

Opportunity to become Chair of an exciting community hub and charity in South-East Edinburgh

Bridgend Farmhouse (BF) is a Community Benefit Society with charitable status, originally called Bridgend Inspiring Growth, which formed in 2011. We are a thriving community hub where everyone can learn, work and grow together to create a flourishing community and place. We work to address social inequalities, reduce isolation and loneliness, to strengthen community involvement and develop sustainable ways of living. Our overall aim is to enable local people, to live healthy, connected and satisfying lives. Owned and run by the community, BF has a community café; training kitchen, kitchen garden, workshop spaces (woodwork; bike repair and hire; arts and crafts; outdoor education); various groups and classes; peer support; family learning; an eco-bothy build; community events; and more. It's a place where people can come together to carry out creative, physical and purposeful activities and to develop and share skills and knowledge with each other. We strive to nurture the values of being welcoming, people power, care and justice, enabling, creativity and belonging, in all that we do. Democratic structures consist of a Board of Trustees, five working groups and volunteers' forums.

Our website can show you a lot more about what we do and our history: www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk. There are films there too, and there we are also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, for more information.

The community and organisation now own and run Bridgend Farmhouse after one of the first urban asset transfers in Scotland in 2015, and we opened the centre to the public following much volunteer work in March 2018. In 2019 we were 'Commended' in the MacEwan Award 'Architecture for the common good' and 'Highly Commended' in the 'Celebrating Communities' category of the SCVO Scottish Charity Awards. We are one of the two community organisations represented on the Scottish Government Community Land Ownership Implementation Group. In 2018 we transfer organisational structure to enable true community ownership, and 404 people became shareholder members, investing over £70'000 in the development of the organisation through a community share issue.

An opportunity has now emerged to join the Board of Trustees as Chairperson. We currently have 10 trustees, 50% of which come from the local area of benefit. The Board meeting monthly and the Chair's role would involve; providing strategic leadership; chairing meetings; working with other Trustees, the Development Manager and volunteers, and liaising with a number of important external stakeholders, including funders. It is an exciting stage of our development as we move from being a small community group to a social enterprise with land, facilities, staff, lots of volunteers, support and infrastructure. We seek someone with excellent interpersonal and communication skills, ideally with prior experience in a governance role. A good grasp of at least one of the following would be an advantage: business development and growth, social enterprise, budgeting and financial strategy, employment law and/or HR, fundraising, community development, environmental sustainability, people management. Note that we are unable to appoint anyone as a Trustee who would be banned under the Charities and Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (e.g. because of undischarged bankruptcy or unspent conviction for dishonesty).

We welcome an informal initial discussion with anyone potentially interested in applying. If so, please contact Will Golding, Trustee, on; will.g.bridgendfarmhouse@gmail.com or 07949230245.