

Trustee Elections 2026: 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

Ian Bretman, Healthwatch Brighton and Hove

I have lived in Worthing for the past five years, having relocated from London after retiring

from full-time employment. My professional life has been focused on tackling inequality and promoting social justice and sustainability. I worked with the international Fairtrade movement for over 20 years, facilitating collaborations between development agencies and businesses, and supporting the efforts of communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America to secure a better deal from international trade in products like coffee, chocolate and bananas. More recently I have applied my experience to helping voluntary organisations and public services as a trustee or board member and consultant.



I represent Sussex Healthwatches as a volunteer at local NHS meetings, and as well as my role as Chair of Community Works, I chair the national umbrella organisation for the Neighbourhood Watch movement, and the Joint Audit Committee of Sussex Police and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner. I'm also a trustee with Citizens Advice West Sussex and serve on the board of Timewise, a successful social

enterprise which seeks to create a fairer jobs market through better use of flexible and part-time work.

Pras Sasidharan, Bridging Change

I am proud to live and work in Brighton and Hove and to be part of a voluntary and community sector that makes such a positive difference to people's lives.

My professional background spans more than two decades in customer service, leadership and the IT industry, where I developed teams and strategies centred on people, collaboration and continuous improvement. I currently serve as Operations Manager at Bridging Change, supporting community initiatives and helping to oversee operations, governance, finance, organisational development and partnership working.



This experience has given me a strong appreciation of both the challenges and opportunities facing the sector, as well as the importance of collaboration, shared learning and effective support for local organisations.

Community Works plays a vital role in connecting people, organisations and communities across Brighton and Hove. I would welcome the opportunity to continue contributing my practical experience, strategic thinking and commitment to community engagement, while helping to ensure that organisations of all sizes feel supported, connected and able to thrive.