

Welcome from the Chair

Dear prospective trustee,

Thank you for your interest in Abbey People. We are a community charity based in Abbey, Cambridge, working to reduce poverty, improve opportunities, and create a stronger, fairer community for everyone.

Over the past few years, Abbey People has grown significantly. We run a wide range of projects — from food justice and employment support to community events and youth opportunities — all with the aim of making Abbey a place where people feel proud to live, work, and belong.

Earlier this year we've launched our new five-year strategy: CB Thrive – from surviving to thriving, and will be working with Cambridge City Council to operate the new community space being built as part of Cambridge Investment Partnership's East Barnwell project.

We are now looking for new trustees to join our board and help us take Abbey People into its next chapter. As a trustee, you will play a vital role in shaping our strategy, safeguarding our resources, and ensuring that our work continues to have real and lasting impact.

We welcome people from all walks of life to apply. You don't need to have been a trustee before — what matters most is your commitment to our community and your willingness to bring your skills and ideas to the table. I hope you will consider joining us. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant, resilient Abbey.

Warm regards,

James Pilgrim

Chair of Trustees, Abbey People CIO

About Abbey People

Abbey People CIO is a registered charity (No. 1180560) based in Cambridge.

Our vision is of a strong, connected community where people can thrive. We tackle poverty, improve opportunities, and help local people build better futures.

Founded in 2013, we've spent 12 years listening, learning, and growing with our community, and one thing's been clear – people don't want Abbey to be known as a place that just gets by. Our community wants connection, joy, and opportunity. And that's exactly what we're focusing on.

Our new strategy is all about creating the conditions for *everyone* to thrive – and we're building it around five big ideas:

Thriving community – think fun events, creative projects, partnerships with local businesses, and buzzing community spaces.

Thriving people – with access to good food, support for wellbeing, meaningful work and training, and warm, welcoming connections.

Thriving future – supporting children, young people and families to build a bright path ahead.

Thriving environment – empowering people to care for our green and blue spaces and live more sustainably.

Thriving organisation – making sure Abbey People stays strong, smart, and sustainable (and full of opportunities for local folk to get involved!).

We are proud of the partnerships we have built across Cambridge and beyond. With the support of local people, funders, and volunteers, Abbey People continues to grow in strength and reach.

The Trustee Role

Purpose

Trustees are responsible for the governance and strategic direction of Abbey People. They safeguard our assets, oversee our finances, and ensure that the charity is always working in line with its mission and legal duties.

Responsibilities

As a trustee, you will:

- Ensure Abbey People complies with charity law and regulations.
- Oversee finances and make sure resources are used effectively.
- Help shape the charity's strategy and policies.
- Contribute your skills and expertise to support decision-making.
- Act as an ambassador for Abbey People.
- Attend and participate fully in trustee meetings (around four per year).

Time Commitment

Trustees attend approximately **four board meetings a year**, plus an away day and occasional working groups or events. Meetings are usually held in the evening, either in person in Cambridge or via Teams.

This is a **voluntary role**. Trustees are not paid, but reasonable expenses can be reimbursed.

Who We're Looking For

We are looking for people who share our passion for community development and want to make a difference in Abbey.

Essential qualities:

- Commitment to Abbey People's mission and values.
- The ability to think strategically and make sound judgements.
- Integrity, objectivity, and teamwork.
- Willingness to devote the necessary time to the role.

Desirable experience (but not essential):

- Finance, accounting, or fundraising.
- Safeguarding or risk management.
- Community development or youth work.
- Facilities or property management.
- Legal expertise.

We are particularly keen to recruit trustees who reflect the diversity of our community and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds.

The Practicalities

- **Voluntary role** – no stipend, but expenses reimbursed.
- **Eligibility** – trustees must be legally entitled to serve as a charity trustee in the UK.
- **Term of office** – usually three years, renewable.
- **Meetings** – at least four per year, plus one away day and occasional events.

How to Apply

If you are interested in joining our trustee board, please email admin@abbeypeople.org.uk with a short statement explaining why you are interested in becoming a trustee and what you would bring to the role.

We are committed to equality and would encourage people to reach out for help in completing an application if needed. Please also let us know about any additional needs you have in order to take part in Trustee Meetings.

Recruitment timeline:

- Current application window closes: 15th November 2025.
- Informal conversations/ Interviews with the Chair/CEO: October 2025 – December 2025.
- Appointment of new trustees to take place in 2026.

If you'd like an informal chat before applying, please contact **chair@abbeypeople.org.uk**.

Appendices (Supporting Information)

1. [Trustee Role Description \(full version\)](#)
2. [Abbey People's latest annual report and accounts](#)
3. [Charity Commission guidance: *The Essential Trustee*](#)
4. [Abbey People Policies](#)