

RURAL URBAN SYNTHESIS SOCIETY

Volunteer Charter for Site Volunteers

The Rural Urban Synthesis Society (RUSS) is a members-led Community Land Trust based in South London, founded in 2009 with the aim of creating sustainable community-led neighbourhoods and truly affordable homes.

We seek to implement our vision by engaging the community and the involvement of local volunteers to share skills, knowledge and develop greater community. RUSS has over 1,000 members many of whom are also active volunteers – and they are key to the delivery of our vision. We got over 90 volunteers together in 2019 to build our Community Hub and training facility on part of our Lewisham site.

We consider our duty of care to all those involved with any RUSS project our main priority and will endeavour to make it a meaningful and positive experience for our volunteers. We have therefore set out some expectations that we as RUSS will seek to deliver and we would ask all volunteers on the project to agree to:

RUSS will

1. Provide a range of volunteering opportunities, appropriate to the needs of the project
2. Provide the necessary briefings, supervision and security
3. Provide clear instruction of each activity
4. Be clear of the start and end time for each project or piece of work, allowing for flexibility to accommodate needs and other commitments
5. Provide appropriate tools and instruction to undertake the tasks
6. Make sure that communication with supporters, stakeholders, neighbours and local community is managed centrally by RUSS
7. Provide progress updates
8. Ask you to leave if you are putting yourself or others at risk, are affecting the project detrimentally, or breach key rules or guidance
9. Follow our existing Policies, found on our website [Policies Page](#)

Volunteers will

1. Follow instructions from the project lead or your 'buddy'
2. Show respect to everyone on the project and not be abusive in any way
3. Agree not to bite off more than you can chew – only accept a project if you have time and resources to see it through ... and
4. Ask for help when you need it!
5. Not represent RUSS to any external body, including neighbours and the local community
6. Inform any Trustee if you have any concerns about any activities, including whistleblowing and general feedback

Thank you for supporting the work of RUSS