



# Crown Connects SCIO

Scottish Charity No SC050700

## TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

31<sup>st</sup> March 2023



## **Crown Connects SCIO**

**Scottish Charity No SC050700**

### **Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

#### **Trustees:**

Becky Fretwell – Chair

Marion McDonald – Treasurer

Emily Williams

Julia Dall

Laura Barnfield

#### **Contact Address:**

c/o SHIMCA, 1 Ardconnel Terrace, Inverness IV2 3AE

#### **Governing Document**

Crown Connects is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated organisation (SCIO) and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in our constitution.

#### **Charitable purposes**

Our objectives, as recorded in our constitution are:

- (a) The development of environmental, social and economic sustainability initiatives in our community, in and around the Hill and Crown areas of Inverness
- (b) The relief of those in need by way of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage; and
- (c) Any other purpose that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to any of the preceding purposes.

## Activities and Achievements

Having begun as a covid support group, Crown Connects officially registered as a charity in January 2021, so this report represents our second year of operation as a charity.

We have continued to reduce waste and address food poverty through our **Community Cupboard** and fridge by redistributing 'yellow' label food that would have otherwise gone to waste. The volunteer team which includes Duke of Edinburgh volunteers from Millburn Academy do an amazing job, keeping the cupboard stocked and making this resource accessible to all, every day of the year. Our application to the National Lottery for funding for a Community Cupboard coordinator was successful last year and we were able to employ a part time (one day per week) worker from April 2022 for a 1 year fixed-term contract. Laura provided support to the DofE volunteers, helped to recruit new volunteers and helped us to develop proper procedures and policies for the organisation and the volunteers in particular.

The Lottery funding also meant that we could run a number of events, following on from our consultation and mapping at the end of last year, to bring people in the community together. We had our first ever volunteer gathering in September – finally, after all the covid restrictions had scuppered a few previous attempts! A second volunteer afternoon tea was also held in February thanks to an anonymous donation from a cupboard user which paid for refreshments for the team.

We organised Inverness's first **Jumble Trail** event which saw 12 households in Hill set up stalls and have a great day of chat and bartering, promoting the circular economy in a really fun way. We were able to bring some of our community orchard fruit growers together for a **tree pruning workshop** where once again Des Kelly shared his expertise with us all.

The **Gritting Gang** continued to keep our local streets safe from ice and with the support of the Highland Council and Crown & City Centre Community Council we were able to arrange liability cover for the volunteers and get equipment including shovels, a wheel barrow and safety gear. It was a much milder winter than the previous year, but good to have everyone on standby!

Following on from the mapping event in March last year, we have been working away behind the scenes trying to progress some projects to make our streets safer, which was a big issue that came out of the consultation. We applied for some Sustrans funding to improve the Hill area which was sadly unsuccessful. Our plans for the coming year however include consulting the community about active travel and traffic reduction measures, as well as organising our first play street event and hopefully developing parklets to improve our community space – wee seating and growing areas for folk to come together and enjoy.

There has also been a lot of work to improve our communications with a new website and facebook page ready to be launched.

We are also very delighted to have received funding for a ceilidh to bring together refugees living in our area with other local folk to make new friendships and connections.

We welcome three new Trustees and give a big thanks to our volunteer team and everyone who contributes.

### **Trustee remuneration and expenses**

The trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses during the year. Some trustees have had costs reimbursed for transactions made while we changed bank signatories and acquired new debit card facility.

### **Reserves**

As a very new organisation we have not built up unrestricted reserves of funding and we have not yet adopted a formal reserves policy. Funding to date has been almost entirely from grants for a specific (restricted) purpose. We will consider our reserves policy in the coming year as we become more established.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MMcD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marion McDonald Treasurer

**Crown Connects SCIO**

**Scottish Charity No SC050700**

**Receipts and Payments Account**

**Year ended 31st March 2023**

**Receipts**

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Donations*            | £486.28          |
| Grant**               | £840.00          |
| <b>Total Receipts</b> | <b>£1,326.28</b> |

**Payments**

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Charitable Activities               | £7,519.48        |
| Core costs (insurance, website etc) | £757.00          |
| Volunteer Expenses                  | £1,052.77        |
| <b>Total Payments</b>               | <b>£9,329.25</b> |

**Deficit/Surplus for year** **-£8,002.97**

\*Donations included £250 made up of £5 donations from people involved in the community orchard project which was supported by the Pebble Trust last year and a one-off anonymous donation of £100 from a cupboard user "for the volunteers". The orchard project will continue to organise events to help people look after their trees. A gathering was organised to bring the volunteers together and thank them for all their help.

\*\*The grant funding was provided by SHIMCA to contribute to volunteer travel expenses

**Crown Connects SCIO**

**Scottish Charity No SC050700**

**Statement of Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**Statement of Balances**

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Opening balance            | <b>£10,796.97</b> |
| (Deficit)/Surplus for year | -£8,002.97        |
| <b>Closing balance</b>     | <b>£2,794.00</b>  |

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf



M McDonald

Treasurer

**Crown Connects SCIO**

**Scottish Charity No SC050700**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**To the Trustees of Crown Connects SCIO**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages above.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

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

**Basis of independent examiners statement**

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

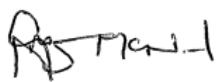
**Independent examiners statement**

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

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

have not been met or

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

  
19.10.23

Gregor McNicol ACMA

Moraystone, Southside Road, Inverness IV2 4XA