

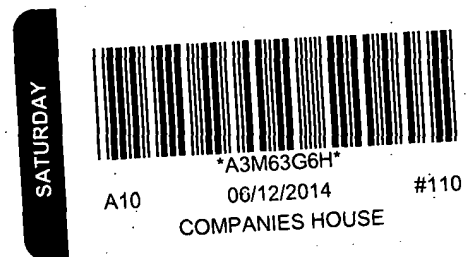


Project Agora

(a charitable company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2014



Company Number 4430518

Charity Registration Number 1110788

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Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on the 1 May 2002 and registered as a charity on 9th 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 2013 until 31 March 2014)

Mr Alan Baker (Chair)

Ms Amy Robinson (Treasurer)

Mr Mike Roberts

Ms Joy Carey

Mr Mike Cardwell (from November 2013)

Mr Mark Burton (from January 2014)

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, 24 College Green, Bristol BS1 5TD

Solicitors

Wrigleys, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AG

Report of the Trustees of Project Agora for the year ended March 31st 2014

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2012.

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

This year has been dominated by our work, in partnership with the *Bristol Pound*, preparing for the launch of *Real Economy*, an initiative to form buying groups in disadvantaged areas of the city, which source fresh food from local producers. The aim is to see if buying groups can become a tool for community development and the formation of new enterprises, so as to offer a pathway of support and encouragement to those in challenging personal circumstances. *Real Economy* is set to incorporate as a Co-operative in its own right.

The Walled Garden project in Barton Hill continued through 2013, with the particular addition of a green woodworking initiative. It has been a mixed year for the associated 'Three Leafed Gardening Collective' project. The three apprentice garden leaders have clearly grown in their gardening skills and confidence and can now run their gardens with less gardening support. The events that have been held in the three gardens have proved to be popular and successful, but it has proved hard to develop a regular core of volunteers. All the apprentice garden leaders have expressed how hard it is to get the gardening done, host people and do effective outreach. We are making a number of changes to try and address these challenges for the 2014 growing season. Our partnership with Sovereign Housing association, providing community development and gardening at a hostel for ex-homeless people suffered from a potentially violent episode, but began to bear fruit late on in the season through the particular skills of a new worker.

The EarthAbbey project experimented with a weekly video diary for several months in Autumn 2013, but this has now been discontinued and resources are being applied to development of a book presenting a values-based approach to environmental interventions.

Agora's Co-ordinator worked as a consultant to Bristol Pound on the *Real Economy* project during the latter part of the year. Agora's financial position shows a small deficit on the year, but our reserves position remains in line with our policy. The Coordinator was employed half-time, with a further half-time offered in a pro bono capacity to projects such as *The Bristol Pound* and *Sims Hill Shared Harvest*.

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 five as at 31 March 2011.

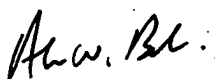
Independent Examiner

Philip Hodges has been appointed by the board as independent examiner for the year up to 31 March 2014.

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 :



Alan Baker (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 2014

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 Act

have 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:

P. E. Hodges

Date:

17/11/14

Philip Hodges,

Former Chief Accountant, Bristol City Council

Statement of Financial Activities
Project Agora
Year ended 31st March 2014

Incoming Resources

	Agora Core	Tudor	Earth Abbey	Earth Abbey Publ	Walled Garden	Real Economy	Total 13/14	Total 12/13
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	2,760	27,740	2,405		8,966	80,000	121,872	72,391
Fees	22,394						22,394	14,093
Sales	10			94			104	192
Other Income	279		7				286	0
Bank Interest	22						22	17
Total Incoming Resources	25,466	27,740	2,412	94	8,966	80,000	144,679	86,692

Resources Expended

Staff Costs	23,861	17,148	0		4,118		45,127	53,811
Project Workers	0	5,475	0		135		5,610	5,368
Supplies	0	678	0		4,579		5,257	3,318
Cost of Sales	0	0	0	705	0		705	65
Travel Costs	196	101	135		0		432	957
Office Costs	2,375	4,122	270		81		6,849	6,831
Conferences	298	73	0		31		402	2,299
Legal & Professional	0	0	2,000		29		2,029	10,990
Site Development	0	144	0		0		144	2,218
Depreciation	0	0	0		0		0	0
Funding for Real Economy Project								80,000
Total Resources Expended	26,731	27,740	2,405	705	8,973	80,000	146,555	85,856
Net incoming resources	-1,265	0	7	-611	-6	0	-1,876	837

Notes to the Accounts

Fixed Assets

There were no fixed assets at 31/3/14

Staff Costs

	£
Salaries	42,718
National Insurance	2,017
Training	393
	<u>45,127</u>

Cash in Hand

Current Account	7,593
Deposit Account	74,039
Bristol Pound	858
Petty Cash	241
	<u>82,731</u>

Stock

240 Dream at 3.00	720
	<u>720</u>

Debtors

	£
Tax refund re Gift Aid	569
Bristol Pound	2,500
	<u>3,069</u>

Creditors

	£
HMRC	1,995
Payroll fee March	24
Bristol Pound - Funding for Real Economy Project	45,000
	<u>47,018</u>

Income in Advance

	£
Income from Tudor Trust	24,189
Income Sovereign for Walled Garden	1,430
c/f income for Earth Abbey	3,629
	<u>29,249</u>

Balance Sheet at 31/3/2014

Current Assets

Fixed Assets 0

Cash in Hand 82,731
 Stock 720
 Debtors 3,069

Current Liabilities

Income in advance -29,249
 Creditors -47,018

Net current assets 10,253
 Total assets 10,253

Financed by

Surplus c/f 12,128.41
 Loss 1314 -1,875.85
10,253

Accounting Policies


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

For the year ending 31st March 2014 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:



Alan Baker (Chair)