

**RUTLAND FIRST CIC**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024**



SUPPORTED BY  
**BBC**  
**CHILDREN  
IN NEED**

## **CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION**



During 2023/24 we wound up the final few loose ends of the Resilient Rutland project, developed and expanded Uppingham Youth Space and got Whissendine Youth Group up and running. Much of the management activity during the year has been aimed at securing both in-year and long-term funding for the two youth groups.

The Resilient Rutland project, aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing amongst young people going to school in Rutland, largely wound down after the end of the 2022/23 academic year, but continued to provide trickle funding to activities in the schools and local youth groups until the funds were finally expended in July 2023.

Uppingham Youth Space was formed in April 2022. Initial financial support came from Don Paddy's, the Co-Op, Uppingham Town Council, Rutland Lions and the National Lottery plus some individual gifts. We bid for and were successful in being given a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Safety Fund. This was for one year running from January 2023 until January 2024. We also set about identifying longer-term funding and bid for a National Lottery Community Fund grant payable over 5 years. We were successful in this bid which will start in September 2024. This has enabled us to extend the employment contract of our Youth Leader and to take on an Assistant Youth Leader.

Whissendine Youth Group also got underway during the year, meeting once a week during term-time in Whissendine Village Hall. Initial funding came from Whissendine Parish Council and covered the hire of the hall and the provision of snacks. Running of the group was initially all carried out by volunteers. During the year, we submitted bids to the Tesco Stronger Starts programme for a one-off payment and to Children in Need for full funding for 3 years. Both bids were successful with first payments due in September 2024, allowing us to plan for year-round opening and the employment of a part-time Youth Leader.

We now have two very active and well supported youth groups with funding guaranteed for the next few years.

**Myles Williamson-Noble**

**Chair Rutland First**

## **UPPINGHAM YOUTH SPACE**

Youth Space is a youth group set up in 2022. We have been able to develop and grow as a youth group with various sources of funding over the years, including National Lottery, Cop and Police and Crime Commissioner. We have just secured 5 years funding from the National Lottery. Rutland First CIC runs and supports Youth Space.

Youth Space is a place to belong. It provides a safe place for young people to come and join in with activities and have something to eat. This has proven successful and has helped to reduce crime. Most weeks, and we meet throughout the year, there are between 15 and 35 young people present. Some have been with us from the day we started.

Youth Space runs on Wednesday afternoons 3.15-5pm and is open to all from Year 6 to Year 11. Youth Space facilitates all young people from Uppingham and surrounding areas from all different schools.

Youth Space currently runs a Wednesday lunchtime session at the local community college, supported by a member of staff. Our aim is to branch out into other local schools, also particularly to ensure the primary school year 6 children know they are welcome once they reach 11.

Youth Space provides a range of activities including first-aid, drama, football and local trips. We also provided a successful summer programme.

News about Youth Space has been shared at public meetings, including the annual Town Meeting, the Town Council and the Neighbourhood Forum, where one of the young people, Chloe, has taken great pride in sharing her experience.

We have started to encourage more training opportunities for staff. We also work within the community and with the local police.

In the future we aim to make it more accessible for others to join, potentially offering return to home transport and to provide more trips.

Youth Space is run by an employed part-time Youth Leader, employed part-time Assistant Youth Leader and a group of Volunteers from all backgrounds. Without their dedication and enthusiasm, there would be no Youth Space. The Board would like to thank them all.

## **WHISSENDINE YOUTH GROUP**

The Whissendine youth group was set up in April 2023 to provide a safe space for young people aged 11 to 16 years. Whissendine is a rural community with a limited bus service and all secondary schools located outside of the village. In the past, there have been youth activities such as youth club activities run as a business, tennis and cricket clubs. Sadly, none are still running.

Initially, Rutland First donated a sum to buy equipment and assisted in DBS checks for the volunteers. Hall hire was covered by volunteers. The group ran term-time only on Monday evenings 4 – 5.30pm to correspond with the arrival of the Catmose school bus with sessions run by a small team of volunteers. After a slow start with 2-3 attending, the time was changed to 4.45- 6.15pm which increased numbers.

Further funding was sought and granted from Whissendine Parish council in August 2023 covering hall hire and a small allocation for weekly snacks for one year. Rutland First agreed at this point to oversee the group, manage the ring-fenced funds and assist with further funding bids using its experience with Uppingham Youth Space.

Up to August 2023, the sessions were run term time only, timings as mentioned above. The sessions are free, with a small range of activities provided with snacks. An average of 12-15 attended on a regular basis with up to 20 for the Christmas party. More boys than girls attend. A couple of sessions were trialled at the sports club with mixed success.

Bids to Tesco Stronger Start and Children in Need were submitted and were successful, commencing in September 2024 (£1,000 from Tesco for snacks, equipment and transport; £37, 000 over a 3-year period from Children in Need to cover paid staff, hall hire, transport, equipment, staff training etc.) This enabled employment of a youth leader who commenced in September 2024. Plans are being made with the young people for external trips and purchase of further equipment to enhance their experience.

The youth group would like to acknowledge the initial drive and enthusiasm from Nat. Stiles, the diocese youth mission enabler, for her invaluable help and advice

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **Articles of Association and Standing Orders**

The grant from Children in Need came with a requirement that our Articles should specify an asset-locked body to which any residual assets should be transferred in the event of Rutland First CIC being wound up. Directors agreed that this should be Root and Branch Out CIC and the Articles were amended accordingly.

Bulley Davey, whose office in Oundle acts as our registered address, moved building and the new address has been registered with Companies' House.

### **Board Membership**

During the year, Val Clark resigned as a Director. Sharon Milner and Michèle Evans were elected as Directors.

## **FINANCE**

The Company began the financial reporting period with cash resources of £39,107, with £22,075 earmarked for the Resilient Rutland Project. At the end of the year, the cash balance was £17,551. During the year, expenditure on the Resilient Rutland Project was completed and a final report was published and is available on the Rutland First website ([www.rutlandfirst.co.uk](http://www.rutlandfirst.co.uk)). During the year, fundraising efforts continued to support the respective "Youth Space" projects at Uppingham and Whissendine, such that by the end of the year, the company has two viable projects and post year end, funding has been secured to ensure the viability of both projects for the foreseeable future.

With the end of the Resilient Rutland project, the company has managed to reduce administrative expenses down to a level commensurate with the scale of the two projects.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to acknowledge the help we have received from our accountants Bulley Davey in overseeing our financial dealings.

We would also like to acknowledge our many sponsors without whom none of the above would have been possible. They include the National Lottery, Uppingham Town Council, Rutland Lions, The Co-Op, Don Paddy's, Whissendine Parish Council, Tesco, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Children in Need and a few private individuals.

## **ANNEXES**

### **A. Annual Accounts 1 Apr 2023 to 31 Mar 2024**