BEAR FLAT ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2025

The trustees present their annual report for the year ended 31st December 2025, together with the financial statements of the Bear Flat Association (BFA).

1. Reference and administrative information

Charity name:	Bear Flat Association
Charitable status:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Association model)
Registered charity number:	1194540
Principal office:	86, Bloomfield Avenue, Bath BA2 3AD

Trustees

The following served as charity trustees during the year (ordered by year of appointment):

- Timothy Cantell: appointed 06/02/24 (Planning & Transport Convener)
- Mark Richardson: appointed 06/02/24 (Treasurer)
- Gareth Somerset: appointed 06/02/24 (Acting Chair)
- David Morgan: appointed 06/02/24 (Chair)
- Jill Kingaby: appointed 11/03/24
- Jerry Trenchard: appointed 11/03/24 (Committee Secretary)
- James Gibbons: appointed 25/04/24 (Membership Secretary)
- Helen Scamell: appointed 25/04/24 (Food Group)

2. Structure, governance and management

Bear Flat Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is governed by its constitution dated 6 February 2024.

The charity is governed by its charity trustees. Under the constitution there must be at least three and no more than ten trustees. Trustees may be appointed by the members or by the existing trustees, subject to the provisions of the constitution.

At each Annual General Meeting, one-third of the trustees (or the nearest number to one third of the trustees) retire by rotation, with retiring trustees eligible for reappointment subject to the limits contained in the constitution.

The trustees meet as necessary during the year to oversee the activities, finances and governance of the Association.

3. Objectives and activities

The Bear Flat Association exists for the public benefit in Bear Flat, Bath.

Its charitable objects are:

- stimulating public interest, education and enjoyment in the area;
- promoting high standards of planning, design and architecture;
- protecting and enhancing the historic character of the built and natural environment;
- supporting the development, retention and improvement of features of public amenity or historic interest and the preservation and conservation of local green environments;

- promoting and supporting sports and recreation facilities for the benefit of local inhabitants and the wider public.

In determining the activities of the Association, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

4. Activities, achievements and performance

During the year the Association undertook a range of activities in furtherance of its charitable objectives.

Community activities and events

- Monthly community market
- Hosting the Repair Café at the monthly community market
- Monthly community teas event
- Quiz night
- Carols in the Park
- Organising the annual visit of the Mikron Theatre

Planning and the local environment

Particular matters during the year included:

- Establishing Beechen Cliff Church and Community Hall as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and engagement with the Methodist Church.
- Initiating a plan with Bath Preservation Trust to restore historic street signs on Bear Flat.
- Preparing an application for the Historic England listing of the Devonshire Roundhouse.

Communications and community engagement

- Maintenance and updating of the BFA website
- Monthly newsletter (the Bear Flat Flyer) to all members
- Distribution of flyers to all residents regardless of membership on issues of neighbourhood-wide importance. The BFA has a group of volunteer street representatives for carrying out this distribution effort.
- Facebook updates on BFA activities
- Maintenance and updating of local notice boards advertising local information and events.

Other activities

- Maintenance of the neighbourhood's green spaces, including Bloomfield Green and the Gore Gravel Garden
- Installation of festive lighting on the main street and arranging the associated switch-on celebrations
- Liaison with Beechen Cliff School over the school's travel plan

5. Public benefit

The trustees consider that the activities undertaken during the year have furthered the Association's charitable purposes and provided public benefit to residents, local businesses and visitors to Bear Flat.

In planning and carrying out the Association's activities, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

6. Financial review

The Association's total income for the year was **£3,946.85**, compared with **£6,159.19** in the previous year.

Total expenditure was **£1,739.21**, compared with **£4,860.28** in the previous year.

At the year end, the Association held total funds of **£8,085.32**, of which **£7,077.12** were unrestricted funds and **£1,008.20** were restricted funds.

The principal sources of income during the year were membership subscriptions, donations, advertising and Gift Aid.

Significant items of expenditure included the installation and removal of the Festive lights, the cost of maintaining *Mailchimp* (the BFA's vehicle for delivering the monthly flyer), *Membermojo* membership database software and public liability insurance.

Overall, the trustees consider the Association to be in a sound financial position.

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to maintain unrestricted reserves sufficient to enable the Association to continue its principal activities and to provide for any unforeseen expenditure.

At the year end unrestricted reserves amounted to **£7,077.12**. The trustees consider this level of reserves to be appropriate.

7. Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees have considered the principal risks facing the Association and are satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place to manage them.

No major risks were identified in 2025. The principal operational risks identified related to possible injury arising from street-tidying and work on green spaces. These risks are managed through appropriate working practices and public liability insurance.

8. Plans for the coming year

During the coming year, the Association intends to continue its work in support of the Bear Flat community.

Particular priorities include:

- Recruitment of new trustees to the association
- Engaging with B&NES Council on its scheme for the Somer Valley Link programme and how it affects Bear Flat.
- Maintaining community facilities on Bear Flat in wake of the sale of Beechen Cliff Church and the Community Hall
- Continuing maintenance of our green spaces, including Bloomfield Green, Alexandra Park, the Gore Gravel Garden
- Historic street sign restoration in collaboration with Bath Preservation Trust
- Maintaining and expanding our range of social events:
    - the community market, community teas, quiz nights, Mikron Theatre, Carols in the Park.
    - Consider re-instigating a park event for 2027.
    - Screening the Chris Packham film National Emergency Briefing, late September 26.
- Continuing liaison with Beechen Cliff School

- Festive street lighting installation for 2026, including arranging a social switch-on event at the end of November.
- History presentation by Bath Preservation Trust on 'The Sack of Holloway' (this took place April 2026)

The trustees will continue to review opportunities to further the Association's charitable objectives and respond to issues affecting Bear Flat and its residents.

9. Approval

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the charity trustees on 2nd September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

G E Somerset
Acting Chair

Signed: *G E Somerset*

Date: 2nd September 2026