



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
From	Day 1st	Month Dec	Year 2023	To	Day 30th	Month Nov	Year 2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Longbarn Residents' Association

Other names charity is known by LRA

Registered charity number (if any) 1170309

Charity's principal address

The Woodlands Centre, Kassia Academy	
Fallowfield Grove	
Warrington, Cheshire	
Postcode	WA2 0QQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Bob McLaughlan	Chair	From 21 May 2024	Board of Trustees
2	Katy Wallace	Vice Chair	From 21 May 2024	Board of Trustees
3	Nicola Taylor	Treasurer		
4	Paul Adams	Secretary		
5	David Pearson			
6	Lynn Colter-Howard			
7	Howard Klein			

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Member of town's help and advice group	Mr Bryan Dargie	Warrington Voluntary Action, The Gateway, Sankey Street, Warrington, Cheshire WA1 1SR

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

N/A

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution, adopted 20th October 2016 (amended (i) 9 June 2018; amended (ii) 12 March 2019)
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association consists of all residents of Longbarn in north east Warrington ~ approximately 2,600 eligible members.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed from among the residents of Longbarn ~ plus others in the town who may bring a new, fresh & value-added perspective to LRA ~ by our Board of Trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

LRA is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). Our 7 LRA Charity Trustees are equal members of the CIO, & delegate the day to day running of the Association to our LRA Management Committee.

We have Terms of Reference & Governing Principles for each of the 2 tiers of our governance structure which serve, inter alia, as useful training aids, as part of an induction pack, as new Trustees or Management Committee members join us.

As our former Chairman, Geoff Orange launched LRA (in his front room!) on 19 July 2012. So very sadly, Geoff passed away on 1 May 2024. So did his knowledge about much of the efficient running of LRA. In turn our Secretary has drawn up a List of Activities (with a Management Committee member assigned to each) which is now our bible of 'Who Does What' in LRA Land.

All Trustees & Management Committee members give their time voluntarily & receive no remuneration nor other reward.

There is a Safeguarding Policy in place, & a Communications Strategy serves to maximise & maintain open, 2-way dialogue with our residents.

Public Liability Insurance is current in the amount of £10 million.

LRA is a member of the National Organisation of Residents' Associations which provides helpful advice.

LRA works enthusiastically in partnership with a range of local civic, business & educational stakeholders & sponsors, including ~

- Greencore Foods
- Barclays Bank
- Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council
- Warrington Borough Council
- Padgate Village Club

- Mukti's Mini Supermarket
- Wind in the Willows children's nursery
- Kassia Academy
- Station House Pub & Dining
- Elm Tree Financial Services
- Cheshire Community Foundation
- Co-Op Community Fund
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Muir Group Housing Ltd
- Warrington Housing Association
- Torus Housing Association
- Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cheshire Police
- Northern Rail, &
- The Land Trust.

We have an established liaison with our MP Charlotte Nichols. And we have a great relationship with Warrington Voluntary Action which provides us with outstanding advice, guidance & training services.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

(a) To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Longbarn (Warrington) & the surrounding area not catered for by an adjoining residents' association, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, nationality, age, disability, race, or political, religious or other opinions, by associating together our community & the statutory authorities, voluntary & other organisations in a common effort to promote good health & wellbeing, advance education & to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation & leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for our people;

(b) to promote such other charitable purposes (charitable under English law) in the area of benefit as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

When planning our activities for the year we have kept in mind 'The Charity Commission's Guidance on Public Benefit' at our Trustee meetings.

Our focus is our people ~ our residents ~ with a programme of events & activities that provides benefit for the whole community.

And we have developed our logo & our strapline in that vein ~



LONGBARN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

"Working together for our Community"

Registered Charity No. 1170309

We welcome all people regardless of background, faith, gender or personal circumstances & we passionately believe that our state of openness enriches everyone through the sharing of the life experiences of our membership, & our wonderful team of volunteers.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant-making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We empathise fiercely with the people we serve. We care intensely about the work that our volunteers do. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our Association & without them, we would not be able to deliver the wide range of diverse events & activities to our members contained in our portfolio, nor achieve the success we have enjoyed in running them.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Determined to maintain a strong sense of community & social connectivity, we carefully & sensitively provided a full programme of activities, maintaining direct engagement with our community with our quarterly Newsletter (delivered free through every letterbox in Longbarn by our marvellous team of volunteers) & residents' meetings, & by maximising our website & social media to make it all happen. In turn,

Safeguarded & supervised by our amazing team of volunteers, we delivered a host of events & activities which helped us meet our major driver for the community. That is, we believe that social participation creates mutual trust among individuals, which forms the basis for shared responsibility for our community & society at large.

Our brand is, 'Working together for our Community.' We believe that community strengthens conversation & wellbeing. And our programme of wellbeing & social inclusion, built upon local consultation & knowledge, successfully got more families out of their homes, together (& helped those who may feel isolated & on their own) & involved in the following community-wide activities ~

- Our volunteers continued to litter pick around our community, as & when, including kiddies organised by our local nursery (Wind in the Willows).

- Our team of volunteers have maintained the 24 planters dotted around our community (including one nurtured by the kiddies at our Wind in the Willows Nursery), weeding & stocking & watering the plants.
- We have lots of grassed open spaces across Longbarn. Our team of volunteers have kept them mown, & our litter pickers have kept them tidy, throughout the year.
- Held open forum Residents' Meetings, which provide an opportunity for folk to ask us questions & have their say; & for LRA to share what's on in Longbarn Land. At our Management Committee meeting in June we had a bit of a chat about the frequency of residents' meetings which, until then, were held every 6 weeks at Padgate Village Club. We reflected that pre-COVID, 40-50 residents would turn up; post-COVID that number had halved. Maybe that's a hangover from COVID. Maybe (we'd like to think) it's because so many of the issues that used to be raised at the meetings by residents had been sorted by LRA, or at least stabilised. Either way we decided to move the residents' meetings from 6-weekly to quarterly for the remainder of the year. We ratified the decision with residents at our meeting in June, with a promise that we'd review the decision with them at their last meeting in 2024. We did that at our residents' meeting held 7 November 2024, where there was unanimous agreement to maintain quarterly residents' meetings in the future.
- In between residents' meetings we kept residents posted about what's on in Longbarn Land via our quarterly newsletter, our website, & our social media, with an undertaking in each that, if there's a burning issue they'd like to raise, residents may always contact us any time at: lrasecretary15@gmail.com
- Historically we ran our LRA office out of Padgate Library, with rental costs funded by the Parish Council. In July 2024, & as part of our discussions to forge stronger links with Kassia Academy (a local school for disadvantaged children) we moved our operation to their newly-built school outbuilding. In turn we negotiated with the Parish Council quid pro quo to very generously switch the funding for our former rental costs to pay for free school meals for the kiddies at Kassia Academy. Outstanding behaviour 🥰
- Held our fortnightly Afternoon Tea events. The 2-hour sessions provide our senior citizens with the opportunity to meet & chat, enjoy gaming activities (bingo, raffles & "Play Your Cards Right") & refreshments & most importantly, get out of the house.
- Held our fortnightly seated exercise classes. The 1-hour sessions are led by Leanne Parr, who is from an entertainment background having trained at The Italia Conti School in London, then travelled the world as a professional dancer before getting all her exercise qualifications. She has worked in the fitness industry for over 10 years & as well as pitching the exercises to help regain fitness at participants' own pace, Leanne ensures that the atmosphere in the room is upbeat & positive.

Our seated exercise programme helps participants who've lost a step or two in their later years, or who are battling the effects of chronic pain or disability due to injury or a health condition, to improve strength, cardiovascular health, mobility & balance, all from the comfort of a chair.

- Held our weekly 'Footloose in Longbarn' 1-hour dance classes. Alert to the many health benefits associated with regular exercise & maintaining a good level of general fitness & mindfulness, under the heading of 'Exercise is Fun,' we have our own local dance studio. No experience is necessary. Age is no barrier. We invite residents to come alone or bring a friend, & just be prepared to have some fun, gain some exercise & learn a new skill into the bargain. It's an opportunity to take part and learn different dance styles ~ which could include Rock 'n Roll, Jitterbug, Charleston, Swing, Ballroom, Jive, line dancing, Salsa, Latin American, Tango (varying each session) ~ indeed any type of dance which appeals to our residents led by Tina Thomas, a professional dance instructor.
- Held Quiz Nights at Padgate Village Club.
- Provided a subsidised coach trip to Llandudno.
- Successfully re-negotiated our License to Operate with The Land Trust, so that our volunteers who mow the grass on our open spaces may do so with impunity.
- Successfully negotiated with Warrington Borough Council for the provision of free bin bags (for disposal of grass cuttings) & free collection of the bin bags after each cut.
- Supported & promoted Warrington Community Lottery, a weekly lottery that provides the opportunity for participants to win cash & other prizes; plus 50% of subscriptions are allocated to LRA; plus 10% of subscriptions are allocated to other good causes on Warrington.
- Supported & promoted Longbarn Coffee Mornings held each Monday at Calvary Chapel, & launched by 2 of our local ladies with the simple but marvellous intentions of providing somewhere to go to be able to get out of the house, like, just have a change of scenery, in a local, friendly place where they may relax, have a bit of a chat, meet Longbarn folk they didn't know, & have a laugh.
- Each year we become more ambitious to identify & deal with the needs of our community. We wanted to provide a programme of activities which also targets our elderly male population, a demographic which historically has been terribly hard to activate & incorporate into our overriding goals of combatting social isolation & improving the mental health & wellbeing of our people. Longbarn has a bowling club with a bowling green which had fallen into disrepair. Recognising this as an opportunity, LRA took over the bowling club; re-registered it as an Asset of Community Value; drafted a constitution; opened a dedicated bank account; acquired bowls & bowling paraphernalia; alongside a list of future members.

'Future,' because we are now in the process of bringing the bowling green up to scratch. But we have grand plans for an amenity which will appeal to residents old & young.

- Introduced our LRA Forget Me Not Club on 16 May (in Dementia Action Week, to gain maximum traction), for residents living with dementia & their carers. During the weekly sessions trained experts delivered a 9-week course of cognitive stimulation therapy (which has been found to benefit the memory & thinking skills of people with dementia). At the same time, a carer's support group ran in a different room, with refreshments provided for each group. At the end of each 9-week course we held a celebration event, with posh sandwiches kindly donated by Greencore Foods. And then we started again with another 9-week course for a new cohort of residents.
- Held our Longbarn Community Fun Day on 13 July, featuring a variety of events & activities for all the family, including a fun fair, face painting, games, crafts, cakes & sweets stalls, tombolas & BBQ. All famously supported by Greencore Foods, & our local air cadets & scouts & guides groups.
- Held our annual Fireworks Extravaganza on 1 November (admission by donation, thereby catering for all pockets), famously supported by Greencore Foods (kindly providing food for our BBQs, & a First Aider), & undoubtedly The Best Fireworks Show in Town!
- In recognition of Remembrance Day we bought a load of super-large plastic poppies, erected them on lampposts along Harper's Road (the main thoroughfare through Longbarn (along with roadside metal Tommies)), & invited residents & local businesses to sponsor them. The sponsorship raised £723.56 ~ an incredible show of generosity & community spirit ~ which we donated to The Royal British Legion. A credit to all concerned.
- Welcomed the Festive Season by planting & decorating, with fairy lights, 3 x 10' Christmas trees along Harper's Road (the main thoroughfare through our community).
- Provided a Children's Christmas Party at Padgate Village Club, including entertainment courtesy of Dazzle The Clown; goodie bags (including food kindly donated by Greencore Foods); selection boxes; & of course Father Christmas who gave each of our children top of the range toys.
- We have a team of trained & certificated First Aiders dotted around the community, & 4 defibrillators located at the local village shop in the heart of our community, at Padgate Village Club, at Padgate Station, & at Harper's Green sheltered housing complex.

Section D**Achievements and performance**

- We have maintained open, 2-way communications with our residents throughout the year with a combination of our 6-weekly Newsletter (distributed by volunteers to every house on the estate), our website, & on social media (we have our own Facebook, Twitter & Instagram accounts), enabling LRA to keep our people up to date with news, fun & free competitions & what's on; & ask The Big Questions, too.

Section E**Financial review****Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

We have 3 accounts with Barclays Bank: an LRA current account which we maintain to the tune of £2K to provide for petty cash; an LRA Bowling Club account; & a 'Restricted Funds' account in which the monies are earmarked for specific activity or outlay (eg, Community Fun Day).

Our policy on reserves is simply that we have none. Our Treasurer is a qualified accountant; works for a local accountancy firm; & does an exceptionally good job for us (Thanks, Nicola 😊). And with our Management Committee & Trustees, we plan activity & spend within our means.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

None

Section F**Other optional information**

Formed 19 July 2012, & operating as a charitable incorporated organisation since 20 October 2016, Longbarn Residents' Association has been safeguarding our community infrastructure & providing leisure opportunities to our residents for 12 years. And it has done so with outstanding leadership provided by our Management Committee & Board of Trustees. So sad then to reflect that we lost our treasured colleague & Chairman, Geoff Orange, who passed away on 1 May. God bless him.

Delighted in turn to acknowledge Bob McLaughlin as our new Chairman, & Katy Wallace as our new Vice Chair.

In 2024 our contribution to our residents' morale, health & wellbeing was better than ever. We've looked after our environment & highways & byways (in which we take great pride, by the way). We've provided opportunities to enjoy some free & subsidised entertainment, have a laugh, & raise loads of money for charity into the bargain. And (tho some said it could never be done!) we're especially proud to have introduced our LRA Forget Me Not Club for residents living with dementia & their carers.

We're a powerful coalition of residents & volunteers & local service providers, & we're immensely proud that our Association continues to pull together, determined to support our residents to the best of our ability.

Section G**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above, at their Annual General Meeting held 8 April 2025.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

Full name

Position

Date

Paul Adams	
Secretary & Trustee	
6 April 2025	