

Devon Communities Together

Could you be our new Trustee?

Could you help us support communities in Devon to thrive?

Devon Communities Together is recruiting for new Trustees to join our dynamic Board of Trustees. With the pending restructure of our council networks across the county, this is your opportunity to help shape the future direction of our charity and ensure that the voices of Devon's rural and coastal communities are heard loud and clear. **Being a Trustee of a charity is a great way of using your experience and enthusiasm to make a difference to people's lives, meet new people and even learn some new skills along the way.**

Who are we?

DCT is an independent charity and company limited by guarantee. We are one of 37 Rural Community Councils and a member of Action With Communities in Rural England (ACRE), a national network of all the Rural Community Councils in shire counties across England. We have been supporting rural and coastal communities across Devon for over 60 years. We are also a well-established and respected member of the voluntary and community sector in Devon and a member of the Torbay, Plymouth & Devon Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector Assembly.

What do we do?

Living in Devon can be wonderful but we understand that there are also many communities and people that are currently facing serious challenges. Devon Communities Together is an Asset Based Community Development organisation, working alongside a diverse range of people, community groups and statutory service partners to deliver place based support to communities all over Devon. Our vision is to inspire and support rural and coastal communities across Devon to be dynamic and sustainable places for people to live and work. We work together to achieve this vision through a wide range of innovative projects and impactful services that help communities and individuals to find solutions to the challenges they are facing.

We support rural and coastal communities across Devon around issues such as older people at risk of loneliness and social isolation; young people struggling to access employment and housing; those in food or fuel poverty; social enterprises and small businesses; groups keeping their communities safe during emergencies; Village Hall committees maintaining these vital community assets – and many more.

The social value of DCT trustees last year can be calculated up to **£29k**

Over **90%** feel valued, supported and respected in their trustee role*

73% trustees say it boosts their confidence*

65% feel more connected to their community*

91% say their contributions are welcomed and respected by staff and volunteers*



Pictured L-R: HM Lord Lieutenant David Fursdon (President), Nicola Gurr (Chair)

What does our Board of Trustees do?

Our Board members have a dual legal role as Trustees of the Charity and Company Directors. The Board takes a strategic overview of the organisation and provides guidance to our Executive Management staff team, on the financial and legal aspects of organisational management. As our new Trustee, you will play a key strategic role in shaping the future direction and sustainability of our charity.

Trustee Requirements

The expected time commitment is approximately up to one day a month, attending various meetings and events on behalf of the charity and representing the organisation within your personal and professional networks. Trustees meet on a quarterly basis for an in person Board meeting, and will be asked to join a sub-committee which work on the same quarterly basis, meeting virtually. The board of Trustees also are invited to attend an all day in person away day annually, as well as the Annual General Meeting.

Trusteeship Benefits

You will benefit from the opportunity to impart your knowledge and expertise, develop valuable new skills, as well as meet and network with new colleagues, including our expert staff team. We provide opportunities for Trustees to join staff outings, public events, working groups and team meetings and training events if they wish to, providing regular trustee communications so that you feel part of our team. Above all, you will be providing valuable guidance to help DCT support communities all over Devon, helping us create positive change for thousands of people.

What skills and experience are we looking for?

Are you passionate about using your skills and experience to help shape the future of our charity? Perhaps you are looking for a new voluntary challenge. Whether you are an experienced Trustee, or wanting to take your first step at Board level, we would love to hear from you.

- We are particularly keen to hear from individuals with **digital or technology experience**, ensuring we can support communities across Devon to adapt to and benefit from ongoing digital developments.
- We also welcome interest from those with experience in **Marketing & Communications or Legal and HR**, whose skills will help strengthen our governance, profile, and engagement with the communities we serve.

This opportunity could give you the chance to impart your experience and knowledge within our organisation.

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the role, please feel free to get in touch via recruitment@devoncommunities.org.uk or call 01392 248919.