



What is it like being a Community Trust Director?

As a Director on the Community Trust, you are part of a team responsible for managing the very large sums of money being made available from Community Benefit funds from the various windfarms and hydro schemes in our area. Full details of exactly what we do are visible on our website at www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

The key word is 'team'. We support each other and work hard to achieve those targets we set ourselves. Within the team you could choose to join any one of a number of projects or sub-groups.

The bottom line is, if you like getting things done, making decisions, debating ideas, supporting others in the community and working within a team, then the role of a Director should be of interest to you. It is also intellectually very stimulating and exposes you to all sorts of new information and opportunities to explore everything from how the Community Benefit funds work, to managing large community-wide projects, managing a grant-giving scheme, to acquiring land for the community, running an apprenticeship programme and, of course, liaising with the very wide variety of groups and individuals who come to us for grant assistance.

Any new Directors will be welcomed on to the Board with a full training and induction programme which will ensure you are looked after in your early months and can therefore ease yourself into the role - no plunging into the 'deep end'. The only attributes you need to bring with you are a willingness to learn, a positive mental attitude and a desire to make things happen.

The other key attribute of becoming a Director is that you are keen to contribute some energy and time. The role is definitely NOT about turning up for one meeting a month and that's it. The vast majority of work gets done in between meetings and the meetings themselves are really only there for debate and decision making. To contribute fully, you will need an inquisitive mind, an ability to communicate verbally and in writing, a keenness to actually get things done (and not just to talk about getting things done!!), to undertake some investigation of your own (relevant to whichever sub-group you have joined) and then present findings to the Board for debate, and of course to support your fellow Directors in their own work if they need it.

Some of the work we do does require specialist knowledge and, at present we have various professionally qualified individuals on the Board, all of whose specific skills are being used to the full. Other Directors have business knowledge, project management skills and employer 'know-how', all of which are important useful skills. However, if you don't have those skills this does not mean that you should not become a Director. The role is available for anyone in the community and, to paraphrase Socrates, if you are "wise enough to know what you do not know" and are willing to learn and work hard then you will soon build the skills and knowledge required to become a useful and contributing member of the team.

The Community benefit funds, worth many millions of pounds, belong to the whole community. As Directors, we are responsible for managing these funds efficiently, openly, fairly and with due regard to the laws of the land. This responsibility does require us to work hard, to debate well and to make as wide a range of decisions as you would find in any organisation. It's a great job though, full of stimulus and change and new ideas and if you like all that and can combine it with an ability to listen and learn and a strong desire to get things done, then you'll make a great Director.

We hope this document has helped you understand a little bit more of what being a Director is all about.