

Company Registration No. NI31418 (Northern Ireland)

**RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)
(Company Limited by Guarantee)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

COMPANY INFORMATION

Trustees	Raymond Craig Patsy O'Hanlon Paul Dinsmore Frances Spence (Treasurer) Arnold Hatch Nicholas Moore John Waddell (Chairperson) Fergus Cooper Noelle Donnell (Vice Chairperson) Rosemary Forde Gary English Aidan Bunting Eimear Montague Philip O'Kane Karin Eyben
Corporate Management Team	Kate Clifford (Director) Kathryn Kerr (Finance & IT Officer)
Company number	NI31418
Registered office	38a Oldtown Street Cookstown Co Tyrone BT80 8EF
Auditor	David Lyttle + Co Ltd Station House 46 Molesworth Street Cookstown Co Tyrone BT80 8PA
Bankers	Bank of Ireland 32 James Street Cookstown Co Tyrone BT80 8LU
Solicitors	PA Duffy & Co 14 Molesworth Street Cookstown Co Tyrone BT80 8NX

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 12
Directors' responsibilities statement	13
Independent examiner's report	14
Statement of financial activities	15
Balance sheet	16
Notes to the financial statements	17 - 28

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, submit their Annual Report and the externally independently examined Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 effective 1 January 2015), in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Trustees

The trustees who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

Raymond Craig
Chris McCarney (Resigned 31 March 2020)
Patsy O'Hanlon
Paul Dinsmore
Frances Spence (Treasurer)
Arnold Hatch
Nicholas Moore
John Waddell (Chairperson)
Fergus Cooper
Noelle Donnell (Vice Chairperson)
Rosemary Forde
Gary English
Aidan Bunting
Elmear Montague
Pete Byrne (Resigned 11 March 2020)
Philip O'Kane
Karin Eyben

Structure, Governance and Management

Rural Community Network (NI) was set up in 1991, as a company limited by guarantee constituted under the Companies Act 2006 and is a registered charity, number XR17297. Rural Community Network (NI) is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland as a Company Limited by Guarantee, number NIC100009. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The principal office of the company is located at 38a Oldtown Street, Cookstown, Co Tyrone, BT80 8EF.

The trustees of the company are its directors for the purposes of charity law and are collectively referred to as trustees. The number of trustees must not be less than 5 or more than 23. Rural Community Network (NI) is managed by voluntary trustees elected every two years and there are also a number of co-opted positions. The elected trustees include two community representatives from each of the six counties in Northern Ireland, two affiliate members from regional voluntary organisations and one representative from the statutory authorities. The co-options can be representatives from agriculture, disability and cross border sectors.

After each election an induction is held for the trustees. Areas considered at the induction include an explanation of the major areas of activity (including the current programmes of work), guidance on the governance aspects of a trustee's role, an introduction to the strategic aims over the two-year period and an examination of the main threats and opportunities facing the charity.

The day to day management of Rural Community Network (NI) is delegated to a management team headed by Kate Clifford (Director) which reports to the Board of Trustees 6 to 7 times per year. The Finance and Human Resources sub-committee oversees major areas of work and reports from the sub-committee are presented at each Board meeting. Written policies and procedures detail the decision making powers which are delegated to the staff and those which are retained by the trustees. The current Finance and Human Resources sub-committee has committed to working with the Board on an ongoing programme of review of policies which are used within the organisation.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Risk management

The trustees have undertaken a detailed review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A major risk is around cash flow and the ability of Rural Community Network (NI) to meet payments due to delays in payments from funders. The trustees have considered this risk and have made provision under the Reserves Policy. Systems and procedures have been established to mitigate risk identified and strategies are being developed to minimise the impact on the community, should any of the risks materialise.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Objectives and Activities / Public Benefit

In ensuring that the activities of Rural Community Network (NI) provide a public benefit, all our activities are related to one or more of the following charitable objects:

- The advancement of citizenship through the promotion of voluntary activity, using a community development methodology;
- The prevention or relief of poverty, by actively encouraging the participation of the most disadvantaged and excluded groups in our programmes;
- The advancement of education by providing training to support voluntary organisations; and
- The advancement of human rights through work designed to promote reconciliation and resolve conflict.

In shaping our activities and objectives, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

During the reporting period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, Rural Community Network (NI) carried out its operations under the following five strategic aims and associated objectives.

Strategic Aim 1: Empowering the Voice of Rural Communities

- 1.1 To advocate on behalf of and with rural communities.
- 1.2 Provide leadership on rural policy issues and provide a challenge function, where required to both regional and local government on rural policy issues.
- 1.3. To build community capacity to enable communities to identify issues and advocate on behalf of themselves.
- 1.4 To promote rural proofing and monitor how statutory agencies deliver policies and programmes to meet the needs of rural communities.
- 1.5 To build partnerships with relevant organisation on rural needs and issues.
- 1.6 To network rural stakeholders across Northern Ireland and build effective collaborations on policy issues.
- 1.7 To communicate with stakeholders on policy issues that impact on rural communities.
- 1.8 To develop credible research and a robust evidence base to mitigate poverty and deprivation in rural communities

Strategic Aim 2: Promoting, supporting and celebrating community development practice in rural communities

2. To support and develop the role of the volunteer, paid worker, organisations and agencies in the promotion, sharing and development of community development practice, skills and knowledge.
- 2.2 To acknowledge and celebrate the role of volunteers, paid workers, organisations and agencies in their community development practice.
- 2.3 To contribute to learning and professional development initiatives relating to community development practice.

Strategic Aim 3: Actively working towards an equitable and peaceful society

- 3.1 To support and encourage peace and reconciliation work throughout rural communities.
- 3.2 To support and encourage those who are most disadvantaged to address social and economic needs and to reduce inequalities.
- 3.3 To support the capacity and confidence building of rural Section 75 groupings in attaining equality of opportunity.
- 3.4 To collaborate with, and offer support to, other agencies / organisations in their work to meet this aim in a rural context.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Strategic Aim 4: Supporting rural communities to realise their potential and ambitions

- 4.1 To promote and encourage equitable service delivery and investment in rural areas, informed by the needs of the rural community.
- 4.2 To actively work with other agencies to ensure that rural organisations and rural people have access to local service provision to improve their quality of life.
- 4.3 To support communities to maximise the usage of local assets.
- 4.4 To develop areas of work, in partnership with other agencies, to ensure the best possible services are developed and delivered to rural communities.

Strategic Aim 5: Developing staff systems and resources, ensuring continuous improvement and development of RCN services.

- 5.1 To create an organisational plan to achieve all of the strategic aims.
- 5.2 To invest in Board and staff to ensure adequate support processes and structures are in place.
- 5.3 To ensure strong corporate governance and accountability
- 5.4 To work in collaboration with others to ensure we meet our strategic aims.

Grant making policy

When applicable: in administering programmes with grants, Rural Community Network (NI) develops a written assessment criterion which reflects the expectations of the funders. All applications are assessed for eligibility to ensure that they meet the programme aims and a scoring grid may be used to assist the grant making decision process.

Achievements and Performance

The external independent examination of Rural Community Network accounts presented in this report comprise its results for the year ended 31 March 2020, detailed on page 17. Key achievements under each Strategic Aim are listed below.

RCN continues to be in a consortium with NICVA and CO3 in the extension period of the Generic strand of the Regional Infrastructure Support Programme (RISP) funded through DAERA and DfC to deliver key services to community and voluntary sector groups throughout Northern Ireland with a strong rural presence.

Rural Community Network (NI) currently uses the RISP funding to part support a Director's post, a Policy and Public Affairs post, a Community Learning and Skills post and a Finance and IT post. Rural Community Network (NI) currently has two staff employed through a Community Relations Council Core funded programme. In addition, RCN has secured significant contract and tender work through bids to undertake work in relation to facilitation, housing, community education and peacebuilding.

Given the volume of work which we undertake and the cross-cutting nature of a number of our activities the information reported below is a snapshot of the achievements of Rural Community Network (NI) during the reporting period. It should be noted that where many of the achievements cut across a number of strategic areas of work within the organisation, they may only be given a single reference. It should also be noted that this is only a sample of our work and it is written to illustrate how we are meeting our targets across the aims and objectives of our strategic plan.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Strategic Aim 1: Empowering the Voice of Rural Communities

- Meeting with Cabinet Office, NIO and Department Foreign Affairs. Addressing key issues around lack of representation of civic voices in Brexit negotiations and key issues that rural and border communities may face in the coming years.
- Representation on Joint Forum – Representing rural voice at that forum. Worked on the revamp of the Addressing Bureaucracy report, which aimed to reduce the red tape and reporting burden on VCSE to Civil Service. It is being revisited in light of changes at the Civil Service which have caused an increase in the reporting and direct interference in the governance and management of organisations.
- Met with DAERA officials at committee and Perm secretary level to discuss RCN, our role and function, the work we do and the ambitions for the organisation. We have had direct input on the plans for future of rural development policy, Cafré student fees and the Future NI Environment Strategy and Shared prosperity funding.
- Consultations responded to included MUDC Draft Area Plan, DoH consultation on Breast Assessment Services, DoH consultation on Stroke Care, Housing Executive consultation on Chronic Homelessness Action Plan and DfC consultation on the definition of affordable housing.
- Supporting the Rural Residents' Forum through presentations to Housing Associations and Housing Executive staff to raise awareness of Rural New building targets, Personal Independence Payment, Rural Needs Act
- Met with statutory agencies and political parties to discuss rural new build housing, rural social housing issues and the sharing of information on developing our Rural Needs Act scrutiny function and how this might be applied to rural social housing issues.
- Developing a Rural Evidence Base looking at data from NINIS and a local profile to give a better understanding of the local area with input from Rose Regeneration with 3 member groups and working with UU to pilot GPS mapping key indicators across rural NI to build up a regional wide picture.
- Attended European Rural Parliament 2019 for a NI delegation in Asturias Spain.
- In relation to Brexit RCN has partnered with ACRE, Scottish Rural Action and PLANED Wales on ROAD project to develop policy asks for rural development post Brexit, completed online member questionnaire on Brexit issues, sitting on DAERA Brexit Stakeholders Group and participated in a BBC Radio Four interview on the Brexit issue for border and rural communities.
- Continued links with other European communities including the Norwegian Government to discuss issues of Brexit and border communities.
- Met with CAJ on Poverty in Rural NI and how decision making across Government and the lack of an Antipoverty Strategy is being challenged in relation to welfare reform.
- Meetings with Sinn Fein, Food Farming & Countryside NI working group, CCBS on New Common Charter project, Human Rights Consortium Brexit conference, Ealu representatives to organise a workshop looking at flags emblems and symbols, Parents' group from Brollagh on whether the Rural Needs Act can be used to respond to the proposal from the Department for Education to close their school in Co Fermanagh.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Strategic Aim 2: Promoting, supporting and celebrating community development practice in rural communities

- Sitting on the PHA advisory panel for the Community Development Approaches to Transformation in Health and Social Wellbeing.
- Rolling out reflective practice sessions with five groups to prepare them for their mentoring role as part of CDHN contract on Transformation and Community Development in the Health Service.
- Meeting with Lottery, Halifax, CFNI and DAERA about changes to the sector, funding priorities and the need for support for regional and strategic organisations across the region.
- Discussions with DfC, DAERA and Funding bodies about sectoral succession planning, community education and support and development of a regional support service for rural groups.
- Met with Rural Support to help think through a collaborative project using their connections with a number of funds to make use of the social value engine.
- Provided direct contact community development, governance and advice support to 198 groups over the year.
- Met with Carnegie Trust to discuss the work Carnegie is doing on wellbeing in NI along with other CEOs / Directors.
- Sat on PHA Bengoa Report Community Development Implementation and transformation subgroup to influence the roll out of community development skills in the health prevention and intervention services particularly around service provided at a primary care level.
- Delivered Getting to Know your institutions course in Ballymoney with 12 groups from Causeway Coast and Glens council area.
- Delivered sessions on understanding commemorations and facilitating remembrance training for community volunteers and workers.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Strategic Aim 3: Actively working towards an equitable and peaceful society

- Spoke on issues of cultural division, government leadership in cultural issues and Brexit's impact on rural peacebuilding as well as sitting on the Sir George Quigley Foundation implementation panel.
- OCNs included 15 women Level 1 and 2 in Dealing with the Past, 18 people completed Level 1 in Participatory Democracy in partnership with REACT and ICR, 7 women completed Level 1 in Gender Based Violence and Culture, 8 young women in Good Relations, 15 participants at Level 1 in Ulster Scots, 12 participants Level 2 in Practising Reconciliation through Remembrance including three workshops and a site visit to Fort Dunree and two residential programmes.
- Facilitated at the International Peace Summer school over 8 days and assisted the NI participants with their OCN level 3 in peacebuilding.
- 16 men and women completed The Ordinary Women in Extraordinary Times programme.
- Attended a DOJ Fresh Start workshop to input a rural focus to a conversation on a culture of lawfulness, which will help shape a new thinktank paper for the DOJ.
- Worked with Confederation of Ulster Bands to finalise its three-year strategic plan.
- Beyond Belfast practitioners support group work continued to run support meetings for practitioners who are largely working in isolation in their communities and included a think tank discussion on women and peacebuilding and consultation on the Regional Trauma Network.
- RCN has worked with migrant support groups to highlight where essential public health information, rights information and access to benefits etc in a variety of languages can be found and shared, supporting those whose first language is not English.
- Art programme with National Museum Services with 25 rural men and women who designed an art piece and 25 canvases were displayed in Ulster Museum and included a site visit to Seamus Heaney Centre to reflect on the Troubles.
- Attended and contributed to the CRC Peace Monitoring report event.
- In collaboration with Hummingbird worked with five projects to deliver peace and reconciliation projects around addressing division, flags and emblems.
- Involved in recruiting NI participants, shaping and ensuring a rural focus to the International Peace Summer school where students from Boston Uni meet with NI participants to engage in an 8-day programme.
- Heritage Lottery Fund programme, War to End all Wars, funded 4 photoshop workshops where 66 photos were displayed as part of Community Relations Week in the Millennium Arts Centre with over 80 people attending the launch and over 1000 visiting the exhibition. Talks on death, disability and disfigurement and also women; the vote and the war were also organised.
- 15 places were filled with rural participants for 'The Tracing Our Family Roots' programme.
- Project with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council on Ireland 1919 – 1921 with 50 people registered.
- Project with ABC Council through TEO for a shared history tour.
- Successful Rebels, Radicals programme in Mid Ulster funded by CRC.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Strategic Aim 4: Supporting rural communities to realise their potential and ambitions

- Supported the Faith Sector Forum through a think tank day with NICVA to discuss the role and function of the Forum and developed an action plan.
- Facilitated Faith groups to use the Grant Tracker programme to assist with funding enquiries.
- Met with Thrive Ireland to discuss the submission of an application for faith sector support in leadership in peacebuilding. This work would follow up the very successful work of the 'Blessed are the Peacemakers' work in the Rural Enablers Programme.
- Fund was received from Halifax Foundation to further develop the Social Value Engine to help community groups and statutory agencies measure their social return on investment (SROI). This work is also being tailored for groups in the South of Ireland. RCN & Social Value UK event held in Oxford Island.
- Promoted our social communication with Facebook Page including an RCN Members Funding page, Twitter Feed & Blog posts and radio and TV interviews. Average of 2000 hits
- Supporting our membership on requests on funding, governance & training.
- Developed a new RCN Membership Engagement Form offering new services to members with liaison from Rose Regeneration.
- Provided training on Funding Applications, Lobbying & Campaigning, Succession Planning.
- Liaison with Heritage Lottery Fund for potential application to be submitted by RCN in managing funding and rural heritage projects.
- Dealing with ongoing Membership Support Requests on Funding, Governance & Training requests.
- Supported some 'West of the Bann' groups through Charity Commission governance procedures.
- Engaged with Rathlin during a two-day innovation lab regarding its lighthouse redevelopment proposals and its community consultation process.

Strategic Aim 5: Developing staff systems and resources, ensuring continuous improvement and development of RCN services.

- We held our AGM in November at RCN office. We had 5 meetings of the Board over the year and sub-committee meetings for Finance & HR, Shared Future / Beyond Belfast, Membership, Strategic Planning, Building, Policy and Lobbying.
- We had to upgrade our phone system to VOIP.
- First Aid training – some staff received training in Emergency First Aid.
- Staff development included a four-day Teacher Training qualification with Prospect Awards as part of the Elevate programme and attendance at a Digital Skills Masterclass organised by Media Trust.
- Ongoing reviews of corporate policies and procedures take place at each Board meeting as the law / governance/ charity laws change.
- We appointed Rose Regeneration to help in the development of our Strategic Plan and Income Generation Strategy.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Financial Review

For the year, income is £276,728 (2019: £253,566), an increase of £23,162 coming from funding received. Expenditure has decreased on last year by £12,064 which is due to spend in specific projects for which income was received in the preceding year.

The Trustees of RCN have met with our appointed Auditor to discuss the deficit in last year's accounts and are aware of the implications for the organisation. The Trustees of RCN acknowledge and understand the current financial situation and are taking steps to both control and manage the situation in this current year. The Trustees are confident of the performance of the organisation for the coming 12 month period and will keep a watching brief on the accounts in these austere times.

Rural Community Network (NI) receives funding from a range of government and charitable organisations and discharges these funds in pursuit of its charitable objectives and the particular programme funding targets.

Reserves Policy

Rural Community Network (NI) has a Reserves Policy which details why reserves are held and the level of reserves appropriate for the charity. The trustees review the level of free reserves required (that is those funds not tied up in fixed assets, designated and restricted funds) on an annual basis to ensure continuity of charitable operations.

In the event of Rural Community Network (NI) being wound up there is a legal requirement to store documentation for seven years and the associated costs would need to be met from reserves. The actual free reserves at 31 March 2020 are £32,002. The charity is looking at ways of increasing funding to meet this shortfall over the next few years and the policy is reviewed annually.

Designated reserves for other purposes are detailed in note 16. A cash flow fund is held to bridge any potential shortfall in fundraising targets and to underpin viable programmes that are experiencing cash flow problems. A staffing fund is held to enable Rural Community Network (NI) to cover sickness, maternity and meet redundancy costs. A development fund is held to facilitate the development of new programmes and to provide for restructuring of existing activities. A capital fund exists to hold funds received for the purchase of fixed assets.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

The charity holds no funds as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Plans for future periods

We continue to operate under our existing Strategic Plan 2014-2020 with our Board and membership.

The work of Rural Community Network (NI) during 2020/2021 will be set within the COVID-19 pandemic which is an ever-changing picture. This along with an uncertain political and economic environment, budgetary constraints give us a very uncertain work path. But it is vital to note that through this uncertainty the purpose and objects of the organisation remain firmly fixed on challenging the issues which cause rural poverty and create disadvantage for those living and working in rural areas.

In the coming year we will be working on issues of how rural communities cope with COVID-19, while involved in Emergency Leadership Group NI about food distribution, hot food delivery and coordination, rural proofing, peace-building, social exclusion and how the BREXIT negotiations may well look to support rural development across the region. We will also be keeping a watching brief on the impacts of welfare reform and poverty in our rural communities and working to highlight issues of hidden rural poverty.

As an agency with a limited staff resource we have worked hard to develop and sustain working relationships right across the community, voluntary and statutory sectors. RCN is actively working to collaborate and co-ordinate services in a way that builds value for money and reduces duplication of services.

RCN is committed to ensuring groups and individuals living and working in rural areas have access to the necessary skills and training which will enable them to run local development groups and organisations to improve their local communities. We have developed a comprehensive menu of training provision and continue to be an OCN Accrediting Centre. In the next year we will deliver high quality education and training in good practice, good governance and community development across the region.

Governance of community groups and changes in how charities operate within the context of the Charity Commission has caused a degree of uncertainty among our member groups. We will continue to work to address these issues by hosting workshops, one to one training sessions and bespoke advice clinics for those who need support. We continue to be a part of the regional groups which are looking at the introduction of a fund regulator and maintain our role on the good governance working group.

RCN hopes to continue our work on issues relating to the social economy in rural areas. In a time of constrained resources and cuts in government spending we are aware of the need for communities to respond to a lack of service provision in their localities and to find ways to sustain their activities which reduce reliance on central funding streams. As a networking organisation we take seriously our role in disseminating best practice and sharing experiences so that communities can learn from each other.

Policy influence and policy consultation are key features of the work of RCN and we hope to respond to consultation opportunities including the outworking of TEO's Fresh Start and TBUC strategies, Social Housing Reform programme, Health service reform. As well as working to champion rural issues when changes are being proposed to issues such as health and education service provision, welfare reform, peace building, employment, culture and community planning etc.

The organisation takes very seriously its role in building a peaceful and equitable future for rural Northern Ireland and is committed to working with rural communities to address the legacy of the conflict in the region. RCN is actively engaged in the development of work to remove interfaces and will lobby at all levels of government to have rural contested spaces recognised as being of equal importance and worthy of similar consideration as the physical peace walls which divide many urban regions.

RCN believes strongly in the concept of dialogue and education for peace building and will bring training opportunities in leadership, community development and good relations to rural communities. In the past number of years, we have successfully lobbied a range of agencies to partner with us to work with groups in a variety of rural locations, increasing rural communities' access to bespoke and quality training. We aim to expand this element of our work to ensure rural areas have equity of access to this type of experience.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

As we are in the rollover year of an existing service delivery contract many of the targets set for the organisation last year remain relevant in this future period.

Some of the main areas of work during the next financial year are as follows:

- Working with the VCS to identify potential solutions to rural service delivery issues and challenges which they face and engaging the relevant public authorities in testing and exploring these solutions.
- Supporting and enabling the active engagement of rural VCS organisations in the Rural Needs Impact Assessment process undertaken by Duty Holders to support effective lobbying and advocacy by rural VCS organisations.
- Testing the benefits/robustness of the Social Value Engine by conducting pilots in 5 rural VCS settings throughout NI covering a number of DAERA supported programmes and report on the social value of interventions.
- Supporting the VCS to make a valued contribution to policy development and to lead and represent the interests of the VCS on key policy issues.
- Working with faith sector to support them to make a contribution to policy issues and community responses in their areas.
- On behalf of rural groups providing 20 written responses to consultations, surveys, questionnaires and to provide 10 opportunities for engagement between duty holders/statutory providers and rural VSC groups on issues regarding policy and service delivery changes resulting from Brexit, New Decade Approach and the implementation of the Rural Needs Act.
- Engaging with a minimum of 8 councils to share best practice, support their understanding of the rural needs agenda and provide awareness into rural challenges in relation to providing service delivery to rural communities.
- Working with NILGA, TEO, NIHE, Gov Depts and VCS on developing greater awareness of the Rural Needs Act and rural service delivery and rural proofing within their remit. A minimum of 10 engagements.
- Providing a one to one support service to 25 groups to ensure the rural voice is considered in their engagement with statutory bodies and local councils in all aspects of community planning, service delivery, community relations, peace plans and rural development.
- Providing a support and challenge function on community / good relations to regional and local government and the wider community / voluntary sector.
- Continued work on developing localised support interventions that address issues of contested space in urban, rural and cross border settings.
- Contribute to the promotion of shared space in rural Northern Ireland in line with the Together Building a United Community Strategy.
- Contribute toward the roll out of a rurally sensitive Together Building United Communities Strategy working with TEO to ensure rural inclusion in the programme.
- Explore community support interventions which address inequality, disadvantage and exclusion within rural communities.
- Undertake to deliver one conference with regional significance in community relations.
- Supporting the inclusion of faith-based communities in the work of RCN.
- Supporting rural groups and individuals to become actively involved in representing the views of their communities in initiatives such as community planning, LEADER groups, NIHE tenants' groups, consultation fora, etc.
- Working with local communities and others to help to develop leadership skills in relation to good relations and community development through the provision of at least one leadership training programme.
- Promoting Digital Inclusion to highlight the issue of digital exclusion the lack of access to technology, lack of access to broadband/broadband speeds sufficient to keep connected, affordability of broadband and lack of digital knowhow.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Statement of disclosure to auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the directors individually have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

On behalf of the board



John Waddell (Chairperson)

Director

26 November 2020

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

The trustees (who are also directors of Rural Community Network (NI) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board



John Waddell (Chairperson)

Director

26 November 2020

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE PREPARATION OF THE UNAUDITED STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Rural Community Network (NI)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2020, which are set out on pages 14 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of directors and examiner

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Commission under section 65 (9) (b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.


My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



for and on behalf of David Lyffle + Co Ltd

26 November 2020

Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors

Station House
46 Molesworth Street
Cookstown
Co Tyrone
BT80 8PA

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	5,565	97,049	102,614	102,151
Investment income	3	123	-	123	109
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Charitable projects income	4	94,675	69,903	164,578	142,947
Other incoming resources	6	9,413	-	9,413	8,359
Total incoming resources		<u>109,776</u>	<u>166,952</u>	<u>276,728</u>	<u>253,566</u>
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	7	122,469	175,459	297,928	308,929
Governance costs	8	1,150	2,250	3,400	4,268
Total resources expended		<u>123,619</u>	<u>177,709</u>	<u>301,328</u>	<u>313,197</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		<u>(13,843)</u>	<u>(10,757)</u>	<u>(24,600)</u>	<u>(59,631)</u>
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2019		<u>448,259</u>	<u>17,676</u>	<u>465,935</u>	<u>525,566</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2020		<u><u>434,416</u></u>	<u><u>6,919</u></u>	<u><u>441,335</u></u>	<u><u>465,935</u></u>

The statement of financial activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those passing through the statement of financial activities.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		322,743		329,696
Current assets					
Debtors	14	1,102		1,248	
Cash at bank and in hand		120,300		137,341	
		121,402		138,589	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(2,810)		(2,350)	
Net current assets			118,592		136,239
Total assets less current liabilities			441,335		465,935
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	18		6,522		17,676
Unrestricted income funds	18				
General funds			32,206		38,699
Designated funds			402,607		409,560
Total unrestricted income funds			434,813		448,259
Total charity funds			441,335		465,935

For the financial year ended 31 March 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

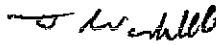
The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26 November 2020 and are signed on its behalf by:


Frances Spence (Treasurer)


John Waddell (Chairperson)
Director

Company Registration No. NI31418

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Rural Community Network (NI) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 38a Oldtown Street, Cookstown, Co Tyrone, BT80 8EF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Rural Community Network (NI) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accountancy policy note(s). The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Income and expenditure

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

- **Voluntary income** - Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.
- **Investment income** - Investment income relates to bank interest receivable.
- **Charitable projects income** - Charitable projects income is received by way of grants and is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.
- **Other incoming resources** - Fees and other income are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when due.
- **Grants** - Grants for the purpose of capital expenditure are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable and transferred to unrestricted funds on purchase of the asset. Revenue grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received, unless they relate to a specified future period in which case they are deferred.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

All expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to supply them. Support costs are allocated to their relevant activity based on the number of staff on the project.

- **Charitable activities and grants paid** - Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to supply them. Support costs are allocated to their relevant activity based on the number of staff on the project.
- **Governance costs** - Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets which are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- **Pension costs** - The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.
- **Operating leases** - Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease terms.
- **Fund accounting** - The charity has various types of fund for which it is responsible and which require specific disclosures. A definition of the various types of funds is as follows:
 - General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees for furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
 - Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
 - Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	not depreciated
Leasehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	10% straight line
Computers	33.3% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to surplus or deficit.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.4 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting period end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.6 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as fair value hedges are recognised in profit or loss immediately, together with any changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability that are attributable to the hedged risk.

2 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
DAERA / DFC	-	97,049	97,049	96,926
Membership fees	5,565	-	5,565	5,225
	<u>5,565</u>	<u>97,049</u>	<u>102,614</u>	<u>102,151</u>

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Interest receivable and similar income	123	-	123	109
	<u>123</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>109</u>

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

4 Charitable projects income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Total charitable trusts and other bodies				
Community Relations Council	-	49,307	49,307	49,394
ABC Council	-	670	670	1,530
Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)	-	-	-	11,225
Halifax Community Grants Programme	-	10,000	10,000	-
St Stephen's Green Trust	-	-	-	12,120
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	9,200	9,200	-
Ann McGeeney Fund	-	-	-	500
USEL	-	-	-	1,000
The Executive Office	-	726	726	-
Building Change Trust (Wind)	-	-	-	6,214
Building Change Trust (BCT)	-	-	-	1,949
Total charitable trusts and other bodies	-	69,903	69,903	83,932
Fee income	94,675	-	94,675	59,015
	94,675	69,903	164,578	142,947

5 Fee income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Fee income	94,675	-	94,675	59,015

6 Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Miscellaneous income	5,647	-	5,647	2,996
Meeting income	3,766	-	3,766	3,148
Training income	-	-	-	2,215
	9,413	-	9,413	8,359

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

7 Charitable projects	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost of general projects	122,469	175,459	297,928	308,929
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
8 Governance costs	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
Professional fees and board expenses	1,150	2,250	3,400	4,268
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
9 Net movement in funds			2020	2019
Net movement in funds is stated after charging:			£	£
Staff costs (Note 10)			210,729	208,164
Other operating leases			984	1,596
Depreciation			7,362	8,363
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>

10 Trustees' remuneration

The Trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the year (2019: £nil).

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

11 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Employees

Average monthly number of persons employed during the year, excluding trustees, by activity:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Charitable activities	4	4
Management and administration of the company	2	2
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

Their aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	180,413	181,069
Social security costs	18,244	15,067
Pension costs	12,073	12,028
	<u>210,730</u>	<u>208,164</u>

Employees falling in the emoluments band over £60,000 is Nil (2019 : £nil).

Key management compensation

Key management included the trustees and members of senior management. The compensation paid or payable to key management for employee services is shown below:

	2020 £	2019 £
Key management compensation	89,536	87,913

Trustees

	2020 Number	2019 Number
The number of trustees at the year end was	15	15
	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

12 Taxation

The company is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives if these profits and surpluses are applied for charitable purposes.

The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly, all its expenditure is recorded inclusive of any VAT incurred.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Plant and machinery etc	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2019	450,531	37,005	487,536
Additions	-	410	410
At 31 March 2020	450,531	37,416	487,947
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2019	122,592	35,248	157,840
Depreciation charged in the year	6,158	1,205	7,363
At 31 March 2020	128,750	36,454	165,204
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2020	321,781	962	322,743
At 31 March 2019	327,939	1,757	329,696

14 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Prepayments and accrued income	1,102	1,248

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	2,810	2,350

16 Members' liability

The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding £1.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

17 Contingent liabilities

There is a contingent liability to repay all grant monies should they not be distributed under the terms of the various initiatives. The trustees do not anticipate any repayment falling due under the terms on which the grants were received.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

18 Statement of funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
General reserve	38,699	109,763	(116,256)	-	32,206
	<u>38,699</u>	<u>109,763</u>	<u>(116,256)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,206</u>
Designated funds					
Capital fund	322,917	13	(7,363)	397	315,964
Cash flow fund	30,838	-	-	-	30,838
Staffing fund	55,000	-	-	-	55,000
Development fund	805	-	-	-	805
	<u>409,560</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>(7,363)</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>402,607</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>448,259</u>	<u>109,776</u>	<u>(123,619)</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>434,813</u>

General reserve

The general reserve represents the funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

Capital fund

The capital fund consists of funds received for the purpose of fixed assets which are transferred to unrestricted funds when expended and then released from designated funds over the related assets' useful life. £7,363 represents the depreciation charge in the current financial year.

Cash flow fund

The cash flow fund has been designated by the trustees to ensure that sufficient reserves are available to bridge any potential shortfall in fundraising targets and to allow sufficient time for additional funds to be secured. This fund also allows for a temporary transfer of funds while funding claims are being processed.

Staffing fund

The staffing fund has been set up to cover the cost of employing locum staff as well as covering the cost of contractual obligations to staff including provision for redundancy costs, training for the re-deployment of staff and good employment practice.

Development fund

The development fund was established to allow Rural Community Network (NI) to invest in the development of new programmes where a need is identified and to restructure existing functions where required.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

18 Statement of funds

(Continued)

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	9,200	(9,200)	-	-
Community Relations Council	-	49,307	(49,307)	-	-
ABC Council	-	670	(670)	-	-
Halifax Community Grants Programme	-	10,000	(8,908)	-	1,092
DFA	11,225	-	(11,225)	-	-
XChange/CO3	5,430	-	-	-	5,430
Ann McGeeney Fund	500	-	(500)	-	-
DAERA/DFC	-	97,049	(97,049)	-	-
The Executive Office	-	726	(726)	-	-
USEL	521	-	(124)	(397)	-
	<u>17,676</u>	<u>166,952</u>	<u>(177,709)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,522</u>

Regional Infrastructure Support Programme

The Regional Infrastructure Support Programme funded by DAERA and DfC to a consortium of groups provides generic infrastructure support to enable the voluntary and community sector to operate effectively and efficiently across Northern Ireland in both urban and rural areas.

Community Relations Council

This programme funds a Community Relations programme of activity by providing funding for a Community Relations Officer and a part time administrator and seeks to improve and promote community relations and a 'shared future' regionally across rural Northern Ireland.

The Executive Office

TEO provided funding to assist with breaking down cultural barriers within and between rural communities, forge new linkages and learn about best practice in relation to cultural identity and build local relations in the Co. Armagh area and help disseminate good practice to families, communities and the wider society.

Heritage Lottery Fund

HLF funded the rural participant-led project 'Over by Christmas? The War to End all Wars'. Those who visited the Messines the previous year learnt how to enhance their photographs and had them exhibited in a local arts centre to showcase to the wider community along with site visits to PRONI, and the Ulster Museum.

The Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland

Social Value Engine looking at social return on investment developing on from the first round of funding with 15 groups across Northern Ireland. The project aims to give community groups the ability to calculate their social return on investment in their local area.

Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade – Reconciliation Fund

The DFA funds were received for OCN Level 2 in understanding different types of commemorations and developing good practice in relation to ethical remembering.

ABC Borough Council

This fee income was received from ABC Borough Council for community relations projects within its Council area delivered by RCN.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

19 Directors' transactions

The trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the year (2019:£nil).

20 Professional indemnity insurance

Professional indemnity insurance of £279 (2019 : £224) has been paid to indemnify trustees and staff providing technical advice to community groups.

21 Events after the reporting date

In March 2020, the World Health Organisation officially declared COVID 19 a pandemic. While it is still too early to determine the ultimate impact of the pandemic on the Charity, meeting room income and training income may be reduced while restrictions are in place. The Charity is continuing to work with its suppliers, members and employees to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the operations of the Charity.