

Non-Executive Director application pack

Unpaid (expenses only)

About Shared Assets

Land, and the way that it is owned and managed, impacts on all of us. It has different places in all of our histories, whatever our backgrounds or heritage, whether our experience is of public or private ownership, colonialism, dispossession, or migration, the difficulties of making a living in a rural economy, or the daily impacts of urbanisation and gentrification. We believe that how we own, manage and make decisions about land is fundamental to ensuring that, collectively, we have a future that is fair, equitable and just.

Shared Assets is a think and do tank with a mission to make land work for everyone. Specifically, we support the development of new models of managing land for shared social, economic and environmental benefits. We call these new models "[common good land use](#)", meaning land use that:

1. Provides sustainable livelihoods
2. Enriches the environment
3. Produces things people need
4. Provides shared benefits
5. Is controlled by communities
6. Is at the centre of wider system change

This can cover a wide range of land uses but primarily focuses on the management of woodlands, food growing land, and parks and open spaces. It may also include the development of buildings and housing where these are integral to the broader land management project.

Through our work we aim to ensure that common good land users are effective and supported. We want them to be confident, secure, profitable, connected and influential, able to access resources and advice, and operating in a supportive regulatory context.

We do this by providing advice, support and training to landowners, social enterprises and community groups developing new models of land use, undertaking research to explore what works, and advocating for changes that will enable these models to thrive. Our innovation work creates new products, services and tools for common good land users, such as [Land Explorer](#) and our [Local Land Economies](#) toolkits. Our theory of change is appended to this document.

Governance

Shared Assets is at an interesting transition point and we are looking for 2-3 new volunteer non-executive directors to help guide the organisation through this time. We are currently a company limited by guarantee, with two executive directors (Mark Walton & Kate Swade), and

four non-executive directors (Lorraine Hart, Sylvia Brown, Iain Morrison and David Riddle). See <http://www.sharedassets.org.uk/about-us/#team> for more information.

In 2019, we are planning to convert to become a Community Interest Company (CIC), to reinforce our social enterprise and non-profit distributing status and open up further grant funding avenues. We are also embedding self-managing processes within our staff team, and are actively looking to distribute power throughout the organisation as much as possible.

The role of a Shared Assets non-executive director is very much *not* a command-and-control one. We value our non-executive board members as they provide valuable insight, strategic direction, and help keep the organisation **honest, focussed and sustainable**. The executive team provides the leadership, develops the strategy, and delivers the work.

Some of our current board members' terms are coming to an end in 2019, and we would like to invite some more non-executive directors to join our team.

What's in it for you?

This is an unpaid role, and we're really pleased that you're interested enough to have got this far! We hope our non-exec roles are interesting, thought provoking, and enjoyable. NEDs play a crucial role in helping keep the Shared Assets show on the road. We would want to have a conversation about what you would be looking to get from the role, but it will provide:

- Non-executive and governance level experience
- A close up view into the running of a small social enterprise
- Opportunities for strategic engagement with land issues and how we best tackle them.
- An opportunity to engage with an organisation in transition.

We are looking for people who, in particular:

- Are interested in and passionate about our vision of making land work for everyone
 - You might be a land professional, community land use practitioner, grower or a woodlander, or someone interested in the new economy and systems change more generally
- Have some experience and insight to share that will help our business model:
 - You might have a deep understanding of the needs of community projects, be a landowner or understand the landowning community, have run a small social enterprise or consultancy business, or be great at lobbying and campaigning. If you have a relevant network that you can introduce us to, that would be a bonus.
- Are interested in organisational development
 - A key part of this role is helping us tackle complex issues as a small organisation in transition - you might have direct experience of this or just be really interested in how it could work.

Currently, we have board meetings quarterly (usually on a Thursday afternoon in London, but this can be flexible). We are exploring creating structures for non-executive directors to have closer connections to certain projects or areas of the business; we would ask people to be



able to set aside time for at least one further meeting or interaction in between the board meetings.

How to apply:

If you're interested, could you [fill in this form](#), and one of us will get back to you, to arrange a time for a phone or Skype chat or to meet for a coffee. We will be looking for people with a good mix of experience and personalities, and where we can see that we can clearly add value to each other.

Timelines

In the first instance, please express an interest in this role by the **20th February 2019**. We would like to be able to invite prospective board members to join our meeting on the 21st March.

If the timing isn't quite right for you, we will keep the form open and be looking at expressions of interest on a rolling basis.