



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Annual Report for the period

From: 1st January 2023

To: 31st December 2023

Charity name: Fairfield Village Community Association

Charity registration number: Unregistered Charity

Objectives and Activities

(SORP Para 1.17 to 1.19)

The purpose of Fairfield Village Community Association is to further community life within the Fairfield Parish Ward (Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge) and to support the preservation of the existing and future environment of the community.

The aim of the Community Association to benefit the community it serves, without discrimination.

The Association produces a quarterly newsletter, organises activities that helps reduce loneliness & social isolation that is often experienced by older members of our community, maintains the village planters, organises rambles, monthly lunches and other social events.

At the Village Hall, the Association delivers Bromsgrove Arts/Fairfield Flicks, a cinema & live entertainment experience screening top films, live stream events & hosting great acts that bring people together.

With the community not having a village shop, the Association organises Foodie Fairfield – a market hall in the village hall – on the 1st Saturday of each month, with local food producers selling their products.

As a body, the Association works with strategic partners to help create a safe and accessible community for all, promoting crime prevention, championing road safety, and keeps the community tidy with monthly litter picks.

The Association has delivered activities that contributes to the positive well-being of residents, enhances community cohesion, and maintains the local environment.

Even though not registered with the Charity Commission, the Committee of the Community Association has adopted as best practice the rules of the Charity Commission and guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

(SORP Para 1.20)

It has been another busy year for the Community Association, working to enhance community cohesion, reduce loneliness & social isolation and improve our local environment.

Our activities continue to enhance individual well-being through volunteering or participation, with many people benefiting from our initiatives, and there is an increased sense of pride in the area where people live.

In early 2023, the Community Association was nominated for the 2023 Neighbourhood Watch Network National Volunteer Recognition Awards for the category COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

This category celebrates Neighbourhood Watch groups and Coordinators who have gone the extra mile to look out for the needs of their neighbours and neighbourhood.

On the 1st of September, the Community Association was notified that Neighbourhood Watch had received over 270 nominations and, after being shortlisted, judges had decided that our Community Association is a winner.

This is a huge achievement for our community. Congratulation to all our amazing volunteers and supporters for being part of our success, without them, none of our initiatives could be delivered.

Comments received following the announcement that the Community Association had won the award included:

"This is brilliant recognition for the FVCA who do so much to bring people together. Thank you for being such a huge enabler for Bromsgrove Police to provide information and assurance about what West Mercia is doing with partners to address community concerns." Pippa Mills, Chief Constable, West Mercia Police

"The FVCA should be very proud of this award and very much deserved. Well done." Insp Richard Field, Redditch and Bromsgrove Safer Neighbourhood Team

The awards ceremony was held at The Wellcome Collection in London on Wednesday 20th September, where Fairfield residents Alan & Sarah Gormley received the award on behalf of our community. The award was presented to Alan & Sarah by John Haywood-Cripps, CEO Neighbourhood Watch and Ian Bretman, Chair of Neighbourhood Watch Network.

Summary Of Our Activities

The Association continues to keep residents up to date with local news, events and crime prevention advice through the publication of the quarterly newsletters, which is distributed to nearly every dwelling across the ward area, and the Association's social media accounts and website are regularly maintained, plus a near daily eNewsletter is sent to subscribers.

The Association, who have a good relationship with the local policing team, purchased copies of the Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention booklet, which residents collected at community events.

The Association's monthly Market Hall in the Village Hall -Foodie Fairfield - has gained a reputation as the place to shop for quality artisan foods, with local food producer pleased with their sales and residents using the occasion as a social catch up with friends & neighbours.

Monthly lunches continue to take place in local establishments, and in March, monthly Social Wednesdays resumed, last organised prior to the pandemic, with a variety of guest speakers & activities including a gardening talk from Reg Moule, a game of Walking Rounders and festive social making Christmas crackers and enjoying a performance from the First School Choir.

After a gap of several decades, pancakes races to mark Shrove Tuesday took place, this time on the Recreation Ground. To enable as many people as possible to take part the races took place on the Saturday preceding Shrove Tuesday. Attendance on the day was of all ages, with people taking part in the various races.

In May, events were organised to celebrate the coronation of King Charles, with residents invited to a fully funded Afternoon Tea at the village hall. Other events organised included a screening of the Coronation Concert and tidying the Millennium Garden (Recreation Ground), the Association's project as part of the national The Big Hep Out.

Throughout the year there have been monthly litter picks, and volunteers have maintained the planters at the village entrance and on the Recreation Ground, and in September, street signage, bus stop signs along Stourbridge Road & the Wood Lane bus shelter were washed.

The Association organised & helped fund two Basic Emergency First Aid course, which were delivered in the Spring and Autumn, and during the summer, the Association helped fund weekly Tai Chi classes on the Recreation Ground.

Summer saw the return of the village picnic, with the Association purchasing some giant games (Connect Four & Jenga) and funding entertainment, Punch & Judy. The police attend the event, bringing a van and two motorbikes.

Fairfield Flicks was rebranded to Bromsgrove Arts, to reflect our ever-growing programme, including:

- The screening of big blockbuster & independent movies,
- Event Cinema screenings of Matthew Bourne's ballets Swan Lake & Sleeping Beauty, Andre Rieu summer and Christmas concerts, the musical Anything Goes, plus Cliff Richard and Culture Club concerts.
- Live music return from returning acts (including Jack Goodall & Ricky Cool and the In Crowd) and first-time visitors (including Midland Concert Orchestra, Calypso Moon & Amit Dattani).
- Hosting the Rain or Shine Theatre Company and their production of Frankenstein.

For Halloween, a pumpkin carving competition was organised with Glow Juggling entertainment, funded by the Association, in the village hall.

Festive activities were organised including the annual Carols Around The Christmas Tree and New Year's Eve movie. The Association helped organise the annual Crib Service at St. Mark's, with residents acting out the Nativity.

The Association worked closely with St. Mark's to deliver a well-attended Harvest Festival and Remembrance Service, and the Association partnered Woodcote Brewery in the spring to deliver another successful Rugby, Beer and Street Food event.

With the support of Active Herefordshire & Worcestershire, an Activity Taster Day was organised in September, with people trying Pilates, Tai Chi, learning Portuguese, Art and Walking Sports. As a result of the day, Pilates classes at the Village Hall started in October.

The committee of the Community Association has a very good working relationship with the Village Hall trustees, and the Association regular promotes recreational activities taking place at the hall. The Association also supports Fairfield Women's Institute in promoting their annual Produce Show and making the show schedule available via the Association's website.

The Association continues to work closely with Village Shop Working Group, exploring the possibility of a community shop, and the Association works with other stakeholders to assess developments at local quarry sites. In November, the Association organised an information event, appraising residents of the impending planning application to extend Wildmoor Quarry.

Where planning applications have a potential impact on the community, the Association endeavours to respond to consultations with an informed response.

The Association recognises the importance of a safe & accessible community and the comments received from residents of inconsiderate parking and vehicles driving at an inappropriate speed. The Association has used opportunities to raise issues & concerns and will work with partners to deliver suitable outcomes.

Fairfield Village Community Association is not anyone person or group of people, it is teams of people having pride in where they live, and our thanks to each everyone of our volunteers & supporters for making Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge a great place to live.

Financial Review

Para 1.21

Receipts and Payments Accounts have been prepared and have been independently examined.

End of year cash funds rose from £5964 to £7556, due to increased event revenue from the Bromsgrove Arts initiative and a full year of delivering Foodie Fairfield.

Grant receipts have been roughly the same as in the previous year, helping to deliver befits to the community.

The Community Association operates a dual control system of authorising paymentst from the bank account.

In readiness for the Association to become a Registered Charity, the committee are in the process of drafting a Financial Management, Risk & Reserves Policy.

Principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)

(SORP Para 1.47)

Continual fundraising is needed to finance our many initiatives, which have been outlined above in our Achievements and Performance.

Our thanks to everyone who supports our fundraising activities, and to those organisations that have given us grants during 2023:

Bromsgrove & Redditch Social Prescribing	£ 131.00	(Reducing social isolation)
Belbroughton & Fairfield Parish Council	£ 250.00	(Celebrating the coronation)
Elmley Foundation	£ 480.00	(Lighting & PA stands)
Magic Stars	£ 500.00	(Social activities)
Belbroughton & Fairfield Parish Council	£ 365.00	(Wednesday Social)
National Grid	£ 1,140.00	(Village Hall heating & Activities)
Worcestershire County Council	£ 500.00	(Communications)
Total Grants Received	£ 3,366.00	

Details of the transactions associated with the events organized by FVCA during 2023 are shown below:

Event Income		
Bromsgrove Arts/Fairfield Flicks	£ 8,928.34	(Ticket sales)
Bar Sales	£ 3,193.30	
Foodie Fairfield	£ 955.42	
Total	£13,077.06	

Film Hire	£3,696.14
Bar Supplues	£2,199.05
Concerts	£2,390.00
Royal Celebrations	£ 459.45
Festive Fairfield	£ 104.15
Picnic	£ 561.33
Pancake Race	£ 44.88
Tai Chi	£ 145.00
Remembrance Day	£ 23.99
Coffee & Natter	£ 244.99
Total	£9,868.98

Structure and Governance

Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	Unincorporated Association

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Fairfield Village Community Association
Other names the charity uses	Fairfield Community Association, Bromsgrove Arts
Registered charity number	Unregistered
Charity's principal address	10 Pepperwood Close Fairfield Bromsgrove B61 9ND

Names of the committee members who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Conrad Palmer	Chairman		
2	Yvonne Watton	Treasurer		
3	Mary Gibbs	Secretary		
4	Geoff Cotterill			
5	Sue Wilkes			
6	Carol Brogan			

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full name	Conrad Palmer
Position	Chairman
Date	14 th February 2024