

# Interview with Don Steele, Trustee, Chippenham Brough Lands Charity



## **What made you decide to become a Trustee for CBLC?**

I'm at a stage of life where I now have the time; experience and desire to give something back to my local community. Politics doesn't appeal to me personally so becoming a trustee of a respected, well-resourced charity that makes a significant difference to the lives of local people ticked all the boxes for me.

## **How long have you been a Trustee?**

8 months.

## **What is your favourite thing about being a Trustee?**

Getting to understand the town we've made our home a lot better, and in doing so trying to make a difference to the lives of those who need it most.

## **What matters to you?**

Working with the other trustees to come up with the right solution to deliver timely and appropriate help wherever it's required.

## **What do you feel trusteeship adds to your personal and professional development?**

By working with others and coming up with joint decisions, I feel a valued part of a great team of people that I wouldn't otherwise have met.

## **What value have you been able to add to your charity with your personal and professional experience?**

My background as an ex-Army officer with international, technical and operational experience contrasts with that of my fellow trustees, bringing a balanced and different experience to the table yet without the expected stereotypical or traditional views people might expect.

## **What would you say are the important attributes a trustee should have?**

An ability to listen carefully to the views and opinions of others in taking joint decisions and asking relevant questions to ensure that the charity's money is spent wisely within the constraints of existing policies. But ultimately, being able to focus on the needs of applicants and if need be, giving them the benefit of the doubt.

## **If you could give one piece of advice to someone thinking about becoming a trustee what would it be?**

If you can find a charity you really care about and are prepared and able to give them the time and attention they deserve, then go for it! You won't regret it.

#Trustees Week