

## **Tamworth Street Angels Annual Report For 2023**

Tamworth Street Angels is a Local Branch of ROC Angels (Redeeming Our Communities) which enables us to use the ROC charity status. ROC Angels are not responsible for the running of the Tamworth Street Angels project. The Steering Group are responsible for all activities involved in the running of the project including purchasing decisions, contracts entered into, employment and ensuring budgets do not exceed what is available in the bank account.

The use of the national ROC charity number / company limited by guarantee helps with our funding applications. This also ensures that we are covered under the ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) insurance policy. A contribution to ROC is made each year to cover this.

### **Summary**

At the start of 2023 Vic Van Den Bergh, who originally started the Tamworth Street Angels project along with his wife Wendy, decided to stand down and make the most of their well-earned retirement. Vic commented that he was extremely proud to have been a part of this most valuable work and was pleased to pass the baton on to Glyn and Carolyn together with David and Emma, all who have been with us from the start.

As part of the handover process we also undertook a number of additional changes. We went through a complete rebranding exercise with our Facebook page being completely refreshed and we were pleased to launch our brand-new website later on in the year. This

was done in-house by three of the volunteers. Finally, to facilitate the handing over of the financial responsibilities and to ensure a fresh start we changed our bank from the Co-op to Lloyds Banking.

We also refreshed and updated our Handbook and associated documentation. All of these documents are available to our volunteers through a shared Google Drive and volunteers are required to confirm that they have read and understood these on their Volunteer Registration Form.

We also started using the Walksafe+ safety app during the year and continue to promote its use within the nighttime economy. The app is installed on our team phone and allows other users to see where we are when we are out on shift and have the ability to connect with us if required.

During 2023 we also celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, having first appeared on the streets of Tamworth at the switch on of the Christmas lights in 2013 and we have provided a reassuring presence to the night-time economy since then (apart from during the COVID lockdowns).

Our financial situation continues to remain stable with more detail regarding this given below.

The Steering Group also took a decision this year to request that all volunteers have a minimum of a basic DBS. Although this is not a requirement of ROC or required by DBS (as we work in groups and due to the activities we are involved in) we felt that having a DBS would be best practice.

The main challenge we faced this year was the recruitment of volunteers. Due to the unsociable times at which we operate it is difficult to find people who are willing and able to accommodate this into their lifestyle pattern. During this period we were able to add two regular new volunteers to our rota. We were really pleased that one of our initial volunteers rejoined us after a period of being away for more than 4 years. Despite the relatively small pool of volunteers we are currently able to call on we managed to have a team out on 43 weekends over the year.

### **Steering Group**

Our Steering Group comprises of 4 individuals who have been with us since Tamworth Street Angels started in 2013.



Glyn Wright. As well as being a member of the Steering Group and a volunteer with Tamworth Street Angels, Glyn is also the Treasurer.



Carolyn Wright. Carolyn is a member of the Tamworth Street Angels Steering Group with main responsibility for recruitment. She is also one of the joint signatories, along with David Cooley, for any expenditure.



David Cooley. As well as being a volunteer with Tamworth Street Angels, David is also responsible for Health and Safety and Safeguarding. He is also one of the joint signatories, along with Carolyn Wright, for any expenditure.



Emma Cooley. Emma is a member of the Tamworth Street Angels Steering Group with responsibility for administration. Emma is currently managing a health condition which renders her unable to come out on shift at the present time but she continues to contribute in any way she can.

### **What We Do**

Tamworth Street Angels is all about ensuring people are able to feel safe on the streets of our town. We offer support, care and assistance to anyone who needs it and to those who become vulnerable during a night out. In doing so we also look to reduce the pressures on the already overstretched emergency services, thus leaving the NHS and Police more time to deal with more urgent incidents.

As well as providing this type of assistance, we also offer a “listening ear” to anyone who may be struggling or just need someone to talk to for a short time and our team can signpost people to other local organisations who might be able to help. Our philosophy is that we are there to help anyone in any way we can.

We are all volunteers and go out on a Saturday night, ideally in a mixed team of 3 or 4 armed with a Town Safe Radio (to enable contact with the CCTV and the night-time venues and their door staff), a first aid kit and backpacks that contain bottles of water and flip flops, together with other equipment such as a bleed kit. Our shift starts at 10pm and goes on until around 2am, although much later finishes have been known depending on the needs of a particular night.

## Finances

At the start of the 2023 the cash in our Co-op bank account was £1480. This was transferred across to our new account with Lloyds as part of the handover process. At the end of 2023 the cash in our Lloyds bank account was 3329.59 (an increase of £1839.59 over the year)

A summary of our expenditure over the year is shown below.

Base, furniture & equipment	£519.99
First Aid Supplies	£176.22
Other Items	£50.66
Protective Clothing	£771.00
Publicity Material	£141.00
Website	£269.64

Mobile phone	£397.95
ROC	£350.00
DBS Certificates	£72.00
	£2,748.46

A breakdown of our income for 2023 is summarised below.

Cheque from Seventh Day Adventist Church	£300.00
Grant from TBC	£2,000.00
HiB Sofa Surf from ROC	£701.25
Test Donations Via Stripe	£1.56
Start Up/ Step Up Grant from Support Staffs	£500.00
Transfer from old TSA account	£1,480.00
Stripe Donations	£31.51
Cash Donations	£103.73
Redrow Community Fund	£930.00
Newton Regis WI	£30.00

The above figures left us with a residual cash balance of £3329.59.

Our major expenditure over the year was on protective clothing which included the provision of branded fleeces/hats for all of our volunteers. We also paid for our insurance and made a contribution to ROC. Base costs included a quarterly payment of £100 to St Editha’s Church for use of their Community Church Hall as our operating base. Finally the other major purchase was that of a mobile phone which is used by the team when out on shift and also allows us to be contacted by venues who do not have access to the Town Safe radio system.

Full details of our accounts, including our final bank statement and a copy of this report have been sent to ROC to be included as part of their annual reporting process.

### **Thank You**

We totally rely on donations to operate and would like to thank the following organisations and businesses for their financial support during the year.

- Tamworth Borough Council
- Support Staffordshire
- HiB (through a sponsored sofa surf)
- Redrow Community Fund
- Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Newton Regis WI