

Trustee Elections 2025: Candidates' statements

The following statements have been provided by the candidates to help inform your vote.

Board of Trustees

The trustees are the management committee of Community Works, a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. They are responsible for strategic policy and planning, ensuring the organisation remains true to its original vision, and that it complies with all necessary rules and legal obligations.

Candidates

Clair Howell, The Clock Tower Sanctuary

I have lived and worked in Brighton for the past 25 years, with over a decade of experience in the voluntary sector. I currently work with the Clock Tower Sanctuary, a charity supporting young people experiencing homelessness, and I'm also on the board of trustees for Community Works.

My role at the Clock Tower Sanctuary is Operations Impact and Data Manager, which gives me both strategic and operational oversight. My expertise includes leadership practice, financial management, restricted funding, data analysis, impact measurement, and HR processes. I take a systems-change approach, with a strong focus on quality assurance, compliance, and outcome-based planning and evaluation.

I'm committed to co-developing solutions with individuals who have lived experience, ensuring that services are shaped by the people who use them. I'm passionate about creating meaningful change and amplifying voices through inclusive, collaborative practice—something I'm excited to bring to my role at Community Works.

Diana Penly

I have lived in Brighton and Sussex for the last 30+ years. I have 25 years' experience in a financial organisation and have worked in projects, IT, product development and operations. Most recently, I was in a senior leadership role developing strategy and delivering large scale change programmes across global teams.

I am currently involved with running and organising a number of local environmental and arts charities and groups across Sussex. I have found working with the voluntary sector to be very rewarding and have developed a better understanding of the differing and common challenges faced.

Community Works is a critical part of the local voluntary and community ecosystem. I hope that in joining the Board of Trustees I can offer skills and experience from previous and recent roles to help navigate through the current sector challenges.

Geoff Brown, Macmillan Horizon Centre

I am the Centre Manager of the Macmillan Horizon Centre, which opened in November 2016. The Horizon Centre is based opposite the Royal Sussex and is a purpose-built Information & Support Centre to support people living with and affected by cancer.

Before joining Macmillan, I managed Citizens Advice 1066 in Hastings and I spent 16 years at Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) as a volunteer Programme Manager in China, Country Director in the Philippines and Head of Volunteering Development based in London. In the last role I was responsible for developing new international volunteer programmes, including the development of programmes to engage 18-25-year olds in International volunteering; the development of international volunteer recruitment bases in Manila, Delhi and Nairobi as well as a programme to promote and support volunteering in the Countries where VSO had programmes.

Whilst working at Citizens Advice in Hastings I was on the Board of Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) and Hasting Advice Resource Centre (HARC). I hope that by joining the Board of Community Works I will be able to play a small role in helping to strengthen and build the support available to voluntary and community groups in Brighton and Hove.

Pras Sasidharan, Bridging Change

I moved from London to Brighton more than 30 years ago and immediately felt at home in this wonderfully open and diverse city. Over the years, I've seen first-hand how much Brighton's spirit is shaped by the people and organisations who give their time and energy to help others — and that's what inspires me to be part of Community Works.

My professional background is in customer service and leadership within the IT industry, where I've spent over two decades building teams and developing strategies that focus on people, collaboration, and continuous improvement. I believe that creating environments where people feel supported and valued brings out their best — whether that's in business, community projects, or everyday life.

Becoming a trustee of Community Works feels like a natural way to give back to the city that has given me so much. I'm passionate about helping to strengthen local connections, share knowledge, and celebrate the difference that individuals and groups make across Brighton and beyond.

Tamás Scsaurszki

I am a part-time Learning Support Worker at the St Johns College in Brighton while I also do free-lance work in the charity sector.

I have worked in the charity world for 30 years. Before I moved to Brighton in August 2024, I was the CEO of the Roots and Wings Foundation in Budapest, Hungary for 12 years. We developed the Foundation into a fully-fledged grantmaking organisation aimed at initiating profound social change in Hungary by supporting community foundations, charismatic community leaders, women-led groups and community philanthropy initiatives. Prior to that I was a free-lance consultant working with charities and grantmakers on organisational development, network building, programme research and evaluation.

In addition to Community Works, I serve on the board of the Nonprofit Information and Training Centre Foundation (Hungary), the Ferencváros Community Foundation (Budapest) and the Global Fund for Community Foundations (UK – South Africa)

I am honoured to be Community Works' the trustee and support charities and community groups in my new home.