

THE PONTARDAWE ARENA

England & Wales · Charity number 1106812

Details

Other names	ARENA PONTARDAWE, ARENA WALES CYMRU, GLANTAWA OUTDOOR EDUCATION ACADEMY, PONTARDAWE ARENA PARTNERSHIP
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04435289
Registered	2004-11-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	9 Heol Glanllechau Alltwen Pontardawe Swansea SA8 3AP
Phone	07780974598
Email	riverside.pontardawe@gmail.com
Website	www.arenapontardawe.com

Activities

Objects: A) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING OR RETRAINING, PARTICULARLY AMONG UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE, AND PROVIDING UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE WITH WORK EXPERIENCE.B) THE CREATION OF TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BY THE PROVISION OF WORKSPACE, BUILDINGS AND/OR LAND FOR USE ON FAVOURABLE TERMS:C) THE MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENT OR PROVISION OF PUBLIC AMENITIES;D) THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE OR THOSE WHO BY REASONS OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES;E) BY SUCH OTHER MEANS AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE DETERMINED, SUBJECT TO PRIOR AGREEMENT OF THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Activities: community regeneration

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SWANSEA VALLEY, NEATH PORT TALBOT, WEST GLAMORGAN.
- Neath Port Talbot

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£59,959	£56,241	-	-
2024-04-05	£73,325	£83,728	-	-
2023-04-05	£85,605	£98,996	-	-
2022-04-05	£90,697	£87,791	-	-
2021-04-05	£64,203	£63,185	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brian Arthur Waite		2024-03-18
Keidi Winter		2022-01-01
Rebecca Killa		2024-03-18
Stephen John Ransley		2024-03-18
Stephen Todd		2024-03-18
Susan Jay		2020-12-14

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 04435289

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1106812

**The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
5 April 2025**

KLB Financial Management Ltd

Kingsway House
Caldwell Road
Widnes
WA8 7GD

The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
Year ended 5 April 2025

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The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)
Year ended 5 April 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2025.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name The Pontardawe Arena

Charity registration number 1106812

Company registration number 04435289

Principal and registered office 9 Heol Glanllechau
Pontardawe
Swansea
Wales
SA8 3AP

The trustees Mr J Jones Resigned 29 July 2025
Ms K Winter
Mr B A Waite
Mr S Todd
Mr S J Ransley
Mrs S H Jay
Mrs R Killa

Secretary Mrs A C Cooper

Independent examiner Kerry Bibby
KLB Financial Management
Kingsway House
Caldwell Road
Widnes
WA8 7GD

The Pontardawe Arena

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2025

Structure, governance and management

Organisational Structure

The Pontardawe Arena has six trustees who meet regularly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy setting of the charity. The trustees represent different sectors and bring to the charity a wealth of knowledge that support the charity to meet its objectives.

Risk Management

The trustees regularly review the principal risks facing the charity. Key risks include reliance on grant funding, ongoing site maintenance requirements, and the impact of adverse weather events (including flooding). Mitigation includes diversifying income through space hire, maintaining strong relationships with key funders and partners, and prioritising preventative and resilience works to reduce flood risk around the centre and access routes. Trustees also monitor volunteer capacity and safeguarding/health and safety procedures to ensure activities remain safe and deliverable.

Public Benefit

In delivering its charitable purposes, the organisation provides public benefit through:

- **Education and skills development:** providing supportive learning opportunities for young people and hosting outdoor learning activity through partner provision.
- **Community participation and wellbeing:** offering a community venue and a programme of volunteering and practical activity that supports social connection, confidence and meaningful engagement.
- **Improvement of public amenities and the environment:** enhancing the Riverside site through planting, biodiversity work and resilience improvements, including measures that reduce flooding and increase the accessibility and usability of the site.

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing these activities and planning for the year ahead.

Objectives and activities

Our objectives

- To promote, for the benefit of the public of urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation and in particular in the Swansea Valley by all or any of the following means:
 - a) the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
 - b) the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
 - c) the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities;
 - d) the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large or those who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities;
 - e) by such other means as may from time to time be determined, subject to prior agreement of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

The Pontardawe Arena

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2025

Our activities

During 2024/25 The Pontardawe Arena continued to operate as a community-led hub, supporting local regeneration through education, community participation and the improvement of public amenities at Riverside. The Trustees are proud of how the community and volunteer team worked together throughout the year, particularly in the context of ongoing financial pressures and the practical challenges created by flooding around the centre.

A key focus during the year was supporting learning and development opportunities for young people. With continued support from Swansea Bay Education funding, the charity hosted local school students three days per week, providing an alternative learning environment and tailored support. This programme has helped learners who were at risk of leaving school without qualifications to work towards achieving at least one GCSE (or part qualification), supported by dedicated teaching and supervision.

The charity also strengthened its role as a venue and base for partner-led community activity. Forest School Swansea Neath Port Talbot funded and delivered Seedlings and a Home Education group at Riverside, generating regular footfall and rental income for the charity while providing popular nature-based learning opportunities with waiting lists.

Alongside delivery from within the building, the charity's activities continued to centre on environmental improvement and practical community action. Volunteers supported biodiversity planting, the development of raised beds, and the creation of usable outdoor learning and meeting spaces that benefit a wide range of community users.

Achievements and performance

The Trustees consider 2024/25 to be a year of strong progress in both community impact and the improvement of facilities. The organisation secured and effectively delivered a range of funded projects, while continuing to build volunteer capacity and strengthen the offer available to residents and partner organisations.

Education and community participation remained a significant achievement. The continuation of the school placement programme enabled the charity to provide a supportive setting for learners facing barriers to attendance and attainment, improving their opportunity to gain accredited outcomes. In parallel, the Forest School and Home Education provision expanded regular use of the site and demonstrated strong demand for nature-based learning.

Facilities and site improvements delivered clear public benefit. During the year, new internal and external fire doors were installed with support from Neath Port Talbot Council's facilities funding, improving safety and resilience of the building. The charity also progressed the development of an outdoor classroom space: an donated structure was rebuilt with volunteer support and Windfarm Grant assistance (Mynydd y Betws), repurposed into a practical community asset for teaching, shelter and group use. This work also reflected the charity's environmental ethos through recycling initiatives and biodiversity-focused planting.

Environmental resilience and flood mitigation was a major operational focus. Following repeated flooding affecting the car park and footpaths, the charity secured funding for "rain gardens" and led a complex programme of works involving groundworks, materials, planting and volunteer input. The Trustees report that these interventions have significantly reduced flooding in previously affected areas, improving accessibility and the usability of the site.

The charity also advanced land management and invasive species control, tackling Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam using non-chemical approaches. A pilot initiative using goats for controlled grazing was trialled successfully, with discussions progressing to expand this approach in future periods.

The Pontardawe Arena

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2025

Volunteer development and wellbeing impact continued to be central to the charity's performance. The volunteer group remained diverse and inclusive, providing meaningful activity, routine and social connection for individuals with a range of needs and life experiences. The Trustees also strengthened safeguarding and event-readiness through volunteer training, with trustees completing outdoor first aid to support safe delivery of community activity.

Grant Funding Support

The Trustees would like to recognise and thank a range of funding and support partners in 24/25 which allowed the Charity to grow and prosper and lay a platform for success, including:

- Port Talbot Civic Centre
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Mynydd y Betws Community Benefit Fund
- Glantawe Riverside Park
- Moondance Foundation
- Neath Port Talbot Community Prosperity Fund

Governance:

The Pontardawe Arena Trustee board committed to regular quarterly meetings to ensure aims and objectives were met whilst recognising and addressing any challenges.

A number of Trustee appointments were made before the start of the fiscal year, increasing the breadth of knowledge, experience, skills to support the organisational growth. As part of that process it is anticipated further appointments will be made to reflect a varied and diverse board.

In addition, a strong working relationship is in place our key stakeholders with a clear vision of progression to take the objects further into the community.

Future Plans:

The Trustees' priorities for the coming year are to consolidate progress, strengthen financial sustainability and continue improving facilities and the outdoor environment for community benefit. Building on stakeholder engagement, the Trustees plan to develop a clearer medium-term direction for the charity.

A key facilities ambition is to progress plans to convert the office space into a kitchen. Although funding for this was withdrawn at a late stage, the Trustees remain committed to pursuing further support, recognising the potential for community cookery sessions, skills development, and practical learning linked to growing and using healthy food.

The Trustees will also continue to develop and maximise the use of the outdoor classroom and growing spaces, including through community events and environmental learning activity. The charity intends to build on the success of the flood mitigation programme by maintaining and enhancing the rain gardens and wider planting, alongside continuing work to manage invasive species using environmentally responsible methods.

Finally, the Trustees will prioritise outstanding site maintenance needs, including progressing options to assess and repair the small bridge connecting the main car park to the park. Alongside this, the charity will continue to grow earned income through venue hire and partnerships, supporting a more resilient operating model and reducing grant dependency over time.

The Pontardawe Arena

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2025

Financial review:

The charity's financial performance for 2024/25 reflects an operating model that blends external funding with locally-generated income. Restricted grants supported delivery of specific projects and improvements at Riverside, including works that increased the safety, resilience and usability of the site. Alongside funded activity, Trustees continued to strengthen earned income through room and site hire to partner organisations, supporting a more sustainable financial base and regular footfall into the centre.

Total income for the year ended 5 April 2025 was £59,959 (2024 £73,325), of which just over 86% was generated from restricted funds.

Expenditure for the year was £56,241 (2024 £83,728). The net surplus in the year being £3,718 (2024 £10,403 deficit).

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to retain sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover around six months of core operating costs. This provides essential working capital and helps manage risk linked to unforeseen maintenance requirements and external disruption (including severe weather impacts). Unrestricted funds at year end were £42,763 (2024: £39,045) and Trustees will continue to review reserves in line with forward plans and forecast expenditure.

Investment Policy and Objectives

The charity remains committed to building funds to ensure a strong future in offering activities to support our community.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 29th June 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

K Winter
Chair
The Pontardawe Arena

The Pontardawe Arena

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Pontardawe Arena

Year ended 5 April 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Pontardawe Arena ('the charity') for the year ended 5 April 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kerry Bibby
Independent Examiner

29/06/2025

KLB Financial Management
Kingsway House
Caldwell Road
Widnes
WA8 7GD

The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)
Year ended 5 April 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	5	253	52,447	52,700	63,575
Charitable activities	6	7,259	-	7,259	9,740
Other trading activities	7	-	-	-	10
Total income		7,512	52,447	59,959	73,325
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	8	15,056	41,185	56,241	83,728
Total expenditure		15,056	41,185	56,241	83,728
Net income/(expenditure)		(7,544)	11,262	3,718	(10,403)
Transfer between funds		11,262	(11,262)	-	-
Net movement in funds		3,718	-	3,718	(10,403)
Fund balances brought forward	15	39,045	-	39,045	49,448
Fund balances carried forward	15	42,763	-	42,763	39,045

The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Position
5 April 2025

	Notes	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	24,875	15,865
Total fixed assets		24,875	15,865
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		19,388	25,021
Total current assets		19,388	25,021
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	1,500	1,841
Net assets less current/(liabilities)		17,888	23,180
Total assets less current liabilities		42,763	39,045
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-
Total net assets or (liabilities)		42,763	39,045
Funds of the charity	15		
Restricted income funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds		42,763	39,045
Total funds		42,763	39,045

The company was entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

Signed by a trustees/directors on behalf of all the trustees/directors

Trustee *K Winter*
29/06/2025

The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 5 April 2025

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 9 Heol Glanllechau, Alltwen, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3AP.

2 Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared for the year ended 5 April 2025 and are presented in sterling (£), which is the functional currency of the charity.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The charity is a public benefit entity.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Going concern

The Trustees have assessed whether the charity is able to continue as a going concern, taking into account its financial position, expected income and expenditure and the availability of cash resources. The Trustees believe the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and accordingly the accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenditure. Estimates and judgements are reviewed on an ongoing basis. The most significant estimates relate to the useful lives of tangible fixed assets for depreciation purposes.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charity's objects.

Restricted funds are subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors or grant makers. Restricted funds are only used for the purposes for which they were given. Unspent restricted balances are carried forward where they relate to ongoing obligations or future expenditure permitted under the terms of the funding.

The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and similar income are recognised when receivable.

Grant income is recognised when the charity has entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Where grant income is received in advance of meeting entitlement conditions, or where there is an obligation to return funds if conditions are not met, the amount is recognised as a liability until the conditions are satisfied.

Income from the supply of services / hire and other activity income is recognised when the service is provided.

Donated goods, services and facilities are recognised where the benefit is material and can be reliably measured, at the fair value of the contribution. The contribution of general volunteers' time is not recognised in the financial statements.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when the charity has a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Costs are allocated to expenditure categories in the SOFA on a basis that reflects the use of resources. Direct costs are allocated directly to the relevant activity. Support and governance costs are apportioned to activities on a reasonable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or fair value at the date of donation, where applicable) less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes directly attributable costs of bringing the asset into working condition for its intended use.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of tangible fixed assets, less estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

Plant & machinery: 20% straight line

Fixtures, fittings & equipment: 20% straight line

The useful lives and residual values of assets are reviewed annually and adjusted if necessary.

The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 5 April 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting date the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount. Impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment no longer apply.

Financial Instruments

The charity only holds basic financial instruments, such as cash at bank and trade and other debtors and creditors. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost. Short-term debtors and creditors are measured at the settlement amount.

Cash at bank and in hand represents cash held in bank accounts and petty cash.

Creditors are recognised when there is a present obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions and are measured at the amount expected to be paid.

Taxation and VAT: The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities to the extent that income is applied for charitable purposes. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as expenditure or included in the cost of an asset, as appropriate.

Employee benefits: Employee benefits are recognised as an expense as the employee provides services. (Where the charity has no employees, no employee costs arise.)

3. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital.

4. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 5 April 2025 £	Period Ended 5 April 2024 £
Donations	253	-	253	-
Grants	-	52,447	52,447	63,575
	253	52,447	52,700	63,575

The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 5 April 2025

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 5 April 2025 £	Period Ended 5 April 2024 £
Charitable activities	7,259	-	7,259	9,740
	<u>7,259</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,259</u>	<u>9,740</u>

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 5 April 2025 £	Period Ended 5 April 2024 £
Sales income	-	-	-	10
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 5 April 2025 £	Period Ended 5 April 2024 £
Charitable activities	7,854	41,185	49,039	67,695
Support costs	7,202	-	7,202	16,033
	<u>15,056</u>	<u>41,185</u>	<u>56,241</u>	<u>83,728</u>

8. Governance costs

	5 April 2025 £	5 April 2024 £
Independent examination fee	<u>1,500</u>	<u>-</u>

9. Staff costs

The average head count of employees during the year was nil (2024 nil).

10. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 5 April 2025

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Costs			
At 6 April 2024	18,793	17,990	36,783
Additions	4,755	6,507	11,262
At 5 April 2025	23,548	24,497	48,045
Depreciation			
At 6 April 2024	13,283	7,635	20,918
Charge for the year	951	1,301	2,252
At 5 April 2025	14,234	8,936	23,170
Carrying amount			
At 5 April 2025	9,314	15,561	24,875
At 5 April 2024	5,510	10,355	15,865

12. Creditors, amounts falling due within one year

	5 April 2025 £	5 April 2024 £
Trade creditors	-	1,001
Other creditors	1,500	840
	1,500	1,841

The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 5 April 2025

13. Analysis of charitable funds

	At 6 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 5 April 2025 £
General fund	<u>39,045</u>	<u>7,512</u>	<u>(15,056)</u>	<u>11,262</u>	<u>42,763</u>
	At 6 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 5 April 2025 £
Port Talbot Civic Centre	-	10,192	(5,437)	(4,755)	-
Swansea Bay University	-	15,501	(8,994)	(6,507)	-
Mynydd y Betws CBF	-	2,415	(2,415)		-
Glantawe Riverside Park	-	6,199	(6,199)		-
Moondance Foundation	-	17,500	(17,500)		-
NPT CPF	-	640	(640)		-
Restricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>52,447</u>	<u>(41,185)</u>	<u>(11,262)</u>	<u>-</u>

Port Talbot Civic Centre: funding to support delivery/activities at the centre (incl. associated equipment).

Swansea Bay University Health Board: funding supporting community/education or wellbeing-related activity delivery.

Mynydd y Betws Community Benefit Fund: support for the outdoor classroom / outdoor learning improvements.

Glantawe Riverside Park: support for environmental/park improvements and community access.

Moondance Foundation: support for community programming or site-based activities.

Neath Port Talbot Community Prosperity Fund: supports healthy, safe and inclusive community-based activities.

The Pontardawe Arena
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 5 April 2025

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 5 April 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 5 April 2024 £
Tangible assets	24,875	15,865
Current assets	19,388	25,021
Creditors less than 1 year	(1,500)	(1,841)
	<u>42,763</u>	<u>39,045</u>

15. Financial instruments

The company currently holds no financial instruments.

Accounts

Company registration number: 04435289

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Unaudited financial statements

5 April 2024

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Year ended 5 April 2024

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Employee numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to Nil (2023: Nil).

5. Tangible assets

	Plant and machinery	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 6 April 2023 and 5 April 2024	18,793	17,990	36,783
Depreciation			
At 6 April 2023 and 5 April 2024	13,283	7,635	20,918
Carrying amount			
At 5 April 2024	5,510	10,355	15,865
At 5 April 2023	5,510	10,355	15,865

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 5 April 2024

6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,001	1,001
Other creditors	840	840
	<u>1,841</u>	<u>1,841</u>

7. Controlling party

John Jones and Susan Jay are the controlling parties

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Directors and other information

Directors	Mr John Jones Mrs Susan Jay
Company number	04435289
Registered office	131 Delffordd Pontardawe Swansea SA8 3EN
Accountant	R J Tanner Gellimarch Farm Cadoxton Neath SA10 8AF

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Directors and other information

Directors	Mr John Jones Mrs Susan Jay
Company number	04435289
Registered office	131 Delffordd Pontardawe Swansea SA8 3EN
Accountant	R J Tanner Gellimarch Farm Cadoxton Neath SA10 8AF

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of financial position (continued)
5 April 2024

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 26 June 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mrs Susan Jay
Director

Company registration number: 04435289

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of financial position
5 April 2024

	Note	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	5	15,865		15,865	
			15,865		15,865
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		25,021		35,424	
		25,021		35,424	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(1,841)		(1,841)	
Net current assets			23,180		33,583
Total assets less current liabilities			39,045		49,448
Net assets			39,045		49,448
Capital and reserves					
Profit and loss account			39,045		49,448
Shareholders funds			39,045		49,448

For the year ending 5 April 2024 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 financial statements 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 financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of income and retained earnings
Year ended 5 April 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover		73,325	85,605
Cost of sales		(67,695)	(87,793)
Gross profit/(loss)		5,630	(2,188)
Administrative expenses		(16,033)	(11,203)
Operating loss		(10,403)	(13,391)
Other interest receivable and similar income		-	1
Loss before taxation		(10,403)	(13,390)
Tax on loss		-	-
Loss for the financial year and total comprehensive income		(10,403)	(13,390)
Retained earnings at the start of the year		49,448	62,838
Retained earnings at the end of the year		39,045	49,448

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of financial position (continued)
5 April 2024

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 26 June 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mrs Susan Jay
Director

Company registration number: 04435289

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Year ended 5 April 2024

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 5 April 2024

1. General information

The company is a private company limited by shares, registered in United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is 131 Delffordd, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 3EN.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102, Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods supplied and services rendered, net of discounts and Value Added Tax.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the buyer (usually on despatch of the goods); the amount of revenue can be measured reliably; it is probable that the associated economic benefits will flow to the entity; and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transactions can be measured reliably.

Taxation

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves, respectively.

Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Trustees Report 2023-24

The Pontardawe Arena at Glantawe Riverside Park 2023-2024

Our volunteers have continued to maintain the park, allowing access and increasing spaces for biodiversity and caring for the plants on our site.

This year our volunteers have also created more light, sheltered spaces for our guests and school children to learn outside.

Working with My Green Valley litter-pickers, we renovated the round house so it is now a light and airy space for plant sales and courses.

Coed Lleol and Fathom have regularly used our outdoor spaces and the roundhouse for crafting courses which support well-being.

Our volunteers also maintain outdoor gathering spaces for the public and groups, such as

Yoga Place Abertawe, so they can run regular 'Wild Yoga' sessions in our woods.

In the spring, our volunteers have upgraded our polytunnel with a small grant from 4th the region, so we now have more space for seedlings, cuttings and propagation for our no dig garden, food forest and wildflower areas.

Our volunteers have continued to grow healthy nutritious food without chemicals.

We have continued to work with 4th the region, hosting one of their regional meetings, running a stall at Neath Food Fair and being interviewed as a Community Garden.

To protect our native flora and fauna, we have been tackling knotweed - there is a lot of it on site - with the help of some unusual volunteers!

One of our most important projects of 2024 has been the development of three rain gardens with a view to both controlling the flooding in our main path area and increasing biodiversity. They seem to have been quite successful... so far.

Our volunteers created a new pond area: more wetland habitat. This fits nicely with our ecological profile as a 'watermeadow' between the canal and Afon Tawe. We have now planted the pond and surrounds with pond plants, marginals and bog plants.

We have continued to celebrate and educate about the wildlife on site and have had a whole site ecological survey done. house so it is now a light and airy space for plant sales and courses.

We have run year-long courses for secondary school children, for the fifth year in a row, providing Level 2 Agored Cymru qualifications in outdoor learning for 15 children in danger of becoming NEET each year.

In June, we worked with My Green Valley to host the second Swansea Valley Green Gathering, attended by hundreds of local people. Over 50 different local charities, businesses and organisations with the environment at their heart discussed future plans, gave talks, provided activities and ran stalls.

We have hosted birthday parties, gatherings, celebrations and memorials.

Alongside our outdoor work, our volunteers have this year been gradually renovating our community building. We have, with the help of NPT's Facilities Fund, replaced old fire doors so the building is now both more secure and better insulated. We have had help from Tai Tarian to redecorate the outside of the building and are now hoping to install a community kitchen in some old office space so that we can offer plot to plate courses in 2025.

We are immensely grateful to:

- 4theregion for their support in developing our community growing project
- NPTforNature for their advice and support with the rain gardens and knotweed management
- NPT Facilities Fund for the new doors
- The Mayor's Fund for supporting the Green Gathering
- The Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm for helping us renovate an outdoor classroom
- The National Lottery Awards4All for funding our two volunteer practitioners for 1house so it is now a light and airy space for plant sales and courses.

Finally, our hard work has been recognised: we were the Pontardawe Mayor's

Charity of the Year 2023-4, and won an award from Neath Port Talbot Council for the environmental work done by our volunteers. We have also been awarded a Community Green Flag for the 11th Year running.

Accounts

Company registration number: 04435289

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Unaudited financial statements

5 April 2023

PONTARDAWE ARENA

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PONTARDAWE ARENA

Directors and other information

Directors	Mr John Jones Mrs Susan Jay
Company number	04435289
Registered office	131 Delffordd Pontardawe Swansea SA8 3EN
Accountant	R J Tanner Gellimarch Farm Cadoxton Neath SA10 8AF

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Directors report Year ended 5 April 2023

The directors present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the company for the year ended 5 April 2023.

Directors

The directors who served the company during the year were as follows:

Mr John Jones

Mrs Susan Jay

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 20 December 2023 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Mrs Susan Jay

Director

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of income and retained earnings Year ended 5 April 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover		85,605	90,597
Cost of sales		(87,793)	(79,008)
Gross (loss)/profit		(2,188)	11,589
Administrative expenses		(11,203)	(8,783)
Operating (loss)/profit		(13,391)	2,806
Other interest receivable and similar income		1	1
(Loss)/profit before taxation		(13,390)	2,807
Tax on (loss)/profit		-	-
(Loss)/profit for the financial year and total comprehensive income		(13,390)	2,807
Retained earnings at the start of the year		62,838	60,031
Retained earnings at the end of the year		49,448	62,838

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of financial position 5 April 2023

	Note	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	5	15,865		15,416	
			15,865		15,416
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		35,424		90,213	
		35,424		90,213	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(1,841)		(42,791)	
Net current assets			33,583		47,422
Total assets less current liabilities			49,448		62,838
Net assets			49,448		62,838
Capital and reserves					
Profit and loss account			49,448		62,838
Shareholders funds			49,448		62,838

For the year ending 5 April 2023 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 financial statements 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 financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of financial position (continued)
5 April 2023

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 20 December 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mrs Susan Jay
Director

Company registration number: 04435289

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 5 April 2023

1. General information

The company is a private company limited by shares, registered in United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is 131 Delffordd, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 3EN.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102, Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods supplied and services rendered, net of discounts and Value Added Tax.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the buyer (usually on despatch of the goods); the amount of revenue can be measured reliably; it is probable that the associated economic benefits will flow to the entity; and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transactions can be measured reliably.

Taxation

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves, respectively.

Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued) **Year ended 5 April 2023**

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Year ended 5 April 2023

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Employee numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to Nil (2022: Nil).

5. Tangible assets

	Plant and machinery	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 6 April 2022	18,793	17,541	36,334
Additions	-	449	449
At 5 April 2023	<u>18,793</u>	<u>17,990</u>	<u>36,783</u>
Depreciation			
At 6 April 2022 and 5 April 2023	<u>13,283</u>	<u>7,635</u>	<u>20,918</u>
Carrying amount			
At 5 April 2023	<u>5,510</u>	<u>10,355</u>	<u>15,865</u>
At 5 April 2022	<u>5,510</u>	<u>9,906</u>	<u>15,416</u>

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 5 April 2023

6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,001	1,001
Other creditors	840	41,790
	<u>1,841</u>	<u>42,791</u>

7. Controlling party

John Jones and Susan Jay are the controlling parties

PONTARDAWE ARENA

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

**Detailed income statement
Year ended 5 April 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover		
Grants	29,320	45,267
NPT Grant	27,400	29,676
Hire	28,885	15,654
	<u>85,605</u>	<u>90,597</u>
Cost of sales		
Freeland contractors	(87,793)	(79,008)
	<u>(87,793)</u>	<u>(79,008)</u>
Gross (loss)/profit	<u>(2,188)</u>	<u>11,589</u>
Gross (loss)/profit percentage	2.6%	12.8%
Overheads		
Administrative expenses	(11,203)	(8,783)
	<u>(11,203)</u>	<u>(8,783)</u>
Operating (loss)/profit	(13,391)	2,806
Operating (loss)/profit percentage	15.6%	3.1%
Other interest receivable and similar income	1	1
(Loss)/profit before taxation	<u>(13,390)</u>	<u>2,807</u>

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Detailed income statement (continued)
Year ended 5 April 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Overheads		
Administrative expenses		
Staff training	(775)	(988)
Insurance	(2,529)	(2,529)
Light and heat	(1,110)	(736)
Cleaning	-	(90)
Repairs and maintenance	(2,214)	(586)
Printing, postage and stationery	-	(226)
Telephone	(404)	(678)
Motor expenses	(127)	(260)
Legal and professional	(2,054)	(40)
Accountancy fees	(840)	(840)
Bank charges	-	(14)
General expenses	-	(1,266)
Subscriptions	(1,150)	(530)
	<u>(11,203)</u>	<u>(8,783)</u>

Accounts

The Pontardawe Arena April 2022- Jan 2023

This is a statement of the current operational position of the Pontardawe Arena Partnership charity 1106812 and a Not for Profit Company Limited by Guarantee, 4435289

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Accomplishments this year

2022 has been a very successful year. We've run a full programme of sessions with local primary and secondary schools, developed a successful Parent & Toddler Group and held biweekly volunteer sessions to maintain our Woodland Garden Project.

The school year that ran January to July saw primary schools making up 80% of our week (Monday to Friday) and secondary schools taking the remaining 20% while volunteer days run on the weekend and simultaneously on our secondary school day and parent and toddler groups. We are in a very fortunate position that our 25 acre site is constantly developed to accommodate the variety of groups we host.

The school year running from September to now is 60% secondary school, two of those days are school funded, and 40% primary with our volunteer and parent & toddler days remaining the same.

We've successfully applied for grant funding to allow secondary schools to attend three days at Riverside over two years, a grant to support our parent & toddler sessions until the first quarter of 2023, assisted our volunteers to book onto Level 2 Forest School qualifications and a permaculture course. A further grant has been awarded for volunteer days to further strengthen its position within the local community and continue to establish The Riverside as a community hub for the residents of Pontardawe and surrounding areas.

Achieved Green Flag status 2022 for the 9th year in a row.

During the year we also accomplished:

1. 100% of our Secondary School class of 2021/22 achieved their Level 2 Agored Cymru qualification in Work Related Education.
2. Run Forest School Programmes for 430 children between the ages of 4 and 11 across three of our local Primary Schools.
3. Embraced No Mow May (June & July) to maintain our wild flower meadow areas that produced a wide diversity of plants, and increased insect feeding areas.
4. Encouraged hedgerow growth and development
5. Ran a chainsaw course for one of our volunteers to help manage our site.
6. Removed trees affected by Ash dieback - this will continue over coming years, but we have hundreds of Ash saplings that have not shown any disease characteristics as yet.

7. Hosted a monthly programme of edible planting throughout the year including the use of our polytunnel, raised beds and no dig methods.
8. We have further developed our relationship with Plantlife Wales who conducted a site survey that will contribute to evidencing the environmental importance of the site and hosted an 'Exploring Our Meadow' event at Riverside in July to learn how this relatively new meadow is developing.
9. A yoga session was filmed at our meadow, in partnership with Plantlife Wales, to support National Meadows Day and promote mental health and the benefits of being outside.
10. Hosted several external classes and groups to include wild medicine workshops, yoga retreats, Outdoor Theatre from Pontardawe Art Centre, time specific events for the local community to coincide with Easter and Halloween, foraging and campfire cooking and Wye Valley Willow's Plant Support Workshop.
11. Two of our practitioners achieved the Level 3 Forest School qualification further supporting Riverside as a Forest School Education Facility.
12. Nurtured relationships with Pontardawe Conservation Group and Pontardawe Heritage & Visitor Centre, engaging in cross-group support of events such as mowing the meadow at the end of the summer to allow regeneration of the grass, management of invasive species onsite and promote and attend the town centre events held at the visitor centre.
13. In understanding the importance of developing relationships with the community, local shops and groups, we regularly collect green waste from the local greengrocers for use in our compost. And established links with the local food bank encouraging their users to come to us for fresh vegetables. Our motto 'Earth care, people care, fair share' is something we believe in passionately and sharing our knowledge of planting is done regularly to all our visitors.
14. Working alongside Neath & Port Talbot for Nature to host a 'Screaming Swift Walk' in July '22 and agreeing a swift tower installation at Riverside before nesting season starts.
15. We introduced a Parent and Toddler Forest School group into our programme this year and have welcomed 95 children from 81 families since March further strengthening Riverside as an outdoor education facility with all of our practitioners having Forest School qualifications.
16. Renovated our oldest roundhouse, as a project for our secondary school in take to ensure its continued use for many more years by our visitors, volunteers and school groups.

Project description

Pontardawe Arena Partnership over the past five years has

changed its strategic plan while remaining true to the original articles and principles of community benefit. There has been a far greater increase of focus on disengaged and disadvantaged members of the community and the Charity has added the trading name of “Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy” to the Charity Commission Website in order to more accurately describe activities.

The charity operates programmes within Glantawe Riverside Park:

1. For the benefit of the local community – the park facilities and building are maintained in good condition by local volunteers who have steadfastly improved the park from an overgrown and deteriorating parcel of land into the attractive leisure facility with open grassland and seating areas that it is today. The facility is continually being improved and maintained and funding has been raised for ground keeping equipment to maintain and continue to reclaim grassland for the enjoyment of local inhabitants. We operate a team of volunteer workers who are keenly maintaining the park, among which are disabled and mentally challenged individuals. The volunteers are managed by a volunteer therapist, who teaches country skills such as fence and hedge-laying.
2. For the benefit of the inhabitants of Neath Port Talbot - particularly for those disengaged and disadvantaged - by providing programmes that result in national qualifications that are achieved through contact with the natural environment in the park. We are tackling poverty, employment and well being at grass-root level, and have experienced many successes with the young people we serve. The hard and soft skills with qualifications we provide are not available otherwise and last our students all their lives. These qualifications are delivered by adult practitioners - who are self-employed directly as a result of the charity operating these programmes - and our aim is to encourage young people to return to us and become practitioners themselves. We are an Agored Cymru accredited Center for delivering qualifications, and have a quality manager to maintain our high level of excellence in delivering qualifications.

Currently the charity’s programmes are used by schools throughout Neath Port Talbot and are in operation 5 – 7 days a week. The building facilities are available to the public with the grounds open throughout the year. The Park is extensively used, as a result of the work we have done, and the number of individual visitors has been calculated at around 25,000 per annum.

We are operating in three programme areas:

1. Voluntary Programmes for 18+ yrs people who are mentally disabled, ex offenders, or otherwise disabled or disadvantaged where we provide work skills in a real working park within a nurturing environment and give support to get them into employment.
2. Programmes for all Secondary Schools in Neath Port Talbot where disengaged young people are engaged in a natural environment and provided with national qualifications outside the normal classroom - where they are not expected to get any.
3. Primary School Programmes where we have started to provide the same natural engagement strategy, as our research has found evidence of disengagement in children as young as six who are being segregated from normal classrooms and are in danger of being excluded from mainstream education. We have experienced quite marked positive behavioral changes with this demographic in a remarkably short time, leading us to be cautiously optimistic about working with these groups. Although we work with groups that have already been segregated (and labeled) by the current educational system our strategy must be to prevent this from happening and maintain the classroom integrity. We will be working with entire year groups from three Primary Schools in Pontardawe to maintain class integration across the range of pupils rather than the segregation approach generally taken.

Background

The Pontardawe Arena Partnership was established in 2000 to benefit the local community within the Swansea Valley, particularly in areas of social and economic deprivation by all or any of the following means:

- (a) The advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly by utilising the positive effects of outdoor education within wilderness therapy methodologies among unemployed and disengaged people, providing enhanced self-respect, confidence, valuable qualifications and work experience.
- (b) The creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms
- (c) The maintenance, improvement, or provision of public amenities:
- (d) The provision of recreational facilities for the

public at large or those who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship, or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities

- (e) By such other means as may from time to time be determined, subject to prior agreement of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales

The Company is managed by a board of trustees, headed by the Chairman, the Chair is elected at the AGM and is in post supported by a committee elected from the membership. All are volunteers. The group abides by its Articles and Memorandum and maintains a web site (www.arenapontardawe.com). Trustees are responsible for ensuring Charity Commission rules are adhered to. Arena Pontardawe has a bank account in the name of the organisation as shown on its governing documents. Cheques must be signed by two out of three people who are not related. Staff salaries and related matters are handled on our behalf by K Tanner, Accountants. Neath.

The Arena representatives attend meetings with the Local Authority, other Statutory Organisations, networking, and seminar events. It has representatives on Local Authority forums, consultation groups, societies, and associations, local and national, establishing a network throughout the community and region.

The charity originally was formed to support events and an all-weather arena in Pontardawe, but changing circumstances and the increasingly important need for more direct intervention in individuals well-being resulted in the current structure and mission.

Arena Pontardawe Partnership formed Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy to empower people to lead more successful and fulfilling lives than they may have without our intervention. We are accomplishing this is through outdoor education learning activities within our park using a team of practitioners and voluntary workers. We engage with individuals who are disadvantaged by circumstance, disability, and society or otherwise and inspire them to be better equipped for life and gain increased employability currency.

We are an Agored Cymru (AC) approved centre using outdoor education as an engagement strategy that takes in those who are not suited to conventional educational routes and provide opportunities to gain qualifications and practical skills through contact with the natural environment - we dare to make education enjoyable and arguably significantly increase their future employment prospects, health and future well-being.

Further development could be to refer to other practical educational routes or to take more practical skills, for example land management, dry stone walling, hedge laying or use of tooling such as chainsaws, brush cutters etc. All attract transferrable qualifications and skills.

We also encourage mentoring by more advanced students of newer entrants and provide opportunities for development beyond the academy through to higher education.

Overall aims and outcomes

1. To provide outdoor educational programmes for young people that will engage, address their individual needs, and facilitate their developmental process while giving opportunities to achieve nationally recognised Levels 2 qualifications. We are in discussions with Agored Cymru regarding suitable level 1 and 2 courses for year 2 students probably within their new Essential Skill Suite of courses. We currently have 6 (MA and BA) degree-standard volunteers and a further 2 being developed.
2. To provide opportunities for individuals to develop and become self-employed in outdoor education and deliver OE Programmes.
3. To allow persons who have taken part in programmes to return, develop and pass on their knowledge to others and become teachers themselves.
4. To develop volunteers in order to be able to deliver a quality and reliable product.
5. To investigate further opportunities primarily with Agored Cymru to engage and create educational programmes to meet changing needs.
6. To develop Park maintenance strategies and habitats for wildlife and plants that can be observed and appreciated.
7. To encourage development of a permanent presence within the Park so that it can be used as a true visitor centre for passing

users, recognising the strategic importance of the location between the sea and mountains

8. To increase the attractiveness and facilities within the park, such as the provision of natural play areas, refurbishing of the car park area and replacement of the car-park bridge.

9. To create true sustainability in all areas and to be mindful of succession, in order to pass on ownership of the programmes to users whenever appropriate.

Needs and Characteristics of the people we help

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) places Neath Port Talbot (NPT) at an approximate median line with regard to characteristics examined, but specifically highlighting LSOAs (Lower Layer Super Output Areas) in the most deprived 10% in Wales:

The current education system does not satisfy the needs of all in the area, with anecdotal significant dropout in Secondary and Tertiary education programmes. Absenteeism is high at 10% and 4.4% of 15 year olds do not achieve the Key Stage 4 Level 2 inclusive standard (WIMD). For NPT his results in 30.9% who have no qualifications or practical skill, who then arguably have poor employment prospects.

Male mortality rates in Neath Port Talbot are the sixth highest in 348 council areas in England and Wales, and also has the eighth highest suicide rate of any local authority in England and Wales (ONS).

We would provide an appropriate alternative to the current educational model. This needs to provide practical skills, personal development and access to achievable qualifications within a framework that is acceptable and fun. This would significantly increase employability currency, leading in turn to richer and healthier lives.

How we determined need for this programme

We need to characterise the *primary* demographic we seek to aid as those who are either in danger of becoming, or are not in, training education or employment - the category known popularly as NEET. The impact we will have must be directly proportional to the number of takers for the project, but we are confident in reaching around 50 - 80 participants, increasing incrementally to around 140 - our aim will be to prepare these participants for work and life and will judge our success on employment take-up.

We can evidence the need in a number of ways, firstly by the sheer numbers of organisations that want to work with us but mostly lack funding to do so and secondly through our underpinning research, which is from a number of sources that both define the NEET and potential NEET problem and identify Outdoor Education as a positive factor. These are:

1. Governmental and National Body Research
2. Local anecdotal research
3. Personal Masters research paper on disengagement
4. Discussions with Organisations both local and beyond.
5. Neath Port Talbot Local Government statistics
6. Direct Letters of Support.

1. Governmental and National Body Research

Welsh Government. (2011) Young People not in Education, Employment or Training. National Assembly for Wales: Paper number: 11/051 Available at: <http://www.assemblywales.org/11-051.pdf>

Edcomms (2009) Attitudinal Barriers to Engaging Young People in Positive Activities. Research Report DCSF-RR140.

DCSF (2009) Positive Activities Qualitative Research with Young People. Research Report No DCSF-RR141, Solutions Research.

Astbury, R. and Knight, B. (2003) Fairbridge Research Project – Final Report, Available from <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?format=440> [Accessed 20 April 2012].

Community First categorise Pontardawe as containing 21-30% Most deprived population (Community First Website).

Welsh Government, Youth Engagement and Progression Framework Implementation Plan (Decision Report), 26 July 2013

2. Local anecdotal research

We are in close contact with local organisations such as PCSO's, Chamber of Trade and consistently discuss problems with residents all of which echo the lack of suitable resource and facilities to tackle a perceived increase in anti-social behaviour in the area and beyond. We also attend local police meetings to discuss such current issues. Local Government financial cuts are seen as contributing to the existing and future lack of facilities. We are also praised over our initiatives to create meaningful and valuable learning initiatives and have letters of support from residents to support this. We have developed partnerships in particular with Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service -

Western Communities First Team, and Local schools such as Cwmtawe Community School where each expresses the overwhelming need for facilities such as those we can provide - at a low cost and local to the area. In this we are both innovative and accessible in our approach.

3. Personal Masters research paper on disengagement

My own research concentrated on reasons for disengagement and benefits of outdoor education, where I interviewed young people in Neath Port Talbot with regard to their own experiences with social disengagement and how their perceptions changed with both time and reflection of how Outdoor Education (OE) positively impacted on their lives.

4. Discussions with Organisations both local and beyond.

Some of the groups who have expressed an opinion on the positive effects of OE are: Alltwen Primary School, PATCH group - Pontardawe, Cwmtawe Community School, Duke of Edinburgh Award Providers, Neath Port Talbot Social Service, Swansea Social Service, Amman and Gwendraeth Valley Youth Groups, Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, East Cluster Communities First Group Swansea, Port Talbot YMCA - Youth Group, Swansea Youth Offender Team - We are also in discussion with Denise Lewis, (Western Communities First team), Danielle Hackett and Mark Forde (Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service), with meetings in progress and high expressions of interest in the project. It is also worth noting that we have addressed the possibility of conflict with existing projects, for example will not duplicate but actually compliment the ESF Projects - 'Cam Nesa' that targets NEETS and the ESF 'Cynnydd' project that targets individuals who are at risk of becoming NEET.

5. Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Local Government statistics

There is much documentation in NPT and in Wales generally supporting the need for our project, such as:

1. The ENGAGE programme in NPT which uses similar strategies to us but with less emphasis on engagement through outdoor interaction - last academic year saw a further reduction in the number of places available to young people due to budget restraints. All 25 places were filled by year 10 and 11 young people from schools across the county. All the young people who attended gained a nationally recognised qualification, with 8 year 11's gaining level 2 qualifications. The project was originally funded through ESF - but with the lack of funding need is apparently not being adequately met. (NPT Youth Engagement Strategy 2013-2023)
2. The annual NEETS figure based on destinations of year 11 leavers was 3.8% in 2014. Although this is a small reduction

further investment and development is needed as NPT is currently the 4th worst performing authority in Wales. (CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION CABINET BOARD REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARTICIPATION - C. MILLIS - 18th JUNE 2015)

3. Wales has a higher proportion of people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) among the 16-24 year old group than England. Being NEET is a major disadvantage to young people. (Ysgol Cymraeg Pontardawe - Strategic Equality Plan 2012 - 2016)

There is little direct evidence regarding the specific area of Pontardawe, but many indirect indicators such as Youth Engagement and Progression Framework Implementation Plan and media sources (Wales still has one of the lowest levels of employment in the UK - that accounts for 24.2% of 16-64 years olds. - ANALYSIS by Sarah Dickins, BBC Wales economics correspondent 14.10.15)

There is no direct body that looks after our organisation, but the responsibility lies with a number of bodies such as OEAP, (Outdoor Education Advisors' Panel, National Guidance for the management of outdoor learning, off-site visits and learning outside the classroom), The Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004, Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999, Health and Safety Executive, information on a range of health and safety issues.

Strategic Fit

This project is an integral component of the infrastructure complementing our Outdoor Education programmes that support social inclusion, poverty reduction, and economic development in the Pontardawe Area and surrounding communities by attacking problems at a base level. In addition the build will be completed using groups of disengaged young people who will gain national qualifications in addition to the benefits associated with Outdoor Education. Outdoor Education is recognised for promoting improved communication and language skills, physical development and stamina, self-confidence and self esteem building, independence, problem solving, new physical practical skills, social skills and knowledge of the natural environment.

This is recognised by The National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014 -2018 who single out the Duke of Edinburgh Award and John Muir Trust (both of which the Academy includes within programmes) as suitable outdoor education accreditation bodies who embed developmental programmes such as GOEA because they evidence skills in team working, decision making and communication skills.

Together with new qualifications that young people arguably otherwise would never have had, we are preparing the citizens of the future with robust positive employability prospects. Although we are committed to learner-led programmes where we will tailor events and qualifications to individuals, we have stated outcomes over the duration of our programmes for activities attended and qualifications gained.

We will help those young people and local inhabitants most deprived in rural Wales and those that have limited scope to change their circumstances. We believe that education in a nurturing environment is the key to founding good quality of life, and subsequently increase employability prospects. This can only contribute to strengthening the local economy within a more sustainable community (Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places: New Regeneration Framework (March 2013) Past participants taking part in our programmes have been from backgrounds described to us as deprived - these are young people who have developed a suspicion of any authority figure, and have disengaged from education and normal social behaviour. Outdoor Education within a safe environment empowers young people to take risks and be more aware of possibilities and open to changing their circumstances. They develop a confidence in themselves and their futures. Our presence helps to develop the resilience and capability of rural communities so that they are better able to cope with and adapt of change' through the increased and more diverse cognitive development process experienced by the young people in their journey with us. We create awareness that everyone can develop high aspirations of life and believe they can achieve a better future.

We would also seek to raise finance to increase the size of the existing building, almost doubling the available area and incorporating a new inspirational space, which would include hay-bale walls and cob lining. This new centre will provide the focus for many community activities and remove current disincentives to hire - certainly the two areas will allow young people to learn in a conducive and inspirational atmosphere while it's ok to bring wet clothes and wellies inside in another.

We have a strong 10-year + plan for the "Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy" that has clear goals and targets realistic accomplishments. This build project is fundamental to our plan, and will inspire local young people and others to a brighter future. Our overall business strategies of facilitating distinctive Business Growth, & Specialisation of purpose, together with our ambition for long term success and a determination for increasing job creation closely mirror the Swansea Bay City Region Economic

Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030.

Our park and the new build will increase growth in green tourism and leisure through the innovative and inspirational nature of our structure and educational project – for example National Cycle Trail 43 follows the edge of our park and our plans include the installation of a negative footprint energy system that will serve as a shining example for the Pontardawe Area and an inspiration to visitors. Once complete, the new build coupled with our outdoor education courses will be a beacon for natural tourism and generate new business for the community of Pontardawe. Being on the cycle trail, our facilities surrounded by beautiful parkland will provide reason for visitors (particularly cyclists) to come to the area – National Cycle Trail 43 connects Swansea and the sea to the Brecon Beacons and beyond – joining Route 46 at the Heads of the Valley Road.

Additionally, our large car park (100+ cars) will allow visitors to park and ride up the valley or down. We are also conveniently placed amid many running trails of different distances to satisfy the most adventurous runner where those activities can also be centred on the Park. We will explore the possibility of setting up walking, cycling, riding, fishing and jogging groups with volunteers in accordance with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) RDP's Think Links, Think Rural, Think Sustainability – Final Report (December 2014).

The Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy is situated on a previous industrial tinplate works – this new build project and activities above will serve to illustrate what is possible using vibrant regeneration strategies – again serving as a model and example to others.

This is an innovative community based project that:

Adds value to local identity, natural and cultural resources by engaging with young people and others who do not find mainstream education convenient or appropriate, by providing real and meaningful Innovative alternatives using the natural environments and inspirational venues away from their conventional and normal situations. Our partnerships allow us to provide our innovative programmes, and allow us to fill a widening gap left by dwindling Local Governmental resources. The financial constraints being experienced by the Local authority (NPT) such as alternative curriculum provision, reduction in social services, reduction in DofE resource, reduction in available funding for organisations such as us, tourism etc., has left a void that is currently unable to be filled through governmental sources. Without organisations such as GOEA, these provisions for young people would remain unfulfilled. GOEA will fill a much-needed gap

in these dwindling resources and provide a real and useful service for the young people who are the citizens of the future.

Certainly we are maximising the potential green economy of the Glantawe Riverside Park in which the Academy is based – our immediate plans also include the use of green energy to power the building, using solar energy coupled with a ground sourced heat pump to create a negative energy footprint. We could be exporting surplus energy, and will serve as an example for study and community replication.

Our philosophy of encouraging all to work, learn and play in the Academy as an enjoyable and satisfying experience pervades all aspects of our work. We will continue to promote the Academy as a rich and exciting place to join and form partnerships with. This includes local government, local businesses, youth groups, participants – all who come into contact with us. We will actively promote the local area and Wales as a whole as a brilliant place to live, work and play.

This open culture will certainly create and promote an environment that will engender creativity and freedom of thought, leading without doubt to people reaching their full potential and using their creativity in founding new ventures.

Unfortunately, the valleys ethos seems to be that people expect to have available on their doorstep. This is fueled by the knowledge that previous generations had jobs closer to home in heavy industry or manufacturing. This knowledge has created the mentality that work should be available close to home hence creating a negative perception of travelling far to work. Despite there being jobs available in urban areas in the service industry, people are reluctant to travel to fulfil these opportunities. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) RDP's Think Links, Think Rural, Thinks Sustainability – Final Report (December 2014). At GOEA we can significantly contribute to an individual's employment currency in order for there to be better paid jobs available, making travel more appealing and decreasing (at least) employment poverty.

Above all, our task is to allow all to reach their full potential by creating opportunities in play and education where trust and a safe environment can overcome many of the social barriers created by circumstance and adverse social or family situations.

Who has directly benefitted in the last year

6 - Adults who have received training and professional development to allow them to set up their own businesses within the park and deliver educational programmes.

Volunteers

150 - Disengaged young people from local schools

1 - Youth Offending programme

3 - Disabled groups from Pontardawe

These are included within the overall figures quoted above

Supporting Information Illustrating Need for the Project

GOEA also adds value to local identity, natural and cultural resources by engaging with young people and others who do not find mainstream education convenient or appropriate, by providing real and meaningful Innovative alternatives using the natural environments and inspirational venues away from their conventional and normal situations. Our partnerships allow us to provide our innovatory programmes, and allow us to fill a widening gap left by dwindling Local Governmental resources.

The financial constraints being experienced by the Local authority (NPT) such as alternative curriculum provision, reduction in social services, reduction in DofE resource, reduction in available funding for organisations such as us, tourism etc., has left a void that is currently unable to be filled through governmental sources. Without organisations such as GOEA, these provisions for young people would remain unfulfilled. GOEA will fill a much-needed gap in these dwindling resources and provide a real and useful service for the young people who are the citizens of the future. Above all, our task is to allow all to reach their full potential by creating opportunities in play and education where trust and a safe environment can overcome many of the social barriers created by circumstance and adverse social or family situations.

How the programme benefits Social Opportunities / Economic Activity / The Environment / Heritage & Culture

This programme will impact on each of these criteria in a number of ways, and supports social inclusion, poverty reduction, and economic development in the Pontardawe Area and surrounding communities by attacking problems at a base level – Outdoor Education is recognised for promoting improved communication and language skills, physical development and stamina, self-confidence and self esteem building, independence, problem solving, new physical practical skills, social skills and knowledge of the natural environment. This is recognised by The National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014 –2018 who single out the Duke of Edinburgh Award and John Muir Trust (both of which the Academy

includes within programmes) as suitable outdoor education accreditation bodies who embed developmental programmes such as GOEA because they evidence skills in team working, decision making and communication skills.

Together with new qualifications that young people arguably otherwise would never have had, we are preparing the citizens of the future with robust positive employability prospects. Although we are committed to learner-led programmes where we will tailor events and qualifications to individuals, we have stated outcomes over the duration of our programmes for activities attended and qualifications gained.

We will help those young people and local inhabitants most deprived in rural Wales and those that have limited scope to change their circumstances. We believe that education in a nurturing environment is the key to founding good quality of life, and subsequently increase employability prospects. This can only contribute to strengthening the local economy within a more sustainable community (Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places: New Regeneration Framework (March 2013) Past participants taking part in our programmes have been from backgrounds described to us as deprived - these are young people who have developed a suspicion of any authority figure, and have disengaged from education and normal social behaviour. Outdoor Education within a safe environment empowers young people to take risks and be more aware of possibilities and open to changing their circumstances. They develop a confidence in themselves and their futures. Our presence helps to develop the resilience and capability of rural communities so that they are better able to cope with and adapt of change' through the increased and more diverse cognitive development process experienced by the young people in their journey with us. We create awareness that everyone can develop high aspirations of life and believe they can achieve a better future.

The Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy is situated on a previous industrial tinplate works - this project and activities above will serve to illustrate what is possible using vibrant regeneration strategies - again serving as a model and example to others.

Unique Nature of Project

This project is unique both in the Locality of Pontardawe, the Swansea Valley and Neath Port Talbot. There are commercial companies that provide outdoor education facilities (eg Adventure Britain based in Seven Sisters, L&A in Port Talbot, Mountain and River Activities in Resolven and many other similar OE providers) but these are based on short burst adventurous activities,

weekends, stag and hen parties etc., but do not address the long term interests or educational needs of participants, particularly those at risk or in danger of becoming at risk. We also provide Forest School activities that are mirrored with NPT Forest schools centred in Caswell, Swansea, but here again there is no embedding of any educational process or long term programmes similar to GOEA.

There is much research published on the benefits of Outdoor Education outside the classroom, for example, the Ofsted report "Learning outside the classroom How far should you go?" (October 2008) stated that "where there was provision for exciting, direct and relevant learning activities outside the classroom. Such hands-on activities led to improved outcomes for pupils and students, including better achievement, standards, motivation, personal development and behaviour. The survey also found examples of the positive effects of learning outside the classroom on young people who are hard to motivate. "

Schools do not provide sufficient opportunities for sufficiently robust "hands on" learning outside the classroom to take place, and are often at a loss for how to satisfy the needs of groups of young people in danger of becoming NEET.

Long term effects of Outdoor Education and natural activities are generally considered longer lasting than short-term activities, and arguably can draw comparisons with Summer camps which have contact time in weeks instead of months - Research published by Philliber Research Associates (2005) where over 5000 families took part in the survey found that there were significantly longer term positive benefits from prolonged contact compared to short term activities. This included increased confidence and self-esteem, improved social skills, independence and leadership qualities; they became more adventurous and willing to try new things.

At Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy, we will accommodate young people through long-term programmes that combine natural and inspirational settings with achievable educational goals tailored for the individual that will encourage these developmental processes. We allow each participant to gain what they are able and achieve personal developmental levels that may not be possible without our intervention. We will complement the existing schooling system evidenced by the eagerness of Cwmtawe Community School and others to use our facilities, our unique nature can be evidenced by the interest and readiness of established organisations to use our future planned facilities - all have expressed interest and excitement in the overall project outcomes of gaining real work skills and ethos together with qualifications. This is not available in normal school curricula and

will be a flagship project for Pontardawe, Cwmtawe Community School, the other groups of young people who will take part, and Neath Port Talbot in General.

Other Information

We have a proven track record of delivery of successful past project/community events.

This project has achieved a number of awards-

2018 - WCVA Wale Volunteer of the Year Award
2021 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2020 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2019 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2018 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2017 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2016 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2015 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2014 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2013 - Trustee National winner of the prestigious WCVA 'Trustee of the Year' Award.
2013 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2012 - Winners NPT 'Action for Wildlife'.
2012 - Highly Commended 'Green Business of the Year'.
2011 - Winners of the Neath Port Talbot 'Green Project of the Year'.
2011 - Highly Commended - 'Action for Wildlife' category.

As a result the current steering committee has developed and attracted individuals with a broad range of life and qualified skills that include but are not limited to teachers, managers, outdoor education professionals, behaviorists, local government officers, and land management specialists. This skills set will be continually critically examined to ensure best fit for the Project. The current steering committee is superbly qualified to manage the next phase of this critically important strategy and continues to display a strength and dedication to the Project that will maximise the chance of success.

We have forged strong partnerships with local organisations who

have pledged and demonstrated support for the project, for example:-

Ysbrud Y Coed (Alun Wyn Apo Christi)
Remploy
Swansea University
RCTrainingWales
Trinity St Davids University Carmarthen,
Down To Earth, Murton
Forest Schools - NPT/Swansea
Hendrefelin School
Dwr-Y Felyn School
Llangatwg Community School
Llangiwig Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Cymraeg Pontardawe
Alltwn Primary School
Cefn Coed psychiatric hospital
Employment Service
Cwmtawe Community School
The Duke of Edinburgh Award
West Glamorgan Local Group
Hope Rescue
Neath Port Talbot Social Services
Swansea Canal Society
Swansea Social Services
Amman and Gwendraeth Valley Youth Groups
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera
East Cluster Communities First Group Swansea
Port Talbot YMCA - Youth Group
Youth Justice & Early Intervention Service
And others..

GOEA Delivers a wide range of programmes using Outdoor Education to NEET, disengaged (or in danger of becoming disengaged) groups of young people, schools, youth groups, disabled persons local communities and the general public. We will provide national qualifications and employability skills through outdoor educational (OE) programmes devised for disengaged and young persons that will fully prepare them for a fulfilling and valuable life and dare to make education an enjoyable process.

We foster and encourage opportunities for individuals to become skilled and confident as self-employed persons providing outdoor education and other programmes within the 25-acre park and woodland.

Creation of opportunities for individuals to return as facilitators/teachers and pass on skills and knowledge to new groups thus creating sustainability and passing project ownership to new generations.

Overall the strategy is one of social empowerment, to provide an environment and facility that will allow people to grow in self-respect, ability and confidence to not only become more rounded and valuable citizens in themselves but to inspire others to follow in their footsteps, creating social pride and a more cohesive society.

We believe firmly in inspiring young people to value a socially connected vibrant, viable and sustainable community but we need the people, environment and structures that will facilitate this process.

We recognise that there is no organisation (charitable or commercial) in the Swansea Valley and Neath Port Talbot areas offering outdoor education courses with the expected long-term positive outcomes planned for the Academy. Our mission to increase skills and opportunities is again echoed in the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030, which also highlights the multiple areas of deprivation and poverty. Perhaps unsurprisingly the report also comes to the same conclusions as us in that any strategy must deliver growth for future generations.

We actively encourage volunteers to take part in GOEA activities, help create our learning community and be able to provide educational, skills development and self-employment opportunities for them to assist in their personal development and confidence. We also are mindful of the Neath Port Talbot Single Integrated Plan - 2013 - 2023 and would suggest that Outdoor Education is a growth market and together with associated benefits such as volunteer development and creation of employment potential conforms to the vision of a stronger and more prosperous economy. The Academy and surrounding parkland is certainly a key site for development as we will take this concept further - we are in discussions with Agored Cymru to provide pathways to higher education in future years with the progression to an academy providing full time education through Outdoor Education.

As an Academy, we also believe in the benefits of the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme, and have embarked on a course of action that will result in our being an independent provider for the Award - we have already successfully completed a pilot programme for the Bronze award, and have progressed on to Gold for 2017/18. This supported by the Neath Port Talbot Youth Development Officer.

Over the past five years we have gradually built up our knowledge and abilities, ensuring our practitioners have a standardised ability of project delivery within a methodology that embraces individual needs both academic and personal.

There are more than a few outcomes from OE programmes, some could be measured but the majority not. It is difficult to establish levels of cognitive development for example or how programmes affect later life. Research has revealed that participants often took many years to actually process and understand the positive impact of OE. There is arguably a relationship between the OE methodology, risk taking and cognitive development that would be perceived but almost impossible to measure. We generally do not have contact with participants following our programmes, but perceptions are almost without exception positive during and on conclusion of programmes.

For example we had one participant from a Youth Offending Team who was described as being uncommunicative in the extreme - which did not help that individual with any mitigation of sentencing - following three sessions with us, "at final panel X was praised for completing the order successfully. X spoke very well and was a very different person from the first panel when X was withdrawn and did not speak. We feel that the Riverside programme was a positive engagement for her during a very difficult time in life. "

Indisputably young people enjoy this freedom from the classroom, which is perhaps close to a concept of play from their perspective? We can use this by bridging the gap from play/enjoyment/freedom to actually engaging with a formalised educational process.

One example I would use as evidence of engagement beyond what we recognise as the initial phase of group engagement and trust formation is a group we currently have a group of 20 young people that have been brought to us as "not at all interested in getting an education" - following the first 4 sessions at GOEA, all bar 1 have elected to join our programme and are working towards the Agored Cymru Essential Skills for Work and Life (ESfWL).

We are an Agored Cymru Approved Centre and registered our candidates in the Autumn term 2022.

Demonstrating success past this point will be based on achievement as well as continued engagement – dropout rates so far have been close to nil, and we hope that this will continue. Demonstrating success in the future may not be so nebulous as we are entering the realms of pass/fail, attendance. Dropout rates etc., all of which we will use our past experience to minimise.

Outcomes

Outcomes can be broadly sectioned into subjective and objective. Outdoor education can produce a range of soft options that can be difficult to measure apart from a subjective comparison before and after the event. Each participant is the subject of an individual appraisal following each session, and each has a personal portfolio that charts their journey with the Academy.

Hard outcomes are simpler to measure and will be the results of academic achievement and employment. We will also evaluate each candidate and ensure they are aware of their progress, strengths and weakness in order that they are best informed to make career decisions.

Primary outcomes will be the empowerment of young people through outdoor education to gain national qualifications. However, our outcomes will pass beyond the hard outcomes of academic success - the particular benefits in this kind of group include improved communication and language skills, physical development and stamina, self-confidence and self esteem building, independence, new physical practical skills, social skills and knowledge of the natural environment. This is arguably subjective, but will certainly form part of our evaluation process. Employment currency is a prime objective, and the attainment of employment or self-employment will certainly demonstrate success for the individual.

We can also further measure success indirectly, through direct feedback from clients such as: "Just an email to let you know that I have had some great feedback from some parents to say that the project has been having a very positive affect on their mood and behaviour. They are very happy when coming home from the project and excited about informing them of their day."

Finally, clients gaining employment and/or increased well-being as a result of our programmes is perhaps the final evidence of success.

Why are we well placed to deliver outcomes?

To deliver the sort of programmes we have described then critical criteria need to be satisfied. The environment needs to be as far removed from a normal classroom as possible, and learning needs to be presented in a way that is both acceptable and relevant to each person.

We are well placed within our mixed environments where we have proven to be able to deliver learning events that are effective for the individual. We are also well-experienced outdoor education professionals who have in depth experience of delivering learning and other experiences outside the classroom.

More importantly, we have an ethos that allows each learner to develop at their own speed in their chosen direction guided by personal abilities. We believe that given a chance all can be valued members of society.

Complementary strategies

This project will complement existing strategies as shown elsewhere in this report as an innovative community based project that:

Adds value to local identity, natural and cultural resources by engaging with young people and others who do not find mainstream education convenient or appropriate, by providing real and meaningful Innovative alternatives using the natural environments and inspirational venues away from their conventional and normal situations. The financial constraints being experienced by the Local authority (NPT) has left a void that is currently unable to be filled through governmental sources. Without organisations such as GOEA, these provisions for young people would remain unfulfilled. GOEA will fill a much-needed gap in these dwindling resources and provide a real and useful service for the young people who are the citizens of the future.

The open culture at GOEA creates and promote an environment that will engender creativity and freedom of thought, leading without doubt to people reaching their full potential and using their creativity in founding new ventures.

Despite there being jobs available in urban areas in the service industry, people are reluctant to travel to fulfill these opportunities. At GOEA we can significantly contribute to an individuals employment currency in order for there to be better paid jobs available, making travel more appealing and decreasing employment poverty.

Access to Services

We provide an expanding requirement for volunteers from the community, which will be satisfied as the project becomes more widely known. We do not preclude anyone at any level in the GOEA project and will provide the opportunity to become skilled and qualified in their chosen direction – increasing employability currency where we can, or just encouraging the ability to live more fulfilling and healthier active outdoor lifestyles. We will conform to the **Welsh Government Volunteering Policy - August 2015** in helping people fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstance. We will publicise this requirement and opportunities at the Academy through local, press, word of mouth, Volunteering Wales Website, NPTCVS and volunteering champions. We will Develop a suitable infrastructure which will contain in accordance to the **Welsh Government Volunteering Policy** recommendations.

In all cases we will encourage volunteers, participants and others to take an active part in the activities of the Academy in accordance with their own needs and developmental choices. We anticipate that voluntary involvement will increase significantly as local knowledge of our activities grows – this will encourage healthier lifestyles and decreased isolation through increased activity and higher levels of self-fulfilment experienced through group and individual achievement. This arguably will lead to greater sense of ownership and pride – which is something we have already witnessed through engagement with local young people who visit the park. **Welsh Government Think Links, Think Rural, Think Sustainability** - Final Report (December 2014) suggests that young people perceive a lack of tourist centre/hub, something apart from the Pontardawe Youth Club, When asked what kinds of attractions they would like, the most popular suggestion made was for places to eat and drink as a tourism attraction. This was closely followed by opportunities for indoor attractions and walking and cycling trails. At GOEA within the Glantawe Riverside Park, we are able to provide solutions to most of these problems as our facilities become sufficiently robust. We can only provide such benefits such as these through providing inspirational environments, people and places to form learning communities – the new build project and subsequent capabilities will form such a critical component in regenerating not only places but also people's minds - making our community a more vibrant and inclusive place.

In line with the **Welsh Government Vibrant and Viable Places New Regeneration Framework** (11 March 2013) we intrinsically link regeneration, attitudes, success and well-being with the skills and capacities of individuals, families and communities. Our partnership with Cwmtawe Community School will engender engagement with under 16 pupils and our partnerships with Youth Offending Teams, Youth groups and the community, opportunities

to offer life-changing programmes leading to a local culture with higher aspirations and a belief in a better future. For others, we will create a skilled and confident existing and future workforce that will become a product of outdoor education mixed with qualifications and the life experience embedded in our programmes.

Fuel Poverty

At GOEA we understand that cost of fuel poverty is a primary demotivational factor here in Wales, which can lead to the downward spiral that accepts unemployment as a normal component of life.

We are unable to influence the hardware of providing fuel for heating, lighting and vehicles, but through our programmes can certainly increase positive attitudes, self-respect with practical and academic skills that enhance employability prospects. We encourage individuals to take responsibility for their actions – or inactivity – to take charge of their lives, increasing their income and life skills to become valued members of society.

Whereas we do not directly provide direct “nuts and bolts” support to individuals, we believe that this process is far more valuable as it confronts some of the basic causes of fuel poverty, such as unemployment, demotivation and lack of qualification.

In-work poverty

The report **Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Wales 2015** By Adam Tinson and Tom MacInnes, funded by the Rowntree Foundation (September 2015) Claims that an average of 700,000 people were in poverty in Wales in the three years to 2013/14, equivalent to 23 per cent of the population. Compared with ten years earlier, there are more people of working age (particularly young adults) in poverty and fewer children and pensioners. Poverty has risen in working families and fallen in workless families. The Summer Budget 2015 has not provided much aid for younger adults in that the new national living wage (NLW) does not apply to those under 25, and there were housing benefit cuts for those aged 18 to 21. This is on top of other areas of public policy, such as sanctioning, which disproportionately affect young people.

The Welsh Government **Tackling Poverty Action Plan - Annual Report 2015** states that young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) between the ages of 16 and 24 years are more likely to be living in poverty. These then with young people who are in danger of becoming NEET are arguably a priority to reduce in work poverty. This demographic is a primary focus of our programmes, as it directly impacts prosperity and

future prospects by tackling the base cause of the reasons for their not being in employment education or training.

There is little doubt that anyone who takes part in our long-term courses will derive personal developmental benefits as described earlier in this document. The embedding of educational qualifications with personal development will arguably result in an individual who is more valuable to an employer.

This principle will also include adults, especially those who are volunteers - we can offer education and training to become practitioners and deliverers of 'Outdoor' alternative curriculum provision whilst also learning skills and creating pathways appropriate for the 'Green Economy'. Currently, we perceive through anecdotal evidence that the outdoor activities are perceived as "play" activities, whereas outdoor education in fact offers some real career prospects - the Wales government website <http://gov.wales/newsroom/tourism/2014/140512outdoor-toruiism-survey/?lang=en> Claims that Welsh Government figures show that outdoor activity tourism in Wales is worth £481 million to the economy and supports 8,243 Welsh jobs. The **Economic Impact of Outdoor Activity Tourism in Wales Final Report** From Visit Wales (March 2014) states that Wales is perceived as a good destination for a variety of outdoor activities and abilities. 54% of visitors staying overnight revealed that they would not have made their visit to Wales if they were not taking part in the activity. Our pathways to further employment include educating all persons to the possibility of alternative pathways to employment - which may be more appropriate under many circumstances.

Perhaps a third opportunity to reduce in work poverty could come from providing opportunities within the Academy, both as volunteers or practitioners - we currently offer the opportunity for young people to return following completion of a programme and be trained as facilitators in their own right. We can offer teacher-training opportunities for suitable candidates and aim on passing ownership of the project back to the community at every opportunity. Previous similar projects held over a 12-year period with a Duke of Edinburgh Award programme bear out these statements, and there are many examples of young people whose horizons have been widened through outdoor education and passed on through life to become doctors, teachers and in one case a university lecturer. Of course it could be argued that this would have happened anyway, but having witnessed the developmental process personally, I would maintain that we at least gave them a helping nudge in the right direction.

We would claim that individuals passing through GOEA programmes will certainly gain more employment currency, achieve wider perspective on life and create better opportunities to be better placed to succeed in the job market

Digital Inclusion

Although GOEA can be perceived as a practical outdoor process, embedded in our recording and evidential systems is the use of computer equipment. We assist students with the basic writing and data entry skills where appropriate, and provide laptops and free wi-fi for students to enter their assessment evidence.

Company registration number: 04435289

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Unaudited financial statements

5 April 2022

PONTARDAWE ARENA

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PONTARDAWE ARENA

Directors and other information

Directors	Mr John Jones Julie Clapham Mr R H M Clapham
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Company number	04435289
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Registered office	1 Bryn Celyn Pontardawe Swansea SA8 4LG
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Accountant	R J Tanner Gellimarch Farm Cadoxton Neath SA10 8AF
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PONTARDAWE ARENA

Directors report Year ended 5 April 2022

The directors present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the company for the year ended 5 April 2022.

Directors

The directors who served the company during the year were as follows:

Mr John Jones
Julie Clapham
Mr R H M Clapham

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 8 August 2022 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr R H M Clapham
Director

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of income and retained earnings Year ended 5 April 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover		90,597	64,203
Cost of sales		(79,008)	(49,448)
Gross profit		11,589	14,755
Administrative expenses		(8,783)	(13,737)
Operating profit		2,806	1,018
Other interest receivable and similar income		1	-
Profit before taxation		2,807	1,018
Tax on profit		-	-
Profit for the financial year and total comprehensive income		2,807	1,018
Retained earnings at the start of the year		60,031	59,013
Retained earnings at the end of the year		62,838	60,031

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of financial position 5 April 2022

	Note	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	5	15,416		15,415	
			15,416		15,415
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		90,213		59,122	
		90,213		59,122	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(42,791)		(14,506)	
Net current assets			47,422		44,616
Total assets less current liabilities			62,838		60,031
Net assets			62,838		60,031
Capital and reserves					
Profit and loss account			62,838		60,031
Shareholders funds			62,838		60,031

Cash in hand at bank comprises of Protected Funds of £83,629 and the remaining balance of £6,584 as trading funds.

For the year ending 5 April 2022 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 financial statements 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 financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of financial position (continued)
5 April 2022

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 8 August 2022, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr R H M Clapham
Director

Company registration number: 04435289

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 5 April 2022

1. General information

The company is a private company limited by shares, registered in United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is 1 Bryn Celyn, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LG.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102, Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. The Triennial review 2017 amendments to the standard have been early adopted.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods supplied and services rendered, net of discounts and Value Added Tax.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the buyer (usually on despatch of the goods); the amount of revenue can be measured reliably; it is probable that the associated economic benefits will flow to the entity; and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transactions can be measured reliably.

Taxation

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves, respectively.

Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued) **Year ended 5 April 2022**

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Year ended 5 April 2022

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Employee numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to Nil (2021: Nil).

5. Tangible assets

	Plant and machinery	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 6 April 2021 and 5 April 2022	18,793	17,541	36,334
Depreciation			
At 6 April 2021 and 5 April 2022	13,283	7,635	20,918
Carrying amount			
At 5 April 2022	5,510	9,906	15,416
At 5 April 2021	5,510	9,906	15,416

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 5 April 2022

6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,001	1,001
Other creditors	41,790	13,505
	<u>42,791</u>	<u>14,506</u>

7. Controlling party

John Jones, Julie Clapham and Robert Clapham are directors

PONTARDAWE ARENA

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

**Detailed income statement
Year ended 5 April 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover		
Grants	45,267	40,215
NPT Grant	29,676	17,650
Hire	15,654	6,338
	<u>90,597</u>	<u>64,203</u>
Cost of sales		
Freeland contractors	(79,008)	(49,448)
	<u>(79,008)</u>	<u>(49,448)</u>
Gross profit	<u>11,589</u>	<u>14,755</u>
Gross profit percentage	12.8%	23.0%
Overheads		
Administrative expenses	(8,783)	(13,737)
	<u>(8,783)</u>	<u>(13,737)</u>
Operating profit	2,806	1,018
Operating profit percentage	3.1%	1.6%
Other interest receivable and similar income	1	-
Profit before taxation	<u>2,807</u>	<u>1,018</u>

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Detailed income statement (continued)
Year ended 5 April 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Overheads		
Administrative expenses		
Staff training	(988)	(2,450)
Insurance	(2,529)	(2,647)
Light and heat	(736)	(849)
Cleaning	(90)	(45)
Repairs and maintenance	(586)	(1,601)
Printing, postage and stationery	(226)	(264)
Telephone	(678)	(812)
Companies House fees	-	(13)
Motor expenses	(260)	(362)
Legal and professional	(40)	(12)
Accountancy fees	(840)	(720)
Bank charges	(14)	(21)
General expenses	(1,266)	(696)
Subscriptions	(530)	(530)
Depreciation of tangible assets	-	(2,715)
	<u>(8,783)</u>	<u>(13,737)</u>



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

The Pontardawe Arena

On accounts for the year ended

5th April 2022

Charity no (if any)

1106812

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **06/04/2022**.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

23rd February 2023

Name:

Teresa Bridgeman

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

Godrecoed, 2 Station View, Cwmmawr, Tumble, Llanelli SA14 6HL

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Accounts

Pontardawe Arena Partnership t/a Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy August 2021

This is a statement of the current operational position of the Pontardawe Arena Partnership charity 1106812 and a Not for Profit Company Limited by Guarantee, 4435289

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Accomplishments this year

This was a successful year for the organisation from just about all aspects, from carrying on and developing existing projects further through the creating of new programmes involving the community more fully in the Park.

The year 2020/2021 saw schools returning in force, as we welcomed 360 pupils from Alltwen, YGG and Godrergraig Primary Schools into our programmes 5 days a week in school terms with programmes delivered through our Practitioner Team. We continue to receive positive feedback from the schools, parents and the pupils for this work. The project is supported through funding from the Community Lottery Fund, which is due to end June 2022.

Our Volunteer Programme continues on Wednesdays with 9 volunteers taking part in that programme. Valuable site maintenance work is carried out by the volunteers, from litter picking through fence building and generally keeping the Park looking its best. We focus on transferrable skills that can aid people back into work, increasing their employment currency.

We have continued with our Meadows programme and enlarged the paddock area to around 75% capacity, we undertook a survey by Prof. Charles Hipkin in early Summer and recorded around 95 different plant varieties. We manage this by removing cut grass and subsequently promote more vigorous growth that provides pollen for the precious insect life particularly bees and bumblebees in particular. The evidence of the success of the project can be perhaps be found in the increase of White-Tailed Bumble Bees and interestingly Adonis Blue Butterflies who feed on a particular plant – Horseshoe Vetch, which so far we've been unable to locate! We also hosted a PlantLife Wales Meadow day, as they have recognised the critical importance of our work, together with a Scything day where we hand cut the meadow. This was followed by a hay-making day where the hay was removed and consigned to a separate area on site where we are stabilizing the environment to encourage wildlife. This project is being supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This year also we founded a Gardening/Permaculture Pilot Project with funding from LEADER RDP Funding – this is unfortunately the last of this particular funding source, and we are grateful for the support they have provided over the past 5 years or so. We have cleared land alongside Ty Crwn which provides a picturesque setting for this project, and created a conventional food garden which has over 30 people who have registered their interest. We erected a polytunnel and have constructed raised beds from recycled materials where there is now a flourishing growth of Summer foodstuffs. Keep Wales Tidy have also supported this project and we are in the process of receiving equipment and plants that will increase the longevity of this initiative. We are also creating a Permaculture area in the Orchard section and have fenced this off to keep animals away from food.

We completed the CYNydd project on Wednesdays for the Cwmtawe pupils who attended, and we had great pleasure in presenting them with their well-earned Level 2 Qualification Certificates accredited by Agored Cymru. We are told that

there will be continued funding available to allow this project to take place from September 2021.

During the year we also :

Continued to removed trees affected by Ash dieback – this will continue over coming years, but we have hundreds of Ash saplings that have not shown and disease characteristics as yet.

Completed the planting of new hedging and hardwood trees that will typify the Park in years to come.

We continue to develop our practitioners, who have completed Forest School Training and are looking forwards to Chainsaw Training in September.

We received the prestigious Green Flag Award for the 9th successive year.

Project description

Pontardawe Arena Partnership over the past five years has changed its strategic plan while remaining true to the original articles and principles of community benefit. There has been a far greater increase of focus on disengaged and disadvantaged members of the community and the Charity has added the trading name of “Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy” to the Charity Commission Website in order to more accurately describe activities.

The charity operates programmes within Glantawe Riverside Park:

1. For the benefit of the local community – the park facilities and building are maintained in good condition by local volunteers who have steadfastly improved the park from an overgrown and deteriorating parcel of land into the attractive leisure facility with open grassland and seating areas that it is today. The facility is continually being improved and maintained and funding has been raised for ground keeping equipment to maintain and continue to reclaim grassland for the enjoyment of local inhabitants. We operate a team of volunteer workers who are keenly maintaining the park, among which are disabled and mentally challenged individuals. The volunteers are managed by a volunteer therapist, who teaches country skills such as fence and hedge-laying.
2. For the benefit of the inhabitants of Neath Port Talbot - particularly for those disengaged and disadvantaged - by providing programmes that result in national qualifications that are achieved through contact with the natural environment in the park. We are tackling poverty, employment and well being at grass-root level, and have experienced many successes with the young people we serve. The hard and soft skills with qualifications we provide are not available otherwise and last our students all their lives. These qualifications are delivered by adult practitioners - who are self-employed directly as a result of the charity operating these programmes -

and our aim is to encourage young people to return to us and become practitioners themselves. We are an Agored Cymru accredited Center for delivering qualifications, and have a quality manager to maintain our high level of excellence in delivering qualifications.

Currently the charity's programmes are used by schools throughout Neath Port Talbot, and are in operation 5 – 7 days a week. The building facilities are open to the public at this time with the grounds open throughout the year. The Park is extensively used as a result of the work we have done, and the number of individual visitors has been calculated to have maintained at around 25000.

We are operating in three programme areas:

1. Voluntary Programmes for 18+ yrs people who are mentally disabled, ex-offenders, or otherwise disabled or disadvantaged where we provide work skills in a real working park within a nurturing environment and give support to get them into employment.

2. Programmes for all Secondary Schools in Neath Port Talbot where disengaged young people are engaged in a natural environment and provided with national qualifications outside the normal classroom - where they are not expected to get any.

3. Primary School Programmes where we have started to provide the same natural engagement strategy, as our research has found evidence of disengagement in children as young as six who are being segregated from normal classrooms and are in danger of being excluded from mainstream education. We have experienced quite marked positive behavioral changes with this demographic in a remarkably short time, leading us to be cautiously optimistic about working with these groups. Although we work with groups that have already been segregated (and labeled) by the current educational system our strategy must be to prevent this from happening and maintain the classroom integrity. We will be working with entire year groups from three Primary Schools in Pontardawe to maintain class integration across the range of pupils rather than the segregation approach generally taken.

Background

The Pontardawe Arena Partnership established in 2000 to benefit the local community within the Swansea Valley, particularly in areas of social and economic deprivation by all or any of the following means:

- (a) The advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly by utilising the positive effects of outdoor education within wilderness therapy methodologies among unemployed and disengaged people - thus providing enhanced self respect, confidence, valuable qualifications and work experience.
- (b) The creation of training and employment opportunities

by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms

- (c) The maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities:
- (d) The provision of recreational facilities for the public at large or those who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities
- (e) By such other means as may from time to time be determined, subject to prior agreement of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales

The Company is managed by a board of trustees, headed by the Chairman, the Chair is elected at the AGM and is in post supported by a committee elected from the membership. All are volunteers. The group abides by its Articles and Memorandum and maintains a web site (www.arenapontardawe.com). Trustees are responsible for ensuring Charity Commission rules are adhered to. Arena Pontardawe has a bank account in the name of the organisation as shown on its governing documents. Cheques must be signed by two out of three people who are not related. Staff salaries and related matters are handled on our behalf by K Tanner, Accountants. Neath.

The Arena representatives attend meetings with the Local Authority, other Statutory Organisations, networking and seminar events. It has representatives on Local Authority forums, consultation groups, societies and associations, local and national, establishing a network throughout the community and region.

The charity originally was formed to support events and an all-weather arena in Pontardawe, but changing circumstances and the increasingly important need for more direct intervention in individuals well-being resulted in the current structure and mission.

Arena Pontardawe Partnership formed Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy to empower people to lead more successful and fulfilling lives than they may have without our intervention. We are accomplishing this is through outdoor education learning activities within our park using a team of practitioners and voluntary workers. We engage with individuals who are disadvantaged by circumstance, disability, and society or otherwise and inspire them to be better equipped for life and gain increased employability currency.

We are an Agored Cymru (AC) approved centre using OE as an engagement strategy that takes in those who are not suited to normal educational routes, and provide opportunities to gain qualifications and practical skills through contact with the natural environment - we dare to make education

enjoyable and arguably significantly increase their future employment prospects, health and future well-being.

Further development could be to refer to other practical educational routes or to take more practical skills, for example land management, dry stone walling, hedge laying or use of tooling such as chainsaws, brush cutters etc. All attract transferrable qualifications and skills.

We also encourage mentoring by more advanced students of newer entrants and provide opportunities for development beyond the academy through to higher education.

Overall aims and outcomes

1. To provide outdoor educational programmes for young people that will engage, address their individual needs, and facilitate their developmental process while giving opportunities to achieve nationally recognised Levels 2 qualifications. We are in discussions with Agored Cymru regarding suitable level 1 and 2 courses for year 2 students probably within their new Essential Skill Suite of courses. We currently have 6 (MA and BA) degree-standard volunteers and a further 2 being developed.
2. To provide opportunities for individuals to develop and become self-employed in outdoor education and deliver OE Programmes.
3. To allow persons who have taken part in programmes to return, develop and pass on their knowledge to others and become teachers themselves.
4. To develop volunteers in order to be able to deliver a quality and reliable product.
5. To investigate further opportunities primarily with Agored Cymru to engage and create educational programmes to meet changing needs.
6. To develop Park maintenance strategies and habitats for wildlife and plants that can be observed and appreciated.
7. To encourage development of a permanent presence within the Park so that it can be used as a true visitor centre for passing users, recognising the strategic importance of the location between the sea and mountains
8. To increase the attractiveness and facilities within the park, such as the provision of natural play areas, refurbishing of the car park area and replacement of the car-park bridge.
9. To create true sustainability in all areas and to be mindful of succession, in order to pass on ownership of the programmes to users whenever appropriate.

Needs and Characteristics of the people we help

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) places Neath Port Talbot (NPT) at an approximate median line with regard to characteristics examined, but specifically highlighting LSOAs (Lower Layer Super Output Areas) in the most deprived 10% in Wales:

The current education system does not satisfy the needs of all in the area, with anecdotal significant dropout in Secondary and Tertiary education programmes. Absenteeism is high at 10% and 4.4% of 15 year olds do not achieving the Key Stage 4 Level 2 inclusive standard (WIMD). For NPT his results in 30.9% who have no qualifications or practical skill, who then arguably have poor employment prospects.

MALE mortality rates in Neath Port Talbot are the sixth highest in 348 council areas in England and Wales, and also has the eighth highest suicide rate of any local authority in England and Wales (ONS).

We would provide an appropriate alternative to the current educational model. This needs to provide practical skills, personal development and access to achievable qualifications within a framework that is acceptable and fun. This would significantly increase employability currency, leading in turn to richer and healthier lives.

How we determined need for this programme

We need to characterise the *primary* demographic we seek to aid as those who are either in danger of becoming, or are not in training education or employment - the category known popularly as NEET. The impact we will have must be directly proportional to the number of takers for the project, but we are confident in reaching around 50 - 80 participants, increasing incrementally to around 140 - our aim will be to prepare these participants for work and life and will judge our success on employment take-up.

We can evidence the need in a number of ways, firstly by the sheer numbers of organisations that want to work with us but mostly lack funding to do so and secondly through our underpinning research, which is from a number of sources that both define the NEET and potential NEET problem and identify Outdoor Education as a positive factor. These are:

1. Governmental and National Body Research
2. Local anecdotal research
3. Personal Masters research paper on disengagement
4. Discussions with Organisations both local and beyond.
5. Neath Port Talbot Local Government statistics
6. Direct Letters of Support.

1. Governmental and National Body Research

Welsh Government.(2011) Young People not in Education, Employment or Training. National Assembly for Wales: Paper number: 11/051 Available at: [http:// www.assemblywales.org/11-051.pdf](http://www.assemblywales.org/11-051.pdf)

Edcomms (2009) Attitudinal Barriers to Engaging Young People in Positive Activities. Research Report DCSF-RR140.

DCSF (2009) Positive Activities Qualitative Research with Young People. Research Report No DCSF-RR141, Solutions Research.

Astbury, R. and Knight, B. (2003) Fairbridge Research Project – Final Report, Available from <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?format=440> [Accessed 20 April 2012].

Community First categorise Pontardawe as containing 21-30% Most deprived population (Community First Website).

Welsh Government, Youth Engagement and Progression Framework Implementation Plan (Decision Report), 26 July 2013

2. Local anecdotal research

We are in close contact with local organisations such as PCSO's, Chamber of Trade and consistently discuss problems with residents all of which echo the lack of suitable resource and facilities to tackle a perceived increase in anti-social behaviour in the area and beyond. We also attend local police meetings to discuss such current issues. Local Government financial cuts are seen as contributing to the existing and future lack of facilities. We are also praised over our initiatives to create meaningful and valuable learning initiatives and have letters of support from residents to support this. We have developed partnerships in particular with Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service - Western Communities First Team, and Local schools such as Cwmtawe Community School where each expresses the overwhelming need for facilities such as those we can provide – at a low cost and local to the area. In this we are both innovative and accessible in our approach.

3. Personal Masters research paper on disengagement

My own research concentrated on reasons for disengagement and benefits of outdoor education, where I interviewed young people in Neath Port Talbot with regard to their own experiences with social disengagement and how their perceptions changed with both time and reflection of how Outdoor Education (OE) positively impacted on their lives.

4. Discussions with Organisations both local and beyond.

Some of the groups who have expressed an opinion on the positive effects of OE are: Alltwen Primary School, PATCH group – Pontardawe, Cwmtawe Community School, Duke of Edinburgh Award Providers, Neath Port Talbot Social Service, Swansea Social Service, Amman and Gwendraeth Valley Youth Groups, Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, East Cluster Communities First Group Swansea, Port Talbot YMCA – Youth Group, Swansea Youth Offender Team – We are also in discussion with Denise Lewis, (Western Communities First team), Danielle Hackett and Mark

Forde (Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service), with meetings in progress and high expressions of interest in the project. It is also worth noting that we have addressed the possibility of conflict with existing projects, for example will not duplicate but actually compliment the ESF Projects – ‘Cam Nesa’ that targets NEETS and the ESF ‘Cynnydd’ project that targets individuals who are at risk of becoming NEET.

5. Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Local Government statistics

There is much documentation in NPT and in Wales generally supporting the need for our project, such as:

1. The ENGAGE programme in NPT which uses similar strategies to us but with less emphasis on engagement through outdoor interaction - last academic year saw a further reduction in the number of places available to young people due to budget restraints. All 25 places were filled by year 10 and 11 young people from schools across the county. All the young people who attended gained a nationally recognised qualification, with 8 year 11's gaining level 2 qualifications. The project was originally funded through ESF – but with the lack of funding need is apparently not being adequately met. (NPT Youth Engagement Strategy 2013-2023)
2. The annual NEETS figure based on destinations of year 11 leavers was 3.8% in 2014. Although this is a small reduction further investment and development is needed as NPT is currently the 4th worst performing authority in Wales. (CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION CABINET BOARD REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARTICIPATION – C. MILLIS - 18th JUNE 2015)
3. Wales has a higher proportion of people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) among the 16-24 year old group than England. Being NEET is a major disadvantage to young people. (Ysgol Cymraeg Pontardawe - Strategic Equality Plan 2012 – 2016)

There is little direct evidence regarding the specific area of Pontardawe, but many indirect indicators such as Youth Engagement and Progression Framework Implementation Plan and media sources (Wales still has one of the lowest levels of employment in the UK - that accounts for 24.2% of 16-64 years olds. - ANALYSIS by Sarah Dickins, BBC Wales economics correspondent 14.10.15)

There is no direct organisation that looks after our type of organisation, but the responsibility lies with a number of bodies such as OEAP, (Outdoor Education Advisors' Panel, National Guidance for the management of outdoor learning, off-site visits and learning outside the classroom), The Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004, Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999, Health and Safety Executive, information on a range of health and safety issues.

Strategic Fit

This project is an integral component of the infrastructure complementing our Outdoor Education programmes that support social inclusion, poverty reduction, and economic development in the Pontardawe Area and surrounding communities by attacking problems at a base level. In addition the build will be

completed using groups of disengaged young people who will gain national qualifications in addition to the benefits associated with Outdoor Education. Outdoor Education is recognised for promoting improved communication and language skills, physical development and stamina, self-confidence and self esteem building, independence, problem solving, new physical practical skills, social skills and knowledge of the natural environment.

This is recognised by The National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014 –2018 who single out the Duke of Edinburgh Award and John Muir Trust (both of which the Academy includes within programmes) as suitable outdoor education accreditation bodies who embed developmental programmes such as GOEA because they evidence skills in team working, decision making and communication skills.

Together with new qualifications that young people arguably otherwise would never have had, we are preparing the citizens of the future with robust positive employability prospects. Although we are committed to learner-led programmes where we will tailor events and qualifications to individuals, we have stated outcomes over the duration of our programmes for activities attended and qualifications gained.

We will help those young people and local inhabitants most deprived in rural Wales and those that have limited scope to change their circumstances. We believe that education in a nurturing environment is the key to founding good quality of life, and subsequently increase employability prospects. This can only contribute to strengthening the local economy within a more sustainable community (Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places: New Regeneration Framework (March 2013) Past participants taking part in our programmes have been from backgrounds described to us as deprived - these are young people who have developed a suspicion of any authority figure, and have disengaged from education and normal social behaviour. Outdoor Education within a safe environment empowers young people to take risks and be more aware of possibilities and open to changing their circumstances. They develop a confidence in themselves and their futures. Our presence helps to develop the resilience and capability of rural communities so that they are better able to cope with and adapt of change' through the increased and more diverse cognitive development process experienced by the young people in their journey with us. We create awareness that everyone can develop high aspirations of life and believe they can achieve a better future.

We would also seek to raise finance to increase the size of the existing building - almost doubling the available area and incorporating a new inspirational space, which would include hay-bale walls and cob lining. This new centre will provide the focus for many community activities and remove current disincentives to hire – certainly the two areas will allow young people to learn in a conducive and inspirational atmosphere while it's ok to bring wet clothes and wellies inside in another.

We have a strong 10-year + plan for the “Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy”

that has clear goals and targets realistic accomplishments. This build project is fundamental to our plan, and will inspire local young people and others to a brighter future. Our overall business strategies of facilitating distinctive Business Growth, & Specialisation of purpose, together with our ambition for long term success and a determination for increasing job creation closely mirror the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030.

Our park and the new build will increase growth in green tourism and leisure though the innovative and inspirational nature of our structure and educational project – for example National Cycle Trail 43 follows the edge of our park and our plans include the installation of a negative footprint energy system that will serve as a shining example for the Pontardawe Area and an inspiration to visitors. Once complete, the new build coupled with our outdoor education courses will be a beacon for natural tourism and generate new business for the community of Pontardawe. Being on the cycle trail, our facilities surrounded by beautiful parkland will provide reason for visitors (particularly cyclists) to come to the area – National Cycle Trail 43 connects Swansea and the sea to the Brecon Beacons and beyond – joining Route 46 at the Heads of the Valley Road.

Additionally, our large car park (100+ cars) will allow visitors to park and ride up the valley or down. We are also conveniently placed amid many running trails of different distances to satisfy the most adventurous runner where those activities can also be centred on the Park. We will explore the possibility of setting up walking, cycling, riding, fishing and jogging groups with volunteers in accordance with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) RDP's Think Links, Think Rural, Thinks Sustainability – Final Report (December 2014). The Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy is situated on a previous industrial tinplate works – this new build project and activities above will serve to illustrate what is possible using vibrant regeneration strategies – again serving as a model and example to others.

This is an innovative community based project that:

Adds value to local identity, natural and cultural resources by engaging with young people and others who do not find mainstream education convenient or appropriate, by providing real and meaningful Innovative alternatives using the natural environments and inspirational venues away from their conventional and normal situations. Our partnerships allow us to provide our innovatory programmes, and allow us to fill a widening gap left by dwindling Local Governmental resources. The financial constraints being experienced by the Local authority (NPT) such as alternative curriculum provision, reduction in social services, reduction in DofE resource, reduction in available funding for organisations such as us, tourism etc., has left a void that is currently unable to be filled through governmental sources. Without organisations such as GOEA, these provisions for young people would remain unfulfilled. GOEA will fill a much-needed gap in these dwindling resources and provide a real and useful service for the young people who are the citizens of the future.

Certainly we are maximising the potential green economy of the Glantawe

Riverside Park in which the Academy is based – our immediate plans also include the use of green energy to power the building, using solar energy coupled with a ground sourced heat pump to create a negative energy footprint. We could be exporting surplus energy, and will serve as an example for study and community replication.

Our philosophy of encouraging all to work, learn and play in the Academy as an enjoyable and satisfying experience pervades all aspects of our work. We will continue to promote the Academy as a rich and exciting place to join and form partnerships with. This includes local government, local businesses, youth groups, participants – all who come into contact with us. We will actively promote the local area and Wales as a whole as a brilliant place to live, work and play.

This open culture will certainly create and promote an environment that will engender creativity and freedom of thought, leading without doubt to people reaching their full potential and using their creativity in founding new ventures. Unfortunately, the valleys ethos seems to be that people expect to have available on their doorstep. This is fueled by the knowledge that previous generations had jobs closer to home in heavy industry or manufacturing. This knowledge has created the mentality that work should be available close to home hence creating a negative perception of travelling far to work. Despite there being jobs available in urban areas in the service industry, people are reluctant to travel to fulfil these opportunities. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) RDP's Think Links, Think Rural, Thinks Sustainability – Final Report (December 2014). At GOEA we can significantly contribute to an individual's employment currency in order for there to be better paid jobs available, making travel more appealing and decreasing (at least) employment poverty.

Above all, our task is to allow all to reach their full potential by creating opportunities in play and education where trust and a safe environment can overcome many of the social barriers created by circumstance and adverse social or family situations.

Who has directly benefitted in the last year

6 - Adults who have received training and professional development to allow them to set up their own businesses within the park and deliver educational programmes

150 - Disengaged young people from local schools

1 - Youth Offending programme

3 - Disabled group from Pontardawe

These are included within the overall figures quoted above

Supporting Information Illustrating Need for the Project

GOEA also adds value to local identity, natural and cultural resources by engaging with young people and others who do not find mainstream education convenient or appropriate, by providing real and meaningful Innovative alternatives using the

natural environments and inspirational venues away from their conventional and normal situations. Our partnerships allow us to provide our innovatory programmes, and allow us to fill a widening gap left by dwindling Local Governmental resources.

The financial constraints being experienced by the Local authority (NPT) such as alternative curriculum provision, reduction in social services, reduction in DoFE resource, reduction in available funding for organisations such as us, tourism etc., has left a void that is currently unable to be filled through governmental sources. Without organisations such as GOEA, these provisions for young people would remain unfulfilled. GOEA will fill a much-needed gap in these dwindling resources and provide a real and useful service for the young people who are the citizens of the future. Above all, our task is to allow all to reach their full potential by creating opportunities in play and education where trust and a safe environment can overcome many of the social barriers created by circumstance and adverse social or family situations.

How the programme benefits Social Opportunities / Economic Activity / The Environment / Heritage & Culture

This programme will impact on each of these criteria in a number of ways, and supports social inclusion, poverty reduction, and economic development in the Pontardawe Area and surrounding communities by attacking problems at a base level – Outdoor Education is recognised for promoting improved communication and language skills, physical development and stamina, self-confidence and self esteem building, independence, problem solving, new physical practical skills, social skills and knowledge of the natural environment. This is recognised by The National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014 –2018 who single out the Duke of Edinburgh Award and John Muir Trust (both of which the Academy includes within programmes) as suitable outdoor education accreditation bodies who embed developmental programmes such as GOEA because they evidence skills in team working, decision making and communication skills.

Together with new qualifications that young people arguably otherwise would never have had, we are preparing the citizens of the future with robust positive employability prospects. Although we are committed to learner-led programmes where we will tailor events and qualifications to individuals, we have stated outcomes over the duration of our programmes for activities attended and qualifications gained.

We will help those young people and local inhabitants most deprived in rural Wales and those that have limited scope to change their circumstances. We believe that education in a nurturing environment is the key to founding good quality of life, and subsequently increase employability prospects. This can only contribute to strengthening the local economy within a more sustainable community (Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places: New Regeneration Framework (March 2013) Past participants taking part in our programmes have been from backgrounds described to us as deprived - these are young people who have developed a suspicion of any authority figure, and have disengaged from

education and normal social behaviour. Outdoor Education within a safe environment empowers young people to take risks and be more aware of possibilities and open to changing their circumstances. They develop a confidence in themselves and their futures. Our presence helps to develop the resilience and capability of rural communities so that they are better able to cope with and adapt of change' through the increased and more diverse cognitive development process experienced by the young people in their journey with us. We create awareness that everyone can develop high aspirations of life and believe they can achieve a better future.

The Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy is situated on a previous industrial tinplate works – this project and activities above will serve to illustrate what is possible using vibrant regeneration strategies – again serving as a model and example to others.

Unique Nature of Project

This project is unique both in the Locality of Pontardawe, the Swansea Valley and Neath Port Talbot. There are commercial companies that provide outdoor education facilities (eg Adventure Britain based in Seven Sisters, L&A in Port Talbot, Mountain and River Activities in Resolven and many other similar OE providers) but these are based on short burst adventurous activities, weekends, stag and hen parties etc., but do not address the long term interests or educational needs of participants, particularly those at risk or in danger of becoming at risk. We also provide Forest School activities that are mirrored with NPT Forest schools centred in Caswell, Swansea, but here again there is no embedding of any educational process or long term programmes similar to GOEA.

There is much research published on the benefits of Outdoor Education outside the classroom, for example, the Ofsted report “Learning outside the classroom How far should you go?” (October 2008) stated that “where there was provision for exciting, direct and relevant learning activities outside the classroom. Such hands-on activities led to improved outcomes for pupils and students, including better achievement, standards, motivation, personal development and behaviour. The survey also found examples of the positive effects of learning outside the classroom on young people who are hard to motivate.”

Schools do not provide sufficient opportunities for sufficiently robust “hands on” learning outside the classroom to take place, and are often at a loss for how to satisfy the needs of groups of young people in danger of becoming NEET.

Long term effects of Outdoor Education and natural activities are generally considered longer lasting than short-term activities, and arguably can draw comparisons with Summer camps which have contact time in weeks instead of months – Research published by Philliber Research Associates (2005) where over 5000 families took part in the survey found that there were significantly longer term positive benefits from prolonged contact compared to short term activities. This included increased confidence and self-esteem, improved social skills,

independence and leadership qualities; they became more adventurous and willing to try new things.

At Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy, we will accommodate young people through long-term programmes that combine natural and inspirational settings with achievable educational goals tailored for the individual that will encourage these developmental processes. We allow each participant to gain what they are able and achieve personal developmental levels that may not be possible without our intervention. We will complement the existing schooling system evidenced by the eagerness of Cwmtawe Community School and others to use our facilities, our unique nature can be evidenced by the interest and readiness of established organisations to use our future planned facilities – all have expressed interest and excitement in the overall project outcomes of gaining real work skills and ethos together with qualifications. This is not available in normal school curricula and will be a flagship project for Pontardawe, Cwmtawe Community School, the other groups of young people who will take part, and Neath Port Talbot in General.

Other Information

We have a proven track record of delivery of successful past project/community events.

This project has achieved a number of awards-

2018 – WCVA Wale Volunteer of the Year Award
2020 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2021 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2019 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2018 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2017 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2016 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2015 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2014 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2013 - Trustee National winner of the prestigious WCVA 'Trustee of the Year' Award.
2013 - Green Flag Award for our work in the Park and the local environment.
2012 - Winners NPT 'Action for Wildlife'.
2012 - Highly Commended 'Green Business of the Year'.
2011 - Winners of the Neath Port Talbot 'Green Project of the Year'.
2011 - Highly Commended - 'Action for Wildlife' category.

As a result the current steering committee has developed and attracted individuals with a broad range of life and qualified skills that include but are not limited to teachers, managers, outdoor education professionals, behaviorists, local government officers, and land management specialists. This skills set will be continually critically examined to ensure best fit for the Project. The current steering committee is superbly qualified to manage the next phase of this critically important strategy and continues to display a strength and dedication to the Project that will maximise the chance of success.

We have forged strong partnerships with local organisations who have pledged and demonstrated support for the project, for example:-

Ysbrud Y Coed (Alun Wyn Apo Christi)
Remploy
Swansea University
RCTrainingWales
Trinity St Davids University Carmarthen,
Down To Earth, Murton
Forest Schools – NPT/Swansea
Hendrefelin School
Dwr-Y Felyn School
Llangatwg Community School
Llangiwig Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Cymraeg Pontardawe
Alltwen Primary School
Cefn Coed psychiatric hospital
Employment Service
Cwmtawe Community School
The Duke of Edinburgh Award
West Glamorgan Local Group
Hope Rescue
Neath Port Talbot Social Services
Swansea Canal Society
Swansea Social Services
Amman and Gwendraeth Valley Youth Groups
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera
East Cluster Communities First Group Swansea
Port Talbot YMCA – Youth Group
Youth Justice & Early Intervention Service
And others..

GOEA Delivers a wide range of programmes using Outdoor Education to NEET, disengaged (or in danger of becoming disengaged) groups of young people, schools, youth groups, disabled persons local communities and the general public. We will provide national qualifications and employability skills through outdoor educational (OE) programmes devised for disengaged and young persons that will fully prepare them for a fulfilling and valuable life and dare to make education an enjoyable process.

We foster and encourage opportunities for individuals to become skilled and confident as self-employed persons providing outdoor education and other programmes within the 25-acre park and woodland.

Creation of opportunities for individuals to return as facilitators/teachers and pass on skills and knowledge to new groups thus creating sustainability and passing project ownership to new generations.

Overall the strategy is one of social empowerment, to provide an environment and facility that will allow people to grow in self-respect, ability and confidence to not only become more rounded and valuable citizens in themselves but to inspire others to follow in their footsteps, creating social pride and a more cohesive society.

We believe firmly in inspiring young people to value a socially connected vibrant, viable and sustainable community but we need the people, environment and structures that will facilitate this process.

We recognise that there is no organisation (charitable or commercial) in the Swansea Valley and Neath Port Talbot areas offering outdoor education courses with the expected long-term positive outcomes planned for the Academy. Our mission to increase skills and opportunities is again echoed in the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030, which also highlights the multiple areas of deprivation and poverty. Perhaps unsurprisingly the report also comes to the same conclusions as us in that any strategy must deliver growth for future generations.

We actively encourage volunteers to take part in GOEA activities, help create our learning community and be able to provide educational, skills development and self-employment opportunities for them to assist in their personal development and confidence. We also are mindful of the Neath Port Talbot Single Integrated Plan – 2013 – 2023 and would suggest that Outdoor Education is a growth market and together with associated benefits such as volunteer development and creation of employment potential conforms to the vision of a stronger and more prosperous economy. The Academy and surrounding parkland is certainly a key site for development as we will take this concept further - we are in discussions with Agored Cymru to provide pathways to higher education in future years with the progression to an academy providing full time education through Outdoor Education.

As an Academy, we also believe in the benefits of the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme, and have embarked on a course of action that will result in our being an independent provider for the Award – we have already successfully completed

a pilot programme for the Bronze award, and have progressed on to Gold for 2017/18. This supported by the Neath Port Talbot Youth Development Officer.

Over the past three years we have gradually built up our knowledge and abilities, ensuring our practitioners have a standardised ability of project delivery within a methodology that embraces individual needs both academic and personal.

There are more than a few outcomes from OE programmes, some could be measured but the majority not. It is difficult to establish levels of cognitive development for example or how programmes affect later life. Research has revealed that participants often took many years to actually process and understand the positive impact of OE. There is arguably a relationship between the OE methodology, risk taking and cognitive development that would be perceived but almost impossible to measure. We generally do not have contact with participants following our programmes, but perceptions are almost without exception positive during and on conclusion of programmes.

For example we had one participant from a Youth Offending Team who was described as being uncommunicative in the extreme – which did not help that individual with any mitigation of sentencing – following three sessions with us, “at final panel X was praised for completing the order successfully. X spoke very well and was a very different person from the first panel when X was withdrawn and did not speak. We feel that the Riverside programme was a positive engagement for her during a very difficult time in life. “

Indisputably young people enjoy this freedom from the classroom, which is perhaps close to a concept of play from their perspective? We can use this by bridging the gap from play/enjoyment/freedom to actually engaging with a formalised educational process.

One example I would use as evidence of engagement beyond what we recognise as the initial phase of group engagement and trust formation is a group we currently have a group of 20 young people that have been brought to us as “not at all interested in getting an education” – following the first 4 sessions at GOEA, all bar 1 have elected to join our programme and are working towards the Agored Cymru Essential Skills for Work and Life (ESfWL).

We have recently become an Agored Cymru Approved Centre and will be registering our first candidates in the coming week.

Demonstrating success past this point will be based on achievement as well as continued engagement – dropout rates so far have been close to nil, and we hope that this will continue. Demonstrating success in the future may not be so nebulous as we are entering the realms of pass/fail, attendance. Dropout rates etc., all of which we will use our past experience to minimise.

Outcomes

Outcomes can be broadly sectioned into subjective and objective. Outdoor education can produce a range of soft options that can be difficult to measure apart

from a subjective comparison before and after the event. Each participant is the subject of an individual appraisal following each session, and each has a personal portfolio that charts their journey with the Academy.

Hard outcomes are simpler to measure and will be the results of academic achievement and employment. We will also evaluate each candidate and ensure they are aware of their progress, strengths and weakness in order that they are best informed to make career decisions.

Primary outcomes will be the empowerment of young people through outdoor education to gain national qualifications. However, our outcomes will pass beyond the hard outcomes of academic success - the particular benefits in this kind of group include improved communication and language skills, physical development and stamina, self-confidence and self esteem building, independence, new physical practical skills, social skills and knowledge of the natural environment. This is arguably subjective, but will certainly form part of our evaluation process. Employment currency is a prime objective, and the attainment of employment or self-employment will certainly demonstrate success for the individual.

We can also further measure success indirectly, through direct feedback from clients such as: "Just an email to let you know that I have had some great feedback from some parents to say that the project has been having a very positive affect on their mood and behaviour. They are very happy when coming home from the project and excited about informing them of their day."

Finally, clients gaining employment and/or increased well-being as a result of our programmes is perhaps the final evidence of success.

Why are we well placed to deliver outcomes?

To deliver the sort of programmes we have described then critical criteria need to be satisfied. The environment needs to be as far removed from a normal classroom as possible, and learning needs to be presented in a way that is both acceptable and relevant to each person.

We are well placed within our mixed environments where we have proven to be able to deliver learning events that are effective for the individual. We are also well-experienced outdoor education professionals who have in depth experience of delivering learning and other experiences outside the classroom.

More importantly, we have an ethos that allows each learner to develop at their own speed in their chosen direction guided by personal abilities. We believe that given a chance all can be valued members of society.

Complementary strategies

This project will complement existing strategies as shown elsewhere in this report as an innovative community based project that:

Adds value to local identity, natural and cultural resources by engaging with young people and others who do not find mainstream education convenient or appropriate, by providing real and meaningful Innovative alternatives using the natural environments and inspirational venues away from their conventional and normal situations. The financial constraints being experienced by the Local authority (NPT) has left a void that is currently unable to be filled through governmental sources. Without organisations such as GOEA, these provisions for young people would remain unfulfilled. GOEA will fill a much-needed gap in these dwindling resources and provide a real and useful service for the young people who are the citizens of the future.

The open culture at GOEA creates and promote an environment that will engender creativity and freedom of thought, leading without doubt to people reaching their full potential and using their creativity in founding new ventures.

Despite there being jobs available in urban areas in the service industry, people are reluctant to travel to fulfill these opportunities. At GOEA we can significantly contribute to an individuals employment currency in order for there to be better paid jobs available, making travel more appealing and decreasing employment poverty.

Access to Services

We provide an expanding requirement for volunteers from the community, which will be satisfied as the project becomes more widely known. We do not preclude anyone at any level in the GOEA project and will provide the opportunity to become skilled and qualified in their chosen direction – increasing employability currency where we can, or just encouraging the ability to live more fulfilling and healthier active outdoor lifestyles. We will conform to the **Welsh Government Volunteering Policy - August 2015** in helping people fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstance. We will publicise this requirement and opportunities at the Academy through local, press, word of mouth, Volunteering Wales Website, NPTCVS and volunteering champions. We will Develop a suitable infrastructure which will contain in accordance to the **Welsh Government Volunteering Policy** recommendations.

In all cases we will encourage volunteers, participants and others to take an active part in the activities of the Academy in accordance with their own needs and developmental choices. We anticipate that voluntary involvement will increase significantly as local knowledge of our activities grows – this will encourage healthier lifestyles and decreased isolation through increased activity and higher levels of self-fulfilment experienced through group and individual achievement. This arguably will lead to greater sense of ownership and pride – which is something we have already witnessed through engagement with local young people who visit the park. **Welsh Government Think Links, Think Rural, Think Sustainability** - Final Report (December 2014) suggests that young people perceive a lack of tourist centre/hub, something apart from the Pontardawe Youth Club, When asked what kinds of attractions they would like, the most popular suggestion made was for places to eat and drink as a tourism attraction. This was

closely followed by opportunities for indoor attractions and walking and cycling trails. At GOEA within the Glantawe Riverside Park, we are able to provide solutions to most of these problems as our facilities become sufficiently robust. We can only provide such benefits such as these through providing inspirational environments, people and places to form learning communities – the new build project and subsequent capabilities will form such a critical component in regenerating not only places but also people's minds - making our community a more vibrant and inclusive place.

In line with the **Welsh Government Vibrant and Viable Places New Regeneration Framework** (11 March 2013) we intrinsically link regeneration, attitudes, success and well-being with the skills and capacities of individuals, families and communities. Our partnership with Cwmtawe Community School will engender engagement with under 16 pupils and our partnerships with Youth Offending Teams, Youth groups and the community, opportunities to offer life-changing programmes leading to a local culture with higher aspirations and a belief in a better future. For others, we will create a skilled and confident existing and future workforce that will become a product of outdoor education mixed with qualifications and the life experience embedded in our programmes.

Fuel Poverty

At GOEA we understand that cost of fuel poverty is a primary demotivational factor here in Wales, which can lead to the downward spiral that accepts unemployment as a normal component of life.

We are unable to influence the hardware of providing fuel for heating, lighting and vehicles, but through our programmes can certainly increase positive attitudes, self-respect with practical and academic skills that enhance employability prospects. We encourage individuals to take responsibility for their actions – or inactivity – to take charge of their lives, increasing their income and life skills to become valued members of society.

Whereas we do not directly provide direct “nuts and bolts” support to individuals, we believe that this process is far more valuable as it confronts some of the basic causes of fuel poverty, such as unemployment, demotivation and lack of qualification.

In-work poverty

The report **Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Wales 2015** By Adam Tinson and Tom MacInnes, funded by the Rowntree Foundation (September 2015) Claims that an average of 700,000 people were in poverty in Wales in the three years to 2013/14, equivalent to 23 per cent of the population. Compared with ten years earlier, there are more people of working age (particularly young adults) in poverty and fewer children and pensioners. Poverty has risen in working families and fallen in workless families. The Summer Budget 2015 has not provided much aid for younger adults in that the new national living wage (NLW) does not apply to those under 25, and there were housing benefit cuts for those aged 18 to 21. This is on top of other areas of public policy, such as sanctioning, which disproportionately affect young people.

The Welsh Government **Tackling Poverty Action Plan - Annual Report 2015** states that young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) between the ages of 16 and 24 years are more likely to be living in poverty. These then with young people who are in danger of becoming NEET are arguably a priority to reduce in work poverty. This demographic is a primary focus of our programmes, as it directly impacts prosperity and future prospects by tackling the base cause of the reasons for their not being in employment education or training.

There is little doubt that anyone who takes part in our long-term courses will derive personal developmental benefits as described earlier in this document. The embedding of educational qualifications with personal development will arguably result in an individual who is more valuable to an employer.

This principle will also include adults, especially those who are volunteers – we can offer education and training to become practitioners and deliverers of ‘Outdoor’ alternative curriculum provision whilst also learning skills and creating pathways appropriate for the ‘Green Economy’. Currently, we perceive through anecdotal evidence that the outdoor activities are perceived as “play” activities, whereas outdoor education in fact offers some real career prospects – the Wales government website

<http://gov.wales/newsroom/tourism/2014/140512outdoor-toruiism-survey/?lang=en>

Claims that Welsh Government figures show that outdoor activity tourism in Wales is worth £481 million to the economy and supports 8,243 Welsh jobs. The **Economic Impact of Outdoor Activity Tourism in Wales Final Report** From Visit Wales (March 2014) states that Wales is perceived as a good destination for a variety of outdoor activities and abilities. 54% of visitors staying overnight revealed that they would not have made their visit to Wales if they were not taking part in the activity. Our pathways to further employment include educating all persons to the possibility of alternative pathways to employment – which may be more appropriate under many circumstances.

Perhaps a third opportunity to reduce in work poverty could come from providing opportunities within the Academy, both as volunteers or practitioners - we currently offer the opportunity for young people to return following completion of a programme and be trained as facilitators in their own right. We can offer teacher-training opportunities for suitable candidates and aim on passing ownership of the project back to the community at every opportunity. Previous similar projects held over a 12-year period with a Duke of Edinburgh Award programme bear out these statements, and there are many examples of young people whose horizons have been widened through outdoor education and passed on through life to become doctors, teachers and in one case a university lecturer. Of course it could be argued that this would have happened anyway, but having witnessed the developmental process personally, I would maintain that we at least gave them a helping nudge in the right direction.

We would claim that individuals passing through GOEA programmes will certainly gain more employment currency, achieve wider perspective on life and create better opportunities to be better placed to succeed in the job market

Digital Inclusion

Although GOEA can be perceived as a practical outdoor process, embedded in our

recording and evidential systems is the use of computer equipment. We assist students with the basic writing and data entry skills where appropriate, and provide laptops and free wi-fi for students to enter their assessment evidence.

Robert Clapham MA(OEd), PGCE
Operations Director

Company registration number: 04435289

PONTARDAWE ARENA
Unaudited financial statements
5 April 2021

PONTARDAWE ARENA

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PONTARDAWE ARENA

Directors and other information

Directors	Mr John Jones Julie Clapham Mr R H M Clapham
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Company number	04435289
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Registered office	1 Bryn Celyn Pontardawe Swansea SA8 4LG
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Accountant	R J Tanner Gellimarch Farm Cadoxton Neath SA10 8AF
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PONTARDAWE ARENA

Directors report Year ended 5 April 2021

The directors present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the company for the year ended 5 April 2021.

Directors

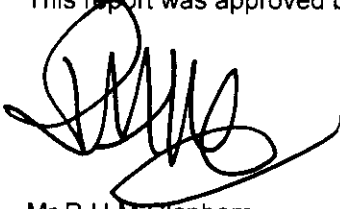
The directors who served the company during the year were as follows:

Mr John Jones
Julie Clapham
Mr R H M Clapham

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 24 June 2021 and signed on behalf of the board by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R H M Clapham', written over a horizontal line.

Mr R H M Clapham
Director

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of income and retained earnings
Year ended 5 April 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Turnover		64,203	63,767
Cost of sales		(49,448)	(49,434)
Gross profit		<u>14,755</u>	<u>14,333</u>
Administrative expenses		(13,737)	(13,666)
Operating profit		<u>1,018</u>	<u>667</u>
Profit before taxation	5	1,018	667
Tax on profit		-	-
Profit for the financial year and total comprehensive income		<u>1,018</u>	<u>667</u>
Retained earnings at the start of the year		<u>59,013</u>	<u>58,346</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the year		<u>60,031</u>	<u>59,013</u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of financial position 5 April 2021

	Note	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6	15,415		16,132	
			15,415		16,132
Current assets					
Debtors	7	-		4,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		59,122		41,502	
		59,122		45,502	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(14,506)		(2,621)	
Net current assets			44,616		42,881
Total assets less current liabilities			60,031		59,013
Net assets			60,031		59,013
Capital and reserves					
Profit and loss account			60,031		59,013
Shareholders funds			60,031		59,013

Cash in hand at bank comprises of Protected Funds of £52,538 and the remaining balance of £6,584 as trading funds.

For the year ending 5 April 2021 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 financial statements 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 financial statements.

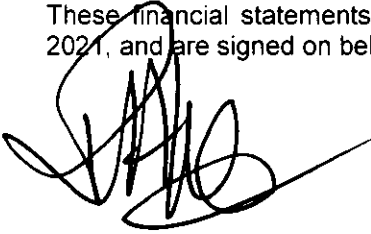
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Statement of financial position (continued)
5 April 2021

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 24 June 2021, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R H M Clapham', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Mr R H M Clapham
Director

Company registration number: 04435289

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 5 April 2021

1. General information

The company is a private company limited by shares, registered in United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is 1 Bryn Celyn, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LG.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102, Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. The Triennial review 2017 amendments to the standard have been early adopted.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods supplied and services rendered, net of discounts and Value Added Tax.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the buyer (usually on despatch of the goods); the amount of revenue can be measured reliably; it is probable that the associated economic benefits will flow to the entity; and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transactions can be measured reliably.

Taxation

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves, respectively.

Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Year ended 5 April 2021

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Year ended 5 April 2021

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Employee numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to Nil (2020: Nil).

5. Profit before taxation

Profit before taxation is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible assets	2,715	3,892

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Year ended 5 April 2021

6. Tangible assets

	Plant and machinery	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 6 April 2020	18,793	15,542	34,335
Additions	-	1,999	1,999
At 5 April 2021	<u>18,793</u>	<u>17,541</u>	<u>36,334</u>
Depreciation			
At 6 April 2020	11,447	6,756	18,203
Charge for the year	1,837	879	2,716
At 5 April 2021	<u>13,284</u>	<u>7,635</u>	<u>20,919</u>
Carrying amount			
At 5 April 2021	<u>5,509</u>	<u>9,906</u>	<u>15,415</u>
At 5 April 2020	<u>7,346</u>	<u>8,786</u>	<u>16,132</u>

7. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	4,000

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,001	1,901
Other creditors	13,505	720
	<u>14,506</u>	<u>2,621</u>

9. Controlling party

John Jones, Julie Clapham and Robert Clapham are directors

PONTARDAWE ARENA

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

PONTARDAWE ARENA

**Detailed income statement
Year ended 5 April 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
Turnover		
Grants	40,215	19,150
NPT Grant	17,650	28,814
Hire	6,338	15,803
	<u>64,203</u>	<u>63,767</u>
Cost of sales		
Freeland contractors	(49,448)	(49,434)
	<u>(49,448)</u>	<u>(49,434)</u>
Gross profit	<u>14,755</u>	<u>14,333</u>
Gross profit percentage	23.0%	22.5%
Overheads		
Administrative expenses	(13,737)	(13,666)
	<u>(13,737)</u>	<u>(13,666)</u>
Operating profit	1,018	667
Operating profit percentage	1.6%	1.0%
Profit before taxation	<u>1,018</u>	<u>667</u>

PONTARDAWE ARENA

Detailed income statement (continued)
Year ended 5 April 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Overheads		
Administrative expenses		
Staff training	(2,450)	(848)
Insurance	(2,647)	(2,482)
Light and heat	(849)	(519)
Cleaning	(45)	(48)
Repairs and maintenance	(1,601)	(2)
Printing, postage and stationery	(264)	(291)
Advertising	-	(8)
Telephone	(812)	(993)
Companies House fees	(13)	(13)
Motor expenses	(362)	(374)
Legal and professional	(12)	(12)
Consultancy fees	-	(2,500)
Accountancy fees	(720)	(720)
Bank charges	(21)	-
General expenses	(696)	(196)
Subscriptions	(530)	(768)
Depreciation of tangible assets	(2,715)	(3,892)
	<u>(13,737)</u>	<u>(13,666)</u>



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

PONTARDAWE ARENA

On accounts for the year
ended

05/04/2021

Charity no
(if any)

1106812

Set out on pages

1-9

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2021

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

01/07/2021

Name:

DAVID HUW THOMAS

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

B.Sc. MAAT

(if any):

Address:

38 DERWEN ROAD

ALLTWEN, PONTARDAWE

SWANSEA. SA8 3AU

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.