

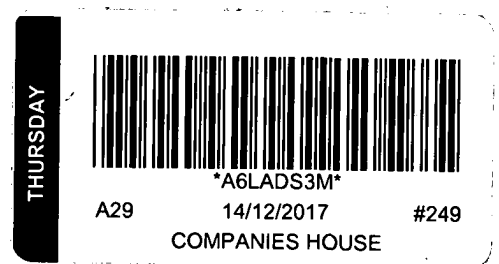


## **Project Agora**

(a charitable company limited by guarantee)

**Report and Financial Statements**

**Year ended 31 March 2017**



**Company Number 4430518**

**Charity Registration Number 1110788**

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The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on the 1 May 2002 and registered as a charity on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established its objects and powers and is governed under its Articles of Association. Under those articles the Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a period of three years. New trustees are identified through existing networks or by advertisement and may be invited to attend a board meeting on an exploratory basis prior to co-option, followed by formal election at the following Annual General Meeting. Their induction is managed by the Chair in accordance with their previous experience. The Board welcomes enquiries from people interested in serving as Trustees.

**The Board of Trustees (from 1 April 2016 until 31 March 2017)**

Mr Mike Roberts (Chair)

Mr Mark Burton (Treasurer)

Ms Joy Carey

Mr Mike Cardwell

**Company Secretary**

Rev Dr Chris Sunderland

**Co-ordinator**

Rev Dr Chris Sunderland

**Registered Office and operation address**

50 Guest Avenue, Emersons Green, Bristol BS16 7GA

**Independent Examiner**

Mr Philip Hodges, former Chief Accountant, Bristol City Council

**Bankers**

HSBC

**Solicitors**

Wrigleys, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AG

**Report of the Trustees of Project Agora for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017**

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017.

**Constitution and Objects**

Project Agora, which is also known as Agora, is constituted as a charitable company limited by guarantee whose objects are:

1. The promotion of civic responsibility and good citizenship
2. The advancement of religion
3. The advancement of education

**Principal activities to achieve objectives**

Our feasibility study into the potential for a Community Food Centre Network in Bristol was published in January 2017 and has been read by many interested parties in Bristol and beyond. It represents a distinctive approach to the provision of food aid in the UK by bringing together the best social and environmental practice with the needs of the most vulnerable people. Most food aid systems in the country use supermarket waste and tend to treat food as a simple commodity. By sourcing food from local and ethical producers and providing such food to vulnerable people in the context of a dignified gathering focused on building community life and reimagining society, the Community Food Centre approach has the potential to create greater ethical sensitivity towards the food system and set a new standard for food aid in the UK.

Real Economy has now restructured in order to put this food centre approach into practice and Agora continues to work in partnership with this project. The practical expression of this has been a commitment of substantial voluntary time of our Co-ordinator.

Agora has also been pleased to help with the foundation of Redcatch Community Garden this year. This project has turned an unused bowling green in Redcatch Park into a vibrant community space dedicated to the provision of food, gardening and related community activities. We were pleased to pass on the polytunnel from the Walled Garden to this project and to assist in its foundation stages. Our trustee, Mike Cardwell, has been a prime mover in this project which has drawn in substantial community support.

During this last year we have also initiated the Agora Social Enterprise Programme, designed to assist new social and environmental projects around the UK with a year-long mentoring programme provided by our Coordinator and funded by Tudor Trust. This project has so far recruited a fascinating and varied group of projects and held a highly successful residential week for participants.

Agora's financial position shows a planned deficit on the year and our reserves position remains in line with our policy.

**Risk management**

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the company faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

## Responsibilities of the Trustees

Company law requires the board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. The Board are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. Having become a charity in August 2005, the Trustees have also prepared this report and accounts in the light of SORP 2005 and its requirements for small charitable companies.

## Members of the Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees who served during the year up to the date of this report are set out on page 3.

Members of the Board guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees was four as at 31 March 2017.

## Independent Examiner

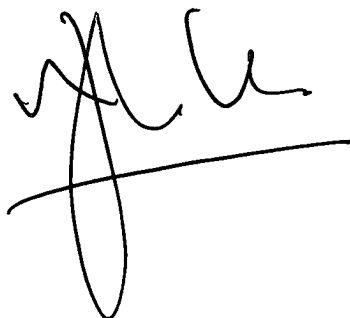
Philip Hodges has been appointed by the board as independent examiner for the year up to 31 March 2017.

## Public Benefit

Trustees hereby declare that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

This report has been approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by :

Mike Roberts (Chair)



## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Project Agora

I report on the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2017

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

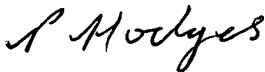
- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Acthave not been met ; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

29/4/17.

Philip Hodges,  
Former Chief Accountant, Bristol City Council

**Project Agora  
Year ended 31st March 2017**

**Incoming Resources**

	Total 16/17 £	Total 15/16 £
Donations	42,033	35,447
Fees	125	6,637
Sales	50	-
Other Income	-	185
Bank Interest	6	9
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>42,214</b>	<b>42,278</b>

**Resources Expended**

Staff Costs	9,709	24,973
Project Workers	0	6,624
Supplies	0	2,595
Cost of Sales	0	0
Travel Costs	264	58
Office Costs	2,360	2,679
Conferences	54	0
Legal & Professional	3,960	0
Site Development	852	375
Depreciation	187	187
Funding for Real Economy Project	30,000	0
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>47,386</b>	<b>37,492</b>
<b>Net incoming resources</b>	<b>-5,172</b>	<b>4,786</b>

Project Agora Ltd  
Notes to the Accounts for 2016/17

**Fixed Assets**

	£
Fixed Assets	187

**Staff Costs**

	£
Salaries	9,709
National Insurance	0
	<u>9,709</u>

**Cash in Hand**

	£
Current Account	3,316
Deposit Account	5,113
Bristol Pound	1,021
Petty Cash	<u>0</u>
	9,450

**Stock**

There was no stock at 31/3/17

**Debtors**

	£
Tax refund re Gift Aid	197

**Creditors**

	£
Salary March	583
Bank Charges	61
Telephone Expenses	246
HMRC- Last qtr	<u>534</u>
	1,463



**Balance Sheet at 31/3/2017**

**Current Assets**

	£	£
Fixed Assets		187
Cash in Hand	9,450	
Stock	0	
Debtors	197	

**Current Liabilities**

Income in advance		
Creditors	-1,463	

Net current assets		<u>8,184</u>
Total assets		<u><u>8,371</u></u>

**Financed by**

Surplus c/f		13,543
Surplus 2016/17		-5,172
		<u><u>8,371</u></u>

**Statement of Financial Activities**

**Accounting Policies**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mike Roberts(Chair)

