



PRIDE IN PLACE — MATSON & ROBINSWOOD

Neighbourhood Board Member

Role description — please read before applying

Matson and Robinswood has been chosen for the government's Pride in Place Programme, which will bring long-term investment into our area over the next decade. The people who shape how that investment is used will be local people, through a Neighbourhood Board made up of residents and others with a real stake in the place.

We are now looking for people to join that Board. This page explains what the role involves, what we're looking for, and what you can expect from us in return. Whether or not you've ever sat on a board before, please read on, you may be exactly the kind of person we need.

What the role is all about

Board members work together to set the direction for Pride in Place in Matson and Robinswood. You will help decide what our priorities are, how funding is used, and how we build on the things that already make our community a good place to live.

This is a shared, collective role. No single member runs the show, decisions are made together, openly, and in the interests of the whole community. As a member you would:

- Help shape and agree the Pride in Place plan for our area.
- Help decide how investment is prioritised and spent, transparently and fairly.
- Listen to and represent the views of people across Matson and Robinswood, not just those who shout loudest.
- Reach out to friends, neighbours and groups so that as many people as possible get a say.
- Champion the area and the strengths, talents and pride already here.

The kind of person we're looking for

More than anything, we're looking for enthusiasm. We want people who see the positives and the strengths in our community and want to build on them, who believe Matson and Robinswood is a place worth investing in, and who are genuinely excited to be part of making good things happen.

You don't need to tick every box below. These are the qualities that help a Board work well together:

- **A positive outlook** — you see what's strong and full of potential in our area, not just what's wrong.

- **A willingness to listen** — you can hear views that differ from your own and help find common ground.
- **Team spirit** — you're happy to work alongside others and make decisions together.
- **Fairness and openness** — you can put the wider community first, ahead of any single group or interest.
- **Reliability** — you'll turn up, take part, and follow things through.
- **A connection to the area** — you live here, work here, or have a genuine history and tie to Matson and Robinswood. The exception to this is for those who bring specific skills and experience in regeneration, building and planning processes, and/or fundraising and leveraging additional investment

No experience necessary — and training will be provided

You do not need any experience of sitting on a board, committee or panel to apply. You do not need specific qualifications, a particular background, or any special knowledge of how funding or local government works. If that all sounds unfamiliar, that's completely fine.

Every Board member will be offered training and support to grow into the role, and you'll never be on your own. Training will be confirmed once the board is convened but could include the basics of meetings, community development, and safeguarding. Please note that while a criminal record does not rule anyone out, all board members will be required to undertake a DBS check to protect vulnerable adults and children.

The commitment we're asking for and support available

Being a Board member is a voluntary role. We want it to be rewarding and manageable around the rest of your life, not overwhelming. In practice, we expect this to involve:

- Attending Board meetings - we'll confirm how often these are once the Board is formed but it is likely to be monthly in the first year and this could include meetings in the evening or weekend.
- A little time to read or prepare ahead of meetings.
- Taking part in community events, conversations and engagement activity.
- A willingness to stay involved over time, as the programme is a long-term commitment to the area.

We'll always be mindful of the demands we place on people's time, and we'll do what we can to make taking part as easy as possible. This could include paying for child or respite care, transport, access and communication support such as BSL interpreting, or mentoring/coaching.

A Board that represents our whole community

We want the Board to reflect the full diversity of Matson and Robinswood, a real mix of backgrounds, ages, experiences and interests. To make sure local voices lead, more than half of all Board members must be residents of the area.

Where members are not residents, we would expect them to have a genuine history and connection to the area, for example, people who work for organisations that are active here. We are particularly keen to hear from people with experience or knowledge in any of the following:

- People who live, work, or volunteer in Matson and Robinswood.
- The voluntary and community sector, including grassroots groups.

- Education, schools, adult learning and employment.
- Faith and community leadership.
- Local business and enterprise.
- Health, wellbeing and care, including lived experience of disability, health conditions or mental health.
- Arts, culture and sport.
- Housing, planning and the built environment.
- Young people.
- Environment and green spaces.

We will also welcome applications from people who do not necessarily have a connection to the area but who bring valuable experience and skills in regeneration, building and planning processes, and/or fundraising and leveraging additional investment.

Please note that Board membership is based on you as an individual rather than any organisation you may be connected to, and there is no advantage to any organisation in future funding decisions as a result of sitting on the Board. Funding priorities will be shaped by engagement with residents, and all members will be bound by a Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policy.

A competitive process — and lots of ways to stay involved

There are only a limited number of places on the Board, and we expect this to be a highly competitive process. We'll be doing everything we can to make sure that everyone who comes forward feels valued and stays connected to what happens next.

Alongside the Board itself, we are creating a wider “In the loop” panel. Whether or not you join the Board, you can be kept up to date with progress and invited to other ways to engage, contribute and support the work. There will be many ways to be part of this journey, the Board is just one of them.

If you are not successful in gaining one of the very limited places on the Board this time, please don't be discouraged. It will not be a reflection of your worth or your ideas. We are building the Board to represent a diverse range of interested groups and people, which means we sometimes have to balance places carefully and there will be real, meaningful ways for you to stay involved and make a difference.

How to apply

If this sounds like something you'd like to be part of, we'd love to hear from you. Applications are made through a short online form on our website.

- **Apply by:** Midnight, Sunday 26th July
- **Questions? Get in touch:** chair@mrprideinplace.co.uk

Thank you for your interest in helping shape the future of Matson and Robinswood. The board will be appointed and the first meeting convened in August.