

Board Director - Our Food 1200

Our Food 1200 is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society (no.8795) working in Powys and South-East Wales. Set up in 2022 with support from the **Conservation Farming Trust**, we provide leadership for building a local food economy.

The Board of Our Food 1200 is currently looking to appoint an additional director with first-hand experience of commercial small-scale and/or field-scale fruit and vegetable production in Wales. We feel that bringing someone with this knowledge on to the team is essential for shaping our vision and direction going forward.

About the role

Directors are responsible for the strategic direction and overall governance of Our food 1200. We work collectively and are passionate about what we do. You can find out more about our current 8 directors **here**.

Key responsibilities

Directors have the following responsibilities, as set out in our **Rules**:

- (a) To ensure that the Society's affairs are conducted in accordance with: its Rules; the best interests of the Society and the community it is set up to benefit; and its Members and wider stakeholders, taking the views of Members and wider stakeholders into account.
- (b) To determine the purpose, strategy, culture, values and policy of the Society in consultation with the Officers and its Members.
- (c) To determine the risk strategy of the Society and ensure that risk management is addressed.
- (d) To oversee the work of the Officers in the day-to-day management of the business of the Society.

Time commitments

Directors are appointed for a three-year term, with the Board meeting in person or online every two to three months. Directors are also involved in other activities according to their skills and time. We fully understand that you are already very busy and will be as flexible as possible with time commitments.

This is a voluntary (unpaid) role. However, under our Rules directors may receive payment for specific funded projects undertaken for the organisation. For example, our two project managers, who job share, are also directors and they receive payment for their role as co-project managers.

Skills, knowledge and experience

We are looking for someone who:

- Is running a small-scale/field-scale commercial agroecological fruit and vegetable farming enterprise
- Is a supporter of agroecological farming methods
- Understands current Welsh Government support mechanisms for horticulture
- Has a sound knowledge of the horticulture industry within Wales, its aims and ambitions
- Can articulate to other directors and growers the opportunities, threats, pressures, etc facing small-scale farming enterprises, to influence the future direction of our organisation
- Can support and speak for Our food 1200 and act as a sounding board for all growers.

About us

Our Food 1200 believes in change at scale. Our mission is to build a new and thriving local food economy that will benefit all farmers. Our aim is to expand commercial agroecological food growing in our region to 1200 acres by 2032, creating the foundations needed to build a secure food supply for our communities and towns, schools and other public bodies, and nearby cities.

Our objectives are to:

- Build demand for locally grown fruit and vegetables – within our communities, from the public sector and in nearby cities
- Build new farmer-owned supply chains to meet this new demand – with the profit from these supply chains staying within our communities
- Expand the amount of land used for agroecological food growing – working with local authorities to diversify suitable county farms and publicly owned land, encouraging existing farms to diversify into growing, and securing land for new farms
- Build support for this transformation – supportive Government policies; an enabling planning framework; food and farming organisations working together; strong training provision
- Be a well-governed and financially secure organisation

Some of our achievements to date are:

- Setting up and supporting **Bannauacres**, a network of small-scale agroecological farmers
- Commissioning a film, **Our Food Our Future** about the struggles of young farmers to secure land in our region
- Matching landowners and potential growers, setting out the criteria for land that is suitable for leasing
- Facilitating a pilot project in Powys to turn council-owned land into three new small-farm enterprises, with suitable housing, in partnership with Powys County Council, Social Farms and Gardens and other key partners (the Future Farms Partnership)
- Working with Government and other partners to influence policies relating to food security, planning and housing, including altering planning policy to permit on-site homes, and to secure ongoing funding support for small-scale horticulture.

We will build on the above in the coming year, designing local supply chains that will enable more farmers to grow fruit and vegetables, confident of their markets.

We are a small team of committed people. We work closely with the Conservation Farming Trust and other partners, receiving project funding for our activities.

How to apply

Please send a short letter of application showing how you meet our requirements, along with a CV (no more than four pages in total) to our chair, Judy Wayne, at the email below.

If you'd like more information, or to have an informal chat before you apply, please contact Judy, or fellow director John Morris.

Judy Wayne – judy.wayne@ourfood1200.wales and 07880 606067

John Morris – john.morris@ourfood1200.wales and 07950 026243

We will hold interviews with suitable candidates and are looking to appoint within the next three months.