



All Saints Action Network (ASAN)

ASAN is a community based charitable company operating as a development trust and community enterprise in All Saints, Wolverhampton. Its Board of Management is made up of primarily local residents. Its ambitions to regenerate All Saints and its neighbouring communities stretch across a varied range of different activities including business development, sports, training, project development, managed workspace, crime reduction, housing management and property investment. ASAN aims to improve the quality of life for those who live and work in All Saints through the creation of jobs, training opportunities and the establishment of a community owned asset base.



ASAN was established by residents in All Saints in 1995 and took on its first employee in 2000. There are now nearly 30 people working for the organisation with about half of these engaged in its business activities. ASAN has a turnover of about £1m and is continuing to look for new ways to develop the organisation and create sustainable employment for local people in All Saints and neighbouring areas.

ASAN undertook its first social accounting cycle in 2002 and is now in the process of developing its fifth set of accounts in time for its AGM in November 2006. The organisation has tried to integrate social accounting into its everyday work since its inception five years ago. All staff have social accounting responsibilities referred to in their job descriptions. The idea is that everyone will understand from the moment they start employment with ASAN that social accounting is a normal part of the organisations activities. In this the fifth year of social accounting, attempts are being made to ensure that the business planning process and the social accounting cycle are run side by side. At the AGM in November, ASAN will report on both its financial and its social accounts and produces an annual report which features a summary of the social accounts as well as a summary of the financial accounts.

ASAN attempts to undertake a comprehensive audit of all its activities each year. This is usually successful although the scope of the each annual accounts is reviewed to take into account the organisations organisational capacity at any given time. In 2006 ASAN main priorities for the 2006 accounts have been to ensure increased ownership of the social accounting process by the Board of Management and to improve its approach to the measurement of economic and environmental impact.

ASAN believes that social accounting and audit has helped the organisation and its stakeholders work together to deliver more effective services to the local community. For example through feedback from partner stakeholders, ASAN has realised that its 'greatest strength is its integrated approach between enterprise, training/capacity building and participation in neighbourhood management related activity'. In an analysis of their running of the local Community Forum, stakeholders commented that although the forum gave local people the opportunity to air their views, it was felt that a few people had their own agenda and tended to 'highjack' meetings, leading to dissatisfaction amongst local residents.

Asset and building development are pivotal to ASAN's enterprise activities, and there are currently four community businesses operating under the ASAN umbrella. The social accounting framework has provided and continues to provide an opportunity for consultation with customers about the activities and operation of these businesses. Over time this has led to improvements in both the range of services on offer and the facilities provided.

Further information can be found at ASAN's website www.asan.org.uk