

In Byway and Bridleway issue 2009/1, we look at the future of the Trust and explain the desirability to find and appoint additional Trustees to help us move forward from our thirtieth, to our fiftieth, anniversary.

The work of the Trust involves dealing with local, regional and national consultations and proposals on management initiatives, statutory changes, issue of guidance, good practice; and with 'sharp end' work involving individual cases such as obstructions and diversions. It is worthwhile and rewarding, knowing that this will help provide for future rural access.

This is a brief outline of what is involved:

Trustees are responsible for directing the affairs of the Trust, and ensuring that it is financially solvent, well run, and delivers the charitable purposes for which it was set up in 1979. Trustees must ensure that the Trust's operation complies with charity law, with the requirements of the Charity Commission, and that the Trust prepares reports on what it has achieved, together with statutory annual returns and accounts.

Trustees must act with integrity and ensure that the Trust's operations also have integrity, and must avoid any personal conflicts of interest or misuse of charity funds or assets.

Trustees must use reasonable care and skill in their work as Trustees, using their personal skills and experience as needed to ensure that the charity is well run and efficient. This is why it is important that we have Trustees with experience and expertise in, for example, equestrian, cycling, and motoring matters.

It is not a 'legal responsibility', but the Trust needs Trustees able to take on and develop certain roles and tasks, such as dealing with the media, and holding a watching brief on National Trails.

Trustees are not paid, but some essential travel costs for meetings are reimbursed. Most work is progressed by letter and email, with twice-yearly meetings at a central location.

If you would like to know more, please contact our Chairman of Trustees at:

chairman@bbtrust.org.uk

The general responsibilities and function of Charitable Trustees may be found on the Charity Commission's website at:

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc3.asp#b2>