



Cherryhomes Trust

Supporting disabled people in the Cambridge area

Chairman's Report for AGM 2016

The main focus of our efforts continues to be supporting those with severe physical disabilities in their desire to live as normal and fulfilled a life as possible whilst remaining in their own homes.

As you may see from the Statement of Accounts prepared by our Hon Treasurer, this year we have supported a young Cambridge based family, whose youngest son suffers with Down Syndrome and has difficulty walking, with the provision of a cargo bike to enable them to get to appointments and nursery with less difficulty. It also allows him to be transported around Cambridge with his siblings. We also paid the remainder of the grant to have a patio constructed for a wheelchair user (delayed due to initial problems with the builder and latterly by the Cambridgeshire floods of August 2014). We also continued to provide (through an hire / purchase agreement) a piece of equipment for someone who had been severely disabled through a stroke. This was done in conjunction with the beneficiary's GP and health professionals. Sadly, this person's condition worsened and the Theracycle ceased to be of benefit. The Trustees took the view that, as we had paid (in hire charges) over three quarters of the purchase price, we should pay the outstanding amount and donate the equipment to a local unit where more people could reap the benefit. The Rehabilitation Unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital was felt to be an appropriate recipient. A meeting, scheduled for Monday next (18th April), should result in formal clarification in respect of Cherryhomes having no future liabilities with respect to the equipment or its use which will allow us to make arrangements for delivery.

Despite relatively high expenditure this year, our reserves remain at a healthy level due to generous regular donations from our supporters as well as fundraising activities by the Trustees such as our regular appearance at Bassingbourn Village Market. We continue to rely on, and be grateful for, all such donations and the work involved in organising fund raising activities.

One such Trustee organised event this year was our Musical Evening held at Melbourn United Reformed Church who kindly donated use of their facilities. A delightful evening with Catherine Wilmers (cello) and Ilga Pitkevica (piano) who are both internationally acclaimed musicians but gave of their time. A hot supper followed and the event raised over £1,500. The other major contribution to our funds came in the form of a half share in the proceeds of the Barrington Charity Ball (thanks to the efforts of our Hon Secretary) where we received the magnificent sum of £5,000.

We are and wish to remain a small local charity - it is by being such that we can continue to provide that personal relationship with those we seek to assist. Despite this, we have in this past year sought to further increase awareness of the possibilities of support that we can offer and have written to all local GP Practices with a copy of our Flyer and leaflets.

Our website www.cherryhomes.org.uk continues to be a useful vehicle to publicise what we do and we express our continued thanks to Dr Aidan Van de Weyer (the husband of our Hon. Secretary) for his continued support as our webmaster.

Finally, I should like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow Officers and all the Trustees for their work in support of Cherryhomes.

For the coming year and in line with our Charity Commission approved Governing Document, the Trustees have re-elected the previous officers to serve for a further year and so, subject to there having been no previous dissention at this AGM, the Trustees are as follows:

Angela Craxford Snelling, Joyce Goodall, Margaret Hewat, Barry Monk (Chairman), Beryl Monk (Hon. Treasurer), Kathleen Shepherd and Rosaline Van de Weyer (Hon. Secretary).

(Barry Monk - Chairman)

12th April 2016