

Job Opportunity: Pride in Place Programme - Neighbourhood Board Chair

Location: Mirehouse, Kells, Woodhouse, Greenbank, and Sandwith.

Commitment: Part-time, flexible hours. Approximately 8 – 10 hours per month

Salary: This is an unpaid voluntary role. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

Term: Fixed term until 2030 with review to extend to 2035

Closing Date: 23rd January 2026

Interviews: Scheduled for February 2026.

Start Date: To be discussed

Application Process:

- Submit CV + supporting statement (maximum word count 1000)
lee.thorburn@cumberland.gov.uk

About the Role

We are seeking an Independent Chair to lead a newly established Neighbourhood Board, overseeing the £20 million, 10-year Pride in Place investment in Mirehosue, Kells, Woodhouse, Greenbank & Sandwith (Whitehaven)

This is a unique opportunity to act as a champion for your community, ensuring that local decision-making is resident-led, inclusive, and representative.

As Chair, you will convene and recruit a diverse Board, bringing together residents, local businesses, community leaders, and public agencies. You will guide the Board in co-creating a Pride in Place Plan – a 10-year vision for change shaped by the voices of local people.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead and chair the Neighbourhood Board, ensuring effective governance and collaboration.
- Recruit and convene a diverse membership, with majority representation from local residents.
- Organise meaningful community engagement activities (forums, workshops, listening campaigns).
- Champion inclusivity, ensuring underrepresented voices are heard in decision-making.

- Work with the local MP and local authority to approve Board membership and plans.
- Oversee the development of the Pride in Place Plan, setting out the community's long-term vision.

What We're Looking For

- A respected leader with strong ties to the local area.
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills.
- Commitment to fairness, inclusivity, and resident-led decision-making.
- Ability to build consensus across diverse groups and interests.
- Experience in community organising, leadership, or governance (desirable but not essential).

Why Apply?

- Play a pivotal role in shaping the future of your neighbourhood.
- Work alongside residents, businesses, and local institutions to deliver lasting change.
- Receive support and resources from the local MP and local authority.
- Be recognised as a visible champion for your community.

How to Apply

If you are passionate about your community and ready to lead, we'd love to hear from you.

Please submit a CV and supporting statement outlining your connection to the area, relevant experience, and vision for inclusive community leadership to

lee.thorburn@cumberland.gov.uk

For more information about the role or to arrange an informal chat prior to your application, please contact Josh MacAlister OBE MP hello@joshmacalister.uk

