

## IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL APPLICATION FORM FOR TOWN COUNCILLOR

Ivybridge Town Council welcomes applications for the current vacancy of Town Councillor (which is an unpaid position). To ensure that applicants understand the role of a Councillor, and the commitment in terms of time, it is suggested that you may find it helpful to understand the roles and responsibilities by looking at relevant websites, including [www.ivybridge.gov.uk](http://www.ivybridge.gov.uk), [www.devonalc.org.uk](http://www.devonalc.org.uk) and <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/elections>

On those websites you can see agendas and background information about Town (Parish) Councils, how they work, the actions and activities that they can undertake and the type of matters that are discussed.

It is hoped that Councillors will bring a range of skills and experience to the Town Council, which can be enhanced with relevant training so that both the individual and the community benefit from the time which you are able to contribute.

The following questions will assist the Council in understanding your background and enable you to focus on the reasons why you wish be involved in the work of a Town Council.

Once you have completed this form please email to [townclerk@ivybridge.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@ivybridge.gov.uk) or drop a paper copy in the letter box at the Town Hall, Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge PL21 0SZ. If you have any queries, please email or telephone 01752 893815.

Thank you for your interest.

### **Applicant:**

**Name** Ian Stuart

**Address:** [REDACTED]

**Email address** [REDACTED]

**Telephone number** [REDACTED]

**Ward vacancy:** IVYBRIDGE WEST (delete as appropriate)

**The closing date for applications can be found on the advert for the co-option vacancy.**

**To be eligible you need to be age 18 or over, be an elector and have lived in Ivybridge (or within 3 miles) or had your principal or only place of paid work in the town or owned/been a tenant of land or premises in the town, for the last 12 months. If you have any queries about eligibility, please contact the Town Clerk.**

Applicant Name:

1. Please outline why you wish to become a Town Councillor.

Answer:

I would like to listen to, understand and represent the interests of my neighbours and the residents of Ivybridge. I know how easy it is to feel unrepresented and unheard in these times and I would like to help the people in my area where I can.

I am interested in environmental issues, during the Aldi opposition I noticed there was a strong level of interest in preserving the Devon bank in Glanvilles Mill car park. Devon CC have declared a Climate and Ecological emergency, and I would like to be involved in planning and rolling out our response to climate change at a local level.

As a relatively new wheelchair user I have found wheelchair accessibility in Ivybridge to be relatively good, however I believe that awareness can be raised and good access could become more of a given for council and shopkeepers alike.

I know that since becoming a wheelchair user I am aware of many issues I was unaware of previously. I believe as a Town Councillor I could better represent the needs of wheelchair users and others with disabilities and health conditions.

Some of the issues I have become aware of include access to buildings, maintaining and improving footpaths, dropped kerbs and public benches. I know that finances are limited and any change comes slowly, but I believe an audit of accessibility would be a start to identifying issues and making life easier for the many disabled residents of Ivybridge.

2. What are the main skills and areas of knowledge you can offer the Council (include not only work related skills/knowledge but also that acquired through voluntary work, hobbies etc) and which areas of the work of the Council particularly interest you?

Answer:

I am a qualified psychological Counsellor and have good listening and empathising skills.

I have extensive experience of being self-employed: I worked for many years as a musical instrument repairer, and I ran a Bed and Breakfast business for some years with my wife.

I have also worked for some years in the Voluntary Sector, supporting family carers and those they care for. My roles included providing information, facilitating groups and organising volunteers. I have also worked with people with Learning Disabilities and have some knowledge of Care Homes.

I have a long term interest in the environment, its importance and protection.

3. Please outline groups or volunteering roles that you have previously been involved with for the benefit of the community of Ivybridge (or if only recently relocated to the town, your roles in other communities)

Answer:

I moved to Ivybridge in July 2021, so have limited experience of volunteering locally. However, I do volunteer at the town library, running a book group and the home library service with my wife.

Previously, when living in Scotland I was a Trustee of our village hall (a Charity), and volunteered in the local shop.

I have been a Trustee of a Counselling organisation, also a Charity.

Applicant Name:

4. **Only answer if relevant:** If not living in Ivybridge Parish you need to live within 3 miles or work in the Parish. If you are resident outside the Parish, have you ever lived in Ivybridge and why are you applying to be an Ivybridge Town Councillor?

Answer:

5. If you wish to add any other relevant information in support of your application, then please either submit as additional information or outline below.

Answer:

As a new resident I am experiencing the town afresh and hope I may sometimes be able to bring a new perspective to issues and discussions.

As a wheelchair user I may be able to identify issues which may not be noticed by able bodied people.

Signed: Ian Stuart

Date: 31/07/2022