

Bentley House Tenants and Residents Association AGM: 7th March 2017

Treasurer's Report for January – December 2016

The Bentley House TARA has 2 active bank accounts: one we use for administering successful funding bids and one we use for the small amount of money that we receive from City South Manchester/One Manchester, called the Tenant Participation Unit (TPU) account. A breakdown of the income and expenditure in both this and the main account are available here today and will be posted onto www.redbricks.org after the AGM.

We request occasional grants for the TPU account of £300 a time and its use is for encouraging community participation in events and for general TARA business and administration such as office supplies, stamps, copies of keys, venue hire and refreshments for meetings, photocopying and printing leaflets, posters and the estate newsletter 'The Bentley Bugle'. There was little activity with our TPU funds in 2016 (apart from paying for the venue hire at Birley Campus) as due to the late receipt of the AGM minutes this led to a delay in collating all necessary documents to request our usual £300 cheque. This led to the temporary use of the main account funds for 2 small TARA admin items during 2016 which were printing paper and a wall planner for the office, which are highlighted in italics on the main grants account spreadsheet.

For our main account, 2016 was a busier year than 2015 in terms of expenditure. We started the year with £3349 which is made up of a number of leftover pots of money from different funding bids, dating back to 2010! We spent £1153 and ended the year with £12,207 due to a successful Big Lottery funding bid for just under £10,000 to help us all celebrate 70 years of the Redbricks in 2017! More on that later....!

Of the £1153 spent, half of it was us using up the last of the finances left in the Community Spaces/Lottery funded Hulme Street revamp pot of money; that all went towards gardening tools and equipment, in keeping with the original spirit of the funding bid. We used up the last of the Sport Relief funds for People's Kitchen events which came to £320; however in January 2017 we banked £460 in built up profits from the year's feasting, so will be able to continue to put on foody events as part of the Celebrate activities. We spent nearly £200 on public liability insurance last year and will be spending a bit more this year as part of the celebrations (£253), though this time we're hoping to get this money back from CSM.

It's certainly up for discussion that if we were to combine all of the remaining money from the different pots of cash over the years, we would have £2300. We would have to consider excluding £1147 from the 2011 Green Zone project within this, as that money was ringfenced for sustainability measures on the estate. As we've not had the volunteer capacity to move on with that, it would be good to get viewpoints on how and where this money could be spent in 2017. We have to bear in mind that the Celebrate! funding does not cover all eventualities such as the costs of food at the events and buying stationery to advertise them, so some remaining funds may have to subsidise that. As we have an active and growing gardening group, it would be good to use the remaining £800 of Ecostreets money for flora & fauna related activities.

On a final note, for any resident who is keen to apply for funding for something that will widen participation and benefit residents and the estate, the whole committee will encourage that, but the Treasurer will ask you for a business plan of how you will manage and spend the funds, plus a written commitment to see the project through, from start to finish, including completing and submitting an 'End of Grant' report to the funders.

Jenny Barnard
Bentley House TARA Treasurer