



# The Conservation Volunteers Chair Candidate Pack 2022

INCLUSIVE **BOARDS**



# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear prospective Chair of The Conservation Volunteers,

Thank you for your interest in our work and in the position of Chair of our Board of Trustees. TCV made a transformational impact on my life when I joined as a volunteer over 25 years ago, and I am incredibly proud of the work we undertake day-in-day-out. Each year, we make a significant positive impact by delivering lasting outcomes for environment, communities, health & wellbeing, and learning & skills.

This would not be possible without the good governance of our Board and its subcommittees and the invaluable experience and perspective that the members of those bodies bring. Should you be successful in your application, I will very much look forward to working together to further our cause of connecting people and green spaces.

Darren York  
CEO of TCV



# MESSAGE FROM OUR OUTGOING CHAIR

I am coming to the end of my term as Chair of the TCV Board of Trustees and am delighted to provide these few words of introduction for those interested in applying for the role I will be vacating at the end of this year.

I have greatly enjoyed my term as Chair of the board. TCV does really important work not only in conservation but also in assisting and encouraging volunteers to take part in this work. Participating in conservation work helps individuals and communities to improve their mental and physical health and to build new skills; this aspect is a core part of our work. We have an ongoing challenge of ensuring that we make our projects accessible to everyone whatever their background and we are committed to being an inclusive organisation.

The global climate and biodiversity challenges make our conservation work increasingly important. Looking ahead, we have increasing opportunities to work together with fellow green charities, both in wider partnership and on delivering projects, and in seeking collectively to influence government and others on conservation matters and policy.

Those interested in this role will find TCV in good shape. Together with my fellow trustees we have reviewed and updated TCV's governance so that it conforms to best practice. The charity's finances are in very good shape. It is now in a strong position to make an even bigger contribution to bringing communities and green spaces together. I shall watch with great interest as TCV takes its next steps.



Professor Tony Crook CBE  
FACSS FRTPI





# MESSAGE FROM OUR CURRENT & FUTURE VICE-CHAIR

Dear potential TCV Chair,

Welcome to TCV and welcome to our Recruitment Pack which is aimed at potential candidates for the role of TCV Chair. This has been pulled together as part of our recruitment process and, hopefully, has assembled for you all the information you might need to make a considered decision about your potential involvement with TCV as its chair.

TCV is a genuinely fascinating organisation which combines community and volunteering activity together with making environmental improvements to local places. Our activities promote community wellbeing and cohesion and play, we believe, an important role in improving individuals' physical and mental health. As we begin to emerge (hopefully) from COVID 19 we believe the need for our activities will only increase in the coming months and years. We believe too that this demand will increase as public bodies find it increasingly difficult to fund and deliver environmental services locally.

TCV is a significant enterprise in its own right with a turnover of £10 million and 277 staff delivering our programmes. We have a three year strategy in place which will deliver our ambitions to meet the anticipated increased demand for what we do. Everything we do at TCV is driven by our mission, our values and our ethos – we are clear about who we are. We take pride that that sense of purpose is underpinned with strong governance, finances and processes.

We believe this is a great opportunity for the right individual to make a major contribution to the ongoing development of TCV and in so doing to improve the lives of tens of thousands of our fellow citizens and to leave a lasting, positive, legacy on our environment..

Rosslyn Stuart  
Incoming Vice-Chair

Simon Rennie  
Outgoing Vice-Chair



# ABOUT US

For 60 years, TCV has worked across the UK to create healthier and happier communities for everyone - communities where our activities have a lasting impact on people's health, prospects and outdoor places.

We do this by bringing people together to create, improve and care for green spaces. From local parks and community gardens to local Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest; from school grounds and hospital grounds to waterways, wetlands and woodlands; we connect people to the green spaces that form a vital part of any healthy, happy community.

We draw upon the expertise of our 220 employees and those we hold partnerships with across the UK, working with thousands of volunteers, beneficiaries and community groups to design and deliver solutions to meet their community's needs.



# GOALS

**We have set three overarching goals to drive our decision making to 2025**

**For  
people  
and green  
spaces**

## **Goal 1:**

**We will deliver, demonstrate and promote projects that deliver multiple outcomes for people and green spaces**

We believe our activities have the greatest impact when they solve multiple problems and this has always been central to our approach. We will do more to ensure that all our activities maximise the possible outcomes for people and green spaces

**A thriving  
network**

## **Goal 2:**

**We will do more to support and empower others to connect people and green spaces and deliver lasting outcomes for both**

We will increasingly use our national search and extensive expertise to support local activity and work with partners to expand the role of community volunteering in green spaces

**For  
everyone**

## **Goal 3:**

**We will support more diverse audience to connect with green spaces**

Everyone deserves to have nature in their lives. We will create safe, welcoming spaces for people who face barriers to accessing green space, especially those who could benefit most, and make our activities relevant and accessible for communities in which we work

# OUR VISION

Healthier, happier communities for everyone.

# OUR MISSION

To connect people and green spaces to deliver lasting outcomes for both.

# OUR VALUES

Make stuff better: Constantly asking ourselves if we can improve on what we do and how we do it.

Crack on and muck in: Coming to work with a mindset as a team, getting the job done, and achieving what we set out to do.

Make a difference: We have a deep desire to ensure that everything we do leaves a positive and lasting ripple effect.

Be the best we can be: We are committed to role modelling the best of ourselves in all that we do and how we do it.

Make a positive environmental impact: Our commitment to ensuring that everything we do contributes to building a sustainable planet.



# OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We are committed to increasing equality, diversity and inclusion within our organisation. This means reflecting critically on issues of equality, diversity and inclusion within all that we do, identifying and taking appropriate actions to reduce inequality.

We welcome applications from anyone regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexuality, religion or socio-economic background.

We are committed to inclusive working practices, and during the application process we commit to:

- Paying for childcare and care costs whilst you're attending an interview.
- Paying for your travel costs to the office and back for interviews if they are held in person.
- Making any reasonable adjustments - for example ensuring we have sign language interpreters organised in advance if you'd like them.
- Providing this document in a Word document format readily available to download.
- As a Disability Confident Employer we commit to offering a first stage interview to disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the role

If there is anything else you're concerned about or think we could provide, please let us know.



# OUR BOARD

The Conservation Volunteers is governed by a Board of Trustees. It is responsible for setting overall policy for The Conservation Volunteers and monitoring progress towards achieving our goals.

## About the Role

TCV is an ambitious organisation seeking a new Chair to join our Board that works to connect people to green spaces that form a vital part of any healthy, happy community.

We're particularly interested to hear from candidates who:

- Have a strong understanding of charity governance
- Can confidently and competently chair board meetings
- Can act as an ambassador for TCV
- Are strongly committed to our mission and values.



# ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chair is responsible for the following:

- Chair the Board.
- Ensure an effective and transparent system of governance, with effective Board succession, and to ensure appropriate accountability to volunteers and other beneficiaries, to the public, and to all other stakeholders.
- Ensure proper understanding of the public good fulfilled by TCV and its centrality to TCV's strategy and operations.
- Develop the Board and ensure that members are properly elected/recruited, inducted and supported.
- Ensure an effective and appropriate system of Health and Safety and Safeguarding.
- Act as an ambassador for TCV ensuring TCV continues to develop its external relations, raising its profile and supporting the growth of its impact accordingly.
- Uphold TCV's Equality and Diversity policy.
- Ensure that TCV complies with its governing document, UK Charity and Company law and all other relevant legislation and regulations and to ensure that TCV uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects.
- In all other respects to fulfil the fiduciary and statutory duties of a Charity Trustee and Company Director.

Existing Board members will support the new Chair in the delivery of these responsibilities, individually and through a tailored induction plan.





# PERSON SPECIFICATION

In addition to the skills outlined above we are looking for:

- An excellent communicator able to engage with the cross-section of TCV's volunteers, employees and trustees.
- Good listening skills and openness to others' views.
- An individual who is willing to devote the necessary time and effort to their duties.
- Excellent leadership skills and an individual who is a leader in their area of expertise.
- An interest in the community, environmental and cultural diversity sectors.
- A commitment to the charity's objects, Vision and Values.
- Good, independent judgement and the ability to think creatively in the context of the organisation and external environment.
- Strong networking capabilities that can be utilised for the benefit of the Charity.
- Good understanding of charity governance issues



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Term of office: Board Members are appointed for an initial period of up to 3 years with scope to extend up to six.

Time Commitment: We expect the time commitment to be at least 2-3 days per month and meetings are held quarterly. All Trustees would also be required to attend an induction process at the start of their term.

Location: Board meetings are usually held at our headquarters in Doncaster but we also periodically meet elsewhere across the country including London. Through the pandemic we held Board meetings remotely and will continue to offer flexible meeting options.

Remuneration: This position is not remunerated. Reasonable expenses are covered under our Board member expenses policy.

Learning and Development: We are committed to supporting Board members learning and development through training and our informal learning sessions.

Conflicts of Interest: All candidates will be asked to disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest, and these will be discussed with the candidate to establish whether and what action is needed to avoid a conflict or the perception of a conflict.





# HOW TO APPLY

The recruitment process is being undertaken by Inclusive Boards on behalf of The Conservation Volunteers. If you wish to apply for this position, please supply the following by 23.59 17/07/2022:

- A detailed CV setting out your career history, with responsibilities and achievements.
- A covering letter (maximum two sides) highlighting your suitability for the role and how you meet the person specification. Please note that the covering letter is an important part of your application.
- Details of two referees together with a brief statement of their relationship to you and over what period of time they have known you, referees will not be contacted without your prior consent.
- Diversity monitoring form - your data will be stored separately from your application and will at no time be connected to you or your application.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a call to discuss the role please email [TCV@inclusiveboards.co.uk](mailto:TCV@inclusiveboards.co.uk) or call 0207 267 8369.

Please send your CV and cover letter to [TCV@inclusiveboards.co.uk](mailto:TCV@inclusiveboards.co.uk) or visit [www.inclusiveboards.co.uk/opportunities](http://www.inclusiveboards.co.uk/opportunities) to apply online.





# INCLUSIVE BOARDS

## About Us

*Inclusive Boards* is the UK's leading board diversity practice. We have worked alongside over 300 organisations to provide support with Board recruitment, development and governance reviews. We strive to be at the forefront of equity and diversity, and believe that everyone should be represented at Board level. Additionally, we also provide bespoke training sessions on a variety of subjects including personal branding, inclusive recruitment practices and board structures and governance.

## Why Not Get in Touch?

If you think we can help to improve diversity on your Board, please don't hesitate to contact us via [hello@inclusiveboards.co.uk](mailto:hello@inclusiveboards.co.uk).

If you aspire to work on a Board, you can sign up to become a candidate and be eligible for the latest opportunities as and when they become available.

