

**Rising to the Challenge**  
**HILLFIELDS COMMUNITY TRUST**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**



## **Introduction**

Hillfields Community Trust (HCT) was created by local residents in 2011 in response to historically low levels of community regeneration investment into the area. HCT has worked to understand the area's challenges and attract investment and collaboration to create projects that address some of the area's most pressing needs. Our first priority has been, and remains the raising of attainment and aspiration through the provision of quality learning activities and engagement events for residents.

A new and significant challenge that has arisen for the community of Hillfields recently, and one that HCT has become involved with, is securing the long-term sustainability of the Hillfields Community Hub. This building is central to the future prosperity of this community. We will continue to work to address this challenge in 2017 to ensure this vital community resource is not lost for short-term gain.

## **Executive Summary**

I have been encouraged by the organisation and turn-out of our two community events; our Hillfields Summer Festival and our family Halloween Party. Both of these events prove the need for a strong community anchor organisation to continue to develop activities that improve community cohesion by giving people from different backgrounds the chance to celebrate the area together.

Our community adult learning programme has been effective, particularly thanks to our ability to offer an on-site crèche for learners. As this programme develops we should look for opportunities to engage potential learners in the co-design of learning courses to ensure we connect with the authentic local need.

Our challenge going forward will be to diversify our funding base, particularly as Bristol's Well-being funding closes as part of cuts to devolved working in the city. Our future strategy must include continued partnership work and investment in social capital to releasing the capacity that is held locally.

Finally, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the other Trustees of HCT who have shown unending commitment to the area. It is encouraging that we are actively supported by our two local Councillors who have stepped in to support us throughout the year, often carrying out some quite unenviable tasks! And not forgetting the time given by our small but committed network of community volunteers and local partners who respond every time we make the call. Hillfields is truly rising to the challenge!

**Scott Jacobs-Lange, Chair.**

## Objectives

In 2017-18, our objectives will be as follows:

1. Provide at least two community events (subject to funding) that bring together community members to promote community cohesion and showcase local talent.
2. Work to deepen our partnerships with Minerva Primary School, Hillfields Young Mothers' Group and other local networks and organisation to collaborate on shared aims and objectives, in particular, the securing as a community venue the Hillfields Community Hub.
3. Support new and developing local youth initiatives in the area such as Haween and local delivery by Creative Youth Network.
4. Work to secure funding and resources to deliver a programme of adult learning activities within the area.



5. Carry out ongoing listening activities including at our main community events to discover local needs and support residents to organise local action.
6. Recruit new trustees to strengthen our organisation
7. Review our governance model and recommend amendments as necessary.
8. Develop a fundraising strategy to help diversify our funding base and enable us to continue to meet local priorities.
9. Fundraise for more laptops for community learning provision so we can offer IT-related learning.
10. Recruit suitable volunteer to run weekly IT drop-in café for residents to get help to get online.
11. Carry out older people's consultation to inform how we work to provide services for this particular Hillfields Community.

## Achievements in 2016-17

Our key achievements during this financial year have been:

- Creation of a new website [www.hillfields.org](http://www.hillfields.org) allowing us to have a more formal presence online.
- Successful fundraising and delivery of two major community events: Summer Festival and Halloween. Both well supported by the local community and partners.
- Worked with local environmental organisation, Literati to deliver a pedal-powered light show for the community at the Halloween event.
- Successful fundraising and delivery of two community learning opportunities: cooking on a budget and face-painting techniques, in partnership with Bristol Learning Communities. Face-painting reached capacity and our cooking course was successful in attracting learners with additional needs which we were able to cater for.
- Successfully fundraised and delivered a community trip to Longleat in July which targeted families on low-incomes and at risk of marginalisation. We were able to do this effectively thanks to our strong links with the local youth team
- Recruitment of a young person's representative onto the committee. This young person also later joined the Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership and has secured funding for an older people's coach trip in 2017 with funding from John James Foundation.
- Strong alliance with Hillfields Young Mothers' Group in their bid to secure a long-term lease from Bristol City Council for the Hillfields Community Hub. Whilst this has been subject to further delay, our resolve to secure this building has not wavered and we were pleased to be able to contribute to the Business Plan for the building and gain additional support from the Hillfields Neighbourhood Forum.
- Former Trustee, Elaine Irwin gained recognition for the work she has contributed to Hillfields in the form of a Mayor's Award.
- Two trustees trained in First Aid and additional training on a range of trustee duties delivered.
- Funding secured for two laptops for community use from Sovereign Housing Association. This will enable us to offer access to online resources as part of future community learning activities.
- Continue to organise successful Street Play at Maple Avenue

## Impact and Value

In 2016 we began evaluating the impact our learning activities were having for people. We now use this to plan future activities and improve how we deliver activities in future. Our feedback shows that adult learning is particularly impactful and is making a significant difference for those who attend. This is also having a knock-on benefit for families too as our learning programme has included cooking on a budget and developing skills that can help to create additional income such as face & body painting and soap making.



## Annual Financial Overview at end December 2016.

### Income

Unrestricted funds	£864
Restricted	£2,800

### Expenditure

Unrestricted	£173
Restricted	£3,195

### Total Funds held 2016

Restricted	£3,594
Unrestricted	£4,758

### Funders

Sovereign Housing

Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership

John James Trust

Bristol Learning Communities (in kind)

### HCT Board of Trustees 2016-17

Scott Jacobs-Lange (Chair)

George Campbell-Touray (Vice-Chair)

Tina Hunt (Treasurer)

Angela Harrison (Secretary)

George Sloan (Young Person's Representative)

Jazz Bridgewater-Court

Anna Keen

Craig Cheney

Lucy Touray



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