

Annual Report for Fairfield Village Community Association

From: 1st January 2024

To: 31st December 2024

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 Community Association application to become a Registered Charity was declined by the Charity Commission. The Commission, Funders, Insurers and other stakeholders have not objected to the Association continuing as a non-profit making group. 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. This report has been produced following the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

Fairfield and its environs are dormitory settlements that has high levels of social isolation amongst older, less mobile people, due to its proximity to nearby towns, the City of Birmingham, and the motorway network. The Association works to improve community cohesion, build local pride and to enhance the mental, social & physical well-being of all in our community.

The Association:

- Produces a quarterly newsletter,
- Organises:
 - activities that help reduce loneliness & social isolation that is often experienced by older members of our community, such as The Wednesday Social and monthly lunches,
 - events that bring the community together, such as the annual village picnic and Festive Fairfield,
- Delivers
 - Bromsgrove Arts at the Village Hall, a cinema & live entertainment experience screening top films, live stream events & hosting great acts that bring people together.
 - Foodie Fairfield, a monthly Market Hall in the Village Hall, and the Forfeld Store, a weekly afternoon community shop.
- 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.

Fairfield Village Community Association is the verified [Neighbourhood Watch Group](#) for Fairfield & Stoneybridge.

The Association has delivered activities that contribute to the positive well-being of residents, enhance community cohesion, and maintain the local environment.

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.

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 website and social media accounts are regularly maintained, plus a near daily eNewsletter is sent to subscribers.

The Association, who have a good relationship with the local policing team, periodically meeting the team to discuss local issues, and the team holds occasional surgeries at Foodie Fairfield, allowing residents to raise any issues and concerns they may have.

Foodie Fairfield, the Association's monthly Market Hall in the Village Hall, continues as social and shop initiative, where people can buy quality artisan foods, from local food producers, as well as using the occasion as a social catch up with friends & neighbours. At the end of the year Robert Garvin stood down as the Foodie Fairfield coordinator, his help and energy at getting this initiative off the ground is very much appreciated.

An off shoot of the Foodie Fairfield initiative is the Forfeld Store, a community shop that is open during Foodie Fairfield and on a Wednesday afternoon. The shop is evolving and concentrates on selling local sourced foods that are not available from the Foodie Fairfield traders.

The monthly Dining Group lunches continued to take place at local establishments, and at the end of the year, Pat Steward stood down as the Dining Group coordinator, having performed the role for several years.

Wednesday afternoon socials now take place every Wednesday afternoon with a different activity taking place each week during the month, guest speakers, table tennis, indoor curling & board games.

Due to poor weather the planned Pancake Race had to be cancelled.

The inclement weather also hit the annual picnic, with the event being held in the village hall rather than on the Recreation Ground. The picnic included a children's entertainer and a Dixie Band.

Throughout the year there have been monthly litter picks, and during the year volunteers washed street & bus stop signs across the community. Due to continual interference of the village entrance planters, the non-management of a hedge, and after two years sleepers not being replaced at the Millennium Garden, the Community Association stopped tending Parish Council owned planters, handing back responsibility to the Parish Council.

The Community Association, with the support of County Councillor Shirley Webb's Divisional Fund, was able to purchase a new planter, made from oak sourced from Pepper Wood, that has been sited next to the Yew Tree Lane bench; this planter owned by the Association will be managed by the Community Association. The Association was also able to procure a bench that has been sited on Wood Lane.

Our ever-growing Bromsgrove Arts programme, included:

- National Theatre Live productions,
- Blockbuster & independent movies,

- Andre Rieu summer and Christmas concerts,
- Cinema Live's Big Screen Musical Season
- Participation in the French Film Festival 2024,
- Live music from returning acts (including Midland Concert Orchestra, Calypso Moon, Small Changes, Jack Goodall & Ricky Cool and the In Crowd) and first-time visitors (including Brass Beatz and, from Nashville USA, Willow Hill).
- Drama on the stage with Don't Go Into The Cellar, Weeping Bank Library and Smokescreen Productions.

Halloween family entertainment took place at the village hall with a stage magician, the stage was lined with carved pumpkins that people had created.

Festive activities were organised including the annual Carols Around The Christmas Tree – very good attendance - and a New Year's Eve movie, which had to be cancelled due to only a couple of tickets being sold. The Association helped organise the annual Crib Service that took place in the village hall, due to there being no heating at St. Mark's; once again, residents acted out the Nativity and the event was enjoyed by all.

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 Rugby, Beer and Street Food event.

With the support of Active Herefordshire & Worcestershire, an Activity Taster Day was organised in July, with people trying Pilates, Indoor Curling, Table Tennis, Boccia and an introduction to Self-Defence. Numbers attending was down on the previous year's Activity Taster Day.

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.

Where consultations and planning applications have a potential impact on the community, the Association endeavours to provide 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 every one of our volunteers & supporters for making Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge a great place to live.

Financial Review

Para 1.21

Receipts and Payments Accounts, see pages 9, have been prepared and have been submitted for independent examined.

Due to the Independent Examiner's heavy workload, it was not possible to have the accounts examined in time for the AGM; it is hoped that the accounts will be examined in the next few months.

The Committee approved the accounts on 17th February 2025.

At the yearend there was a deficit of £2.8K compared to a surplus of £1.6K at end of the previous year, this is largely due to the costs of setting up the Forfeld Store, some of which was funded by grants received in previous years.

The vast majority of our income and expenditure relates to our Bromsgrove Arts (BARTS) and Shop activities.

With regard BARTS; National Theatre & Event Cinema screenings are currently very beneficial when it comes to generating net income, and some very good live music shows have generated some very good bar sales. Profits made from these initiatives have been spent on providing activities for the community, whether covering full costs or subsidising.

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

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 main source of income relating to our Events & Trading activities.

Our thanks to everyone who supports our fundraising activities, and to those organisations & individuals that have given us grants & donations during 2024:

Grants Received	
Worcestershire County Council	1,000.00
B&F Parish Council	400.00
	1,400.00
Donations	
Wildmoor Residents Assoc	470.00
Other donations	233.67
	703.67
Easyfundraising	79.18
	79.18
Events & Trading	
Foodie Fairfield	990.00
BARTS Ticket Sales	17,680.37
Activity Fees	610.00
Shop/Bar/Café	11,320.86
Santa's Grotto	56.90
	30,658.13
Apple Press	68.00
	68.00
Remembrance	175.00
	175.00
Receipts Total	33,083.98

Expenditure

The Community Association has used the revenue it has generated to deliver the initiatives outlined in the section Achievements and Performance, on page 2, insurance and other costs relating to our activities.

Insurance	284.18
	284.18
Publicity, printing and photocopying	3,015.83
	3,015.83
IT Costs	1,229.04
	1,229.04
Subscriptions	
Community Matters	40.00
Cinema4All	95.00
Bromsgrove Arts Alive	10.00
	145.00
Litter picking	
Helpinghands	75.55
	75.55
Events & Trading	
AGM	39.49
Bromsgrove Arts	11,137.84
Shop/Bar/Café	15,442.82
Wednesday Social	438.42
Tipsy Gin	402.00
Wine Tasting	240.00
Picnic	460.00
Harvest Festival	44.95
Wreath Making	520.00
Festive Fairfield	208.00
Haloween	575.00
	29,508.52
Community Projects	
Bench	494.95
Planter	100.00
Installation of Bench	110.76
	705.71
Defibrillator	
Replacement Parts	146.34
	146.34
Remembrance	
Collection	175.00
Royal British Legion	50.99
	225.99

Activity Equipment	
Indoor Curling	384.00
	384.00
Merchant Fees	
Sum Up Card Transaction Fee	126.71
	126.71
Misc	
Christmas Tree	20.00
Xmas Tree Recycling	40.00
Misc	2.75
Accounting Adjustment	-1.00
	61.75
Payments Total	35,908.62

Stock

The retail value of stock held was (approximately) £4140.20.

Confectionary	462.55
Dairy	199.00
Drinks/Bar	1,299.00
Greetings Cards	261.50
Groceries	1,477.75
Household	218.00
Misc	222.40
Stock Value	4,140.20

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		
	Carole Morris	Secretary		
3	Mary Gibbs			
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	<i>C Palmer</i>
Full name	Conrad Palmer
Position	Chairman
Date	17 th February 2025

Fairfield Village Community Association			
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	1st Jan 2024	To	31st Dec 2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants Received	1,400	-	-	1,400	3,366
Donations	704	-	-	704	65
Easyfundraising (Online Commission)	79	-	-	79	64
Events & Trading	30,658	-	-	30,658	13,077
Apple Press	68	-	-	68	-
Remembrance Service	175	-	-	175	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	33,084	-	-	33,084	16,572
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	33,084	-	-	33,084	16,572
A3 Payments					
Insurance	284	-	-	284	412
Publicity, printing and photocopying	3,016	-	-	3,016	3,019
IT costs	1,229	-	-	1,229	310
Subscriptions	145	-	-	145	115
Litter Picking	76	-	-	76	-
Events & Trading	29,509	-	-	29,509	9,869
Community Projects	706	-	-	706	-
Village Hall	-	-	-	-	400
First Aid	-	-	-	-	183
Neighbourhood Watch	-	-	-	-	249
Defibrillator - Replacement Parts	146	-	-	146	-
Remembrance Service	226	-	-	226	-
Activity Equipment	384	-	-	384	423
Card Merchant Fees	127	-	-	127	-
Misc	62	-	-	62	-
Sub total	35,909	-	-	35,909	14,980
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	35,909	-	-	35,909	14,980
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,825	-	-	- 2,825	1,592
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,556	-	-	7,556	5,964
Cash funds this year end	4,731	-	-	4,731	7,556

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	4,581	-	-
	Float	150	-	-
	Unbanked cash	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,731	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	<i>C Palmer</i>	Conrad Palmer	17/02/2025	
	<i>Y Watton</i>	Yvonne Watton	17/02/2025	