect backdrop to the Christmas lights switch on.

Public Benefit:

The public benefit resulting from the Association's work is the creation of social cohesion, allowing Whitehead and its environs to develop together as a community, offering chances for people to meet and work together, developing skill sets and widening the circle of social interaction and influence.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

General Committee: The General Committee has 16 of its 17 posts filled, with 9 representatives from Whitehead based organisations, namely: The County Antrim Yacht Club, The British Legion, Brighter Whitehead, Whitehead Storehouse, Whitehead Wombles, Windsor Residents, Whitehead Golf Club, the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland and Whitehead Coastal Rowers together with 7 individual volunteers. Meeting on a monthly

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basis, the Committee has been responsible for an extremely successful year that has seen significant public benefit.

Community Support: The Centre continues to be popular with local residents and a variety of groups. The choice of community space has enabled the Association to host numerous activities that meet the objectives of the organisation.

Educational and leisure activities that utilise the facilities on a weekly basis include:

- Genesis Youth Centre
- Whitehead Community Orchestra
- Pilates
- Dru Yoga
- Zumba
- Line Dancing
- Ju Jitsu
- Baby Dance & Baby Drama
- Floral Art
- Steve Diamond Art Classes
- TavTac (Takes a Village to Raise a Child) Initiative
- Mindful Meditation
- Whitehead Community Orchestra

Others who use the Centre facilities on a monthly or less regular basis include:

- Alzheimer's N.I.
- Whitehead Women's Institute
- NI Blood Transfusion Service
- Whitehead Storehouse
- The Royal British Legion
- Japanese Dancing and Festival events
- Computer Training courses
- Needle felting courses
- Roshan's Yoga
- Oak Property Management AGM Meetings
- Music Practice sessions
- Jubilee Wood Volunteers Group
- Whitehead Suffragettes Historical group meetings
- Community Forums and Information events
- Jubilee Farm Community Group meetings
- Art, crafts and plant sales
- Brighter Whitehead group plant sale
- Windsor Resident's Flower Arranging courses
- Kick Boxing courses
- Action Cancer pre-loved clothing sale

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- Community Safety Information
- MEABC
- Community Police Liaison
- Youth Justice one to one

Business Accommodation: The Association's support to local business continues to facilitate jobs within the community and extend the retail spectrum available to the community. Completion of the current refurbishment of the King's Road side of the building will provide an additional three start up units, a Welcome Centre and community hub while providing existing tenants, The Yau Kee, with newly refurbished premises. The businesses currently housed in the Centre are:

- The Laundry Room
- Balmoral Barbers
- Snowglobe Training and Solutions
- Yau Kee Chinese Takeaway
- Little Einstein's Child Care Facility

Major events run for the Community by the Association

2019 Summer Festival consisted of two weeks of activities for all residents, including over 86 separate events ranging from sports to music, arts and crafts to cultural and literary events, all of which proved very successful. The Family Food and Folk Day, held at the Recreation Grounds, which aims to provide an opportunity to sample diverse foods and entertainment, was well attended with many families enjoying the variety of activities & stalls, in spite of the poor weather. Other traditional events included the RPSI Steam Train Rides, Tennis Rose Bowl, Raft Race, Fishing Competition, Quiz Night, Traditional Tea Dance, Kids Biodiversity Summer School, Family Fun Day, Boat Trips, CAYC Regatta, Pilates, Yoga and Zumba taster sessions, Quiz Night for Dummies and the Annual Flower Show.

New events added this year included a Mood and Food: A Wellness, Vegan & Hemp Day, Carmel's Sweet Factory, Big Family Games Night, P7 Transition Summer School, Coastal Rowers Taster Sessions, Introductory Golf, traditional music sessions, Dog Training, Youth Choir and Glee Club, Knit and Nibble and Meet the Whitehead Suffragettes tour.

The entire event, in conjunction with the support of local businesses, raised funds for "Hope House", a local charity providing much needed respite accommodation for those suffering from terminal illness and their families.

This community event was gratefully supported by Mid & East Antrim Council, Translink NI, Irish Salt Mining & Exploration, Cannon Hyundai Motors and Subway (Carrickfergus).

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The sub-committee, chaired by Adrian Woods, are commended for facilitating and delivering an outstanding package of events that provided a focus for positive community involvement.

2019 Victorian Street Fair was a great success with the Fair relaunching itself after a year's furlough. The event saw a major uplift in crowds, with major changes in the structure and timing proving to be successful innovations. Some highlights included:

- Four craft and stall centre (Community Centre, Presbyterian Halls, Church of Ireland Hall and Methodist Hall)
- Roving Street Entertainment (jugglers, firewalkers, unicyclists and the like.)
- Food Stalls
- Special Entertainment Stage (local folks singers, Irish dancers and music artists)
- Concert Area for choir, orchestras and storyteller (St Patrick's Church)
- Kidzone for the very young
- Fairground Area (bespoke old-fashioned entertainments)
- Traction Engines
- Steam Train Rides
- Historical Talks
- Turning on Christmas Lights
- Ecumenical Carol Service
- Community Parade
- Fireworks Display

This community event was supported by Mid & East Antrim Council, Translink NI, and Irish Salt Mining & Exploration. We are extremely grateful for their contribution.

The sub-committee, chaired by Jeremy Jones, are commended for facilitating and delivering an outstanding package of events that provided a focus for positive community involvement.

2019 Easter Road Race was a great success with the highest numbers of runners participating in its modern era. Credit for this very successful event goes largely to the Road Race Sub Committee which is primarily drawn from the Whitehead Runners, a vibrant local running club that has chosen to support the event for the benefit of the wider community and in line with the objects of the Association. That, together with support from the PSNI

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and volunteers, as well as local sponsorship from Wright's Spar, Whitehead, contributed to a fabulous day that brought together our community and visitors alike.

Other Community Activities Supported by The Association

The Association also provided support for a number of other events around the town, through the provision of financial, administrative or equipment support including, Yarnfest, Woollen Woods, The Big Lunch, The 3 hills charity cycle challenge, Pie and Pintathon; Antique & Craft fairs and plant sales. A very successful BBQ was run by the Committee at the first Coastal Rowers' Regatta Day.

The 'Loving Whitehead' monthly newsletter continues to be a great success. Layout and editing work are carried out by one of the Centre Managers. Stan Woods, one of our Committee members, was the driving force in establishing the newsletter, which provides information on local projects, stories and issues. The editions are distributed from the Centre and numerous local business, reaching a broad readership that had not been reached by other mediums such as notice boards and social media.

Following on from last year's award of "Safe Place" status by ONUS, Whitehead was recognised as a Safe Town in November. The award was presented to our Onus Liaison Committee Member, Vivienne Johnson and our Chairman Bill Luney. Mid and East Antrim Borough Council recognised this significant award at a ceremony hosted by the Mayor at The Braid, Ballymena in December.

The Village Renewal Programme, funded by the Department of Agriculture's Environment and Rural Affairs, completed work in support of the Whitehead Village Plan. This involved the enhancement of the promenade area in the town including, the cleaning of the sea wall, resurfacing of the footpaths, installation of new picnic areas, grassing of waste ground and the creation of a safe event area.

Committee Contribution

The Association and the Centre is reliant, by its nature, on the voluntary contribution of individuals serving as members of the committee. The Association is supported on a daily basis by the work of its volunteers in numerous activities including administration, planning, support to events and practical assistance. Of particular note, during the past year, the following individuals should be recognised for their contribution over and above the norm:

Stan Woods continues to dedicate hundreds of hours in support of the Association's aims, including distribution of the new newsletter, he is always available to assist in practical terms on events and support activities and has been instrumental in developing and expanding the Whitehead Wombles to include a thriving youth section. His contribution to the town as a whole is commendable.

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Jeremy Jones chaired the Committee that organised the reinstatement of the Victorian Street Fair, which was the biggest and best attended in the event's history. His vision and willingness to dedicate his spare time to take the initiative on behalf of the Association, brings constant benefit to the community including liaison with other agencies, securing sponsorship and social media management.

Martin Clarke was the driving force behind the funding application to the Coastal Communities Fund for the Kings Road Regeneration Project. He dedicated long hours conducting research, seeking support from partnership agencies, developing plans and writing the application. The project will have a significant impact for the community and Martin has worked long hours, voluntarily on site, every day since the project work commenced. Additionally, Martin provides a wide range of maintenance support to the Centre. He has been directly responsible for saving the Association thousands of pounds by carrying the majority of the maintenance jobs that are essential to the Centre throughout the year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Association operates as a non-profit making organisation. The Statement of Financial Activities shows a surplus of income over expenditure during the year. This has been achieved with the assistance of grants received, income from Centre usage and income from the Service Level Agreement agreed with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

The Association continues to meet its obligations with regard to the UCIT loan, that was taken out to part fund the original Centre renovation work. At current rates of payment this loan will be repaid within 3 years.

The Association operates on a very tight budget which requires the Committee to be constantly vigilant to the income and expenditure of the organisation, the Trustees are pleased to report that the Association finished the year with a small surplus in the account.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIOD

In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of The Centre and to ensure we are able to meet our financial obligations; the directors are looking at numerous options to increase the usability and appeal of the Centre.

When British Telecom announced its "Adopt a Kiosk" scheme, transferring responsibility for disused telephone boxes for a nominal sum of £1 to community groups, the Association decided to adopt the kiosk situated in Kings Road, opposite the old Post Office. No decision had been made in relation to what it would be used for and ideas from members have been sought.

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STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

William Luney
Chairperson
Whitehead Community Association

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