

Do you want to help make Friar Park a better place to live?

We are looking for a Chair to lead a new partnership board for Friar Park.

Friar Park has been offered up to £20m funding from the government's Pride in Place programme. This money will support local improvements chosen by people who live and work in Friar Park.

A new board is being set up to bring people together and decide how to spend the money. The members will be local residents, businesses, community groups, young people, elected councillors and the local MP.

Now we need to find a Chair for the Board.

The Chair's role is to make sure local people are listened to. You do not need lots of experience in this type of role. What matters most is that you care about Friar Park and want to help improve lives locally.

Over the next 12 months, the Board will:

- Talk with local people
- Create a plan to improve the area
- Decide how the money should be spent.

The Chair will help recruit other members of the Friar Park Neighbourhood Board after they are appointed.

You can find out more about Pride in Place and what it means to be part of a Board here: <http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/PrideInPlace>

Interested? Please see the **further information** and tell us you are interested.



Further Information – Chair of Friar Park Neighbourhood Board

1. Purpose

A new Board is being set up in Friar Park to deliver the Pride in Place programme. The Board will be led by an independent Chair.

The Chair's role is to bring people together and help local people share ideas and work well together. The Chair will act as a strong voice for Friar Park and speak up for the programme and for the estate.

You should have a strong connection to Friar Park. You do not need lots of experience in a similar role. What matters most is that you care about Friar Park and want to help improve lives locally.

2. About the Chair

We want to hear from people who:

- Care a lot about Friar Park and want to make it a better place to live
- Can work with people with different views and help create a shared plan for the area
- Are trusted locally and will get support from local people even if this is your first role like this
- May have experience of running or chairing meetings
- Knows how to make sure everyone has their say
- Can keep discussions respectful and constructive
- Can handle disagreement calmly and fairly
- Can put aside their personal views and listen to everyone
- Are involved in local groups or activities
- Can solve problems and encourage people to get involved
- Are comfortable representing the Pride in Place programme publicly
- Can work with people with different views

A good Chair will:

- Be fair and balanced
- Be good at leading discussions, especially when opinions differ
- Be open to learning and handle feedback
- Have an interest in helping other people learn
- Be approachable, welcoming and a good listener
- Be calm under pressure and able to manage disagreements
- Have enough time to commit to the role
- Support equality, diversity and inclusion
- Know how to run programmes, groups and meetings well



The Chair should not be:

- A councillor, MP or members of any current council committee (co-opted or independent members).
- A gatekeeper or clique-builder. The Board must include a wide range of views even when they are different from the Chair's own views.
- Focused on their own personal agenda. Decisions must reflect what the community wants.
- Someone who wants to deliver activities or events themselves – this post is about overseeing the overall Friar Park Pride in Place programme.

Expectations

- Board meetings are expected to take place monthly in Friar Park. There may be extra meetings sometimes.
- The Chair will take part in discussions and community engagement outside of meetings including preparing for meetings and building relationships with other Board members.
- The first year of the programme (2026-2027) will be busy, so you may need to put in more time.
- The Chair must follow a code of conduct about how they behave and treat other people.
- The Chair will be appointed for an initial **four-year term**, with the option to extend.

3. Other information

Applying for Funding

We can't appoint someone as Chair if they plan to apply for funding for a local organisation. Please talk to us before you apply – it may be that you could apply to be a Board member rather than the Chair.

Payment and Expenses

- This is a **volunteer role** similar to being a school governor.
- Please tell us if money worries would mean you couldn't do it – we may be able to help
- We will fund travel and childcare if you need it



Support in the role

The Chair will be supported by members of the Board and by officers from Sandwell Council. They will also be part of a group with other Chairs who lead similar programmes in Sandwell so you can learn from one another. A national Pride in Place network is also being set up to help Chairs connect and share learning.

Help to apply

If you need support applying or would like a chat about the role, please contact Rebecca Jenkins at Sandwell Council on rebecca_jenkins@sandwell.gov.uk or 07502 614303

How we will choose the Chair

- People who apply will be invited to an informal discussion to talk more about their experience and interest in the role.
- The panel who will be choosing the Chair are local councillors, the local MP (or their representative), and an independent representative.
- These discussions are planned for the **week commencing Monday 23 February**. Please let us know in advance if you think you will have difficulty attending.
- After the informal discussions, the panel will choose a Chair based on how good a fit they are with the list of qualities for a good Chair (in section 2).

Recruiting other members of the Friar Park Pride in Place Board

- The Chair will lead the process of finding other people to join the Board and will make sure that the Board reflects the diversity of Friar Park.
- People who would like to join the Board will be asked to come for a conversation at drop-in event.



5. How to apply

To apply, please send an **expression of interest**. This can be a **short written statement** or a **video**, explaining why you think you'd be good at the job.

Your expression of interest should include:

- Your connection to Friar Park
- Any groups or organisations you are involved with and what you do with them
- Your home address, phone number and email
- How you meet the qualities for a good Chair (in section 2)

If you apply in writing, please keep your statement to **no more than 500 words**.

If you apply by video, please submit an **MP4 file** and keep it to **no longer than 10 minutes**.

Please submit your expression of interest by the end of Tuesday 10 February to friarpark_pipp@sandwell.gov.uk

Please note Your expression of interest will be shared with the selection panel and retained by the Council for 6 months after the conclusion of the selection process

Here are some links to find out more

- Sandwell Council Cabinet's approval to establish a Friar Park Neighbourhood Board: [Link](#)
- Pride in Place website: <http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/PrideInPlace>
- Pride in Place Government Prospectus: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-programme-prospectus/pride-in-place-programme-prospectus>
- Draft Neighbourhood Board Membership: [Link](#)
- Friar Park Neighbourhood Board Terms of Reference: [Link](#)

Key dates

Advert launched for Chair's position		Friday 23 January 2026
Deadline for Expressions of Interest		Tuesday 10 February 2026
Dates for discussions between applicants and selection panel		Week commencing Monday 23 February 2026



Dates for Board Member information drop-in events		March 2026 Dates and venues to be confirmed
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