**The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country**

**Could you be one of our new Trustees?**

**By joining us as a Trustee you can have a direct impact on nature’s recovery on your doorstep.**

**Closing date: 28th September 2020**

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country is a dynamic, stable and independent charity with over 7,000 passionate members, governed by a Council of Management consisting of 12 Trustees from whom its Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are drawn (see separate role descriptions). These officer positions are filled following elections by the members at its Annual General Meeting. The staff of 25 professional employees, led by Chief Executive Officer Dr Delia Garratt, report to Council through the Chair. The Trust is affiliated and a member of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts which consists of 47 local Trusts across the UK.

As well as these officer positions, Council intend to recommend the election of up to six new Trustees at the January 2021 AGM. Potential new Trustees will be co-opted to Council following selection this Autumn and will have the opportunity of finding out how the Trust is governed and learning about its operation. Positions are unpaid.

It is a requirement of all trustees that they:

* are committed to the Trust’s cause and have joined its Council because they want to help the charity deliver its purposes most effectively for public benefit
* recognise that meeting the Trust’s stated public benefit is an ongoing requirement
* understand their roles and legal responsibilities, and, in particular, have read and understand:
	+ the Charity Commission’s guidance [The Essential Trustee (CC3)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3)
	+ the Trust’s governing document
* are committed to good governance and want to contribute to the Trust’s continued improvement
* are members of The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country and are normally elected for a three-year term at the AGM
* are required to comply with the Trust Code of Conduct and Governance Handbook

**About You**

Your professional and/or personal experience will assist the Trust in understanding more about our local communities, green spaces and the needs of the organisation to successfully achieve its vision and purpose.

As we continue to diversify and strengthen our Trustee Board we are particularly interested in hearing from candidates that have skills and expertise in the following areas:

**Ecological or environmental expertise**

With a recognised professional standing you will be able and willing to use your skills to work with Council and stakeholders to influence decision makers about the critical importance of the natural world and to ensure that the work of the Trust complies with best practice.

**Financial management or accountancy expertise**

Your experience and qualifications will enable you to explore and explain the charity’s accounts and financial plans to non-financial Trustees and staff and to support the Trust’s professional team with the presentation of financial performance reports and the identification and management of risk.

**Teaching, skills and education experience**

You have a substantial career in education, are familiar with national curriculum expectations, skills and educational funding governance and regulation. You will be willing to use these skills to support staff to develop our environmental education offer and use your networks to promote our work including our funded Nature Friendly Schools Programme which aims to connect with over 120 schools in the region over the next three years.

**Town planning, infrastructure projects** **and development expertise**

In 2020 the region and its natural environment faces the challenges of major infrastructure and development along with that of climate change. Your expertise as a developer, policy maker or public figure will bring added insight to our understanding of Nature Recovery Networks and how they can be implemented and will support the Trust’s work for local and other regional authorities and projects for landscape scale initiatives.

**Community development expertise**

The Trust works with a wide range of voluntary groups and community bodies and Associations of Friends. Your experience in community development will support Council’s understanding of how best to empower sustainable relations with community bodies. You will support with identification of funding and other opportunities derived from working in partnership, and with engaging with representatives of communities currently underrepresented on the Trust.

**Health and wellbeing**

The importance for positive physical and mental health and wellbeing is a significant focus for the Trust. Your expertise and connections will support this aspect of the Trust’s work to increase access and engagement to nature for our communities along with understanding the importance of natural capital in the region’s economy.

**Successful business leader**

You view a healthy natural environment for Birmingham and the Black Country as critical to the success and growth of a sustainable economy. You are willing to be an advocate for the natural environment to your business networks, making the case for natural capital, and creating new partnerships for the Trust.

**About Us**

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country is the only charity uniquely focused on protecting, enriching and connecting people with the habitats and wildlife of the area. Born out of local campaigns to protect important wildlife sites in the conurbation from development, it then became a national champion for connecting people with wildlife in a metropolitan environment. Whilst having only been established in 1980 and with smaller resources than some long established County Trusts, it facedthe challenge of relating to and improving the wildlife and lives of the 3 million people.

In recent years the Trust has successfully;

* *strengthened its financial position*
* *achieved a strong and widely skilled management and staff team*
* *become a recognised partner of local and regional government/statutory bodies*
* *won national awards for its Nature Improvement Area work (CIEM 2019)*
* *participated in national initiatives such as Nature Friendly Schools*
* *developed the regions flora and fauna database used commercially by developers and planning authorities*

**Our Vision**

Our vision is for Birmingham and the Black Country to have more wildlife, more wild places and more people with a strong connection to the natural world. Our mission is that by recognising the importance of our unique natural heritage, shaped by local history, we will protect and restore the natural environment.

**Our Goals**

* Space for nature is protected, restored, created and valued
* Everyone is connected to nature
* The natural environment is at the heart of planning, policy and decision making
* We are an effective organisation

**Our Values**

* Our well-being depends on nature
* Wildlife and wild places are valuable in their own right
* We believe that we must all work together to enable the natural world to recover on land and at sea

**Useful Information**

[Our Vision for a Greener Future](https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-01/WTBBC%202017%20-%202022%20Strategy%20A%20Greener%20Future_0.pdf)

[Ecological Strategy 2017-2022](https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-10/NIA%20Ecological%20Strategy%202017-22%20Summary.pdf)

[Annual financial report 2019](https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-09/WTBBC%20Audited%20Accounts%2031.03.2019.pdf)

[State of nature report 2019](https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-11/State%20of%20Nature%20Report%202019%20UK%20Final.pdf)

[Volunteering: A Natural Health Service](https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-10/summary_volunteering_-_a_natural_health_service.pdf)

[Health and wellbeing impacts of volunteering with the Wildlife Trusts - University of Essex Report](https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-10/r3_the_health_and_wellbeing_impacts_of_volunteering_with_the_wildlife_trusts_-_university_of_essex_report_3_0.pdf)

**Next Steps**

Those wishing to apply may wish to have an informal discussion with the Chief Executive Officer, Dr Delia Garratt. Please contact tanya.p@bbcwildlife .org.uk if you wish to arrange this. If you wish to formally continue with your application, please send a covering letter and a current CV (four pages maximum) to recruitment@bbcwildlife.org.uk.

Candidates should ensure that their application sets out how they meet the skills and experience required. Preferred candidates will be invited to meet for an interview on 12th and/or 13th October.

As an inclusive employer we recognise that our workforce needs to reflect better the communities in which we live and work. We encourage applications from all sections of the community, particularly those currently underrepresented within our sector, including people from minority ethnic backgrounds and people with disabilities. We’re committed to creating an organisation that recognises and truly values individual differences and identities.

Further information about the work of the Trust can be found on our website at [www.bbcwildlife.org.uk](http://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk)