



# Brighter Better Orrell

## Annual Report and Financial Statement 2025

Join us in making Orrell a brighter, better place to live, grow, and thrive!



# Contents

- Welcome from the Committee
- Overview
- Mission Statement
- Overarching Objectives
- Committee Structure
- Aims, Achievements and Activities
- Summary of Activities in 2025
- Challenges and Learning
- Safeguarding Equality and Risk
- Policy Review
- Financial Review
- Key Objectives for 2026
- Contact Us





## Welcome from the Committee

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report for Brighter Better Orrell.

2025 has been one of our busiest and most successful years to date. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly to improve local green spaces, tackle litter, fly-tipping and graffiti, support wellbeing, encourage play, and bring people together through events and creative community projects.

At the start of the year, we set ourselves some ambitious goals: the installation of a community outdoor gym, the introduction of school talks focused on environmental awareness, and the revival of the Orrell Pub Crawl. We are delighted to report that all of these aims have been successfully achieved.

In particular, we are extremely proud of the installation and handover of the Community Outdoor Gym at Orrell Water Park, which followed 18 months of fundraising and partnership working. The gym now provides free fitness equipment for residents of all ages, helping to promote healthy living and outdoor activity. With the support of Be Well, we are also exploring ways to bring even more fitness opportunities to the community.

We were delighted to secure funding from the Wigan MBC Better-Connected Communities Fund which enabled us to install a bench for the residents in the sheltered accommodation on Station Avenue. Along with a small paved seating area, a raised flower bed and a general tidy-up, this small space has been transformed into a welcoming place where neighbours can pause, meet up, share a chat and enjoy each other's company. By creating a comfortable and inviting spot to spend time together, we hope this will encourage social interaction and help reduce feelings of loneliness, supporting stronger connections within the community. We plan to have a small celebration with the residents, once the weather is warmer.

Our community events have continued to be a real highlight of the year. The Easter Pebble Trail and Family Event at Greenslate Farm, over the Easter weekend; the Scarecrow Trail, during the Summer, with over 70 entries; and the Santa Walks, just before Christmas – visiting the learners at Greenslate Care Farm, ELLA UK Day Centre, on Winstanley Road, Newfold CP School and CORE CIC – have all been uplifting, joyful occasions that brought people together and strengthened community connections.

None of this would have been possible without the encouragement of local residents and the generous support of our local businesses, councillors, volunteers, and partner organisations. We would especially like to thank Mr and Mrs Peacock for their continued financial support through their local business, The CCTV Company, and Richard Scott, at Practical Car and Van Hire (Wigan), for backing our blister pack recycling initiative. We are also extremely grateful to Wigan Council's Streetscene and Greenspaces Teams, the Community Capacity Officers, Neighbourhood Manager and the Community Funding Team. Your belief in our mission, and the trust you place in our work, has been invaluable and is deeply appreciated.

To our incredible volunteers – thank you. Whether you are litter-picking, removing graffiti, maintaining garden spaces and planters, or helping to run community events, your efforts are the backbone of everything we do. From small beginnings, we have transformed spaces, brought people together, and made a real and lasting difference in our community. When challenges have arisen, the resilience, creativity, and compassion of our members and supporters have carried us forward.

We would also like to take this opportunity to recognise an important change within our committee. Our sincere thanks go to Corinne, who served as Treasurer from the formation of Brighter Better Orrell in 2020 and sadly stepped down at the end of November. From the very beginning, Corinne's friendly and approachable nature, combined with her commitment, reliability and meticulous attention to detail, played a vital role in helping the group grow and operate responsibly. She has been a pleasure to work with and will be greatly missed by everyone involved.

We are pleased to welcome Mandy, who has kindly agreed to take on the role of Treasurer. We are very grateful for her willingness to step forward and support the continued work of the group.

We also say goodbye and thank you to Nic, who has been instrumental in developing our recycling initiatives and litter-picking incentives, and to Georgia, who led the initial delivery of our school talks. Their contributions have made a lasting positive impact, and we wish them both every success for the future.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Gail, and Karla, who have recently joined the group. Each brings different skills, ideas and energy, and we look forward to working together as we continue to build a brighter, better Orrell.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are delighted to share that Brighter Better Orrell has received an invitation from the Lord Lieutenant's office to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May. This is a wonderful honour for the group, and we all felt it was fitting that **Gill Eyre**, our previous chairperson, would accompany



Julie, in recognition of the dedication and hard work she and her late husband, Terry, contributed in the early years of BBO

We have exciting plans to continue engaging the community and enhancing our local area. Julie has recently become a Community Research Champion for the Wigan Borough Community First PIE Hub.

The PIE Hub is on a mission to support research that is shaped by local communities, focusing on the real issues affecting residents, services, and voluntary organisations across the borough. By bringing together the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector, public services, and community researchers, the hub will help share knowledge, resources, and ideas, and demonstrate impact in meaningful ways.

Through Julie's role as a Community Research Champion, we hope to engage with Orrell residents to understand what really matters to them, and to use these insights to help shape and improve local health and social care services.

A key priority for the year will be returning to our roots with more community litter picks, encouraging residents to take pride in their surroundings, and promoting the monthly Litter Lottery. We will continue to inspire younger generations through **school talks**, delivered in collaboration with the Wigan MBC Environmental Education Officer. These sessions will focus on environmental awareness, covering topics such as the impact of littering, sustainability, recycling, wildlife-friendly practices, and the importance of active involvement. By starting these conversations early, we hope to encourage children and young people to care for their environment and feel proud to make a positive difference in the local community.

We are exploring ways to further improve the Edgehall Road footpath, including the possible installation of gates and barriers. Consulting with Wigan MBC to develop it into a Bee Route, thus creating a safe walking and cycling route, and linking all the schools from Orrell Road through to Sandbrook Road.

We are also looking to improve the **play facilities** in our parks. This is alongside our plans to continue delivering popular play events throughout the summer, including our own **National Play Day Event**, bringing families together to celebrate the importance of play in our community.

Finally, working in partnership with Social Wellbeing CIC, we are launching a community mapping project to celebrate and better understand the fantastic events, groups, and resources already here in Orrell and Billinge HE. The aim is to map what we have, highlight the strengths of our community, and identify any gaps or needs so we can support one another even better.

As part of this work, we are also developing a Community Emergency Plan. This will help ensure that if the unexpected happens — such as another epidemic, extreme weather, power shortages, or other emergencies — our community is prepared, resilient, and able to respond quickly. Most importantly, we want to make sure that no one is left isolated or without essential support.

We would love your help. If you would like to get involved, or if you know of community events, groups, or resources that should be included in this mapping, please let us know. You can contact Mandy or Gail via the BBO Facebook page or email.

Every project, event, and success is driven by a shared commitment to creating a stronger, healthier, and more connected community. We are proud of what we have achieved together and excited about what lies ahead.

Here's to another year of growth, collaboration, and making a difference. Together, we will continue to build a community we are proud to call our home.

### The Committee, Brighter Better Orrell





## Overview

Brighter Better Orrell (BBO) is a fully constituted, enthusiastic and dedicated community group based in Orrell, Wigan. It is committed to enhancing the local environment and fostering a strong sense of community by actively organising and participating in a variety of initiatives that promote health, wellbeing and inclusiveness.

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to help make Orrell a brighter, cleaner and safer 'village' for the benefit of all.

## Overarching Objectives

To create a thriving and connected community in Orrell by organising seasonal events, implementing environmental improvements, and collaborating with residents, local businesses, faith groups, schools, colleges, local CICs and other community groups.

## Key Initiatives as outlined in constitution

- To prepare and oversee the implementation of BBO action plans for Orrell.
- To lobby for funds to carry out the work of BBO.
- To encourage the involvement of the community of Orrell in the preparation, production and implementation of any action plan.
- To promote and improve the social, environmental, health and well-being of the Orrell community.
- To enhance any areas designated within Orrell and its surroundings.
- To promote reduction in waste and encourage recycling.
- To strive to protect and improve our green spaces.
- To investigate and promote schemes to improve air quality and road safety.
- To be a voice for the area's community and highlight issues pertinent to Orrell and its surrounding areas.
- To support and encourage social cohesion in the area between residents and heighten the feeling of 'community spirit' in the 'village'.
- To continue building an inclusive, and supportive community, where people feel a sense of ownership and pride in our/their village.
- To promote Orrell as a safe and pleasant place to live, work, shop, and spend leisure time.
- To enhance the village and support its residents to have positive mental health.
- To reduce loneliness and give a sense of purpose by engaging in activities.
- To work with local schools and colleges to promote awareness of environmental issues within the area and beyond.
- To encourage local businesses to adopt a more ethical and sustainable model

## Committee Structure

BBO is managed by a volunteer committee, in line with the constitution, and currently has up to 10 members. During the year, the committee structure was updated to better reflect our community-led values. We have replaced the Chairperson with a Meeting Facilitator, to support inclusive and well-run meetings, and a Lead Contact who provides a clear point of contact, and helps ensure strong communication and continuity.

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| • Lead Contact        | Tony Hanmer              |
| • Meeting Facilitator | Julie Ryder              |
| • Secretary           | Elaine Hanmer            |
| • Treasurer           | Mandy Wellens-Bray       |
| • Member              | Mark D. Houlton          |
| • Member              | Natalie Milton           |
| • Member              | Kathryn Johnston         |
| • Member              | Gail McManus             |
| • Member              | Karla Taylor-Hildebrandt |

The committee meets regularly, and decisions are made collectively and in the best interests of the community.



## Aims, Achievements and Activities

A summary of our aims include:

### Park and Greenspace Enhancement

- To improve local parks through tree planting, meadow creation, and spring bulb planting.
- To create pocket parks to provide green spaces for relaxation and recreation.

### Benches and Access Improvements

- To increase the number of benches and encourage social interaction and community gatherings.
- To enhance and improve access to parks and outdoor facilities for residents of all ages.

### Community Planters

- To continue maintaining over 70 planters across Orrell and its surrounding areas, contributing to the beautification of public spaces.

### Litter Picking, Graffiti Removal and Recycling

- Hosting and supporting regular litter-picking events to maintain the cleanliness of our neighbourhood.
- Encouraging families with young children to litter pick on their walks to and from school, or nursery
- Working to remove any areas of graffiti
- Promoting the reduction in waste by encouraging members to recycle, reuse or repurpose

### Collaboration and Wellbeing

- Working closely with the community and partnering with other groups to foster a sense of inclusiveness.
- Promoting outdoor activities that contribute to the physical and mental wellbeing of residents
- Delivering Random Acts of Kindness throughout the year

### Seasonal Events

- Organising engaging and inclusive events to bring the whole community together.

### Summary of Activities in 2025

- In **January 2025**, two members of the committee attended a Mental Wellbeing Training day
- In **February 2025**, the apple trees in the orchard were pruned. This was filmed by the Winstanley College Media Students, who we have been working with BBO as part of their required work placement.
- Over 120 bunches of daffodils were delivered as Random Acts of Kindness, between **19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February**
- Two members attended the Grass Roots of Wigan Conversations and Cash event and successfully bid for the funding to support the School Talks initiative.
- Packs of vegetable and flower seeds were delivered to local schools, nurseries and community groups to encourage growing
- In **March 2025**, a group litter pick took place along Hall Lane. This was, again, filmed by the Winstanley College Media Students.
- The first school talk took place at St James' RC Primary School, which was very well received.
- We attended a Volunteer Fair at Winstanley College
- As part of The Great British Spring Clean, **21<sup>st</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April**, a community litter pick along Winstanley Road and Park Road was organised, collecting 36 bags of rubbish, various items of fly tip, car tyres and a number of large nitrous oxide canisters
- A group of volunteers from Autotrader helped weed, tidy and plant along the Vicarage Road Railway Bridge, and also helped prepare the Faith Garden for St James' RC School Gardening Club.
- In **April 2025**, we supported a litter pick by the Eco Team from St James' RC School
- There was a further Community Litter Pick from Orrell Road to Edge Hall Road. In total over 120 bags of litter were collected, around Orrell and surrounding areas, during The Great British Spring Clean
- The Grapes and other garden areas were decorated with painted Easter bunnies and eggs, and over the Easter weekend there was the painted pebble hunt, and a community Easter Event at Greenslate Farm. A raffle and tombola raised £566.50.
- In **May 2025**, The Grapes was decorated for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day



- Members of the committee attended the Wigan Rotary Club Dragon's Den event, where a bid was put forward for funding for a new noticeboard on Church Street. The bid was successful and BBO were awarded with £750. The new noticeboard has since been ordered and awaiting delivery.
- A bid through the Supporting Communities Fund was successful, which enabled the purchase of a group laptop to support the school talks and management of BBO
- After 18 months of fund raising, sufficient monies were raised to finally place the order for the community outdoor gym
- Regular maintenance days were introduced and the flower beds at the Vicarage Road railway bridge, Orrell Post, Sandy Lane and East Mount were tidied by volunteers
- Between **May and July**, over 70 planters were filled with Summer bedding plants and appropriate perennial plants.
- In **June 2025** a number of volunteers undertook a joint litter pick with the Pemberton Green Spaces Community group, collecting 25 bags of rubbish
- Members attended the St James' PFSA Summer Fair, successfully promoting the group, encouraging litter picking, raising environmental awareness and undertaking ceramic and pebble painting. £42 was raised.
- One of our plans for 2025 was to revive the Orrell Pub Crawl. Thanks to the team from The Running Horses, who organised the event, a fun afternoon was enjoyed by a number of residents. Over £260 was raised for BBO.
- Members attended the Holgate PFSA Summer Fair, successfully promoting the group, encouraging litter picking, raising environmental awareness and undertaking ceramic and pebble painting. £44 was raised.
- Two committee members attended the Winstanley College Awards for Excellence evening, presenting the Charites and Community Champion award to a very deserving recipient
- Our first DofE Bronze award student was signed off after completing 3 months of volunteer litter picking.
- In **July 2025**, committee members attended a 'Game Workshop' at Beech Hill and received a Play Box to run play events in the community
- The Billinge Running Club held their first Plogging Event supported by BBO
- The installation of the Community Outdoor Gym in Orrell Water Park began
- A new lawnmower was purchased, thanks to support from Councillor Nicholson through Brighter Boroughs funding
- There was a successful bid through Better Connected Communities to install a bench and improve the garden area for the residents in the sheltered housing on Station Avenue
- Three members of BBO assisted volunteers from the City of Trees and other contractors with tree maintenance on the newly developed reserve at Sandyforth Farm, Winstanley Road
- In **August 2025**, we attended the National Play Day Event at Mesnes Park
- The Outdoor Gym was officially handed over to the community
- Three very successful play events were held at Holgate Park, using the Community Play Box
- The Orrell Scarecrow trail took place between **22<sup>nd</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September**. Once again this proved very popular with over 70 entries.
- The lavender from the flower beds at Orrell Post and The Grapes, was harvested, dried and attractive lavender bags made, which were sold directly and at The Little Green Platter Company, raising over £150
- In **September 2025**, during the Month of Hope, we distributed 'Hope in an Envelope' packs around the community, including Winstanley College Nurture Room
- We held our own version of a 'Sip and Paint' event, whilst painting the perimeter fence at East Mount.
- Two members attended the Grass Roots of Wigan Conversations and Cash event and successfully bid for £1000 funding towards another Happy to Chat Bench, to be installed at East Mount.
- During September and **October 2025**, the garden areas and planters were prepared for the Autumn.
- The Grapes was decorated with Halloween characters, scarecrows, lights and decorations
- Held a Halloween decoration competition and awarded prizes
- Over 180 lamp post poppies were displayed around the area
- Over 600 knitted and crocheted poppies, made by various individuals and groups in the community, were fixed onto wire mesh and displayed on the railings beside the War Memorial. A further display of knitted poppies was installed at Orrell Post

- In **November 2025**, a bench was installed on Station Avenue, and over 200 daffodil bulbs planted in the grassed area
- Another bench, donated by Jay Winstanley at Sunshine House, was installed at the Grapes, and a further 500 daffodil bulbs planted
- More bulbs were planted along the path in Holgate Park, along with over 200 fruiting tree whips planted in gaps along the periphery of the field.
- In **December 2025**, the community Christmas tree was erected outside the Living Faith Church and the garden areas were decorated with Christmas lights and decorations. 200 daffodil bulbs were planted in the gardens of the church
- The Santa Post box was put outside the gates of the Living Faith Church. Over 100 letters were sent out.
- Sherman and Young made a wooden reindeer for the Grapes Christmas display
- A Naughty Elf Trail took place with 12 elves 'hidden' around the local businesses.
- A Santa visit to Greenslate Care Farm, ELLA UK and a Santa walk was held, followed by a visit to CORE CIC Christmas party. The Christmas raffle raised £470
- 20 tonnes of road planings were delivered and laid along 400 metres of Edge Hall Road, to improve the footpath, thanks to Greenmount Projects Social Values team.



## Challenges and Learning

The challenges during 2025 have included:

- Increased levels of ASB in Orrell Water Park
- Vandalism in Holgate Park, including 7 trees deliberately cut down, and a damaged picnic bench
- Increasing levels of litter and fly-tipping
- Dog fouling, especially during the Winter months
- Fund raising to support our projects
- Managing a growing workload and expectancy within our volunteer capacity

## Safeguarding, Equality and Risk

BBO is committed to providing safe, inclusive, and welcoming activities.

- Safeguarding procedures are in place, with named leads
- Equality and inclusion principles are followed
- Public liability insurance is held
- Risk assessments are completed for activities and events

## Policy Review

The following policies and procedures are in place, up to date and available on both our website, and Facebook page.

The policy for Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers has recently been introduced.

- Volunteer Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Inclusivity Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Data Protection Procedures
- Litter Picking Guide
- Risk Assessment for Environmental Work/Litter Picking/Community Events
- DofE Volunteer Policy





# Financial Review

## Year Ended 31 December 2025

### Treasurer's Report

#### Overview

Balance of Current Account, Reserve Account and Network and War Memorial Account as at 1st January 2025 - £15,595.69

Income received - £14,101.09

Expenses paid - £22,983.52

Balance of Current Account and Reserve Account as at 31st December 2025 - £6,713.26

(The War Memorial Account was closed during the year and the remaining funds transferred to the Reserve Account)

#### Report

Firstly, I would like to personally thank Corinne for the tremendous work she has undertaken in maintaining Brighter Better Orrell's accounts over the past five years. She handed over the bookkeeping to me in immaculate order, and it has been a real pleasure to take on the role with such clear, well-kept records.

The reduction in the account balance between the start and end of the year reflects planned capital spending on projects for which the majority of funding was received in 2024. Most notably, this includes the outdoor gym at the Water Park, which is now fully installed and already being well used by the community. It also includes the installation of two benches: the bench and raised bed on Station Avenue, and another "Happy to Chat" bench. The latter was paid for in 2025 and is due to be installed at East Mount in early 2026.

Of the remaining funds held at year end, £3,167.52 has been ring-fenced for a new weatherproof noticeboard on Church Street. Grant funding of £750 from Wigan Rotary Club and £400 from Councillor Nicholson's Brighter Borough Fund was received during 2025, with the remaining £2,017.52 being met from reserves

Income during the year was received from the following sources:

- Fundraising (£2,094.73), including raffles, fairs, lavender sales, talks and other fundraising activities.
- Donations (£5,004.56) from individuals and businesses, including regular sponsorship from The CCTV Company and Practical Car and Van Hire (Wigan).
- Grants (£6,892.00), including contributions from all three local councillors' Brighter Borough Funds supporting Easter and Christmas events, and a further £1,500 towards the outdoor gym. Councillor Nicholson's fund also supported the purchase of a new lawnmower (£350) and contributed £400 towards the noticeboard. Grants from Wigan Council's Community Funds supported the purchase of a laptop (£770) and the Station Avenue bench (£1,572). Additional grant funding for various projects was received from Grass Roots of Wigan and Wigan Rotary Club.
- Bank interest (£109.80).

Finally, we would like to thank all the residents, local businesses and grant providers whose continued support has made our work throughout 2025 possible.

Mandy Wellens-Bray  
Treasurer

***Full Financial Records are available on request.***



## Key Objectives for 2026

The key aims and objectives for 2026 are:

- Explore possible premises for a base within the community
- Engage with residents to understand what really matters to them
- Continue to promote litter picking and organise regular community litter picks, including one or two large group litter picks during the **Great British Spring Clean** fortnight, 13<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March
- Continue to deliver **school talks**, in collaboration with the Wigan MBC Environmental Education Officer.
- Continue to promote health and well-being in the community
- Install second 'Happy to Chat' bench at East Mount
- Continue to work with Wigan Council Public Health team, and other local charities, regarding mental health and suicide prevention.
- Install new, weatherproof noticeboard on Church Street
- Continue the medicine blister pack recycling initiative, and encourage Wigan MBC to include in their recycling programme
- Investigate funding for improved play equipment in local parks.
- Coordinate community events in the local parks, including a National Play Day event
- Support and promote the Community Workshop collaboration with Greenslate Community Farm
- Work with Wigan MBC and local councillors in developing dog fouling reduction initiatives
- Work with Wigan MBC and local councillors to further improve road safety / speed management throughout the area
- Explore further improvements to Edgehall Road footpath, including installation of gates and barriers, and consulting with Wigan MBC to develop it into a Bee Route, creating a safe walking and cycling route and linking all the schools from Orrell Road through to Sandbrook Road.
- Clear overgrown and unsightly area around disused allotments at Holgate Park, and return area to the community for more greenspace and community gardening
- Improved parking and accessibility at Holgate Park
- Install an accessible picnic bench at Holgate Park
- A Community Mapping Project working with Social Wellbeing CIC to map events, groups and resources, to identify gaps, and help strengthen our community. Also creating a Community Emergency Plan to ensure everyone is supported and prepared in times of crisis.
- Work closely with the local colleges and their students, including Duke of Edinburgh volunteers
- Continue to encourage closer working relationships with other community organisations
- Continue to support local businesses
- Continue to support and promote the local Food Pantry and collection hub at The Connect Centre Community Hub, Living Faith Church, along with the Re-Loved Charity Shop
- Installation of further grit bins around the area

The following works have been identified for 2026:

### Major environmental works (requiring extra assistance and expertise):

- Clear overgrown and unsightly area around disused allotments at Holgate Park, and return area to the community for more greenspace and community gardening
- Create area at Grapes for compost and water butt, adjacent to sub-station, with hedge screening.
- Dig out border along entrance avenue to Holgate Park. Create raised beds behind entrance wall. Fill with compost and plant up with appropriate spring bulbs and perennial plants and shrubs.

### Minor Works

- Paint sign at corner of Upholland Road and St James' Road (by roundabout)
- Paint fence at The Grapes
- Re-paint railings at Orrell Post
- Re-paint fence at East Mount
- Planter/barrel maintenance

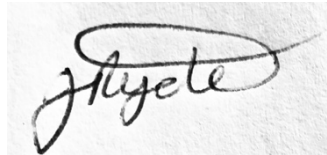
## Contact Us

For more information or if you would like to support, volunteer, or get involved, please reach out to us via our Facebook page, website, <https://www.brighterbetterorrell.org.uk> or by email, [info@brighterbetterorrell.org.uk](mailto:info@brighterbetterorrell.org.uk). Follow us on Facebook for updates and upcoming events.

Signed:



**Tony Hanmer**  
Lead Contact



**Julie Ryder**  
Meeting Facilitator

**Date: 3rd February 2026**

