

**Launton Village Players' Public Benefit Policy.**  
**Registered Charity No: 1190149**

The objects (purposes) of the charity are:

1. To advance, improve, maintain and develop public education and appreciation of musical and dramatic art and artistic events, in particular by performing or assisting in the performance of musical productions and plays and by any other means as the trustees in their discretion shall determine
2. To support such charitable purposes as the trustees may in their absolute discretion determine by making grants and donations according to the laws of England and Wales

This will be done by promoting the enjoyment and better understanding of the arts, culture, heritage and music, in particular those relating to theatre and performance, through exposure to and participation in (either as audience member or physical participant) the art and culture of theatre and performance.

In addition to staging theatrical and dramatic productions, we may also enter drama festivals or other amateur dramatics competitions, attend relevant training courses, and invest in necessary equipment for the group, as these will benefit the skills and knowledge of our trustees and non-voting members, and ultimately result in higher quality productions for the public benefit.

In line with our charitable objects, Launton Village Players (LVP) aims to support other local and national charitable purposes. To this end, every production or performance we put on will aim to support one or more charitable purposes.

**Public *benefit* will be achieved by:**

- (i) Providing artistic development opportunities for the public through the production of plays, pantomimes, variety shows, workshops and other performing arts.
- (ii) Providing opportunities for the public to experience Launton Village Players' productions and their intrinsic artistic merit.
- (iii) Providing opportunities for young people to engage with artistic productions.
- (iv) Enhancing people's sense of community responsibility by working with, and for, others.

**The *public* benefits that flow from (i) are:**

- (a) Increased opportunities for artists to have their work staged and seen by audiences, contributing to their creative career progression which in turn contributes towards the area of benefit's creative industry.
- (b) Creation of social bonds and expression of communal meaning.
- (c) Opportunities for participating members to develop improved self-efficacy, learning skills and health, through the group's activities (including drama festivals, training courses and participation in productions).

**The *public* benefits that flow from (ii) are:**

- (a) Increased opportunities for individuals to experience theatre and live performance, resulting in the benefits of watching theatre including deeper emotional

understanding and connection with others. This increased ability to comprehend and empathise leads to a more cohesive community and increased public wellbeing.

- (b) Increased investment in communities where Launton Village Players' productions are taking place, through the purchasing of materials and audiences spending in the community as part of their visit, boosting the local economy.

**The public benefits that flow from (iii) are:**

- (a) An enhanced quality of life and sense of well-being through engagement with and participation in activities and events that allow young people to express themselves creatively, leading to improvements in physical and emotional well-being, quality of life and a more stable and cohesive community.

**The public benefit that flows from (iv) are:**

- (a) Participants working in a team for a creative purpose and gaining a sense of belonging and being responsible for their community.
- (b) The trustees using their discretion to make grants or donations to charitable purposes such as but not limited to, Nai's House, the Hummingbird Centre, Bicester Autism, Dementia Oxfordshire, Alzheimer's Society, Cancer Research UK, ROSIE, local primary schools, Friends of Island Pond Wood, Stepping Stones, The British Heart Foundation, the Good Neighbour Scheme. Please see our Donations Policy for more information on how these purpose(s) are selected.

**These benefits will be evidenced through:**

- Photo and video documentation of each production.
- Internal qualitative assessment. Trustees will review the success of each production as part of the post-production process.
- Any trustee or non-voting member who attends a course which is funded by the group will be asked to submit an evaluation and document how it has developed their skills and the benefit this will bring to the group – this can be done via email.
- External qualitative assessment (for example, reviews in local newspapers and newsletters).
- Collation of quantitative data on charitable activities, audiences and participation.
- Feedback from audience members and participants, some targeted to specific groups of the general public if the need arises.
- Regular reporting of charitable activities and financial performance in annual trustee reports, annual accounts (which may be audited) and other reports where necessary.

**The beneficiaries are:**

The beneficiaries are the public in general. Whilst local residents in the Bicester area may be particularly benefitted due to their proximity, we draw in actors, volunteers and audience members from a wide area throughout Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and further afield.

Local and national charitable purposes may benefit from monetary donations following a production. These will be selected according to the rules outlined in our Donations Policy.

**The possibility of harm:**

The possibility of harm is outweighed by the benefits. Participation in, or experiencing, theatrical performances and workshops can result in physical or emotional injury. The charity's procedures and policies, such as our Safeguarding Policy, Health and Safety Policy and the Risk Assessments, aim to identify and reduce these risks significantly. Further these policies are reviewed on an annual basis.

### **The possibility of private or personal benefit:**

Any private benefit gained, for example through rental or improvement of rehearsal space, exposure of and payment for specific artists' works, or advertisement of or increased use of goods and services from the local area, are ancillary to the charitable purposes and are greatly outweighed by the public benefit.

No trustee or non-voting member of the CIO, nor any connected person to them, will make a financial gain from its activities (see the Constitution for further detail on this). All incidental expenses incurred are fully documented and receipted.

### **Update**

This document will be updated on an annual basis, or earlier if there is requirement to, or new statutory requirements are made.