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DUMFRIES PARTNERSHIP ACTION GROUP

TRUSTEES REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31ST MAY 2024

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER:- SC051000

CARSON & TROTTER

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

123 IRISH STREET

DUMFRIES

DG1 2PE

Dumfries Partnership Action Group
Scottish Charity Number SC051000
Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st May 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31st May 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name

Dumfries Partnership Action Group (DPAG)

Charity Number

SC051000

Contact Address

DPAG, 100 High Street, Dumfries, DG1 2BJ

Current Trustees

Robin Wishart – Chair

Eric Craig – Vice-Chair

Mark Andrew Smith – Treasurer

John Dowson – Secretary

Kenny Bowie

Leslie Anthony Fitzpatrick

Rod Cowan

Matt Baker

Simon Allen Hugh Jones

Anne Lindsay

Gilbert West

Sitki Nalci

Appointed 1st November 2023 & resigned February 2024

Resigned 1st November 2023

Resigned 1st November 2023

Resigned 1st November 2023

Appointed 1st November 2023 & resigned 9th September 2024

Appointed 1st November 2023

Appointed 1st November 2023

Co-opted Trustee

Morgan Love

Appointed 15th June 2023 & resigned 1st November 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

Dumfries Partnership Action Group (DPAG) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which was incorporated on 26th May 2021. It has a two-tier structure consisting of the members, being the trustees of the charity and the Board, made up of the charity trustees.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Persons are not eligible for appointment to the Board unless they are members of the organisation. However, there is provision in the constitution for eligible non-members of the organisation to be nominated trustees by "a body with which the organisation has close contact in the course of its activities or on the basis that he/she has specialist experience and/or skills which could be of assistance to the board". The maximum number of trustees is 15 (of whom no more than 10 shall have been elected by the members or appointed by the Board, and no more than 5 should have been appointed by an outside body), the minimum is 3. Unless debarred from membership, any member may be elected to the Board by the membership at an AGM. At each AGM, all the charity, whether elected or appointed by an outside body, must retire from office but shall then be eligible for re-election.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

The charity's purpose is the advancement of citizenship and community development (including urban regeneration) through partnership working and the development/delivery of initiatives to achieve the betterment of Dumfries.

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Activities and Achievements

This report is for the second year for Dumfries Partnership Action Group (DPAG) since registration in its current form.

The current DPAG Board was formed in November 2023 and is committed to taking forward the 10-year vision for the changes identified in the Dynamically Different Dumfries (DDD).

This year has been a year of building on previous work and the building blocks for, and this report outlines our achievements, challenges and plan to take the DDD forward.

During the year we had two trustees leave the Board for person reasons.

Achievements for 2023/24

The second year has been a year of consolidation and action to ensure that continued work to achieve DDD. The following are the highlights of areas achieved.

Burns Tourism Partnership

The Board have been an active part of how the Robert Burns heritage can be recognised and developed to benefit Dumfries and the wider area. We have been part of the South Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA) working group to pull together the strands of work being done and how to plan wider events.

The work has included input into walking tours in Dumfries, advertising and coordinating of the wider "road" through Dumfries including Ellisland.

Developing Local Place Plan

In February 2022, Dumfries & Galloway Council approved the DPAG-led "Dynamically Different Dumfries" (DDD) 10-year Vision & Action Plan document. This followed an extensive 18-month community/business engagement period. When DPAG was formalized later that year as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), the new board and membership adopted DDD as the core document driving its aim to regenerate Dumfries Town Centre at its inaugural AGM in August 2022.

The concept of Local Place Plans was introduced by the Scottish Government as part of the Planning (Scotland) Act in 2019 with the aim of supporting local communities to have "a more direct role in shaping their local area". Given the earlier adoption and positioning of the DDD plan, DPAG, in collaboration with Loreburn Community Council and with support from DGC, has been involved in recent months in an exercise to convert and submit an adapted DDD that meets the criteria for registration of the plan with DGC. Registered LPP documents are considered by the local authority when drafting new Local Development Plans. The new draft document includes substantial new baseline data, special mapping sections that give a stronger context for the reader/user around land and building potential uses and a detailed Operational Plan to guide the delivery of the plan.

Working with the town board

We welcomed the positive news for Dumfries in September 2023 that Dumfries will receive £20 million in endowment-style funding over 10 years from 2024/25 through UK Government launched its 'Long-Term Plan for Towns'. The Town Board has been created and has worked with the local community to develop their plan.

DPAG and The Town Board have met and DPAG have offered any assistance it can give in helping the Board achieve its aims whilst recognising our SCIO registration.

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Active Travel

One of the main ways to enhance the appeal of Dumfries to residents and visitors is to make it easier for everyone to move around the town centre. When town centre streets are improved, people tend to spend more time in them, and this is good news for local people and businesses alike.

DPAG Board has been pro-actively worked with the council and other organisations to develop a consultation to improve the streets for everyone.

Several parts of the town centre have been identified for improvement by transport consultants SYSTRA on behalf of SWESTRANS and Dumfries and Galloway Council, based on local feedback and issues identified in the Dynamically Different Dumfries project which was led by Dumfries Partnership Action Group. The design concepts to show what these improvements could look like are available through the consultation area of Dumfries and Galloway Council - Dumfries Town Centre - Better Streets - Dumfries and Galloway Council (dumgal.gov.uk) - or at the Ewart Library.

The consultation runs until 16th December 2024.

Christmas Lights featuring The Lights of Hope

Following the successful initial year for the Christmas lights and The Lights of Hope in December 2023 through to January 2024 DPAG have secured further funding to build on the lights and the events of 2023. The Board would like to thank Mark Jardine of Jardine Funerals of Dumfries for his generous and continued support.

Challenges

This year continues to present challenges.

The Board has continued to obtain funding for a worker to support our plans for the town centre and to develop the actions identified in the DDD further. We have not been successful in this so far leaving the Board dependent on unpaid time of Trustees.

Financial Review

The charity had a surplus this year of £9,416.

Reserves Policy

At the year end, the charity had unrestricted funds of £928 and restricted funds of £16,670. The trustees consider that the current funds are adequate to meet current costs.

The accounts for the year are attached and form part of this report.

This report was approved by the trustees on 30th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:


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Mark Andrew Smith
Treasurer

Dumfries Partnership Action Group
Scottish Charity Number SC051000
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st May 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Receipts</u>				
Grants Received	-	15,410	15,410	19,592
Donations Received	-	20,000	20,000	-
Sponsorship	1,000	-	1,000	-
Total Receipts	<u>1,000</u>	<u>35,410</u>	<u>36,410</u>	<u>19,592</u>
<u>Payments</u>				
Charitable Expenses				
Consultancy fees	-	7,953	7,953	11,292
Advertising/Promotional	-	2,112	2,112	-
Entertainment	-	655	655	-
Installation of lights	-	7,449	7,449	-
Insurance	-	758	758	-
Volunteer meals/drinks	-	120	120	-
Media hire	-	7,211	7,211	-
Printing, postage & stationery	30	-	30	-
Website costs	-	282	282	-
	<u>30</u>	<u>26,540</u>	<u>26,570</u>	<u>11,292</u>
Governance Costs:				
Computer expenses	189	-	189	9
Bank charges	(71)	-	(71)	63
Room hire	66	-	66	46
Independent examiner's fee	240	-	240	-
	<u>424</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>118</u>
Total Payments	<u>454</u>	<u>26,540</u>	<u>26,994</u>	<u>11,410</u>
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	<u><u>546</u></u>	<u><u>8,870</u></u>	<u><u>9,416</u></u>	<u><u>8,182</u></u>

Dumfries Partnership Action Group
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Statement of Balances as at 31st May 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>Bank and Cash in Hand</u>		
Opening Balances	8,182	-
Surplus for the year	9,416	8,182
Closing Balances	<u>17,598</u>	<u>8,182</u>
<u>Reserves</u>		
General Unrestricted Funds	<u>928</u>	<u>382</u>
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Market of Possibilities	-	7,800
Christmas Lights	13,202	-
Love Dumfries	<u>3,468</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>16,670</u>	<u>7,800</u>
Total Reserves	<u>17,598</u>	<u>8,182</u>

The charity has no other investments, assets or material liabilities.

Approved by the trustees on 30th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:


Mark Andrew Smith
Treasurer

Dumfries Partnership Action Group
Scottish Charity Number SC051000
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st May 2024

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. During the year, the charity received grant funding of £11,660 from Dumfries & Galloway Council towards the Christmas light switch on and £3,750 from Dumfries & Galloway Council towards marketing for the Love Dumfries website. At the year end, the charity still holds restricted funds of £16,670 as detailed in the Statement of Balances on Page 5.

3. Related party transactions

None of the trustees received remuneration for their services. Two trustees received reimbursement of expenses totalling £560 relating to advert and stationery costs.

4. Grants received

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Loreburn Community Council	-	-	-	500
Dumfries & Galloway Council	-	15,410	15,410	11,292
National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	7,800
	<u>-</u>	<u>15,410</u>	<u>15,410</u>	<u>19,592</u>

Dumfries Partnership Action Group
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st May 2024 set out on pages 4 to 6.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements;
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations;

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Gillian Gray, BAcc., C.A.
Carson & Trotter
Chartered Accountants
123 Irish Street
Dumfries
DG1 2PE

30th January 2025