**Annual Report** 

Year End 28 February 2020



Registered Company No. 07831065 Registered Charity No. 1146849

## From the Chair

#### Introduction

This year, CSN have continued to support local communities to access Community Centres across the town, and formed partnerships with local agencies, VCSE organisations and local communities.

We have seen steady growth in the number of groups using the centres, with 87 regular groups every week - a total of around 3,500 people coming through the doors. New groups have also been established, dealing with social isolation, eldelry mobility, and youth engagement.

I am proud to say that CSN has now moved from a reliance on grants to earned income. This provides greater strength to our charity in a time that grant funding is reduced year upon year through budget cuts. However, despite this success, next year it will be important to consider new income streams from the private, corporate, statutory and public sectors in order for us to survive independently.

Despite these successes, our charity has faced a number of challenges this year and anticipates more challenges to come. Primarily, this is around communication, leadership and an operational reliance on Trustees. This has prompted our decision to restructure our charity, plan for the future and change our way of working in 2019/20. A major aspect of this will be to carry out changes to our marketing and communication approach, especially in regards to social media. I believe this will make the organisation more robust to cope with future challenges and will make the organisation more proactive.

## How activities deliver public benefit

Alongside providing spaces for local communities to meet, connect and access services the CSN team have delivered a number of activities and services within our Community Centres.

CSN has been involved in the organisation and delivery of community fun days for residents at St Crispin Community Centre, Kingsthorpe Community Centre and Briar Hill Community Centre. Each event was a great success, with over 400 people attending each. In addition, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor planted fruit trees at St Crispin Community Centre.

We have also engaged with our regular centre users at Vernon Terrace - The Princes Trust. The group of young people attending Princes' Trust sessions at Vernon Terrace redecorated the Community Centre as a community project. Trustees worked with the volunteers on a gardening project and litter picking around the area. A celebration event was held following the completion of the project; CSN provided food and refreshments, and the Mayor attended to recognise the effort of volunteers involved.

The CSN team also established a session at Briar Hill Community Centre for those with mobility issues, who were at risk of social isolation.

While the main focus of our charity is to provide space for local people to access, as Trustees we continually develop our partnerships in the wider community, and enhance the benefit we deliver to the community. A summary of activities can be found below;

- Attendance at litter picking groups at Briar Hill, Rectory Farm and Southfields.
- Representation at multi-agency meetings and community safety Weeks of Action at Vernon Terrace, Thorplands, Bellinge, Ecton Brook, Lumbertubs & Southfields, Brookside and St Crispin, in addition to Thornton Park Management Committee - due to the proximity to Kingsthorpe Community Centre.
- Attendance at Residents Association meetings, and T Birch (Chair of CSN) elected as Chair of Rectory Farm Residents Association, and Treasurer for Southfields Residents Association.
- Regular attendance at the Community Centre Forum and VCSE Forum.
- Supporting a planting scheme around the Bouverie Estate with local Councillors.
- Membership of a working party on the development of social prescribing and involvement with the sector.

## Administration & Operational Issues

There has been a large amount of work completed on improving our accounting, bookings and recording systems for CSN. This has made a significant difference. The new Sage Cloud system is fully operational and links bookings with the accounts. This development has enabled CSN to have greater oversight of the operation and accounts, and enhances transparency; accounts can now be monitored throughout the year. It will enable CSN to monitor the use of the centres, provide quicker responses and track payments. My thanks to Mo Sonnie for putting these measures in place.

The challenge next year is to build on the success of our new management systems. We plan to carry out a major review of CSN, restructure and look for more and varied income streams to make the charity stronger.

## Building Improvements & Updates

One major building update this year was the transfer of Standens Barn Community Centre back to NBC. The centre was loss making due to the collapse of the preschool, and other interest was shown in the building. Frank Bruno Boxing Foundation have taken over the site as a base to deliver community engagement projects, which will be of great benefit to the local area.

We have made a number of improvements to the Community Centre buildings. The most significant transformation has been at Rectory Farm, with a major refurbishment and the addition of a new hall. This was achieved in collaboration between CSN, architects, residents, contractors and officers and local Councillors at NBC.

New LED lights have been installed in centres to cut costs and minimise disruption.

The future for CSN not only poses challenges, but also opportunity. One such opportunity is the promising development of 3 new community centres at St Crispin (now completed with the leases and agreements being negotiated), Pineham Barns, and Hardingstone. However, the future of CSN is dependent upon our ability to adapt, grow and reach new audiences and businesses to help the centres and our charity flourish. I am confident that with the right approach and mindset, CSN can continue to safeguard much needed space for local communities, along with delivering wider public benefit.

T. Birch Chair

## **Purposes**

Our charity's purposes, as set out in the objectives contained in the company's Memorandum of Association are to: -

- Promote the benefit of the inhabitants without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race, or of political, religious, or other opinion, by associating together the said inhabitants and the statutory authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education, and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare, or recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
- To establish, or secure the establishment, of community centres and to maintain and manage the same (whether alone or in co-operation with any statutory authority or other person or body) in furtherance of the objectives.

## **Values, Aims and Objectives**

Working together to find the best ways to shape and provide opportunities for activities, services and experiences that create a greater sense of community and belonging.

#### Values:

- We are committed to providing opportunities that are affordable and of benefit to local people.
- We are committed to improving and enhancing the lives of people living, working or learning in the community.
- We aspire to achieve community cohesion by supporting activities that allow all individuals to share experiences We aspire to put the needs of the community at the heart of everything we do.
- We are committed to supporting the empowerment of communities, staff and volunteers to make a real impact.
- We are committed to taking responsibility for the continuous improvement of the provision on offer and being and being part of the answer and not the problem.
- We will operate within strict charitable, legal and ethical guidelines.

## Aims and Objectives:

# Community Spaces Northampton manages a number of community centres in Northampton to:

- 1. Accommodate a range of activities that are relevant, accessible and affordable for local people
- 2. Provide a welcoming, safe and supportive environment that is responsive to the needs of all within the community
- 3. Encourage local partnerships and networks that reflect the diversity of communities
- 4. Support local people to improve their health and wellbeing
- 5. Support the development of new initiatives and groups that respond to local needs
- 6. Encourage active participation in the life of the local community
- 7. Nurture an ethos of trust and mutual respect
- 8. Promote and organise co-operation between local residents, voluntary and community organisations, statutory bodies and other agencies, both at local and national level, in encouraging development and cohesion.

**Our definition of a 'Community Centre'** The term 'Community Centre' covers facilities that provide opportunities for social interaction, health activities and exercise, recreation, events, interest based courses, meeting spaces, youth groups. The organisation is proactive in determining needs, innovative in meeting the requirements of the local community and open to all groups within the community. The centres are there to provide a space for activities built around the needs of local people and are welcoming, inclusive and encourage a sense of belonging.

Our aims, objectives and activities are reviewed annually. The review also considers what has been achieved and the outcomes from the initiates that have been actioned. The success of the engagement activities, initiatives and development can be shown to demonstrate how the charity is improving and enhancing the lives of people living, working or learning in the

community. Through our feedback from groups and events, and liaison with residents and stakeholder groups we can ensure that we have a range of activities that are relevant, accessible and affordable for local people.

Many new initiatives have been started in response to local needs. The review helps us to ensure our aims and objectives remain focussed on our stated purposes.

#### **Public Benefit Statement**

The trustees have paid due regard to the charity commission guidance on public benefit. The trustees are confident that CSN's aims, objectives and activities accommodate a range of activities that are relevant, accessible and affordable and improve and enhance the lives of people, whilst encouraging and developing partnerships and networks, and are in accordance with the regulations on public benefit.

## **Structure, Governance and Management:**

The organisation is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, incorporated on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011, and registered as a charity on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The company was established under a memorandum and articles of association, which defines its objects and powers, and is governed by its articles of association.

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the statement of recommended practice – accounting and reporting by charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005.

As part of the induction of new trustees they will formally meet the CEO and Chair of trustees. The induction will also include a question and answer session following a presentation. Potential new trustees are taken around and shown the community centres. Additionally, the new trustees will receive an information pack which includes:

- The obligations of the trustees.
- The key organisational policies and documents, including the Mem and Arts, policies, a copy of the building management agreement, and a sample copy of a lease.
- Resourcing and the current financial position as set out in the latest published accounts.

- Information from the various Charity Commission publications, signposted through the guide "The Essential Trustee".
- Aims and objectives and future plans.

All the trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

## **Organisational Structure:**

The organisation is led by the board, who meet at least 4 times per year. During these meetings consideration is given to strategic direction and policy of the charity. The CEO attends to discuss strategy, present reports and to take direction from the board. Consideration is given to updating the business plan, future opportunities and assessing, and mitigating where possible, potential and known risks to the charity.

The charity has put in place systems to encourage new volunteers in areas where the community centres are located. There has been a focus on volunteering policy, development and activities to enable this to be undertaken. Volunteers have helped in improving the centres through decoration, development and involvement in community activities, gardening projects and litter picking.

## **Principal Funding Sources:**

Our main income source is self generated through room hire rental income of the centres. In the current financial climate, it should be recognised that many of the groups using the centres require support and have limited forms of income. This has limited our ability to raise historically very low, subsidised room hire rates to those necessary to generate income in the longer term room hire rates have been held for almost 2 years. We have been successful in attracting some of the local Borough Council Councillor Empowerment monies to support projects and purchase equipment in some centres.

## **Reserves Policy:**

The trustees have set, in conjunction with the CEO, a reserves policy that requires reserves to be maintained at a level which ensures core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty, and that a proportion of reserves be maintained in a readily realisable form. The trustees assess the required level of reserves on an annual basis, alongside the operating budget.

Registered number: 7831065

## **Community Spaces Northampton**

Report and financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2020

> Natalie Green & Co Chartered Accountants 7G Mobbs Miller House Christchurch Road Northampton NN1 5LL

## Legal and administrative information

Registered charity number: 1146849

Registered company number: 07831065

#### **Trustees:**

Gary Youens Toby Birch Jane Birch Ben Francoise (appointed 27 October 2020)

### **Registered office:**

Unit 1, St. Crispin Community Centre St. Crispin Drive Northampton NN5 4GJ

## **Independent examiner**:

Natalie Green Natalie Green & Co Chartered Accountants 7G Mobbs Miller House Christchurch Road Northampton NN1 5LL

#### Bankers:

HSBC 22 Abington Street Northampton NN1 2AN

# Trustees' report for the year ended 28 February 2020

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present herewith their report and the financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

#### Structure, governance and management

The charity is a registered charity and a charitable company limited by guarantee.

Community Spaces Northampton is governed by a memorandum and articles of association. The liability of members is limited. The members of the company are the trustees. The members have the power to appoint and remove trustees of the charity.

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and having reviewed them have developed systems and procedures to manage those risks.

#### Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity are set out in the articles of association. The principal object is to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Northampton and the neighbourhood by means of advancing education and providing facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation, with a view to improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.

To this end the charity maintains, manages and develops the work of nine community centres in Northampton for the benefit of the local communities.

The articles of association give the charity the powers to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or which is conducive or incidental to doing so.

In planning activities, the trustees keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

# Trustees' report for the year ended 28 February 2020 - continued

#### Achievements and performance

Details of the income and expenditure for the year are set out in the statement of financial activities on page 5 of the annual report. The charity received grants of £98,980 during the year. Total income from all sources for the year amounted to £284,900 and total expenditure amounted to £258,705. The surplus arising of £26,195 has been transferred to reserves.

#### Statement of trustees responsibilities

The trustees, who are also directors of Community Spaces Northampton for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

#### T Birch

Date: 27 November 2020

#### **Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Community Spaces Northampton**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 28 February 2020 which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### Natalie Green

Chartered Accountant 7G Mobbs Miller House, Christchurch Road, Northampton, NN1 5LL.

Date: 27 November 2020

# Statement of financial activities including summary income and expenditure account for the year ended 28 February 2020

		2020	2019
		£	£
Income from:			
Voluntary income			
Grants - NBC for St Crispins		85,000	-
Grants - Ground Work UK (restricted)		7,895	-
Grants - NBC restricted		-	4,000
Grant - NBC other		-	500
Grant - NBC Partnership funding (restricted)		2,625	7,500
Grants - empowerment grants (restricted)		3,460	3,247
Grants - other re Storehouse Church (restricted)		, -	10,000
Activities for generating funds			,
Rentals from room hire		185,874	167,907
Rentals from room hire - prior year		, -	24,854
Investment income			,
Bank interest		46	5
Total income		284,900	218,013
Expenditure on:			
Governance costs	2	20,100	11,686
Other costs	3	238,605	174,409
Total expenditure		258,705	186,095
•			
Net income/(expenditure)		26,195	31,918
ret mesme/(expenditure)		====	====
Net income for the year (as above)		26,195	31,918
• ` ` /			
Total funds brought forward at 01/03/2019		135,252	103,334
Total funds carried forward at 28/02/2020	11	161,447	135,252

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The above incoming resources relate to unrestricted funds, with the exceptions of certain grants as indicated above. These grants amount to £13,980 and represent restricted income.

The above resources expended relate to unrestricted funds, with the exception of other costs in the sum of £13,980, which were met from restricted income.

The balance of net income and the fund balance carried forward comprise unrestricted funds, as detailed in note 11 to the accounts.

### Community Spaces Northampton - Registered company number: 07831065

### Balance sheet as at 28 February 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets		£	r
Tangible assets	8	22,919	27,925
Current assets			
Debtors	9	49,680	73,653
Cash at bank and in hand		115,786	46,653
		165,466	120,306
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(26,938)	(12,979)
Net current assets		138,528	107,327
Total assets less current liabilities		161,447	135,252
Funds			
Restricted funds	11		69,850
	11	-	09,830
Unrestricted funds	1.1	1.61.447	65.402
General funds	11	161,447	65,402
Total funds		161,447	135,252

For the year ending 28 February 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

## Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 27 November 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

### T Birch Director

# Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2020

#### 1 Accounting policies

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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) issued in October 2019, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

#### **Company status**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

#### **Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in 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.

#### **Income recognition**

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.

#### **Expenditure recognition**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

#### Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

# Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2020 - continued

### 1 Accounting policies - continued

#### **Pension costs**

The charity has contributed to a defined benefit scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are written off against net income in the year they are payable.

### Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation has been computed to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives on a straight line basis using the following rates:

Office equipment	20% or 10% per annum
Heating systems	10% per annum

#### 2 Governance costs

2 Governmee costs	2020 £	2019 £
Legal fees	8,772	6,466
Northamptonshire Pension Fund cessation valuation	6,000	-
Independent examiner's fees (see note 7)	5,328	5,220
	20,100	11,686
3 Other costs	2020	2019
	£020	£
Staff costs (see note 4)	85,073	83,941
Heat, light and power	35,780	8,733
Rent (lease payment)	1,968	1,968
Water	13,678	4,042
Insurance	3,095	3,063
Office expenses and community development	5,518	3,912
Community development - Semilong & Trinity neighbourhood	7,895	-
Telephone	2,651	2,425
Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	55,647	38,681
Bad debts	17,125	8,375
PRS and PPL licence	2,085	2,762
NBC re Storehouse Church	-	10,000
Miscellaneous costs	2,886	1,346
Bank charges	196	154
Depreciation	5,008	5,007

238,605

174,409

# Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2020 - continued

#### 4 Staff costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries and social security costs	81,627	81,802
Employer's pension contributions	3,446	2,139
	85,073	83,941
Average number of staff (in addition to trustees)	3	3

No employees had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2019: none).

#### 5 Trustees remuneration

The trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses payments during the year.

### 6 Pension costs

The company contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £3,446 during the year.

#### 7 Independent examiner's fees

	2020	2019
	£	£
Fees payable to independent examiner:		
- independent examination	600	600
- other	3,900	3,900
- prior year under accrual	828	720
	5,328	5,220

# Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2020 - continued

## 8 Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 March 2019	46,401	46,401
Additions	<del>-</del> _	
At 28 February 2020	46,401	46,401
Depreciation		
At 1 March 2019	18,474	18,474
Charge for the year	5,008	5,008
At 28 February 2020	23,482	23,482
Not be above to		
Net book value At 28 February 2020	22,919	22,919
710 20 1 coldary 2020	====	====
At 29 February 2019	27,925	27,925
9 <b>Debtors</b>		
	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	49,218	69,859
Prepayments	462	3,794
	49,680	73,653
10 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year		
	2020	2019
Trade creditors	<b>£</b> 13,838	£ 2,299
Accruals	13,100	10,680
710010015		10,000
	26,938	12,979

# Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2020 - continued

#### 11 Statement of funds

	At 01/03/2019	Net incoming resources	Transfer re reclassify as unrestricted	At 28/02/2020
Restricted funds	69,850	-	(69,850)	-
Unrestricted funds General reserve	65,402	26,195	69,850	161,447
Total funds	135,252	26,195		161,447

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

#### 12 Lease commitments

At the balance sheet date the company had annual commitments under operating leases relating to land and buildings. The total future minimum lease payments are as follows:

	2020	2019
Payable:	<b>3</b> -	ı.
- not later than one year	1,968	1,968
- later than one and not later than five years	7,872	7,872
- later than five years	21,024	21,024
	30,864	30,864

### 13 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure during the year (2019: none).

#### 14 Contingent liabilities

At the balance sheet date there are potential liabilities arising in respect of unbilled historical water rates charges. These relate to certain unread meters and a faulty meter. Accruals have been made in the accounts on the basis of reasonable estimates, but it is possible that there remain unrecorded liabilities, and these cannot be quantified at the time of approval of these accounts.

#### 15 General Information

Community Spaces Northampton Registered number 7831065 is a private company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England & Wales. The Registered Office is Unit 1, St. Crispin Community Centre, St. Crispin Drive, Northampton, NN5 4GJ.