

Pride In Place: Stoke Park & Chantry

Neighbourhood Board
Recruitment Pack – Board
Chair

About Pride in Place

Pride in Place is a UK Government scheme that gives up to £20 million to selected neighbourhoods to help improve their local area.

It lets local people decide what matters most, such as improving green spaces, setting up new community facilities, or supporting local services and projects.

Two areas in Ipswich have been selected by the government to receive this funding.

These are:

- **Stoke Park and Chantry**
- **Whitehouse**

As the decisions related to this funding are for the community to decide, new Neighbourhood Boards, made up by a majority of independent people who live or work in those areas, will be established.

These boards will have responsibility for engaging with local communities and making decisions on how to spend the funding. The Neighbourhood Boards should lay the foundations for community-led partnerships that continue to drive change well beyond the ten years of funding.

The money provided by the Programme should sow the seeds for longer-term transformation, with communities using it to: take ownership of assets to ensure they benefit local people or bring in revenue; crowd in philanthropic funding; or leverage in social investment, so that **Neighbourhood Boards** leave a lasting legacy in each area.

A brief timetable of the first steps of the project:

- **Summer 2026** – Recruit the new Neighbourhood Boards
- **Summer 2026 onwards** – Community Engagement to understand local priorities and early funding ideas
- **Winter 2026/27** - Neighbourhood Boards produce their first Four Year funding plan to inform their next steps and a Ten-Year Vision beyond that

The aim for the Board

While they will initially be a Board supported by the Council, the expectation is that these Boards will soon become stand-alone organisations which drive the change and spend the funding in partnership with local residents.

This could be a charity, a CIC, Trust, or whatever model the Board chooses based on which is best to deliver its future funding plans.

Board Members will be supported to develop these structures with expert advice and guidance in the initial years of the project.

Stoke Park and Chantry Neighbourhood Board Chair

Is this the role for you?

We are looking for a passionate and well-connected community leader to take on the voluntary role of Independent Chair for the new Stoke Park and Chantry Neighbourhood Board.

This is a rare and meaningful opportunity to help shape the long-term future of your neighbourhood and ensure local people choose the direction of this significant funding.

As Chair, you will bring local people, organisations, businesses and partners together to co-create a shared vision for the area.

You should have a strong commitment to the neighbourhood, an ability to listen, and your determination to champion the community's voice should shine through. Neighbourhood Boards should lay the foundations for community-led partnerships that continue to drive change well beyond the ten years of funding and as Chair it will be your responsibility to create that lasting legacy. It is no small task!

The ideal Chair is trusted, calm and collaborative, able to unite diverse perspectives, navigate differences with care, and represent their neighbourhood externally with confidence and integrity. They will want to ensure every voice from every part of the community is heard and respected.

The Chair must be someone who is from the area, by which we mean living or working there. They likely already hold a prominent, even if informal, role in the community or who can show they have a passion for the neighbourhood.

If you're passionate about your community and ready to lead positive change, we want to hear from you. Step forward and help shape the future of your neighbourhood.

Important information

Expenses

Whilst this is a voluntary role, similar to that of a school governor or charity trustee, to ensure that the Neighbourhood Board has the right leadership, and to ensure the position up to candidates who might otherwise be unable to put themselves forward, expenses linked to the delivery of the responsibilities of this role will be covered, including transport, child care and any reasonable costs that allow candidates to perform their duty.

Support and training

You won't be doing this alone! The Council will support you with any training you may need, which might be delivered by other partners such as local charities, as well as access to a pool of subject experts you might like to speak to. You will be supported with secretariat administration and in developing your Board, so it functions well and in the way you would like it to.

Code of Conduct

The Chair will be expected to sign up to a code of conduct outlining the principles of working in a public position. This is included on our website so you can see ahead of applying what the expectations are. [Join the Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board | ipswich.gov.uk](https://www.ipswich.gov.uk)

Board Chair Role description

Purpose of the role:

To lead the Stoke Park and Chantry Pride in Place Board. This will be someone who can bring the community together to share their ideas in an open and collaborative way. The Chair's main job is to be a champion for Stoke Park and Chantry and to represent the community-led spirit of the programme. The Chair should have a deep connection to their area and can be new to this kind of work. What matters most is a commitment to seeing change through and improving the lives of those in the community.

There are no formal qualification requirements for this role – we are seeking the right people based on who they are not what exams they have taken.

The Chair should be someone who:

- Is deeply connected to their community and very committed to making it an even better place to live.
- Can bring together different types of people from across their community, to shape a shared idea for the future of their place.
- Is trusted locally and will be respected as a leader – even if this is their first formal leadership role.
- Ensures that all voices are heard and that Board discussions are collaborative.
- Is good at finding agreement, navigating conflict calmly and fairly, never allowing strong personalities to get in the way of progress.
- Brings together community groups and focuses on community engagement as the heart of the programme.
- Is clear about what they don't know and looks at how to include people on the board to fill these gaps.
- Thinks outside of the box and creatively about solutions to problems and ways to draw in the community.
- Acts as the public face of the board and brings figures of different political stripes together.

The Chair should not be:

- A gatekeeper - the Board should have many voices, including ones that differ from the Chair's, and they will need to be able to ensure this is positive and respected.
- Someone who pushes their own priorities over those of the wider community - this is about representing the views of the community rather than those of the individuals on the Board.
- The only decision-maker or expert in the room – the Board should be a collaborative space, and the Chair is a facilitator not the only decision taker.
- Responsible for day-to-day actions – they should have oversight of what is a large and potentially complex programme but not be expected to do all the work themselves.

Skills of a good Chair:

- Be able to see how to turn community ideas into fundable projects
- Fair and balanced, ensuring that all voices are heard
- Good at support conversations, particularly when people don't all agree
- Be able to reflect the Board discussions back to the wider community
- Open to learning, feedback and development, and an interest in mentoring and upskilling others
- Welcoming, open and listens deeply to others
- Calm under pressure and manages conflict well
- Has time to prioritise the role

How to apply

If you like the sound of the opportunity, to apply, please submit your CV and use our application form to complete three short questions explaining why you have a deep connection to the area and why you would be well suited to the role.

The questions are:

- Why would you make a good chair?
- What strengths and opportunities do you see in the area to build on?
- What would success in the area look like in ten years' time?

Applications should be submitted via our webform [here](#) by 09:00 on Monday 15th June 2026.

Recruitment timetable

Interviews will take place in the neighbourhood on 26th June 2026 with candidates being informed whether they have been selected for interview no later than 22nd June 2026.

The interview panel will be chaired by Jack Abbott MP and include representatives from Ipswich Borough Council and the local community.