

Transition Buxton:

Director Recruitment Information

Summary

Transition Buxton (TB) is a community interest company, focused on a sustainable future for Buxton. We have broader ambitions and are pursuing a major local, renewable energy generation project, which we feel will need a separate, independent organisation, with a different legal form. While TB has a number of active volunteers, we are seeking to strengthen leadership and governance, and are looking for directors/leaders for the new organisation, particularly those with financial/investment experience and technical knowledge of renewables. This short paper is an invitation to join these local groups at an exciting time in their development.

Mission

“To encourage and help people to develop and live sustainably within our planet’s capacity.

In particular we promote and encourage progressively reducing consumption of non-renewable resources and energy (especially fossil fuels). We promote eco-friendly lifestyles through education, collaboration, and respect for people and planet. However, Transition Buxton does not wish to be prescriptive as we recognise that there are many complex matters still to be resolved and every individual must make their own informed choices.

Transition Buxton concentrates on ‘doing’ and finding pragmatic solutions. Transition Buxton is wholly independent and run by its Members; we have no political affiliations.

Transition Buxton is not a campaigning organisation, although we recognise that there is no clear line between raising awareness and promoting a view about an environmental issue. There are many environmental campaigning organisations and in general we encourage Members to join those with which they feel an affinity.”

Legal Form

Transition Buxton is a Community Interest Company¹. CICs are “*companies which operate to provide a benefit to the community they serve. The purpose of a CIC is primarily one of community benefit rather than private profit.*” As such, Transition Buxton is a legal entity, that can act like any other company, entering into contacts, owning assets, providing direct services to the local community etc. It is run by its directors, who are elected by its members at General Meetings.

¹ See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-interest-companies-how-to-form-a-cic/community-interest-companies-guidance-chapters>

History and Current Activities

Transition Buxton² was first established in 2008 with an interim constitution and was established more or less in its current form in 2010. We have grown to be an inclusive, proactive, self-sustaining not for profit organisation with roughly 150 members including up to nine (we currently have five vacancies) directors, and a further 350 people who receive our bi-monthly e-newsletters. While TB has no premises or employees, and limited physical assets, our volunteers run a number of services for people in Buxton, such as:

- **Repair Cafe** – monthly Repair Cafe (3rd Saturday morning of most months), undertaking repairs of a wide-range of items, notably electrical, textiles, ceramics, clocks and watches, reducing waste and landfill.
- **Library of Things** – for a small joining fee and fee per loaned item, a wide range of power and garden tools, household cleaning devices, computer projector and screen etc., can be borrowed, reducing demand for new items that are used infrequently.
- **Sustainable Fashion activities** - Clothes Swap opportunities and Stitch Don't Ditch workshops.
- **Hard to Recycle plastics** – running a range of schemes to collect difficult to recycle plastic items under TerraCycle schemes, via collection points across the town.
- **Plastic Free Award** – working with a range of local businesses and community groups, reducing demand for single-use plastics and achieving Surfers Against Sewage's Plastic Free status³.
- **Community Orchard** – over the years, our volunteers have planted over 100 fruit trees at a number of public sites across Buxton⁴, and the public are encouraged to pick fruit when it ripens.

Financial Information

The current net financial assets of Transition Buxton are a little over £9,000, with over £5,000 being unrestricted (i.e. available for any legal use at the discretion of the directors), with the remainder earmarked for specific projects. Turnover is generally modest, mainly comprising public liability insurance, venue hire, and IT costs. Although CICs can pay their directors, TB's are unpaid.

Transition Buxton have been awarded a grant of almost £100,000 by the Midlands Net Zero Hub to conduct a Stage 2 Feasibility Study into a Floating Solar Array. It is envisaged that, if this project proceeds successfully, it will result in a separate, independent Community Benefit Society⁵ (Buxton Community Energy), launching and running the array in partnership with Energy4All⁶.

Interested?

If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch via chair@transitionbuxton.co.uk to get more information or arrange a conversation.

Ian Bowns, Chair, 21 April 2026

² See <https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk/our-story-so-far/>

³ See <https://plasticfree.org.uk/community/buxton/>

⁴ Site map https://www.google.com/maps/d/embed?mid=1kGsLSqP8ute_na9ya1zk5fZYI0zHUtWN&ll=53.25549303636041%2C-1.9240196144664856&z=15

⁵ See <https://www.uk.coop/resources/community-shares-handbook/2-society-legislation/21-bona-fide-co-operative-societies/211-cs>

⁶ See <https://energy4all.co.uk/>