



Annual Report 2024

Obair Newmarket on Fergus CLG



26th June 2025 Reporting on the Business of 2024



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthai Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs



government supporting communities



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Comhairle Contae an Chláir
Clare County Council



An Roinn Coimíse Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection
Helping you build a better life



CHY NO: 10490
CRN NO: 229443

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Agenda AGM 2025

Annual General Meeting 2025

The Annual General Meeting of Obair Newmarket-on-Fergus CLG

CRN No. 229443 - CHY No. 10490

Thursday June 26th at 7.00 pm. in the Obair building.

This AGM will review the business of financial year ending 31st. December 2024.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the 2024 AGM
3. Chairperson's Remarks
4. Annual Accounts and Auditors Report
5. Election of Directors
6. Ratification of Auditors, Bankers and Solicitors
7. Approval of Auditors Fees
8. Open Forum

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024

Obair Newmarket - on - Fergus CLG Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024 (Reporting on business of 2023)	
Charity No: CHY 10490 CRN 229443	
Date/Time: 7.30 pm, August 14th 2024	
Venue: Obair Building	
Item No.	Agenda Item
1	Welcome and Apologies Apologies: Bernadette Glynn Chairperson Mary O' Donnell O'Brien Deputy Chair , chaired the meeting . The chair welcomed attendees and read the mission statement.
2	Quorum Quorum present
3	Minutes of 2023 AGM Proposed by: Orla Meehan Seconded by: Bob Flannery
4	<u>Chairperson's Report</u> The Chairperson thanked Obair's many funders, community groups, volunteers, businesses and agencies who assisted Obair in 2023 . She also thanked the management and staff without whom nothing of what has been achieved in the past year would have been possible. In conclusion the Chairperson thanked the voluntary Board of Directors for their contribution and commitment and restated Obair's objectives as being the development of viable social enterprise in this community and the alleviation of social exclusion by putting in place services to combat this issue.
5	Obair Financial Report 2023 Presented by: John O' Byrne, Vaughan and Co. Auditors <u>Financial Report</u> The auditor reported a Net deficit €81,130 explained as an accounting issue due to a correction of VAT being overclaimed in previous years on the incorrect belief that Meals On Wheels was zero rated VAT. Obair undertook a self-review resulting in the VAT repayment of €91,252 (exceptional item) and adjustment and correction in 2023. Depreciation of €236,365 and increase in wages of €200,000 were explained. 60% expenditures is on wages. Management accounts are a welcome addition to finance department. Careful scrutiny and management finances is crucial to the effective management of finances of the company. Proposed by: John Quinlivan Seconded by: Annmarie Meehan

6	<p>Election of Directors Bernadette Glynn, Bob Flannery and Maurice Gough have all agreed to be re-elected in line with Obair constitution. These directors are all willing to continue serving and were deemed elected unopposed.</p> <p>New Directors Nominee : : Deirdre Whitney Proposed by: Orla Meehan Seconded by: Siobhán O’ Driscoll Nominee : Cllr David Griffin Proposed by: Eimear Murphy Seconded by: Orla Meehan Both declared elected.</p> <p>Retirement of Director John Quinlivan confirmed that he will be retiring from the Board, however he will assist in the short term with the Governance Committee. John was thanked for his invaluable contribution to Obair over 11 years</p>
7	<p>Auditors Fees The fees for the auditors Vaughan and Co. were approved by members at €6754.25. Proposed by: Bob Flannery Seconded by: Kevin Ryan and accepted by all members present.</p> <p>Auditors, Banks, Solicitors 2024/2025 In a review of auditors, bankers and solicitors of the company it was agreed that current ... Auditors: Vaughan & Co. to continue Bankers: AIB to continue</p> <p>Solicitors: Howard Crimmins to continue All three above proposed by: Orla Meehan Seconded by: Eimear Murphy and agreed by all.</p> <p>Chairperson’s Conclusion The chair opened the meeting to attendees and invited comment from the floor. The Chairperson thanked all for attending the AGM.</p>

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Obair Board of Directors

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Company Secretary of Obair Board of Directors

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Recording Secretary: Mary Meehan

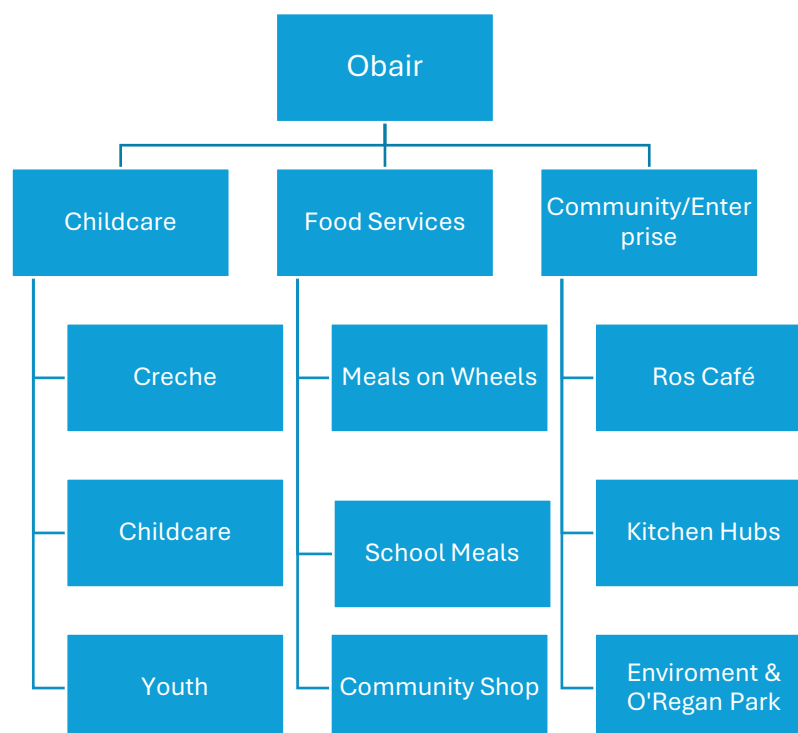
Date: _____

About Us

Obair Newmarket on Fergus CLG is a vibrant, community-based organisation in the heart of County Clare, dedicated to supporting people of all ages and abilities. For over three decades, we have evolved in response to the needs of our community — growing into a trusted provider of services across early years and school-age childcare, elder care, youth development, employment support, and social enterprise.

While our most visible operations — such as Meals on Wheels and Childcare Services — serve hundreds of families and individuals each week, a significant part of our impact happens behind the scenes. We actively employ and support individuals from target groups, including young people, those returning to work, and individuals who have been distanced from the labour market. Through training placements, youth employment schemes, and government programmes, we provide opportunities to gain hands-on experience, build confidence, and progress. We also fully fund upskilling and education, including access to third-level degree programmes — helping people grow their careers, whether within Obair or as a stepping stone to wider opportunities.

What We Do



Childcare Services

We offer high-quality, inclusive care for children from infancy through their teenage years. Our **early years crèche** provides a nurturing, play-based learning environment. We also run **afterschool programmes** for both primary and post-primary students, providing a safe, supportive space with homework support, creative activities, and opportunities for social connection.

Meals on Wheels

Our **Meals on Wheels** programme delivers hundreds of nutritious, home-cooked meals weekly to older adults in Newmarket on Fergus and surrounding areas. More than just food, this service offers vital social contact and support for those who may be isolated or vulnerable. We operate with a **strong local purchasing policy**, sourcing ingredients locally wherever possible to support businesses within our community.

School Meal Projects

Obair also delivers **school meal programmes**, ensuring children in local schools receive nutritious meals that support learning, health, and concentration. Like with Meals on Wheels, we apply our **local purchasing policy** to source ingredients from suppliers within our own community wherever possible.

Youth Initiatives

We run a range of **youth programmes** that support young people's personal and social development. Through targeted interventions, creative projects, and leadership opportunities, we help young people develop skills, resilience, and confidence for their futures.

O'Regan Park

We manage and maintain **O'Regan Park**, a community green space that serves as a hub for recreation, wellbeing, and environmental awareness. The park features walking trails, a playground, and hosts regular community events — making it a welcoming space for all ages.

Community Environment Project

Our **environment team** provides essential **landscaping and litter collection services** across Newmarket on Fergus village. This work helps keep public areas clean, attractive, and well-maintained — enhancing the environment for everyone in our community.

Community Shop

Operated weekly from our **Tradaree Centre**, the **Community Shop** is a social food initiative powered by **FoodCloud**. For a small registration fee and a nominal weekly contribution, families can receive a bag of quality food worth significantly more — reducing food waste while supporting households experiencing food insecurity.

Enterprise and Incubation Hubs

Within the Tradaree Centre, we operate **three HACCP-approved micro-kitchen spaces** available for rent by start-up food businesses. These **incubation units** offer an affordable, low-risk opportunity for entrepreneurs to develop and test their food products, engage with the market, and grow their business before committing to a permanent premises.

At Obair, everything we do is grounded in **community, inclusion, and opportunity**. Whether delivering a meal, caring for a child, supporting a young entrepreneur, or providing someone with their first job or qualification, our goal is to build a **stronger, more connected, and more resilient community — together**.

None of this would be possible without our incredible team of **employees, volunteers, and funders**, who enable us to deliver on our mission every day.

This project is supported by the **Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal** through the **Community Services Programme**, by the **Department of Children, Equality and**

Disability through the **Childcare Schemes**, through **Section 39** by the **Health Services Executive and the Department of Health, Clare County Council, Clare Local Development Company, LEADER, CAF America, SICAP, LCETB, and EI Electronics.**

Our Mission

"To create a united vibrant community working in harmony for the benefit of all"

Our Objectives

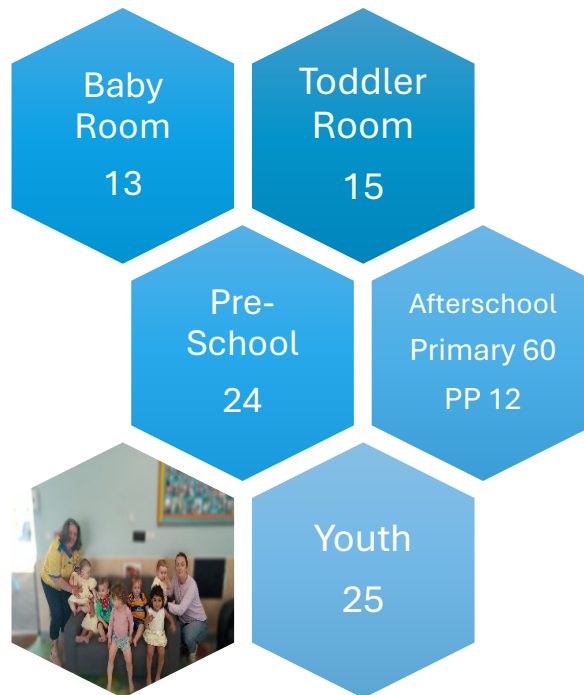
- To assist in establishing viable enterprise in the parish of Newmarket-on-Fergus and surrounding areas which will generate sustainable employment
- To support those who may not have an opportunity to access employment - in particular the long-term unemployed and young people.
- To develop a spirit of enterprise in our community.
- To foster a greater sense of place by encouraging and assisting the protection and enhancement of the environment.
- To promote educational and training activities for the further development of our community.
- To facilitate greater community participation in the development of our area

Cooperation and Collaboration

We appreciate the support given by the many agencies that have worked closely with us in the past year and we look forward to continuing that cooperation and collaboration which supports the development of the community of Newmarket-on-Fergus.

- **AUTISM IRELAND**
- **AGE ACTION IRELAND**
- **BARNARDOS**
- **CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY**
- **CHILDRENS RIGHTS ALLIANCE**
- **CARING FOR CARERS**
- **CLARE COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**
- **CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL**
- **CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL HOMELESS ACTION TEAM**
- **CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL UKRAINIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE**
- **CLARE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY**
- **CLARE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**
- **CLARE YOUTH SERVICE**
- **CLARE CHILDRENS AND YOUNG PERSONS SERVICES COMMITTEE**
- **CLARE VOLUNTEER CENTRE**
- **COMMUNITY CHILDCARE SUBVENTION (CCS) PROGRAMME**
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMME, POBAL**
- **COMMUNITY SUBSTANCE MISUSE TEAM**
- **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS**
- **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION**
- **EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION (ECCE) SCHEME**
- **EARLY YEARS CAPITAL**
- **FOCUS IRELAND**
- **GARDA DIVISION PROGRAMME**
- **HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE, WEST**
- **HEALTH SERVICES EXECUTIVE, OLDER PERSONS SERVICES**
- **LEADER**
- **LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**
- **MID WESTERN REGIONAL DRUGS TASK FORCE**
- **NATIONAL CHILDCARE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME, POBAL**
- **POBAL**
- **SCHOOL MEALS SCHEME**
- **TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT CHILDCARE (TEC) PROGRAMMES**
- **TÚSLA, CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY**
- **YOUTH WORK IRELAND**
- **CAF AMERICA**

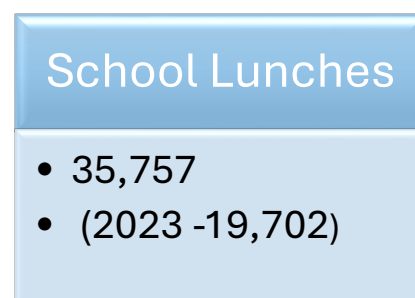
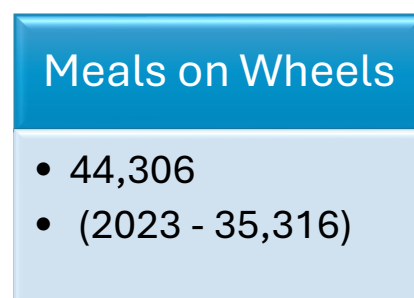
Impact



O' REGAN PARK



OBAIR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Message from the Chair

Mary O'Donnell O'Brien, Acting Chairperson, Obair Newmarket on Fergus CLG

2024 has been a year of both progress and poignancy for Obair. While we have made meaningful strides in delivering on our strategic goals, we have also experienced the deep loss of individuals who shaped and strengthened this organisation over many years. We remember with great respect our former Chairperson **Bernadette Glynn**, who led the Board with commitment and care for over 15 years; **Edwin Bailey**, our long-standing and dedicated Company Secretary; and **Jim Collins**, a former Chairperson and supporter of Obair. Their contributions, leadership, and belief in our mission will remain woven into the fabric of everything we do. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

This year marked the beginning of our new **2024–2028 Strategic Plan**, and we are proud to report steady progress across all four of our strategic themes: Organisational Capacity, Ambition for Growth, Service Excellence, and becoming an Employer of Choice. With the successful implementation of a five-year pay increment plan in early 2025 and continued investment in fully funded degree programmes and staff development, we are well on our way to creating a working environment that retains and rewards our dedicated team. Looking ahead, 2025 will see a renewed focus on staff wellness and access to health insurance supports — critical components of our long-term vision.

The year also included a **Pobal Verification Visit**, which we welcomed as an opportunity for reflection and growth. The recommendations provided have become part of our internal roadmap, and we are already acting on them to ensure stronger governance, clearer processes, and even better service delivery.

In 2024, we made the decision to move to QuickBooks, as our previous financial system was outdated and no longer fit for purpose. Following training and detailed planning, we transitioned fully to the new system on January 1st, 2025 – and its benefit in terms of reports and efficiency were quickly evident.

As a Board, we remain focused on guiding Obair through its next phase of growth, particularly in the areas of childcare expansion, school meals delivery, and sustainable use of our physical infrastructure. These are not just services — they are vital community supports.

Our deepest thanks go to our incredible staff team, our invaluable volunteers, and the funders and donors whose continued support makes our mission possible. Together, we remain committed to building a stronger, more inclusive and more resilient community, now and into the future.

Mary O'Donnell O'Brien

Acting Chairperson

Obair Newmarket on Fergus CLG

Message from the CEO

Orla Meehan, CEO, Obair Newmarket on Fergus CLG

At Obair, our people are at the centre of everything we do. Many of our team began their journey with us through training or employment support programmes and have gone on to build lasting careers — here at Obair and beyond. Seeing that personal and professional growth has been one of the greatest privileges of my role.

Another is hearing Obair spoken of with pride and positivity — often unprompted — by people across County Clare. That kind of reputation is earned. It comes from consistent care, hard work, and a shared commitment to making a difference.

From our humble beginnings to the dynamic organisation we are today, Obair's journey has been extraordinary. That progress wouldn't be possible without the passion and resilience of our staff, the dedication of our volunteers, the trust of our clients, and the essential support of our funders and donors. Together, we've built something that truly serves in the community, for the community.

This year, we experienced the great loss of three long-standing friends and supporters, Edwin Bailey, Bernadette Glynn and Jim Collins RIP. All were generous with their time and encouragement, always making the effort to know and support our team. Their absence is felt deeply, but their legacy remains very much part of Obair.

With such a wide-ranging portfolio — from childcare and elder care to youth work, food initiatives, community projects and enterprise support — it takes drive and determination to keep everything moving. And every day, our team shows up with purpose, care, and heart.

I want to especially acknowledge Siobhán O'Driscoll, whose quiet strength and deep dedication continued even through incredibly challenging times. Her example reminds us what this organisation is truly about.

Obair is more than a workplace — it is a community built on compassion, inclusion, and belief in a better future. I'm incredibly proud of what we have built together and excited for all that lies ahead.

With sincere thanks,

Orla Meehan

CEO, Obair Newmarket on Fergus CLG

Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028

2024 – 2028 Strategic Themes

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & CAPACITY	Ensuring Obair has the right resources, from the Board down, to manage and grow its business. The organisation structure will enable Obair to deliver a best-in-class service to all it serves.
EMPLOYER OF CHOICE	Obair provides its employees with learning opportunities and career progression. Employees are compensated fairly, for the work they perform, and their performance aligns with benefits.
AMBITION FOR GROWTH	Obair takes opportunities to grow services to meet the demands of the community. Opportunities are taken in the context of enabling Obair to be a financially sustainable organisation for the future.
RECOGNISED SERVICE EXCELLENCE	Obair takes pride in the service it provides its customers and invests in opportunities to ensure it is providing the best service possible. Where possible service excellence is recognised by external bodies.

Strategic Priorities

2024 PRIORITY	2025 - 2028 PRIORITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete benchmarking and salary review for existing Obair Management Team • Recruit qualified Finance resource • Initial Schools Meals expansion across schools in Clare to generate sustainable revenue • Restructure Training Kitchen in Traderee to allow for an additional revenue generating hub to be rented and enable expansion of meal provision by Obair • Proceed with design plans and create business case for extension to Childcare services • Initiate health and wellbeing initiatives for employees • Improve internal communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure autoenrollment is completed in line with government expectations • Continue to improve internal communication and develop external communication plan and marketing • Identify opportunities to expand MoW services in the Newmarket on Fergus area and beyond • Further expand Schools Meals across schools in Clare to generate sustainable revenue and profit in Obair • Retrofit existing building to ensure it is affordable and fit for use in the future • Update IT Infrastructure across the organisation • Complete salary benchmarking exercise for employees below management level • Expand Childcare Services

2024 Activity Report

Obair Community Crèche 2024

The staff are so approachable and accommodating, they are a joy to have looking after our children, who cannot get enough of the creche, they absolutely love it! The food is nutritious, and they have all the stimulation they need with educational toys and planned activities. The staff do a fantastic job creating an environment that is a home from home. It's reassuring as a parent to know our children are being so well looked after. Louise , Parent



Obair Community Crèche has experienced another exceptional year marked by continued growth, educational development, and significant achievements.

Full Capacity and Service Demand

Throughout 2024, every room within the crèche operated at full capacity, reflecting the high demand for our services and the trust placed in us by families in the community. The current enrolment numbers are as follows:

BABY ROOM: 13 CHILDREN

TODDLER ROOM: 15 CHILDREN

PRESCHOOL ROOM: 24 CHILDREN

Each room continues to run smoothly thanks to the dedication and professionalism of our educators

Opening of ECCE-Only Preschool

A major highlight this year was the successful opening of our new ECCE-only Preschool in September. This was a significant undertaking, made possible through the commitment and collaboration of our team to ensure no local child would miss out on early education.

The new preschool now caters to **18 children**, offering a high-quality, dedicated sessional preschool experience. We are proud to have Shaunagh Ring step into the role of Room Leader for this session. Shaunagh has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to quality education, all while pursuing her final year of a BA Honours Degree—a remarkable accomplishment alongside her full-time work.

Staff Development and Educational Progression

We continue to place great emphasis on professional development and upskilling. This year, several team members have pursued further education with the full support of the Crèche: Belinda O'Neill and Triona Martin are both currently completing BA Honours Degree programmes in Early Childhood Education. Other staff members such as Sorsha Cunneen, Sophia Griffin, Niamh Flynn, and Leanne Markham have also taken part in sector-specific training courses to enhance their skills and knowledge. We are especially proud of Sorsha Cunneen, who is now fully qualified as our LINC Co-Ordinator, a vital role that bridges our support with the AIMS service for children with additional needs.



New Role: Quality and Inclusion Educator

In alignment with our commitment to excellence and inclusivity, we have created a new role: Quality and Inclusion Educator. Leanne Boyle has taken on this position, where she will work across all age groups to promote inclusive, high-quality care and learning experiences for every child.

Dedication During Staff Shortages

Like many in the sector, we have faced ongoing staffing shortages, which continue to pose significant challenges. Despite this, the dedication and resilience shown by our team have been nothing short of inspiring. Staff members have gone above and beyond to maintain high standards of care and ensure the continued smooth operation of each room. Their unwavering commitment to the children and families in our care is truly commendable and deserves special recognition.

Community Engagement and Celebrations

In November, we celebrated Pyjama Day, a beloved tradition that brings joy and raises funds for charity. This year, the event was once again a huge success, generating a substantial donation for chosen children's charities. In December, Santa Claus returned to the crèche, much to the delight of both children and staff. It was a magical day that brought festive cheer and created wonderful memories for all.

In Conclusion

2024 has been a year of meaningful progress and heartfelt connection at Obair Community Crèche. We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated team, supportive families, and wider community. We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and joy as we continue to provide exceptional care and education to the children we serve.

My daughter was diagnosed with Autism and has faced many challenges. The amazing staff at the crèche have always gone above and beyond to care for and include my daughter in every way possible. Maria , Parent

Preschool



I cannot speak highly enough of the positive experience my son, Éanna, has had in the Obair pre-school since the beginning of this school year. From day one, Shaunagh, Lyndsey and Sorsha have been warm, welcoming, and genuinely passionate about what they do. Their dedication to each child's growth and well-being shines through in everything—from how they interact with the children to the thoughtful activities they plan each day.

Moira ,Parent

At our Preschool, our mission is to nurture competent, capable, and confident learners by providing a warm, inclusive, and play-rich environment where children thrive through discovery and exploration.

We follow an inquiry-based, emergent curriculum—meaning we build learning experiences around the children's own interests and questions. Through play, exploration, and meaningful conversations, children make sense of the world around them in ways that matter to them.

We work alongside children, supporting their ideas and encouraging them to think, wonder, and try new things. In partnership with families, we create a community where children grow in confidence, kindness, and a love of learning.



Please see below a variety of activities we have carried out from exploring the outdoors, being immersed in our community and getting messy with sensory play. This is supported heartwarming testimonials from parents of our setting

Our experience with Obair Preschool has been fantastic. We love the happy, playful atmosphere that's created preschool and have enjoyed the little shows the kids have put on throughout the year and seeing their artwork. The staff have been fantastic to deal with from beginning to end and Obair in general has a lovely positive vibe that helps put everyone at ease.
Katie ,Parent



My child started in the pre-school room in Obair in 2023. She had speech delay, social communication problems and issues with her motor skills. Since starting in Obair, the change in my child is unbelievable..... I can honestly say that this is down to the fantastic work all the staff in Obair do daily basis.
Deirdre , Parent



Afterschool Service

I have 2 children who have attended Obair for full time and now after schools for over 9 years. They are both so happy there. One of the main reasons being that a lot of the staff have been there so long, they have looked after both children and become a familiar part of their daily lives. They absolutely love and trust their teachers. That continuity in their lives is invaluable. We hope we can continue to rely on this excellent service going forward. Jennifer & John Parents

In 2024 After schools had it's busiest and most dynamic year yet. The summer camp was a major success, offering children a range of exciting day trips and themed activity weeks. In September we welcomed **sixteen new Junior Infants** to the Afterschool, increasing the total enrolment to 60 – **the highest to date.**

Seasonal celebrations continued with Halloween midterm festivities filled with spooky games and fun for all the children. The afterschools also took part in various charity events such as National Pyjama Day in November and Christmas Jumper Day in December. These events not only support important causes but also brought joy and excitement to both children and staff.



None of these achievements would have been possible without the continued hard work and dedication of our Afterschool staff. We did experience some staffing changes toward the end of the year, with the departure of two valued team members – Harvey, who left to pursue a new career path and Christine who accepted a full-time role in the creche kitchen. We thank them both for their contributions and wish them the very best in their future endeavours. We are pleased to report that two excellent new staff members, Conor and Emma, have since joined the team. Both have settled in exceptionally well and are already making a meaningful impact in the Afterschool room

... she has learned so much while attending the crèche, she surprises us most days with something new. We would tell anyone that our experience with the creche has been great . Carol & Igor Parents

Obair Meals on Wheels: Expanding Reach, Deepening Impact in 2024



In 2024, Obair CLG's **Meals on Wheels programme** continued to stand as a lifeline for hundreds of individuals and families across County Clare. Against the backdrop of rising food and fuel prices, the cost-of-living crisis, and persistent social isolation—particularly among the elderly—Obair's service not only endured but **grew stronger, more expansive, and more essential than ever before**.

At the heart of this service is a simple but powerful mission: **to deliver nutritious, home-cooked meals to those who need them most**, while offering a daily point of contact, a smile, and a sense of connection to the wider community. In 2024, Obair reached new milestones in scale, geographic reach, and innovation, delivering **an average of 400 meals per day** and pushing forward ambitious plans to respond to evolving community needs.



A Year of Expansion

One of the most notable developments in 2024 was Obair's geographical expansion. During the year Obair's Meals on Wheels team held two information sessions in both Kilrush and Inagh. By **October**, the Meals on Wheels programme had officially extended its delivery routes to **Inagh-Kilnamona** and **Kilrush-West Clare**, two areas where demand had been growing steadily. Both towns had identified a significant number of older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income households facing challenges in accessing daily hot meals. The inclusion of Inagh and Kilrush was made possible through strategic planning, increased volunteer engagement, and logistical upgrades to Obair's vehicle fleet.



Alongside this westward expansion, the organisation also began to build capacity in **Tulla, East Clare**, and **North Clare**—areas where rural isolation is a significant concern. Many of the homes now reached by Obair are in dispersed, remote townlands where access to services is limited and loneliness is an ongoing issue. Meals on Wheels in these areas isn't just a delivery—it's often the only human contact some recipients will have that day.

400 Meals a Day, 7 Days a Week

The numbers alone tell a compelling story: with **an average of 400 meals cooked and delivered daily**, Obair's kitchen and delivery teams operate with both efficiency and care. Each meal is prepared using fresh ingredients, many sourced through **FoodCloud partnerships**, and tailored to meet dietary needs—whether gluten-free, diabetic, or low-salt.

But these meals represent far more than just nutrition. They are symbols of community care, of connection, and of respect for the dignity of each recipient. Every knock on the door comes with a warm greeting, and often a short conversation—an equally vital service in combating loneliness and keeping an informal check on the wellbeing of vulnerable individuals.

Growing Fleet, Growing Need

To support the growing scale of the operation, Obair has invested in **a fleet of refrigerated and specially fitted vans**. These vehicles ensure that food reaches even the furthest corners of the county safely and at the right temperature. The expansion of the fleet in 2024 enabled the service to add longer and more complex routes, while maintaining delivery times and standards.

Fuel costs, however, continue to be a pressing concern. Like many community organisations, Obair has had to grapple with the harsh reality of **rising energy prices** and **inflated transport**

costs. The vans are essential to the work, but keeping them on the road now requires significant financial planning and ongoing fundraising efforts.

Volunteer Session

As always it goes without saying that this now Countywide Service could not continue and grow without the dedication and support from our volunteers. In 2024 we held an afternoon tea feedback session with our volunteers and at Christmas we had 3 Christmas dinners for them in Bunratty, Inagh and Lisdoonvarna. They are integral to the service and we think the world of them.



School Meals Programme

Recognising the financial pressure on the core Meals on Wheels programme, Obair strategically **expanded its school meals service** in 2024 to help subsidise the cost of the wider food operation. The school meals programme now delivers nutritious lunches to **an increasing number of local primary and post-primary schools**, ensuring that children have access to hot, healthy meals that support both learning and wellbeing.

This dual-purpose approach—serving both older people and school communities—has created an efficient, sustainable model. The increased volume of food production has allowed Obair to benefit from economies of scale, while diversifying its income streams and improving the viability of the overall food programme.

The school meals initiative has also created **valuable intergenerational links**, with some students participating in volunteering activities such as packing hampers, learning about food waste, or even accompanying deliveries as part of civic education programmes.

Meeting Crisis with Compassion

Despite all these innovations, 2024 was not without its challenges. The **cost-of-living crisis** remained front and centre, with many new referrals to the Meals on Wheels service coming from families and individuals who had never required help before. These included younger people on disability payments, working poor households, and older couples just above the qualifying threshold for supports.

The continued rise in the price of **basic ingredients**—vegetables, dairy, meat, cooking oil—created further strain on budgeting. Thanks to Obair's relationship with **FoodCloud**, much of the surplus food donated from supermarkets has helped bridge the gap, but the reality is that the need continues to outpace the available resources.

Staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to stretch every euro, maintain quality standards, and ensure no one is turned away. In many cases, meals are subsidised or provided at low cost thanks to **core fundraising**, community donations, and programme income from other Obair projects and HSE service level agreement funding.



Tradaree Community Shop



Every Wednesday, the Obair CLG **Community Food Shop** brings warmth, nutrition, and dignity to households facing financial difficulty. This vital initiative is powered by **FoodCloud**, which redistributes surplus food from supermarkets, and supported by generous funding from **IDEX Pump International**. Their combined efforts ensure that good food goes to homes that need it most, instead of going to waste.

The food shop is run with a warm, inclusive atmosphere. Shoppers can browse a selection of fresh produce, pantry staples, dairy, and prepared meals. Volunteers are on hand to help pack hampers and provide advice on cooking or storage.

It's not just about the food. The shop has become a weekly social connection point—somewhere people come for the essentials but stay for the friendly chats. Local families, older adults, single parents, and newcomers all benefit from the shop, which embodies Obair's core values of compassion, inclusion, and community resilience.



Community Energy in Action: A Visit from TUS

In spring 2024, Obair welcomed visitors from the **Technological University of the Shannon (TUS)** as part of a collaborative **Community Energy Programme**. The programme explored how community groups can reduce energy use, increase sustainability, and build resilience in the face of climate change.

A key highlight of the visit was a community cooking demonstration hosted by **Pat and Erica**, two long-standing Obair kitchen staff known for their flair and heart. Using ingredients donated via FoodCloud, they prepared a delicious three-course meal for the guests and community members in attendance. The meal was both a celebration of food reuse and a showcase of the culinary talent within Obair.

The day also included talks on energy-saving strategies, the potential for solar and renewable solutions in community buildings, and how organisations like Obair can lead the way in environmental education. The partnership with TUS holds long-term promise for future green development projects within Newmarket-on-Fergus.



O'Regan Park: A Summer of Colour and Pride



Obair Newmarket On Fergus

Summer 2024 saw the **revitalisation of O'Regan Park**, a cherished community space in the heart of the village. But this wasn't a standard maintenance project—it was powered by **youth volunteers**, many of whom were already engaged in Obair's social inclusion programmes.

The young people planned, painted, planted, and restored key parts of the park, giving new life to tired benches, play structures, and garden areas. They were supported by Obair's staff but given ownership of the project from start to finish. The results were extraordinary: fresh paint in joyful colours, repurposed wood turned into flower boxes, and new signage designed by the youths themselves.

This initiative wasn't just about improving a public space—it was about giving young people a voice, a role, and a tangible impact in their own

community. Many reported feeling a new sense of pride and responsibility. Parents and community members also expressed deep appreciation for the transformation and the example these young people set.

Tradaree Youth Programme 2024

SUPPORT, GROWTH, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



The **Tradaree Youth Programme**, based in Newmarket-on-Fergus and supported by **Clare Local Development Company** under the **SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme)** and **CAF America**, has become a key part of Obair CLG's youth outreach and development work. In 2024, the programme continued to offer a safe, welcoming space for young people to gather after school and take part in a wide range of supportive and enriching activities.

The programme is open to young people from the surrounding area and focuses on providing **positive, structured supports outside of school hours**. Each weekday, participants come to the centre after school, where they are welcomed by **two dedicated youth tutors**. The daily routine includes a **hot meal, homework support**, and the chance to engage in **holistic life skills development**. This includes everything from learning to cook or budget, to exploring emotional wellbeing, social skills, and confidence-building.

One of the strongest elements of the Tradaree Youth Programme is its commitment to the **whole person**. Youths can access a wide range of optional supports including **counselling, play therapy**, and individual **advice and guidance sessions**. This wraparound support model ensures that each young person is met where they are and supported to thrive in all aspects of life—not just education or recreation.

A standout moment of the year came in **March 2024**, when the group travelled to England to attend one of the biggest football matches of the season: **Manchester United vs Liverpool** in the FA Cup. The thrilling **4–3 match** at Old Trafford was a dream come true for many of the



group, especially those who had never been abroad or seen a live football match. But this wasn't just a free trip—the young people worked hard to **fundraise for it themselves**, learning key lessons about responsibility, goal-setting, and teamwork along the way.

Later in the year, in **October 2024**, the group ran a creative and fun **pop-up diner** event as another fundraising effort. With a menu of burgers and “dirty fries,” the event attracted great local support and helped raise funds for the group's next outing: a trip to **Dublin and Go-Karting**. The project again demonstrated the programme's focus on **youth-led initiatives**, where the young people are given ownership and input into planning, budgeting, and execution of events and trips.

Obair CLG's youth work is strengthened by support from national and regional structures, including **REACH funding**, which enables targeted training and upskilling programmes for young people, especially those not in formal education or employment. Through these funded opportunities, young people can gain

qualifications in areas like **barista skills, manual handling, HACCP**, and even **event management**.

By combining consistent support, fun and ambitious goals, and meaningful personal development, the **Tradaree Youth Programme 2024** continues to give young people the tools to build confidence, friendships, and a positive future.

Obair Volunteers

At the heart of Obair CLG are the volunteers—those remarkable people who show up every day, **hail, rain, or snow**, to make sure no one in our community is forgotten. Whether it's **Darragh delivering meals in Inagh**, **Gemma bringing warmth to Lisdoonvarna**, or **the A-Team keeping things moving in Newmarket-on-Fergus**, each and every one of you is a superstar.

Our **Meals on Wheels** service, which reaches the most vulnerable across County Clare, simply would not function without your reliability, compassion, and kindness. You are the friendly face at the door, the quiet reassurance, and often, the only human connection some people will have all day.



But the spirit of volunteering doesn't stop at the doorstep. Obair is also deeply grateful to those who give their time to **maintain O'Regan Park**, to support and guide **our youth programmes**, and to sit on our **voluntary Board of Directors**, helping to steer our work with dedication and integrity.

Obair is what it is today **because of you**—your time, your belief in community, and your commitment to making a difference.



THANK YOU FOR BEING THE HEARTBEAT OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

Governance

Directors

Bernadette Glynn , Mary O’ Donnell O’Brien , AnnMarie Meehan, Pat Cronin, Mary Meehan, Maurice Gough, John Quinlivan(Resigned 14 August 2024), Margaret Mac Mahon, Kevin Ryan, Bob Flannery, Deirdre Whitney (appointed 14 August 2024), David Griffin (appointed 14 August 2024).

Company Secretary

Margaret Mac Mahon (appointed 27 March 2024), Edwin Bailey (Resigned 27 March 2024)

Dates of Board Meetings 2024

January 24th, February 28th, March 27th, May 1st, June 5th, July 10th, *September 17th, November 11th *, Going forward Board Meetings to be held on a bi-monthly basis to facilitate Sub-Committee meetings in the intervening months.

Principal agenda items included the development and implementation of Strategic Plan 2024-2028 , Pobal Audit

Finance Sub-Committee

Bob Flannery (Chair) Bernadette Glynn, Pat Cronin, Margaret Mac Mahon ,Orla Meehan, Eimear Murphy , Tom O’ Dea

Dates of Meetings : May 23rd, October 18th, December 9th.

Principal agenda items in addition to review of bimonthly and annual accounts was the introduction of a new accounting software package QuickBooks

Governance Sub-Committee

John Quinlivan (Chair until 14 August 2024), Deirdre Whitney Chair (appointed September 17th) , Margaret Mac Mahon, Orla Meehan , Bernadette Glynn

Dates of Meetings: May 28th, September 2nd, November 7th, December 11th

Principal agenda items related to the Strategic Plan, Pobal Audit

HR Sub-Committee

Mary O’Donnell O’Brien, Mary Meehan, Annmarie Meehan, Orla Meehan

Dates of Meetings : June 4th, June 27th, September 16th, November 7th

Principal agenda items related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan

Directors’ Expression of Thanks

The Directors would like to record their sincere thanks to the Senior Management and all the staff who have worked so hard to further the aims and objectives of Obair during another busy year. They would also like to thank those who volunteered their time and those who generously supported the work of Obair throughout the year without whom what has been achieved would not be possible

Contact Details

Obair Community Creche and Admin Office: Ennis Rd, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare, Ireland V95 X0NY

Obair Tradaree Centre: Main St, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare V95 E7TD

Phone:



General Enquiries: (061) 368030

Choose Option 6 and Extension

Preschool: 234

Toddler Room: 237

Baby Room: 236

Afterschool Service : 244

Meals on Wheels Payments: (086) 785 1620



General: info@obair.org

Creche: creche@obair.org

Meals on Wheels : mealsonwheels@obair.org



Obair Newmarket on Fergus



@Obair_community

Part 2: Financial Statement & Reports

Company Number: 229443

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee

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Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors

Bernadette Glynn
Mary O' Donnell O' Brien
John Quinlivan (Resigned 14 August 2024)
Kevin Ryan
Mary Meehan
Pat Cronin
Maurice Gough
Bob Flannery
Annmarie Meehan
Margaret MacMahon
Deirdre Whitney (Appointed 14th August 2024)
David Griffin (Appointed 14th August 2024)

Company Secretary

Margaret MacMahon (Appointed 27 March 2024)
Edwin Bailey (Resigned 27 March 2024)

Company Number

229443

Registered Office and Business Address

Ennis Road
Newmarket on Fergus
Co Clare

Auditors

BR Accountants Limited
Unit 16 Roslevan Shopping Centre
Tulla Road
Ennis
Co. Clare

Bankers

Allied Irish Bank
Shannon Town Centre
Shannon
Co. Clare

St Francis Credit Union
Friars Walk
Clonroadbeg
Ennis
Co Clare

Solicitors

Crimmins Howard Solicitors
Shannon Town Centre
Shannon
Co. Clare

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the company continued to be that of assisting economic and social development within the community.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The company receives grant aid from Pobal towards wage costs. The directors are aware that this funding represents a significant portion of the overall income of the company. Company expenditure is reviewed regularly by the directors to ensure budgets are adhered to.

Financial Results

The surplus/(deficit) for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €11,404 (2023 - €(81,130)).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €2512482.00 (2023 - €2631994.00) and liabilities of €(-1,715,661) (2023 - €(-1,846,577)). The net assets of the company have increased by €11,404.

Directors and Secretary

The current directors are as set out on page 3.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Future Developments

Future Developments

Obair has been operating in Newmarket on Fergus for over 30 years. From humble beginnings as a community development organisation, Obair has grown into a large social enterprise, that continues to evolve and respond to the growing demands of the community it services. Obair continue to reassess our priorities in line with the needs of our community and our focus over the next 12 months is on four main areas:

Organisation Structure and Capacity

Ensuring Obair has the right resources, from the Board down, to manage and grow its business. The organisation structure will enable Obair to deliver a best-in-class service to all it serves.

Employer of Choice

Obair would like to become an employer of choice where its employees have learning opportunities, career progression, health insurance and pensions. Employees are compensated fairly, for the work they perform, and their performance aligns with benefits.

Ambition for Growth

Obair takes opportunities to grow services to meet the demands of the community. Opportunities are taken in the context of enabling Obair to be a financially sustainable organisation for the future while also not losing focus on our remit to serve the vulnerable in our community.

Our main areas for growth in 2025 will focus on the expansion of the meals on wheels service to North, West and East Clare and moving these expanded routes from cold to hot dinners. We also hope to address the growing demand in childcare and reduce waiting list times through the expansion of our services.

Recognised Service Excellence

Obair takes pride in the service it provides its customers and invests in opportunities to ensure it is providing the best service possible. Where possible service excellence is recognised by external bodies.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Every area of the business is under pressure due to the significant rise in inflation. There is discontentment with employees as wages have not risen to meet inflationary rises. This is something which will have to be reviewed and addressed so that we ensure that we do not lose valued employees.

Political Contributions

The company did not make any disclosable political donations in the current financial year.

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Auditors

The auditors, BR Accountants Limited have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

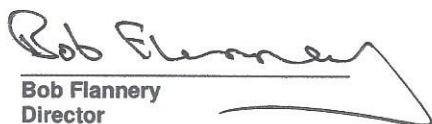
Books of Account

To ensure that proper books of account are kept in accordance with section 202 Companies Act, 1990, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The books of account are located at the company's office at Ennis Road, Newmarket on Fergus, Co Clare.

Signed on behalf of the board



Mary O'Donnell O'Brien
Director



Bob Flannery
Director

26 May 2025

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements giving a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the surplus or deficit of the company for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

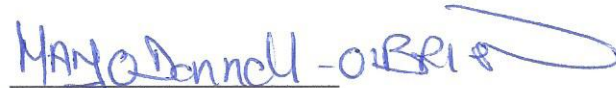
In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting 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 business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Signed on behalf of the board



Mary O'Donnell O'Brien
Director



Bob Flannery
Director

26 May 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee ('the company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Reconciliation of Members' Funds, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland of the state of the company affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities, in the circumstances set out in note 4 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Acts 1963 to 2013 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of law are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 6, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is contained in the appendix to this report, located at page 9, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 193 of the Companies Act 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

John Byrnes
for and on behalf of
BR ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED
Statutory Auditors
Unit 16 Roslevan Shopping Centre
Tulla Road
Ennis
Co. Clare

26 May 2025

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee APPENDIX TO THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:


- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Income	5	2,305,638	1,988,716
Expenditure		(2,293,561)	(1,968,125)
Operating surplus	6	12,077	20,591
Exceptional items		-	(91,252)
Vat adjustment		-	(91,252)
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before interest		12,077	(70,661)
Investment income	7	7	7
Interest receivable and similar income	8	-	93
Interest payable and similar charges	9	(680)	(10,569)
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		11,404	(81,130)
Total comprehensive income		11,404	(81,130)

Approved by the board on 26 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


Mary O'Donnell O'Brien
Director


Bob Flannery
Director

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	<u>2,238,284</u>	<u>2,370,156</u>
Current Assets			
Stocks	13	8,706	6,996
Debtors	14	88,550	79,036
Cash and cash equivalents		<u>176,942</u>	<u>175,806</u>
		<u>274,198</u>	<u>261,838</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(231,934)</u>	<u>(258,249)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>42,264</u>	<u>3,589</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>2,280,548</u>	<u>2,373,745</u>
Creditors:			
amounts falling due after more than one year	17	-	(4,423)
Government grants	19	<u>(1,483,727)</u>	<u>(1,583,905)</u>
Net Assets		<u><u>796,821</u></u>	<u><u>785,417</u></u>
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		<u>796,821</u>	<u>785,417</u>
Equity attributable to owners of the company		<u><u>796,821</u></u>	<u><u>785,417</u></u>

Approved by the board on 26 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


Mary O'Donnell O'Brien
Director


Bob Flannery
Director

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
RECONCILIATION OF MEMBERS' FUNDS

as at 31 December 2024

	Retained surplus	Total
	€	€
At 1 January 2023	866,547	866,547
Deficit for the financial year	(81,130)	(81,130)
At 31 December 2023	785,417	785,417
Surplus for the financial year	11,404	11,404
At 31 December 2024	796,821	796,821

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		11,404	(81,130)
Adjustments for:			
Exceptional items		-	91,252
Investment income		(7)	(7)
Interest receivable and similar income		-	(93)
Interest payable and similar charges		680	10,569
Depreciation		240,116	236,365
Surplus/deficit on disposal of tangible assets		-	3,584
Amortisation of government grants		(207,546)	(178,813)
Exceptional items		-	(91,252)
		<u>44,647</u>	<u>(9,525)</u>
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in stocks		(1,710)	75
Movement in debtors		(9,514)	35,419
Movement in creditors		(12,326)	73,517
		<u>21,097</u>	<u>99,486</u>
Cash generated from operations		(680)	(10,569)
Interest paid			
Net cash generated from operating activities		<u>20,417</u>	<u>88,917</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		-	93
Dividends received		7	7
Payments to acquire tangible assets		(108,244)	(202,688)
Net cash used in investment activities		<u>(108,237)</u>	<u>(202,588)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
New long term loan		(4,423)	(18,362)
New short term loan		(13,989)	845
Government grants		107,368	110,000
Net cash generated from financing activities		<u>88,956</u>	<u>92,483</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		<u>1,136</u>	<u>(21,188)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		<u>175,806</u>	<u>196,994</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	15	<u><u>176,942</u></u>	<u><u>175,806</u></u>

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

1. General Information

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Ireland

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2024 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Income

Turnover represents the total income for the financial year from various sources. Refer to detailed Income & Expenditure, pages 22 & 23.

Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Land and buildings freehold	- 2% & 4% Straight Line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 15% Straight Line
Motor vehicles	- 20% Reducing Balance

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Stocks are determined on a first-in first-out basis. Cost comprises expenditure incurred in the normal course of business in bringing stocks to their present location and condition. Full provision is made for obsolete and slow moving items. Net realisable value comprises actual or estimated selling price (net of trade discounts) less all further costs to completion or to be incurred in marketing and selling.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs relating to the acquisition of assets are capitalised at the appropriate rate by adding them to the cost of assets being acquired. Investment income earned on the temporary investment of specific borrowings pending their expenditure on the assets is deducted from the borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation. All other borrowing costs are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Employee benefits

The company does not provide any employee benefits.

Taxation

The company has charitable status ref. CHY10490.

Government grants

Capital grants received and receivable are treated as deferred income and amortised to the Income and Expenditure Account annually over the useful economic life of the asset to which it relates. Revenue grants are credited to the Income and Expenditure Account when received.

Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the Balance Sheet date. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined. The resulting exchange differences are dealt with in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Exceptional item

Exceptional items are those that the directors' view are required to be separately disclosed by virtue of their size or incidence to enable a full understanding of the company's financial performance.

3. Significant accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgements are required when applying accounting policies. These are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future, which can involve a high degree of judgement and complexity. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying value of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

a) Recoverability of debtors

Estimates are made in respect of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. When assessing the level of provisions required, factors including current trading experience, historical experience and the ageing profile of debtors are considered. See debtors notes to the accounts for the net carrying amounts.

b) Impairment of tangible assets

The carrying value of tangible assets is assessed for impairment based on the presence of impairment indicators where events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. This is done by comparing the asset's carrying value to the higher of its value in use and the net realisable value (fair value less costs to sell). Any shortfall is recorded as an impairment charge. The asset's value-in-use is assessed based on estimates of future flows discounted appropriately. Net realisable value is estimated using a valuation process.

c) Useful economic lives of tangibles

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual lives are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 10 for the carrying amount of the tangible assets.

4. Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature, we use our auditors to prepare and submit tax returns to the Revenue and to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

5. Income

The income for the financial year is analysed as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
By Category:		
Meals on Wheels, CCC, CCSP, AIMS & School Meals Grants	364,901	274,956
Obair Wages Grants & Meals on Wheels Income	677,947	562,449
School Meals Grants	37,514	39,445
ECCE Grants	68,310	50,093
Room Rental Income	185,800	229,470
Childcare Income	479,897	423,772
Other income	283,723	229,718
Other operating income	207,546	178,813
	<u>2,305,638</u>	<u>1,988,716</u>

The whole of the company's income is attributable to its market in the Ireland and is derived from the principal activity of assisting economic and social development within the community in accordance with the company's objectives.

6. Operating surplus	2024 €	2023 €
Operating surplus is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible assets	240,116	236,365
Surplus/(deficit) on disposal of tangible assets	-	3,584
Auditor's remuneration	6,758	6,754
- audit services	(207,546)	(178,813)
Amortisation of Government grants		
	<u></u>	<u></u>
7. Income from investments	2024 €	2023 €
Investment income	7	7
	<u></u>	<u></u>
8. Interest receivable and similar income	2024 €	2023 €
Bank interest	-	93
	<u></u>	<u></u>
9. Interest payable and similar charges	2024 €	2023 €
On bank loans and overdrafts	680	1,576
Interest on overdue tax	-	8,993
	<u>680</u>	<u>10,569</u>

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

10. Employees and remuneration

Number of employees

The average number of persons employed (including executive directors) during the financial year was as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Staff	52	50
The staff costs comprise:	2024 €	2023 €
Wages and salaries	1,202,490	1,027,563
Social welfare costs	123,481	101,949
	<u>1,325,971</u>	<u>1,129,512</u>

11. Vat Adjustment

During the 2023 financial year Obair conducted a detailed review of their VAT activity, following which they made a voluntary unprompted disclosure to the Revenue Commissioners. It was confirmed that Meals on Wheels was not an "economic activity" and therefore outside the scope of VAT. Obair had been treating Meals on Wheels as zero rated, where in fact it was exempt or outside the scope of VAT. As a result, Obair undertook a detailed review in order to ensure the VAT is corrected in respect of past and future tax obligations.

12. Tangible assets

	Land and buildings freehold €	Fixtures, fittings and equipment €	Motor vehicles €	Total €
Cost or Valuation				
At 1 January 2024	3,496,337	1,149,896	206,231	4,852,464
Additions	-	65,028	43,216	108,244
At 31 December 2024	<u>3,496,337</u>	<u>1,214,924</u>	<u>249,447</u>	<u>4,960,708</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	1,558,004	855,052	69,252	2,482,308
Charge for the financial year	106,867	97,210	36,039	240,116
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,664,871</u>	<u>952,262</u>	<u>105,291</u>	<u>2,722,424</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,831,466</u>	<u>262,662</u>	<u>144,156</u>	<u>2,238,284</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,938,333</u>	<u>294,844</u>	<u>136,979</u>	<u>2,370,156</u>

13. Stocks

	2024 €	2023 €
Raw materials	<u>8,706</u>	<u>6,996</u>

The replacement cost of stock did not differ significantly from the figures shown.

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

14. Debtors	2024 €	2023 €
Trade debtors	27,194	24,541
Other debtors	36,945	36,794
Prepayments and accrued income	24,411	17,701
	<u>88,550</u>	<u>79,036</u>
15. Cash and cash equivalents	2024 €	2023 €
Cash and bank balances	172,257	170,993
Cash equivalents	4,685	4,813
	<u>176,942</u>	<u>175,806</u>
16. Creditors	2024 €	2023 €
Amounts falling due within one year		
Bank loan	3,527	17,516
Trade creditors	41,047	19,984
Taxation (Note 18)	36,303	74,139
Accruals	151,057	146,610
	<u>231,934</u>	<u>258,249</u>
17. Creditors	2024 €	2023 €
Amounts falling due after more than one year		
Bank loan	-	4,423
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,423</u>
Loans		
Repayable in one year or less, or on demand (Note 16)	3,527	17,516
Repayable between one and two years	-	4,423
	<u>3,527</u>	<u>21,939</u>
18. Taxation	2024 €	2023 €
Creditors:		
VAT	13,095	55,946
PAYE	23,208	18,193
	<u>36,303</u>	<u>74,139</u>

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

19. Government Grants Deferred	2024	2023
	€	€
Capital grants received and receivable		
At 1 January 2024	3,565,416	3,455,416
Increase in financial year	107,368	110,000
	3,672,784	3,565,416
Amortisation		
At 1 January 2024	(1,981,511)	(1,802,698)
Amortised in financial year	(207,546)	(178,813)
	(2,189,057)	(1,981,511)
Net book value		
At 31 December 2024	1,483,727	1,583,905
At 1 January 2024	1,583,905	1,652,718

The company has assumed liability for certain grants, which may be revoked, cancelled or abated in certain circumstances. Capital grants are deferred and amortised in line with the write down of the assets.

20. Status

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members or within one year thereafter for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves such amount as may be required, not exceeding € 1.27.

21. Capital commitments

The board of directors have designated funding which includes capital, refer to the designated funding note 26.

22. Contingent liabilities

The company has assumed liability for certain grants, which may be revoked, cancelled or abated in certain circumstances.

23. Related party transactions

There were no other related party transactions to report for this financial year.

24. Post-Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end.

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

25 Reconciliation of Net Cash Flow to Movement in Net Debt

	Opening balance	Cash flows	Closing balance
	€	€	€
Long-term borrowings	(4,423)	4,423	-
Short-term borrowings	(17,516)	13,989	(3,527)
Total liabilities from financing activities	(21,939)	18,412	(3,527)
Total Cash and cash equivalents (Note 15)			176,942
Total net cash			173,415

26. Resources Retained - Designated Funds

The following is an analysis of the company's designated funds as at the financial year end:

	2024 €	2023 €
School Meals Expansion	50,000	-
Crèche Upgrade	50,000	50,000
O' Regan Park Upgrade	20,000	20,000
Building Extension	200,000	160,000
IT, Phone & CCTV Upgrade	45,000	45,000
Training	15,000	15,000
	380,000	290,000

27. Resources Retained - Unrestricted

The following is an analysis of the company's unrestricted funds as at the financial year end:

	2024 €	2023 €
Unrestricted Funds	414,315	495,417

28. Going Concern Note

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which means that the company will continue to trade for the foreseeable future. As such, assets and liabilities have been included in the accounts at their worth to the company consistent with continuing to trade and not on a disposal basis.

29. We can confirm that no employee of the company received gross pay in excess of €60,000 during this financial year.

30. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 26 May 2025.

OBAIR NEWMARKET ON FERGUS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOT COVERED BY THE AUDITORS REPORT

THE FOLLOWING PAGES DO NOT FORM PART OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
Income		
Obair Wages Grants	410,874	369,962
School Meals Grant	37,514	39,445
CCSP Pobal Grant	15,303	23,121
Meals on Wheels Grant	189,806	180,666
ECCE Grant	68,310	50,093
Room Rental Income	185,800	229,470
Childcare Income	147,736	168,166
NCS Childcare Grants	332,161	255,606
AIMS Childcare Grant	15,099	11,837
Clare Co Co	30,529	30,528
School Meals	114,164	28,804
Meals On Wheels Income	267,073	192,487
Other income	281,458	221,358
Membership and Subscription	160	110
Donations	2,105	8,250
Amortisation of government grants	207,546	178,813
	2,305,638	1,988,716
Expenditure		
Food and catering	30,031	31,227
MOW and School food purchases	245,215	168,112
Packaging	54,214	33,793
Movement in stock	(1,710)	75
Wages and salaries	1,202,490	1,027,563
Social welfare costs	123,481	101,949
Insurance	46,196	33,016
Light and heat	101,064	113,917
Bank charges & Interest	2,153	1,968
Staff training and recruitment costs	17,383	18,283
Volunteer expenses	3,895	6,348
Rates	3,500	7,000
Redundancy costs	11,000	-
Cleaning	34,504	24,599
Childrens entertainment	14,939	15,977
Repairs and maintenance	29,440	21,407
Youth club	11,291	-
Emergency response	13,133	21,390
Printing, postage and stationery	4,650	7,917
Advertising	1,146	3,759
Telephone	6,941	5,302
Computer and web-site costs	14,401	11,192
Motor expenses	29,664	25,767
Travelling and entertainment	1,698	2,088
Legal and professional	14,252	23,764
Bad debts	5,736	(1,055)
O Regan Park expenses	5,929	4,806
Health & Safety	7,177	4,393
General expenses	10,162	4,289
Security systems	2,472	2,167
Subscriptions	240	409
Profits/losses on disposal of tangibles	-	3,584
Auditor's remuneration	6,758	6,754
Depreciation	240,116	236,365
	2,293,561	1,968,125

Obair Newmarket on Fergus Company Limited By Guarantee
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
Finance		
Bank interest paid	680	1,576
Interest paid on overdue taxation	-	8,993
	<u>680</u>	<u>10,569</u>
Exceptional items	<u>-</u>	<u>91,252</u>
Miscellaneous income		
Bank interest	-	93
Income from unlisted investments	7	7
	<u>7</u>	<u>100</u>
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u><u>11,404</u></u>	<u><u>(81,130)</u></u>