

www.knaresboroughconnectors.org.uk

Annual Report - November 2021 to March 2023

Background

Knaresborough Connectors was started as a legacy project from the 2018 celebrations of the 800th year of St Robert of Knaresborough's death. You can see the giving hands of St Robert enshrined in our logo, holding up the viaduct perhaps in defiance of certain prophecies! These giving hands are a fundamental building block underpinning the ethos and values of a 'giving back' community that Connectors is committed to encourage and enhance in and around our fantastic town¹.



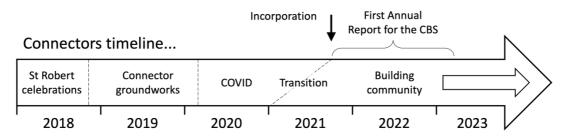
The work of Connectors has also been informed, from the start, by evidence about what makes a place healthy and thriving for individuals, for the community groups that help shape what goes on and even for our local businesses. During 2019 Nick Garrett gave his time to build a database of what was going on in the town, which laid important groundwork for what came next. It is perhaps therefore not surprising that when the biggest threat to our health and wellbeing for a generation hit early in 2020 it was Connectors that got alongside those with a passion to support their local community and knitted together what became the official Community Support Organisation for the town and district.



Individuals, groups like the Lions and Rotary, members of the Chamber of Trade and representatives of the faith community got out on social media and then, with the help of Connectors, quickly formed into a working group and identified those who needed support. We organised, gathered a list of 173 people who gave back through deliveries, phone calls to people who were isolated, vaccination centre support and much more. During the peak of the pandemic we were helping over 500 people and their families to weather the COVID storm.

Connectors - not just for COVID

From the Autumn of 2020 through to the incorporation of Connectors as a Community Benefit Society on the 1st November 2021 COVID-connectors revisited its DNA to continue the journey it set out on in 2019. The appointment of Matt Read late in 2020 to steer us along the journey has been critical as he built the relationships that underpin our goals. During that year Connectors balanced the COVID-response with community development, supporting individuals and groups across the town in support of our goals to build a thriving town for everyone.



¹ You can read a short piece on the ethos and values of Connectors on our website.

This transitional year also saw us strengthen the underpinning governance for Connectors as we chose to incorporate as a Community Benefit Society (CBS), which is a bit like the old co-op movement where membership is key. This fitted perfectly with the relational and asset-based approach we champion because instead of doing to or for people we work with and alongside recognising that every member of the community is needed not needy.

Report on activities (November 2021 – March 2023), and where next...

Three good friends: this little mantra, along with the belief that everyone is 'needed not needy', has become the simple but heartfelt core of how connectors work. We learnt it during COVID, although it's one of those truisms that has deep roots in what it means to be human. It's very easy in our culture when a crisis looms to want to become a super-human with cloak flying behind us meeting needs, doing 'to' and 'for' people, when the long-term benefits arise when people come alongside and enable or rebuild people's own capabilities.

This is the quiet work of Connectors, more difficult to count than some other 'performance' targets. During COVID, and we believe as an enduring legacy of that work, the 100+ connectors who we were in touch with have, on many occasions, now become one of those three good friends to people who now have somewhere to turn, and perhaps more, in good and less-good times. Many have been connected to groups in the town to give-back in line with their skills, a process that gradually, perhaps even imperceptivity strengthens the vital community and voluntary groups that are, in many places, a dwindling local resource.

Our connector network will continue to undertake this vital work, and we're committed to support this through opportunities to learn, share and put into practice this vital skill.

Out of the mud: we can all get stuck in life sometimes, and for some a downward spiral leaves little hope of climbing back to making a meaningful contribution to society. Bouncing between services that aren't terribly well joined up or simply not having the umph to battle through can lead to isolation, loneliness and on occasion much worse in terms of our physical or mental health. Through our work we have supported some people like this and can celebrate solid progress in both meeting need but also, more importantly, by working alongside the person to identify the road to recovery and inclusion through focusing on the gifts and contribution that such people can make to our town.

However, we recognise that on occasion the capacity and skills of our connectors network can be lacking in cases like these. We are therefore at the early stages of conversations with health and care leaders in the NHS and Local Authority to work out how we can best work in partnership with them, accessing the skills and capacity of the professionals whilst not abandoning fellow citizens to an unwieldy bureaucracy.

Supporting local groups: the Connectors Board hear regularly from different community groups across the town and seek, where possible, to identify ways to develop their offer or address particular challenges. Examples have included Tula Mamas, the Gift People, the Air Cadets and others.



One such group with a very visible presence, but perhaps veiled potential, is the *Friendship & Leisure Centre* in the Market Place. It's a respected and longstanding part of our community, but COVID had a particularly marked impact on how it could support the older members of our community. With the agreement of the Board Matt Read, our Connector Development Manager, therefore devoted half a day a week over a three-month period to work with the Trustees and volunteers at F&L and to come up with

practical suggestions of how to move on. We look forward to continuing to support this group as it seeks to respond to new opportunities.

We have worked with *Gracious Street Methodist Church* to develop their approach to welfare and mission through adoption of some of Connector's principles such as Needed not Needy and approaches that focus on peoples' strengths. We have advised and led on the development of a new role for the church working with people on the margins. This new role of a Pioneer Pastor will work alongside key organisations in the town to improve the lives of those on the margins of our society.

A new group called *Knaresborough Revolution* has been set up by Knaresborough Rotary which has been supported by Knaresborough Connectors. The data and insight provided by Connectors has helped the group understand how it can improve the lives of residents and in doing so the group is developing a project to change the lives of children and young people through improving the provision of youth work in the town.

Green Connectors aims to link together the environmental projects in the town and were winners of the Town 'Environmental Cup' at a recent Town Council meeting. They work in an Asset based way meaning that their role is to support, link and network initiatives that are linked together through a network of support, respect and a genuine desire to create healthy communities.

Connectors works hard to shape projects and initiatives to the benefit of Knaresborough, connecting groups together ensuring the right organisations have the right relationships to set up strong partnerships. And so, when a local Councillor became concerned about the challenges that the former Harrogate Borough Council had in keeping the *Conyngham Hall Kiosk* open, Connectors and the Chain Lane Community Centre facilitated a working group that has led to it now being run by Community Stars with support from Chain Lane who hold the lease for the premises. The goal of bringing local assets under the control of local groups is a long term one in the context of Local Government Review and Connectors is committed to working with the Town Council and others in facilitating this whereever possible.

The Knaresborough Connectors *Community Festival* has now become an established feature of the local events calendar. Initially held as an 'out of lockdown' community party in July 2021 it has now been repeated in the spring in 2022 and 2023. On each occasion between 40-50 community groups have had the opportunity to share their work with each other and with the 100's of visitors who have attended on each occasion. It takes some organising but gives a regular fill-up to our community and voluntary groups as well as featuring the odd special event like the competition to select our next Town Crier, as occurred in April 2023.



The festival has given some of Knaresborough's adults, children and young people the opportunity to perform music and dancing to a friendly audience. We have specifically asked groups who aren't given the opportunity to perform. At the most recent festival the Knaresborough Silver Band's new Beginner Band had its performance debut. The Band's participants were absolutely delighted to be given the opportunity to perform to an audience for the first time. The festival has now been held in 3 different locations with the goal of moving it around the town to ensure residents in different neighbourhoods can connect with community groups. Careful targeting of residents who have struggled with isolation and food poverty has taken place before each festival through leafleting.

Improving Mental Health services: We have led the development of the Community Mental Health Transformation programme that our NHS mental health trust has set up in Harrogate and Rural District as it wasn't meeting the needs of Knaresborough's residents particularly those in our hostel. Using our

expertise in health and social care data we have persuaded the NHS to direct funding to better support our residents who live in insecure housing as our very high housing costs are making life worse for people with mental health conditions. We listened to parents in our hostels who were struggling with their mental health and presented their needs to the NHS. We are leading a partnership with Orb, the NHS, North Yorkshire Council, Harrogate Mind and Horizon Life to bring an NHS mental health hub into Knaresborough and we intend to work with people in hostels and temporary bed and breakfast accommodation to design the hub.

Connectors have also joined an initiative set up by Mayor Kathryn Davies in her 2022/23 year of office to hold quarterly *police/community liaison meetings*. These have proved fruitful in terms of building

relationships between the organisations, highlighting concerns from both organisation and residents, and also identifying any trends particularly around crime and anti-social behaviour that are bubbling up in the town.

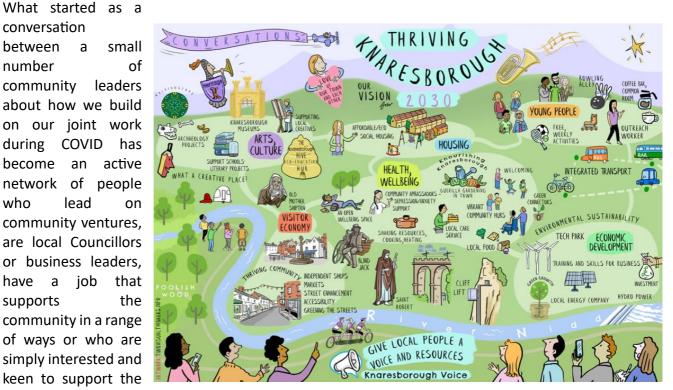
Product launch: during this reporting period Connectors launched some important products that support its overall aims of connecting individuals into our community. Knaresborough.community is an online database of all things Knaresborough. It includes listings of 250 community groups, local amenities, things to do and information about town events, so for residents old and new it's a great resource that we are committed to maintaining. Since its launch at the end of 2022 unique visitors to the site has grown, now averaging around 300 a month or 10 a day. It's a great way for our connectors, a network of

individuals and businesses across the Town, to signpost people into these groups and therefore grow this vital sector.

And for those who are new to the Town, we worked with Lions, Rotary and the Chamber of Trade to produce 'A beginners quide to Knaresborough', which has been distributed to estate agents, new homes sales offices and more widely. Sixteen different businesses are now engaged with Connectors by providing a simple sign-post to community groups using the products launched at the end of 2022.

Our vision for Knaresborough: another key legacy from COVID, where groups across the town demonstrated the benefits of working together, has been what has become Knaresborough Voice.

conversation between а small number of community leaders about how we build on our joint work during COVID has become an active network of people who lead community ventures, are local Councillors or business leaders, have iob that a supports the community in a range of ways or who are simply interested and keen to support the



development of a strong and resilient community for everyone who lives, works or visits the town or surrounding area. Our workshops, jointly hosted and facilitated by Chain Lane Community Centre, have now become regular events.

In development Knaresborough Voice we have focused on an iterative process of listening, acting and celebrating, repeating the process in a way that amplifies our local voice as well as building networks and connections across the community groups in line with our ethos and values — valuing other's contributions and working in partnership.

The visualisation of a thriving Knaresborough where local voices are heard and acted on has crystalised this vision, something that is now turning into a practical action plan that is seeking significant funds from the new North Yorkshire Council's Shared Prosperity Fund, which we hope will deliver lasting benefit for years to come.

The year ahead

Connectors enters the new reporting year with a solid track record and energy to build on its successes. The transition from COVID-response to rekindling and strengthening its community development ethos

is all but complete, whilst the way we work continues to evolve to respond to the ambition, skills and assets within our community.

Our early push in 2023/24 has been on building our membership base, which at the time of writing in late May is approaching 100 from a standing start at the beginning of the year, including about a dozen groups or businesses who are buying into the vision. We want to support our members – individuals and groups – with an environment in which community development can thrive from the 'bottom-up'. That will include events, information, training and a lot more. We will continue to make *connecting* part of the DNA of our town and work to enable as many people and groups to flourish as possible.

As well as the commitments made above, we also have three complementary and overlapping commitments based on either funding or partnership arrangements.

North Yorkshire Council Health & Wellbeing Grant – "stay healthy": this grant, worth £15,000 a year

for three years, focusses on the development of our connector network underpinned by the Who's who.... Social prescribers are people who get alongside those who need connecting into community and signposting or accompanying people to the point where participation in such groups become part of their everyday life, thus reducing social isolation. Community angels are the people in your neighbourhood who look out for others and who are highly connected and solution focussed for when there's a short-term or urgent need, like clearing the pavements of snow, or who just know how to create positive street/neighbourhood level connections through events and activities. Identifying and supporting these people will build community at the neighbourhood level and improve community resilience across the town and rural areas surrounding. The role of *advocate* is particularly important when someone's needs are complex or need specialist input. It's a 'connector+' role which again needs to be identified and supported so as not to put people at risk in their willingness to contribute to community development. It will be important that this part of the project works closely with statutory sector partners in health, social care, housing and other local government departments.

products launched during 2022/23 and outlined above. This involves the expansion of our connector network to villages and residential caravan parks creating 8 additional community connectors as well as training 3 more social prescribers with a particular focus on frail people living on their own. Demand for advocates is also increasing and so we anticipate we'll be able to develop an additional advocate over the same period.

The project will also work with community groups to expand them, make them more welcoming and strengthen their offer, including developing groups' digital capabilities. We expect to be helping 4 groups with brand new websites and social media presence. The identification and development of 5

more community angels will provide a network of residents across the town who can provide support for drive snow clearance, TV repair, IT support and practical support.

Knaresborough Town Council Grant: this grant of £3,000 will be used to develop a joined-up approach to supporting frail elderly people in our town when they come out of hospital, are supported by unpaid carers and are at risk of loneliness and social isolation. This approach will provide the Town Council with key statistics showing the nature of this challenge and what can be done to improve peoples' lives through the power of community and charitable organisations in the town. It will also contribute to an existing data dashboard which shows key demographic and economic data about Knaresborough alongside an approach to improving the local economy that combines the heath and wealth agenda in a way rarely seen in a market town like Knaresborough.

The Knaresborough Anchor: At the end of the reporting period North Yorkshire (County) Council invited bids from local organisations to become Anchor Organisations for their local communities. Some of the functions of such an Anchor had been fulfilled by Knaresborough Connectors during and since the pandemic. However, in discussion with Chain Lane Community Hub, and in line with NYC requirements that there be a single organisation named as the Anchor, it was decided by the Connectors Board to support the Chain Lane Community Hub in becoming that organisation, supported by a local partnership approach that built on our joint work in recent years. Connectors will therefore play an active local role in providing a link to NYC Stronger Communities alongside Chain Lane Community Hub as the local Anchor organisation.

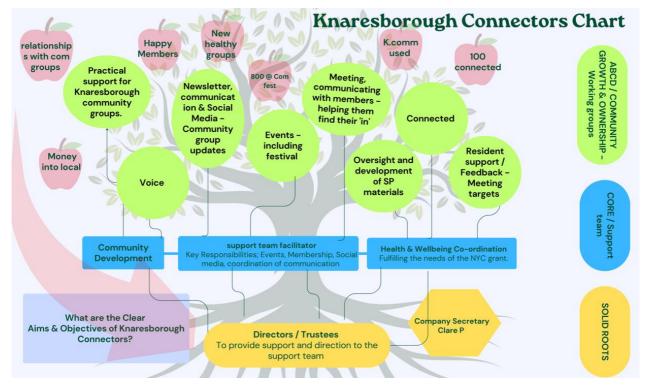
How we work

Knaresborough Connectors now has a Board of Directors, as required by CBS legislation, who are listed opposite. These directors became the first members on incorporation, but all those who connected with others during COVID and since symbolise the potential for such a membership

Knaresborough Connectors Directors who served during this reporting period were:

Peter Lacey, Hazel Haas, Sue Vasey, Rev Garry Hinchcliffe, Nick Garrett, Sue Lightfoot, Hannah Gostlow and Liz Rochester.

movement across the town. We see this in organic terms as illustrated in the diagram, which like anything organic will grow, require pruning, shaping and nurturing to produce fruit.



The relationship building and shaping of this tree is now a priority for Knaresborough Connectors. Based on the membership model, but avoiding any artificial barriers to participation, we will:

- Set up connector meet-ups as informal opportunities to generate 'bottom-up' initiatives that build community at a street, neighbourhood or town level;
- Convene regular 'core-connector' meetings that will support and deliver on the underpinnings to enable community development to flourish;
- Support community group leadership across the town to continue the spirit of joint working experienced during COVID, particularly through the Knaresborough Voice initiative.

Membership: being a member of something these days is perhaps not in fashion, we like to be free agents and keep things flexible. Which is why becoming a member of Connectors is an enabling rather than restricting step. Membership does not tie you down but provides access into the wider community that we're already a member of. We all have a need for connection, it's part of our DNA, and we all have the capacity to give-back in different ways through our skills, our time and our resources. Knaresborough is rich with such gifts and enabling these to flow through the veins of the town, invisible but highly effective in sustaining and building community, is key to Connectors long term goals.

Community Benefit Society membership requires the simple purchase of a £1 share. We can then share news and provide links into activities and opportunities that have been described in this annual report. It's a small commitment, but one that signals the community ownership at the heart of Connectors ethos. We're also aware of a significant 'following' on social media and are committed to enabling and encouraging everyone to undertake the natural, human instinct of connecting for the benefit of others.

Owned by the community,

Run by the community,

For the benefit of the community.

Become a member here

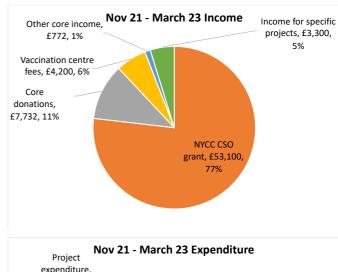


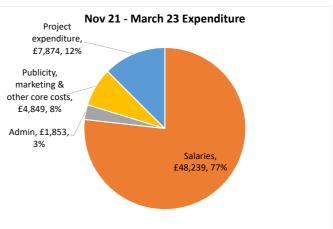
Summary of finances²

At the start of this reporting year Connectors had a carry forward balance of £4,937. During the reporting period, and for expenditure incurred during the same period, it received income of £69,104 and spent £62,816, a positive balance of £6,288, resulting in an end of year balance of £11,225. The breakdown of this income and expenditure is shown in the pie charts opposite.

In addition, Connectors received in-kind support from a local company for accommodation and associated costs that are not shown here. It has also relied heavily on the goodwill and time commitment of its directors and supporters in being able to achieve the level of success and local impact that this report demonstrates.

During the reporting period, but for spend in 2023/24, Connectors received grants of £15,000 from North Yorkshire Council and of £3,000 from Knaresborough Town Council. This brought the Connectors start balance for the 1st April 2023 to £29,233.





Our budget for 2023/24 is currently under review

due to the departure of our full-time employee, the need to recruit to deliver on the 'Stay Healthy' grant and the development of a core team of paid and unpaid members, as outlined in the 'how we work' section above. Whilst continuing to build on the work reflected in this Annual Report, we will focus on the following areas to maintain financial resilience in both the short and longer term:

- a. We will maintain a balanced budget, in line with our reserves policy, to ensure financial resilience.
- b. We will deliver on the outcomes and benefits of the two grants received for delivery during 2023/24.
- c. We will seek short-term transitional support from North Yorkshire Council in the light of the ending of the Community Support Organisation and our continued contribution to the Anchor function.
- d. We will work with Knaresborough Town Council to explore the functions, roles and therefore resources that are appropriate for delivery in partnership with Knaresborough Connectors in line with their elected and representative responsibilities.
- e. If successful, Connectors will, through the Knaresborough Voice initiative, use Shared Prosperity Fund resources in line with agreements with North Yorkshire Council and in partnership of other community groups to deliver on the vision identified above.
- f. We will encourage Members who have the capacity to give back financially to support Connectors costs through one-off or regular donations to underpin local ownership and control.
- g. Where appropriate we will seek additional grant funding to accomplish either Connector objectives or the goals of those groups that Connectors is supporting, with a focus on local sources that are committed to Knaresborough and the surrounding area.

² You can read a short piece on how our ethos and values informs our financial strategy on our website.



Knaresborough Connectors Limited

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Directors Report

Income and Expenditure, Balance Summary and Notes

Directors' report for the year ended 31st March 2023

The directors during the accounting period and up to and including the date the report was approved:

- Peter Lacey (1st Nov 2021)
- Hazel Haas (1st Nov 2021)
- Susan Vasey (1st Nov 2021)
- Susan Lightfoot (co-opted 24th Nov 2021)
- Hannah Gostlow (co-opted 24th Nov 2021)
- Elizabeth Rochester (co-opted 24th Nov 2021)
- Nicolas Garrett (co-opted 24th Nov 2021)
- Garry Hinchcliffe (co-opted 24th Nov 2021 and retired 1st March 2023)

Registered society number: 8747

Registered Addressed: 8 York Place, Knaresborough, HG5 0AA **Bank Address:** The Co-op 19,20 Commercial St, Leeds LS1 6AL

Structure, governance and management

The Community Benefit Society was formed on 1st November 2021 and is limited by shares. It is governed by a set of rules adopted by the members. The liability of the members is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid on the shares held by them.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the Society are elected by the members at the AGM or co-opted by the Board in the course of the year and then elected by the members at the next AGM.

The Society's Objects

- 3.1 The Objects of the Society are to carry on for the benefit of the community in Knaresborough and surrounding area (the "area of benefit") activities in line with the Ethos and Values Statement that further the social, economic, spiritual and environmental interests of people living in the area of benefit by some or all of the following means:
 - 3.1.1 by promoting, developing, supporting, managing, undertaking and facilitating community-led initiatives in the area of benefit;
 - 3.1.2 by providing information, advice, assistance, training, support, facilities, amenities and services incidental to the promotion of community-led initiatives;
 - 3.1.3 by providing such community resources and activities as the directors shall determine from time to time for the benefit of the community;



- 3.1.4 by promoting improved relationships and joint work across the community's benefit by any means that the directors consider reasonable and will be of benefit to the community; and
- 3.1.5 by carrying out any activities which can be carried out from time to time by a Society and which the directors consider would further the health, wellbeing, social, economic, spiritual and environmental interests of the community in the area of benefit and principally in Knaresborough.

Signed on behalf of the board of directors:

Signed T	(Director)

Name	PETEL LACEY
I TO I I Continue to the	

DATE 26-05-27



Knaresborough Connectors Summary 2021-23

Pre-Registration Summary			
Liability to WSP@1st November 2021	£	40,565.13	
Liability to RoLT@1st November 2021	£	26,222.11	
RoLT holdings on behalf of KC@1st Nov 2021	£	71,723.92	
Balance@1st November 2021	£	4,936.68	-
balance @ 13t November 2021		4,550.00	-
First Year Accounts		2021-23	
Income			
Core	£	62,804.03	
Community Festival	£	-	
Welcome to K	£	1,500.00	
Open Innovation	£	400.00	
Knaresborough Voice	£	1,000.00	
NHS App	£	350.00	
Thula Mama	£	50.00	
Your Special	£	3,000.00	
Total	l £	69,104.03	-
			-
Deferred Income			
NYC Health & Wellbeing grant	£	15,000.00	
KTC grant	£	3,000.00	
Total	Ι£	18,000.00	-
		,	-
Expenditure			
Core	£	11,231.78	
Community Festival	£	1,959.49	
Welcome to K	£	945.00	
Open Innovation	£	3,600.00	
Knaresborough Voice	£	1,270.00	
NHS App	£	-,=: -:	
Thula Mama	£	100.00	
Your Special	£	-	
Shares	£	_	
Total		19,106.27	-
			NOTES
Shareholding	£	8.00	Nominal value of each share is £1
onar en	_	0.00	
Debt Incurred	£	43.709.46	staff salaries etc paid by WSP from 11/21 - 1/23
		-,	
Transfer	£	83.420.01	funds collected by RoLT transferred to KC bank accour
Liabilities Paid	£		KC paid part of debt owed to WSP
	_	.,	, ,
End of Year Balance Summary			
Liability to WSP@31st March 2023	£	20,074.59	
Liability to RoLT@31st March 2023	-£	56.47	i.e. RoLT owes KC suggest forgive the debt
Lawrence to the Life of State William 2020	_	30.47	
Co-op Bank Account@31st March 2023	£	49,299.57	
Cash	£	8.00	shares
Cusii	L	6.00	Situics
Balance@31st March 2023		11,232.98	- excluding £18,000 deferred income to be spent in 23/2
Dalance@313t March 2025	<u> </u>	±±,232.30	excluding 220,000 dejerred income to be spent in 23/2
Balance@1st November 2021	£	4,936.68	
Balance@31st March 2023	£	11,232.98	
Profit (Loss)	_		-
Profit (Loss)	<u> </u>	6,296.30	=



Knaresborough Connectors Project Break Down 2021-23

Core		
INCOME		
Core NYCC Grant	£	53,100.00
Core NYCC Grant (23/24)	£	15,000.00
Core Donations	£	6,533.00
Fees for services	£	4,200.00
Other Core Income	£	771.96
	£	79,604.96
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Salaries+Services (Paid by KC)	£	5,117.44
Salaries (Paid by KC)	£	4,003.20
Staff costs (NI/Pension etc) (Paid by KC)	£	591.74
Staff Expenses (Paid by KC)	£	-
Admin Services (Paid by KC)	£	522.50
Staff Salaries+Services (Paid by RoLT)	£	1,330.00
Admin Services (Paid by RoLT)	£	1,330.00
Core Publicity & marketing	£	1,363.20
Core Other costs	£	3,421.14
	£	11,231.78

£	65.00
£	1,067.93
£	4,716.73
£	37,859.80
£	43,644.46
	£

NHS App		
INCOME		
Promote NHS App Payment	£	350.00
	£	350.00
EXPENDITURE		
-	£	-
	£	-

Knaresborough Voice		
INCOME		
Voice Visual Grant from KTC	£	1,000.00
	£	1,000.00
EXPENDITURE		
Voice Meeting Costs	£	270.00
Voice Visual Costs	£	1,000.00
	£	1,270.00

Your Special		
INCOME		
Your Special KTC Grant (23/24)	£	-
	£	-
EXPENDITURE		
-	£	-
	£	-

Community Festival		
INCOME		
-	£	-
	£	-
EXPENDITURE		
Community Festival Payment to third party	£	600.00
Community Festival Publicity & marketing	£1	,128.49
Community Festival Other Costs	£	231.00
	£1	,959.49

Welcome to Knaresborough Booklet	
INCOME	
Welcome to K Other income	£1,500.00
	£1,500.00
EXPENDITURE	
Welcome to K Payment to third party	£ 945.00
	£ 945.00

Thula Mama		
INCOME		
Thula Mama Donation In	£	50.00
	£	50.00
EXPENDITURE		
Thula Mama Mini Grant <£50 Out	£	100.00
	£	100.00

Open Innoivation	
INCOME	
Open Innovation Chamber Donation	£ 400.00
	£ 400.00
EXPENDITURE	
Open Innovation Cost	£3,600.00
	£3,600.00

INCOME		
Membership income	£	8.00
	£	8.00
EXPENDITURE		
Membership Donations	£	-
Membership Costs	£	-
	£	-



Signed Was Carl
Name Nicholse Gernett
DATE 26/5/2023
^
Signed Republic
Name ROBEN. DAVIES
DATE 26/5/2023
DATE
Signed (Secretary)
Name CARE PASCALL
DATE 26/5/2023