

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ended 31st March 2000**

Company Registration Number: 3327628

Charity Registration Number: 1061538



BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
A Charitable Company Limited By Guarantee
Registered charity No. 1061538

COMPANY NAME	Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity
REGISTERED OFFICE	The Old School Cardington Bedford MK44 3SX
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER	3327628
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1061538
DIRECTORS	J M Barnes I D Clifton N B Costin V Hartley J M Hincks Reverend N P Morrell E E Parker Lady Odell D H Payne R I Payne Right Reverend J H Richardson M C Sheard A D Walden D E M Ward B G Woodrow
SECRETARY	J Ridge
AUDITORS	MacIntyre Hudson 31 Castle Street High Wycombe Bucks HP13 6RU
BANKERS	National Westminster Bank Plc. 81 High Street Bedford MK40 1NE
SOLICITOR	Woodfine Batcheldor 16 St Cuthberts Street Bedford MK40 3JG

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The directors, who are also the trustees of the charity, are pleased to present their report on the affairs of the charitable company, together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2000.

DIRECTORS

The directors who have held office during the year are as follows:

J M Barnes*
I D Clifton
N B Costin
V Hartley
J M Hincks*
Reverend N P Morrell
E E Parker
Lady Odell
D H Payne*
R I Payne
Right Reverend J H Richardson
M C Sheard
A D Walden*
D E M Ward
B G Woodrow*

* denotes membership of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

The charity was incorporated on 4 March 1997. It is governed by the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association. Trustees of the charity are elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the procedure laid out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Members of the charity pay an annual subscription and are entitled to nominate trustees.

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The objects of the charity are:

- To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in the historic county of Bedfordshire, and in particular, the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- In furtherance of that purpose, but not otherwise, to promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the same and to that end to bring together representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities within the historic county of Bedfordshire.

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (*continued*)

POLICIES ADOPTED IN ORDER TO FURTHER THESE OBJECTIVES

The policies adopted have not changed materially since the last report. The aims and objectives are:

Overall aim:

To encourage the well-being of people living and working in the rural areas of Bedfordshire

Objectives:

- To encourage and support self-help and voluntary effort in the rural areas of Bedfordshire
- To help local communities to express their views on issues affecting them and to empower them to take appropriate action
- To monitor service provision in rural areas and to help to ensure the continuance of services, either by accepted means or by alternative methods
- To continue to raise awareness of the value of rural areas and the issues facing people living in the countryside whilst recognising the significance of rural/urban inter-relationships
- To maintain flexibility in taking action to meet the needs of people living and working in rural Bedfordshire, both directly and in partnership with other organisations
- To continue to raise the profile of the Rural Communities Charity
- To monitor the work of the Rural Communities Charity and to ensure value for money for its funders
- To actively encourage the personal development of all staff and volunteers in order to ensure the best possible quality of service for its customers

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS *(continued)*

ORGANISATION OF THE CHARITY

The Board of Directors is responsible for the employment of staff to deliver the services of the charity. During the year, the following staff were employed:

Executive Director	J Ridge
Deputy Director	S Williams
Rural Development Officer	D Sore
Administrator	R Carman
Village Halls Adviser	S Norman
Community Participation Worker	G Bryant
Co-ordinator (Millennium Volunteers)	S George (from July 1999)
Field Officers (Millennium Volunteers)	A Baker (from September 1999)
	C Andrew (from September 1999)
Field Officers (Village Action Plans)	J Holmes (to June 1999)
	S Pearce (to May 1999)
	S Sleight (from June 1999)
Field Officer (Transport)	D Lawrence
Rural Land Bank Co-ordinator	G Cook
Housing Enabler	L Hurn
Training and Development Adviser	R Sinfield (from February 2000)
Co-ordinator (Community Safety)	R Shipton (from February 2000)
Field Officers (Community Safety)	M Proud (from March 2000)
	J Holmes (from July 1999)
Field Officer (Village Care Schemes)	J Bennett (to April 1999)
Field Officer (Youth Support)	C McKenna (from July 1999)
	C McKenna (to June 1999)
Field Officer (Youth Information)	A Carey (from October to December 1999)
	R Edmunds (from September 1999)
Field Officer (Youth Volunteering)	S Munden (from November 1999)
Housing and Support Needs Researcher	R Sinfield (to January 2000)
Seconded	A Wheeler
Consultant (Village Design Statements)	P Moore
Volunteers	R Thompson
	R Carter (from October 1999 to March 2000)
	D White (to November 1999)
	J Clingan (to November 1999)
Student placement	A Bedingfield (from September 1999)

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS *(continued)*

THE DEVELOPMENT, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHARITY

Achievements

There have been a number of major achievements for the charity over the year, including:

- Securing National Lottery Charities Board funding to establish a Community Safety Project
- Successfully bidding for funding to run a "Millennium Volunteers" scheme in the county in addition to extending the "Make a Difference" campaign through a donation from the Nationwide Foundation
- Securing funding from Bedfordshire Social Services to develop village care schemes across the county and to research and develop a strategy for the support of carers
- Establishing "VOUCH" (Voluntary Organisations Uniting in Care and Health) – a voluntary sector forum, and carrying out the election of voluntary sector representatives onto the new Joint Planning Fora
- Successfully running a training course accredited by the Open College Network for nine parish councillors/clerks
- Launching "BRIAN" – Bedfordshire Rural Information Network – a mobile advice service for young people
- Successfully establishing the Rural Transport Partnership and gaining approval for the implementation of its action plan
- Launching a comprehensive handbook for village hall committees as a "Millennium Gift"
- Successfully being re-awarded Investor in People status
- Playing an active role in shaping two important strategic documents – the East of England Development Agency's Strategy – "Moving Forward" and the Ministry of Agriculture's Rural Development Plan (East of England chapter)

Important events affecting the charity

- The publication of the Performance and Innovation Unit's report "Rural Economies" as a precursor to the Rural White Paper
- The publication of the East of England Development Agency's strategy "Moving Forward"
- Agenda 2000 and the Rural Development Regulation

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS *(continued)*

THE DEVELOPMENT, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHARITY *(continued)*

- Discussions on the establishment of an East of England Rural Forum
- The establishment of Primary Care Groups and the resultant changes to the joint planning system
- Bedfordshire County Council's "Electronic Service Delivery" initiative

Intangible income

During the year, the charity has benefited from the efforts of five volunteers, a student placement and a secondee from Barclays Bank until 31st January 2000.

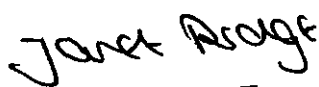
AUDITORS

In accordance with Section 385 of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution to re-appoint MacIntyre Hudson as auditors will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board

The Old School
Cardington
Bedford
MK44 3SX

Secretary



13th June 2000
J Ridge

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its financial activities during the year and the profit or loss of the company for that year. In preparing those financial statements, giving a true and fair view, the directors are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
A Charitable Company Limited By Guarantee
Registered charity no. 1061538**

We have audited the financial statements on pages 8 to 22 which have been prepared under the historic cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 11 and 12.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

As described on page 6 the charitable company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

BASIS OF OPINION


We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the charitable company's state of affairs at 31st March 2000 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

31 Castle Street
High Wycombe
Bucks
HP13 6RU


MACINTYRE HUDSON
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

22nd May 2000

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Year ended 31st March 2000

	Note	Unrestricted Funds (note 14) £	Restricted Funds (note 15) £	Total Funds 2000 £	Total Funds 1999 £
INCOMING RESOURCES:					
Service agreements		126,238	50,906	177,144	133,388
Grants		8,281	189,859	198,140	123,196
Other income	2	48,594	-	48,594	45,713
Contracts		3,253	61,006	64,259	18,507
Less: Deferred income	3	-	-	-	(3,453)
Total Incoming Resources		186,366	301,771	488,137	317,351
RESOURCES EXPENDED:					
Direct charitable expenditure					
- external expenditure	4	128,345	205,467	333,812	259,656
- support costs	4	33,477	-	33,477	30,223
- direct expenditure charged from Unrestricted Funds		(42,625)	42,625	-	-
- contribution towards overheads		(8,599)	8,599	-	-
Fund-raising and publicity	5	8,719	-	8,719	7,423
Management and administration of the charity	6	34,790	-	34,790	37,812
Total resources expended	8	154,107	256,691	410,798	335,114
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		32,259	45,080	77,339	(17,763)
Closure of Rural Initiatives Fund		871	(871)	-	-
Closure of Country Work Fund		716	(716)	-	-
Net resources after transfers		33,846	43,493	77,339	(17,763)
Funds at 1 April 1999	13	80,955	41,219	122,174	139,937
Funds at 31st March 2000	13	114,801	84,712	199,513	122,174

The charitable company has no recognised surpluses or deficits other than those indicated in the above statement.

The notes on page 13 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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REVENUE ACCOUNT
Year ended 31st March 2000

	Note	2000 £	1999 £
TURNOVER	1	483,680	311,612
Direct charitable expenditure	4	367,289	289,879
SURPLUS ON DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE		<u>116,391</u>	<u>21,733</u>
Fund-raising and publicity	5	8,719	7,423
Management and administrative expenses	6	34,790	37,812
		<u>72,882</u>	<u>(23,502)</u>
Interest receivable and similar income	7	4,457	5,739
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD		<u><u>77,339</u></u>	<u><u>(17,763)</u></u>

The charitable company had no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the period.

The statement of movement on reserves is shown in note 13.

The notes on pages 13 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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BALANCE SHEET
31st March 2000

	Note	2000 £	1999 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	9	11,427	21,422
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	16,189	11,450
Cash at bank and building society		196,792	105,804
		<u>212,981</u>	<u>117,254</u>
CREDITORS: Amount falling due within one year	11	<u>22,520</u>	<u>13,627</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		190,461	103,627
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>201,888</u>	<u>125,049</u>
CREDITORS: Amount falling due after more than one year	12	2,375	2,875
NET ASSETS		<u>199,513</u>	<u>122,174</u>
RESERVES			
Unrestricted			
General		84,807	
Building		17,689	
Contingency		12,305	
		<u>114,801</u>	<u>80,955</u>
Restricted	13 & 15	84,712	41,219
		<u>199,513</u>	<u>122,174</u>

Approved by the Board on 22nd May 2000 and signed on its behalf by

Alan Walden,

June M Bann

Janet Ridge

The notes on pages 13 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting by Charities", using the following accounting policies:

INCOMING RESOURCES:

Grant, Contract and Service Agreement income represents amounts receivable from local government and national funding bodies, less amounts received relating to future periods.

Interest on bank and building society deposits represents amounts receivable.

Other income represents recharged costs, membership subscriptions and other fees receivable.

Donations and sponsorship represents amounts received.

RESOURCES EXPENDED:

Expenditure of the Charity is accounted for as it is incurred.

Expenditure is allocated to the headings 'Direct Charitable Expenditure Support Costs', 'Fund-raising and Publicity' and 'Management and Administration of the Charity' on the basis, which in the opinion of the Trustees, gives the fairest allocation of costs, in accordance with the Statement Of Recommended Practice.

The charity allocates costs as 'Direct Charitable Expenditure', where such costs directly relate to the objects of the charity and, where appropriate, of the restricted fund. The allocation of certain expenditure is on the basis (e.g. staff costs on time spent, premises costs on area occupied, etc.,) appropriate to the nature of the expenditure and subject to, where appropriate, the provisions laid down by the income providers within the contracts and service agreements.

Support costs include services supplied centrally, identified as wholly or mainly in support of the project work and objects of the charity.

'Fund-raising and Publicity' expenditure represents amounts incurred on the promotion of the charity and its objects in order to gain further income.

Other expenditure incurred is included within 'Management and Administration of the Charity' expenses.

FIXED ASSETS:

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- over 4 years.
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Depreciation of leasehold property improvements is provided so as to write off the assets over the remaining period of the lease.

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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

FUND ACCOUNTING:

- (i) The Charity's Unrestricted Reserves consist of general reserves which the Charity may use for its purposes, at its discretion and these may include reserves which have been designated by the directors to meet future commitments.
- (ii) Restricted Reserves are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds which are legally binding.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ended 31st March 2000

1. **TURNOVER**

Turnover represents amounts receivable in respect of grant, service agreement, contract and other income for the period.

2. **OTHER INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2000	1999
	£	£	£	£
Fees and recharges	16,320	-	16,320	20,798
Membership subscriptions	3,232	-	3,232	3,444
Donations and sponsorship	24,585	-	24,585	15,732
Bank interest receivable	4,457	-	4,457	5,739
	<u>48,594</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,594</u>	<u>45,713</u>

3. **DEFERRED INCOME**

	2000	1999
	£	£
Deferred contract income	-	3,253
Deferred fees and recharges	-	200
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,453</u>

4. **DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE**
External expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2000	1999
	£	£	£	£
Personnel costs	89,941	152,183	242,124	169,917
Office services	38,404	13,875	52,279	52,347
Grants	-	18,580	18,580	23,480
Other	-	19,306	19,306	13,050
Conferences and courses	-	1,523	1,523	862
Total external expenditure	<u>128,345</u>	<u>205,467</u>	<u>333,812</u>	<u>259,656</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
Year ended 31st March 2000

4. DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE (continued)

Support costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2000	1999
	£	£	£	£
Personnel costs	21,285	-	21,285	19,786
Office services	12,192	-	12,192	10,437
Total support costs	<u>33,477</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,477</u>	<u>30,223</u>
Total direct charitable costs	<u>161,822</u>	<u>205,467</u>	<u>367,289</u>	<u>289,879</u>

5. FUND-RAISING AND PUBLICITY

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2000	1999
	£	£	£	£
Personnel costs	7,633	-	7,633	6,532
Other	1,086	-	1,086	891
	<u>8,719</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,719</u>	<u>7,423</u>

6. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARITY

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2000	1999
	£	£	£	£
Personnel costs	27,517	-	27,517	29,163
Office services and premises	1,743	-	1,743	2,148
Legal and professional fees	84	-	84	2,699
Audit fees	4,255	-	4,255	3,220
Other	1,191	-	1,191	582
	<u>34,790</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,790</u>	<u>37,812</u>

During the financial year 1998/99, a fundamental review of the categorisation of income and expenditure was undertaken. This is reflected in the apportionment of incoming resources between Service Agreements and Grants and the expenditure between Direct Charitable Expenditure, Support Costs, Fundraising and Publicity, and Management and Administration of the Charity.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
Year ended 31st March 2000

7. INTEREST RECEIVABLE

	2000	1999
	£	£
Bank and building society interest	4,457	5,739
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

8. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Staff Costs	Depreciation (note 9)	Other Costs	2000	1999
	£	£	£	£	£
Direct charitable expenditure	242,124	10,352	81,336	333,812	259,656
Support costs	21,285	-	12,192	33,477	30,223
Fund-raising and publicity	7,633	-	1,086	8,719	7,423
Management and administration of the charity	27,517	-	7,273	34,790	37,812
	<u>298,559</u>	<u>10,352</u>	<u>101,887</u>	<u>410,798</u>	<u>335,114</u>

	2000	1999
	£	£
Staff costs:		
Wages and salaries	272,995	204,917
Social Security costs	21,982	17,161
Pension costs	3,582	3,320
	<u>298,559</u>	<u>225,398</u>

	2000	1999
	£	£
Other costs:		
Office services and premises	60,459	65,032
Grants	18,580	23,480
Other	22,848	10,940
	<u>101,887</u>	<u>99,452</u>

The average number of employees, by function, was:

	2000	1999
Direct charitable operations and support	14	14
Administration and support	1	1
	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>

Due to the size of operations some administration and support staff time is spent in direct charitable operations to maximise efficiency.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
Year ended 31st March 2000

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Improvements to leasehold property £	Fixtures fittings equipment £	Total £
COST			
At 1 April 1999	25,489	13,256	38,745
Additions	-	357	357
At 31st March 2000	<u>25,489</u>	<u>13,613</u>	<u>39,102</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 1999	11,591	5,732	17,323
Charge for year	6,949	3,403	10,352
At 31st March 2000	<u>18,540</u>	<u>9,135</u>	<u>27,675</u>
NET BOOK VALUES			
At 31st March 2000	<u>6,949</u>	<u>4,478</u>	<u>11,427</u>
At 31st March 1999	<u>13,898</u>	<u>7,524</u>	<u>21,422</u>

10. DEBTORS

	2000 £	1999 £
Debtors	13,890	9,097
Prepayments	2,299	2,353
	<u>16,189</u>	<u>11,450</u>

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
Year ended to 31st March 2000

11. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2000	1999
	£	£
Interest free loan	500	500
Contract income received in advance	5,814	4,613
Taxation and Social Security	8,887	5,376
Accruals	7,319	3,138
	<u>22,520</u>	<u>13,627</u>
	<u><u>22,520</u></u>	<u><u>13,627</u></u>

12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2000	1999
	£	£
Interest free loan		
- within two to five years	2,375	2,875
	<u>2,375</u>	<u>2,875</u>
	<u><u>2,375</u></u>	<u><u>2,875</u></u>

13. RESERVES

	Balance at 1 April 1999	Net incoming resources on operations for period	At 31 March 2000
	£	£	£
Unrestricted (note 14)	80,955	33,846	114,801
Restricted (note 15)	41,219	43,493	84,712
	<u>122,174</u>	<u>77,339</u>	<u>199,513</u>
	<u><u>122,174</u></u>	<u><u>77,339</u></u>	<u><u>199,513</u></u>

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
Year ended 31st March 2000

14. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	General fund £	Building fund £	Contingency fund £	Total £
Balance at 1 April 1999	68,266	12,689	-	80,955
Net incoming resources on operations for period	16,541	5,000	12,305	33,846
Funds movement and balance at 31st March 2000	84,807	17,689	12,305	114,801

Building Fund:

The purpose of the building fund is to transfer amounts within General Unrestricted Funds to provide for fixtures and major building renovation costs.

Contingency Fund:

This fund represents the estimated winding-up costs, which would be incurred by the charity, should the grant and funding income cease.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1st April 1999 £	Movement in income £	Resources outgoing £	Balance 31st March 2000 £
Village shops	21,433	9,758	17,322	13,869
Youth Volunteering (M.A.D)	(381)	41,668	25,121	16,166
Community participation project	12,405	44,000	44,075	12,330
Training and development advisor (voluntary sector)	(1,825)	18,048	16,124	99
Rural initiatives fund	871	-	871	-
Country work	3,070	-	3,070	-
Farming and community support	421	-	-	421
Drugs Outreach Programme	5,237	25,945	22,148	9,034
European social fund	(12)	-	(12)	-
Rural Transport - delegated Fund	-	14,000	-	14,000
Rural transport partnership	-	32,000	22,090	9,910
Village care schemes	-	23,100	21,077	2,023
Millennium volunteers	-	61,007	66,873	(5,866)
Housing (HACT)	-	7,500	5,795	1,705
European social fund project No 2	-	7,786	434	7,352
Community safety project	-	16,959	13,290	3,669
	41,219	301,771	258,278	84,712

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*
Year ended 31st March 2000

15. **RESTRICTED FUNDS *(continued)***

RURAL INITIATIVES FUND

This fund was established in the late 1980s for the purpose of distributing small grants to rural organisations.

FARMING AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

During the early 1990s a group was set up to give support to farmers and, latterly, the rural community generally, in terms of coping with stress. The fund was established principally to finance the production of an information card.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR (VOLUNTARY SECTOR)

This post was established in 1995 to encourage training and voluntary sector development. It is funded by Bedfordshire and Luton Chamber of Commerce, Training and Enterprise.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROJECT

The Community Participation Project was established in 1996 to encourage the participation of users, carers and voluntary groups in the planning of health and social services. The Rural Communities Charity carried out this function which is funded through joint finance.

COUNTRY WORK

A national initiative, Country Work is sponsored by British Telecom and the Post Office, supplemented by local funding from Mid Beds District Council. Its purpose is to fund rural enterprise initiatives.

VILLAGE SHOPS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity administers this scheme on behalf of the Rural Development Commission and the three District Councils in Bedfordshire. Its purpose is to help village shopkeepers to improve their shops, in villages of less than 3,000 population and in communities where there is a sole shop.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERING (M.A.D)

This fund was established in 1997, with 2 year funding from the Home Office. Working in north Bedfordshire, the main aims of the Project are to encourage young people to take advantage of volunteering opportunities and to encourage organisations to provide opportunities. Following the success of the initial project, funding has been secured from the Nationwide Foundation to continue the work and extend it to include the mid-Bedfordshire area.

DRUGS OUTREACH PROGRAMME

This fund was established in 1998 to deliver outreach work to young people in rural communities who are in danger of drugs misuse. The initiative is financed from the Department of Health's "Opportunities for Volunteering" Fund.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

A successful bid was made to the European Social Fund (ESF) in order to finance a dual-purpose project. The funds were awarded to set up a web-site for the Rural Communities Charity and to provide grants to registered childminders to enable them to undertake formal NVQ qualifications.

RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership was established to improve sustainable rural transport in Bedfordshire. The fund was established to enable the Rural Communities Charity to employ a Partnership Officer and to facilitate an Action Plan.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
A Charitable Company Limited By Guarantee
Registered charity No. 1061538

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*
Year ended 31st March 2000

15. **RESTRICTED FUNDS *(continued)***

VILLAGE CARE SCHEMES

The purpose of this funding from Bedfordshire County Council is to establish care schemes and day care facilities in rural communities in the county.

MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

Millennium Volunteers is a government initiative aimed at encouraging young people between the ages of sixteen and twenty four into volunteering. The fund enables the Rural Communities Charity to employ three people.

HOUSING AND SUPPORT NEEDS

The Housing Associations Charitable Trust (HACT) has provided funding for research into the housing needs of the elderly in rural Bedfordshire.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND – PROJECT No 2

This is the second successful bid the Rural Communities Charity has made to this Fund. It will extend the work of the previous project, enabling registered childminders and pre-school learning groups in rural areas of Bedfordshire to achieve a recognised accreditation. The Project is also supported by the National Childminding Association and the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECT

The Rural Communities Charity successfully bid for funding from the National Lottery Charities Board to work at grass-roots level in the southern half of the county to improve the safety of people living in rural communities.

RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP DELEGATED FUND

This fund was established to fund small-scale transport projects in rural Bedfordshire.

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
Year ended 31st March 2000

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Tangible fixed assets £	Current assets/ (liabilities) £	Long term liabilities £	2000 £	1999 £
RESTRICTED FUNDS:					
Village shops	-	13,869	-	13,869	21,433
Youth volunteering (M.A.D)	-	16,166	-	16,166	(381)
Community participation project	-	12,330	-	12,330	12,405
Training and development advisor (Voluntary sector)	-	99	-	99	(1,825)
Rural initiatives fund	-	-	-	-	871
Country work	-	-	-	-	3,070
Farming and community support	-	421	-	421	421
Drugs Outreach Programme	-	9,034	-	9,034	5,237
European social fund	-	-	-	-	(12)
Rural transport – delegated fund	-	14,000	-	14,000	-
Rural transport partnership	-	9,910	-	9,910	-
Village care schemes	-	2,023	-	2,023	-
Millennium volunteers	-	(5,866)	-	(5,866)	-
Housing (HACT)	-	1,705	-	1,705	-
European social fund project no 2	-	7,352	-	7,352	-
Community safety project	-	3,669	-	3,669	-
	-	84,712	-	84,712	41,219
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	11,427	105,749	(2,375)	114,801	80,955
	11,427	190,461	(2,375)	199,513	122,174

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*
Year ended 31st March 2000

17. COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

At 31st March 2000 the Charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below:-

	2000		1999	
	Land and buildings	Other	Land and buildings	Other
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
Within 1 year	-	3,724	-	-
Within 2 to 5 years	-	-	-	3,724
After 5 years	4,000	-	4,000	-
	<u>4,000</u>	<u>3,724</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>3,724</u>
	<u><u>4,000</u></u>	<u><u>3,724</u></u>	<u><u>4,000</u></u>	<u><u>3,724</u></u>

18. TAXATION

As a registered charity it is not liable to Corporation Tax or Income Tax.