



Mini Annual Reviews

2014–2017

As part of our obligations as a Community Interest Company (CIC), we submit a short annual report which outlines how we have worked towards our stated CIC objectives.

Bristol Food Network C.I.C. supports, informs and connects individuals, community projects, organisations and businesses who share a vision to transform Bristol into a sustainable food city.

Our objectives are:

- To promote and encourage people to cook from scratch, grow their own and eat more fresh, seasonal, local, organically grown food.
- To champion the use of local, independent food shops and traders to help keep Bristol's high street vibrant and diverse.
- To promote and encourage the use of good quality land in and around Bristol for food production.
- To promote and encourage the redistribution, recycling and composting of food waste.
- To advance education about the part that food, nutrition and lifestyle can play in meeting the needs of disadvantaged individuals, families and groups in the community and encourage social inclusion and social cohesion.
- To promote community-led food trade such as co-operatives, buying groups, Community Supported Agriculture and pop-up shops.
- To build the Bristol Food Network expertise in food and sustainability that allows access to and creates opportunities for local people within Bristol.

This document includes our submitted annual reports from 2014–2017.

2017

General description of the company's activities and impact

In the space provided below, please insert a general account of the company's activities in the financial year to which the report relates, including a description of how they have benefited the community.

Bristol Food Network C.I.C. supports, informs and connects individuals, community projects, organisations and businesses who share a vision to transform Bristol into a sustainable food city.

In 2017 Bristol Food Network was involved in the following projects that helped to deliver on these various aims among various stakeholders in the city-wide food community as well as the wider public:

In March 2016, Bristol won a Silver Sustainable Food Cities Award. The award is designed to recognise and celebrate the success of those places taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and that are achieving significant positive change on a range of key food issues.

In Spring 2017 we applied for, and were successful recipients in the 1st Round of Sustainable Food Cities Coordinator Grants. The SFC grant was for £10K, which we match-funded using a combination of VAT rebate and an agreed reallocation of some existing Public Health funding. The primary object of the funding was to employ a part-time coordinator to help develop and facilitate Bristol's plans to become a Gold standard Sustainable Food City. We advertised the coordinator post widely, held interviews, and appointed Jacqui Reeves as coordinator to start work in September on 2.5 days/week.

When we started this phase of work, Sustainable Food Cities had not yet defined what a 'Gold' level of achievement would look like. As part of our grant, we agreed to work alongside the only other 'Silver' city – Brighton & Hove – and the Sustainable Food Cities Project Management Board (PMB) to help define what a reasonable yet ambitious target should be for 'Gold'. This, in outline, has evolved to be that in addition to maintaining activities at 'Silver' level, the city should identify at least two areas of food excellence to develop, which they should present to the PMB who will then agree or not that the aspiration is 'Gold' enough.

We used the areas within the Bristol Good Food Plan (the basis of the Silver award) to identify a long list of potential Going for Gold aspirations. From this we started to sit on steering groups, arrange meetings and speak at public events to galvanize momentum. These included:

- representation on the steering group of Feeding Bristol pilot and hosting tables within a Feeding Bristol Open Space session (this pilot is part of Feeding Britain, which emerged from the All Parliamentary Working Group on Hunger)
<https://feeding-britain.org/regional-projects/>
- representation on Bristol Public Health's Great Weight Board and hosting tables at the Great Weight Debate open space session
https://www.bristol.gov.uk/en_US/social-care-health/get-involved-in-the-great-weight-debate

- participation, public speaking and a “Gold” feedback table at Bristol Green Capital 10th anniversary quarterly gathering (with over 200 attendees)
<http://bristolgreencapital.org/ten-year-anniversary-bristolsfuture/>
- representation at the West of England sustainable food procurement group and conference (this group brings together local authorities in Bristol, B&NES, N.Somerset & S.Gloucs and other large local institutions such as the universities to try and improve procurement)

Many one-to-one meetings also took place with public health, cooking, growing and other organisations, waste companies and with our two universities.

We developed a SFC steering group involving representation from Bristol Food Network, Bristol Food Council, Bristol Public Health team and SFC, to avoid the coordinator getting conflicting guidance from different organisations. We also arranged for her to have desk space within Public Health, to try to facilitate better joining-up of our and their work.

We organised a series of four roundtable meetings in Oct/Nov 2017, which were aligned to the ‘Feeding Bristol’ priorities (identified at the Open Space session). Feeding Bristol identified 5 key priority areas of work:

1. Improving emergency provision
2. Improving education relating to cooking and healthy eating
3. Significantly increasing urban food production and the supply of good quality food to the city with a sustainable economic framework
4. Improving provision of healthy food through home and local growing projects
5. Tackling issues surrounding benefit sanctions and welfare reform.

As priorities 2, 3 & 4 fitted well with our long list of potential Going for Gold areas of excellence, we agreed to host these roundtables (holding two sessions on cooking & healthy eating as attendee numbers were high).

Feeding Bristol is committed to supporting and encouraging initiatives that improve well being by creating the context for all people in the City of Bristol – irrespective of social or ethnic background – having access to resources, abilities and facilities to grow, purchase, prepare and cook fresh, healthy and affordable food. In essence, the group aspire to a “Zero Hunger Bristol”. Bristol Food Network will be refining our work on these areas of excellence into 2018 and beyond.

We represented the Going for Gold initiative at a number of events and hosted key meetings including:

- Bristol Green Capital Contact Group meeting (A monthly meeting of BGCP member Directors and CEO’s) to talk about how the members can support us in G4G.
- Marketing companies who will support the campaign within the city and advise on promoting this to the wider public.
- Waste and Resource Action Group where we presented the G4G case and gained support from the group.
- Land and Food Forum where we facilitated a panel discussion in the three potential ‘areas of excellence’ and presented the case to members of the public.

As the year progressed, three potential areas of excellence gained momentum within our ‘long list’. i) Food insecurity/poverty lead project, as part of a Bristol pilot of the national ‘Feeding Britain’ initiative; ii) Growing food with nature lead project, working closely with Avon Wildlife Trust; and iii) Food waste lead project working closely with Bristol Waste Company.

Bristol's Get Growing Garden Trail 2018 Crowdfunder: Due to insufficient funding for this project, the normally annual event was not held in 2017. It was decided that we would take part in Bristol Green Capital's Better Bristol crowdfunder campaign, where a number of environmental organisations and social enterprises compete to win a share in £40K matchfunding. It was felt that a crowdfunder could help finance the initiative in 2018 and that the Trail would be held over the month of June instead of a specific weekend. Our intention with the 2018 Trail was to build on the 6 previous Get Growing Garden Trails, the success of Healthy City Week, and interest in social prescribing/referrals, to explore how food growing spaces can be used by the wider community – not just for growing, but by other health & wellbeing initiatives. For example with Tai Chi in Fishponds community orchard, kids' cookery on HHEAG's allotment, watercolour painting in Blaise Walled Garden, or joining with a choir at Stoke Lane Community Garden. Unfortunately we were not quick enough in our fundraising to earn match funding, although we successfully raised over £3000 to run the Trail in 2018.

Bristol's Local Food Update newsletter and website: We continued sending out our MailChimp newsletter linked to increased content on the website throughout 2017 to over 1500 subscribers.

Bristol Food Network Partners: Bristol Food Network extends its reach by being represented on several city-wide organisations such as the Bristol Food Policy Council, Bristol Green Capital Partnership board, and the West of England Procurement Group. The Bristol Green Capital Partnership is made up of 800 member organisations across the City and sponsors both Quarterly Gatherings around specific themes and Monthly Green Mingle meetups.

Bristol Food Food Alliance: We hosted a meeting between the Bristol Food Policy Council, Bristol Food Network and Bristol Green Capital Partnership to try and resolve some perceptions/genuine confusions around 'who does what' in the city. As a result of this session, we decided to set up The Bristol Good Food Alliance to show clearly 'who does what', and to demonstrate that there are many organisations and businesses in the city who are working towards the shared aims put forward in the Bristol Good Food Charter and Good Food Plan. A lot of development work went on through 2017, setting Terms of Reference and designing the website – although this didn't go live till March 2018. The Alliance has nine founder members and a recruited Advisory Panel of academics and food experts. The Alliance and Panel will play an important role in Going for Gold.

<https://www.bristolgoodfoodalliance.org/>

National and International Visits: Bristol Food Network hosted a visit from Glasgow activists who were looking at models for developing a Food Network in their city. We also hosted a Norwegian group who were interested in how they might further develop urban agriculture in their city. We organised a 3-day visit for them, looking at different models and structures, which generated some income for both Bristol Food Network and all the host community groups and organisations. These paid tours are something that we hope to develop in the future as the city receives many requests from potential visitors via Bristol City Council, the Food Policy Council or direct via Bristol Food Network.

Contribution to emerging plans: Bristol Food Network input into Bristol's Local Plan, liaising with council officers about how we might help ensure the strongest protection for Bristol's Blue Finger land (our Best and Most Versatile soil). We also contributed to several workshops on the Bristol Mayor's 'One City Plan'. This plan aims to set shared priorities for the city up till 2050, and may prove significant.

Consultation with stakeholders

Please indicate who the company's stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been consulted and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its consultations? If there has been no consultation, this should be made clear.

In 2017 Bristol Food Network communicated with over 1500 monthly newsletter subscribers, interacted with several other city-wide organisations through being represented on the Green Capital Board, Bristol Food Policy Council, the West of England Procurement Group, Feeding Bristol, and led or hosted several networking meetings and roundtable discussions at various food-related events and as part of our Sustainable Food Cities Going for Gold initiative.

2016

General description of the company's activities and impact

In the space provided below, please insert a general account of the company's activities in the financial year to which the report relates, including a description of how they have benefited the community.

Bristol Food Network C.I.C. supports, informs and connects individuals, community projects, organisations and businesses who share a vision to transform Bristol into a sustainable food city.

In 2016 Bristol Food Network was involved in the following projects that helped to deliver on these various aims among various stakeholders in the city-wide food community as well as the wider public:

Bristol Food Connections 2016: Bristol Food Connections is Bristol's flagship sustainable food event: a nine-day, citywide, immersive educational food festival with a focus on sustainability and health. In 2016:

- An expanded city-centre programme delivered over 90 separate workshops, cookery demos and events over the May Bank Holiday weekend.
- More than 20,000 people visited the city centre site, engaging with festival content from live-music, to free cookery demos, kids' education activities, and more.
- The festival food trail grew from 40 participating businesses, to over 90 venues. For the first time, each venue offered a special promotion or discount available exclusively to Bristol Food Card holders.
- An expanded fringe festival engaged with existing food businesses and projects across the city, to deliver more than 100 fringe events. These included community cook-offs, foraging walks, healthy eating workshops, supper clubs, skills training, and much more.
- The communities' programme took our 'Cook n Converse' initiative to areas of Bristol where access to healthy, local food is a challenge. These events brought communities together with local councillors, health workers and politicians to spark conversations about each food access and healthy eating.
- 'The Food Jam' – a youth engagement initiative designed to get young people thinking about what they eat, was taken from conception to delivery and visited 5 communities across the city.

Publication of Bristol Good Food Guide: In 2016 Bristol Food Network published the Bristol Good Food Guide and delivered approximately 9000 of them to locations and organisations around the city. The guide covered such topics as how to get started growing, cooking, volunteering with, eating more of, shopping for, working with, and wasting less of good food in Bristol. The guides were distributed in connection with the Bristol Food Connections Festival.

In March 2016, **Bristol won the The Sustainable Food Cities Award** which is designed to recognise and celebrate the success of those places taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and that are achieving significant positive change on a range of key food issues.

Bristol Food Network actively collaborated with the Bristol Food Policy Council to gather and collate the evidence for the award-winning application. On 5 May as part of the Bristol Food Connections Fringe Festival we partnered with the Bristol Food Policy Council to present a **Going for Gold? Bristol Good Food Conference** that both celebrated the award and requested input from community stakeholders on how Bristol could help the Sustainable Food Cities network draft the criteria for future Gold Level Awards. Over 100 attendees participated in three separate events across the day. We provided support to the Silver SFC application through the design & print of 200 copies of the winning Silver application, which was distributed via the Conference and as a downloadable PDF. (We have also tried to get copies of the application to some key decision-makers in the city.)

2016 Get Growing Garden Trail report and film: The 6th annual Get Growing Garden Trail took place over the weekend of 4 & 5 June 2016. The Trail is a weekend when productive gardens which are not normally open to the public open their gates to visitors. This year we had 29 sites taking part, ranging from veg beds set up on a former bandstand in a public park, to commercial veg box growers; from a miniature orchard planted on a neglected corner of public land, to a project which is reclaiming a neglected historic walled garden; from Bramble Farm, where families came together to collectively raise animals for food on the Dundry Slopes, to expansive Community and Care Farms. This year we had 2 new participants – The Old Library, Eastville and Leigh Court Farm. We asked for participating projects to complete a survey to register attendance and help us to assess the event’s impact. The resulting responses were compiled into a report with at least 399 first-time visitors recorded. Bristol Food Network also commissioned a film by local filmmakers Black Bark Productions which profiled several of the participating projects. The film has been shown at several events around the city.

Bristol’s Good Food Action Plan 2015–18 updated in 2017: Information for this detailed plan was collected during March–June 2015. Most of the information was written by the people/organisations adding their plans to the Good Food Plan for Bristol. Some information was obtained by interview and has subsequently been checked by the interviewees. Some information was obtained through themed meetings on Food Waste/Wasted Food and Land and Planning. As part of this work, Bristol Food Network has engaged with over 70 community projects, organisations and social enterprises.

In 2017 Bristol Food Network updated the Plan with the help of an intern from University of the West of England. Survey questions were sent out to all the participating projects to find out how their plans were going and if any information needed to be updated. We received around 30 updated responses.

Bristol-wide Food-themed Networking Meetings and communications: We held the last networking session in April 2016. This was a carry-over from the Food Action Group meetings sponsored by Bristol Green Capital Partnership in 2015. There were 160 people on the Food Action Group mailing list.

Bristol Healthy City Week 2016 participation: Sponsored by Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Healthy City Week is the product of contributions from local organisations and individuals whose events, talks and workshops will explore the links between sustainable living, personal wellbeing and the health of our environment. It is supported by Bristol Health Partners, which brings together all the city’s major health institutions. BFN were one of the ‘badged’ organisations and BFN was also represented on the steering group by Board member Jane Stevenson.

Headlines were:

- Over 5,000 attendances
- Events held in 46 venues spread across the city (31 venues in 2015)
- 195 events (118 in 2015)

Bristol's Local Food Update newsletter and website: We switched from producing a bi-monthly downloadable PDF newsletter to a MailChimp newsletter linked to increased content on the website in September 2016. This was intended to drive more traffic to our site, and to help us in the aim of becoming the place to go to find out what's going on in the city. The newsletter goes out to over 1500 subscribers. The electronic version of the printed *Bristol Good Food Guide* was uploaded to the Bristol Food Network website and the Bristol Local Food Directory was also added to the website.

Bristol Food Network Partners: Bristol Food Network extends its reach by being represented on several city-wide organisations such as the Bristol Food Policy Council, Bristol Green Capital Partnership, and the West of England Procurement Group. The Bristol Green Capital Partnership is made up of 800 member organisations across the City and sponsors both Quarterly Gatherings around specific themes and Monthly Green Mingle meetups.

Consultation with stakeholders

Please indicate who the company's stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been consulted and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its consultations? If there has been no consultation, this should be made clear.

In 2016 Bristol consulted with over 100 participants at its Going for Gold Conference, with over 29 local growing Projects at its Get Growing Garden Trail, with over 70 projects with its survey questionnaire sent out to the participating contributors to the *2015–18 Bristol Local Food Action Plan*, communicated with over 1500 monthly newsletter subscribers, interacted with several other city-wide organisations through being represented on the Green Capital Board, Healthy City Week Steering Group, Bristol Food Policy Council, and the West of England Procurement Group, and led or hosted several networking meetings and roundtable discussions at various food-related events.

2015

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In 2015 Bristol Food Network was involved in the following projects that helped to deliver on these various aims among various stakeholders in the city-wide food community as well as the wider public:

Bristol Food Connections 2015: Bristol Food Connections is Bristol's flagship sustainable food event: a nine-day, citywide, immersive educational food festival with a focus on sustainability and health. In 2013 the BBC approached Bristol with the idea of a joint food festival. Bristol Food Connections Festival ran for the first time in May 2014, communicating with more than 150,000 visitors at over 300 events. In 2015 there were more than 115,000 visitors at over 130 events.

Bristol Get Growing Trail 2015: The 5th annual Get Growing Garden Trail returned to Bristol over the weekend of 6 & 7 June with 30 groups showing off 36 gardens over the weekend of 6 & 7 June. The sites taking part ranged from pocket growing sites in parks, to expansively productive fields. From miniature orchards tucked behind shops, to historic gardens. From gardening projects which are focussed around social get-togethers to those focussed on social enterprise.

Hosting Bristol Green Capital Food Action Group: Bristol Food Network was pleased to host the Food Action Group on behalf of the Green Capital Partnership. Bristol Food Network worked with Green Capital Board to help align 2015 funding criteria with the Good Food Plan and also helped to coordinate monthly meetings for grassroots groups to develop collaborative projects throughout 2014. The meetings continued mainly as a networking function throughout 2015.

Producing Bristol's Local Food Update: This is a bi-monthly electronic newsletter mailed out to over 1,400 subscribers that reports on Bristol's local food news, events, and projects.

Bristol's Local Action Plan: Bristol is one of the 10 partner cities who took part in the URBACT Sustainable Food in Urban Communities project from 2012–2015. The **URBACT Thematic Network 'Sustainable Food in Urban Communities'** is a project involving 10 European cities that wish to grow, deliver and enjoy more sustainable food: they are looking for joint, effective and sustainable solutions to develop low-carbon and resource-efficient urban food systems. As the final deliverable of the project, each city was tasked with coming up with its own Local Action Plan. At the final event, which was held in Bristol on 15 March 2015, summaries of each Local Action Plan were made available to all the participants to share the results of the thinking and inspiration that had happened over the 3-year span of transnational meetings, workshops, and conference.

Bristol's Good Food Action Plan 2015–18: Information for this detailed plan was collected during March–June 2015. Most of the information was written by the people/organisations adding their plans to the Good Food Plan for Bristol. Some information was obtained by interview and has subsequently been checked by the interviewees. Some information was obtained through themed meetings on Food Waste/Wasted Food and Land and Planning. As part of this work, Bristol Food Network has engaged with over 70 community projects, organisations and social enterprises.

Consultation with stakeholders

Please indicate who the company's stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been consulted and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its consultations? If there has been no consultation, this should be made clear.

As detailed in our mission statement above, our stakeholders include individuals, community projects, organisations, and businesses in Bristol's wider food economy and community. In 2015 we engaged with various members of stakeholder groups in a variety of ways. We engaged with food businesses, community groups, and members of the public during the 9-day 2015 Bristol Food Connections Festival, with the members of 30 community food growing projects and members of the public during the 2-day Bristol Get Growing Garden Trail, hosted monthly networking meetings with over 75 groups, projects, and organisations represented throughout 2015, sent newsletter updates out to over 1400 subscribers, participated in the final 2015 URBACT Sustainable Food in Urban Communities Project as one of the 10 partner cities and delivered our Local Action Plan as part of that event, and began to engage with and compile information from over 70 local community projects, businesses, and organisations as part of our 3-year Good Food Action Plan. Directors of Bristol Food Network also represent the organisation on other Boards and organisations such as the Bristol Food Policy Council and Bristol Green Capital Partnership.

2014

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Bristol Get Growing Trail 2014: The 4th annual Get Growing Garden Trail returned to Bristol over the weekend of 7 & 8 June with 33 gardens to explore. The sites taking part ranged from pocketgrowing sites in parks, to expansively productive fields. From miniature orchards tucked behind shops, to historic gardens. From gardening projects which are focussed around social get-togethers to those focussed on social enterprise.

Bristol Urban Growing Survey: (preliminary survey and research work begun in 2014) This work was in preparation for a report to be released in 2014. In 2014, there were over 54 community food growing sites around Bristol. The purpose of this report was to find out more about them and to provide useful information that will both inspire and inform the scaling up of urban food growing in Bristol. In all 29 community food projects were surveyed.

Hosting Bristol Green Capital Food Action Group: Bristol Food Network was pleased to host the Food Action Group on behalf of the Green Capital Partnership. Bristol Food Network worked with Green Capital Board to help align 2015 funding criteria with the Good Food Plan and also helped to coordinate monthly meetings for grassroots groups to develop collaborative project plans.

Producing Bristol's Local Food Update: This is a bi-monthly electronic newsletter mailed out to over 1,300 subscribers that reports on Bristol's local food news, events, and projects.

Delivering the Bristol Good Food Conference 2014 in collaboration with the Bristol Food Policy Council: On 20 October, the Bristol Food Policy Council, in partnership with Bristol City Council, Bristol Food Network, and @Bristol welcomed over 100 delegates to its 5th annual Good Food Conference.

This year the theme was **Bristol Good Food and the Low Carbon Challenge: Learning from Around Europe**. This conference was also supported by and produced in partnership with Bristol City Council and the European Union URBACT project Sustainable Food in Urban Communities. Several BFN members also took part in transnational gatherings and conferences as part of the URBACT project.

Supervision of Interns: Bristol Food Network actively supported and supervised two interns in conjunction with Bristol City Council and Public Health. These interns were Azizah nur Hapsari, who came to us from the Planet Europe Programme and was engaged in helping to map growing community projects and land in Bristol, and Beth Webb, a student at Bristol University, who helped with preparing the *What Does Good Food mean for Bristol* report, a project carried out by the Bristol Food Policy Council Communications subgroup. The report was to assemble all available baseline information that could provide potential measures and indicators to monitor progress towards the aims set out in the *Good Food Plan* for Bristol.

Consultation with stakeholders

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As detailed in our mission statement above, our stakeholders include individuals, community projects, organisations, and businesses in Bristol's wider food economy and community. In 2014 we engaged with various members of stakeholders groups in a variety of ways. We engaged with food businesses, community groups, and members of the public during the 9-day Bristol Food Connections Festival, members of 33 community food growing projects and members of the public during the 2-day Bristol Get Growing Garden Trail, 29 local growing projects were interviewed and their feedback was compiled into the Bristol Urban Growing Survey, hosted monthly networking meetings with over 75 groups, projects, and organisations represented throughout 2014, sent newsletter updates out to over 1300 subscribers, and co-delivered Bristol's annual Good Food Conference to over 100 participants. During all of these events there were numerous opportunities for stakeholders to feedback both formally and informally, especially during the Bristol Urban Growing Survey where 29 local growing groups were surveyed on over 15 different topics.