

## 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 [www.nalc.gov.uk/elections](http://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.

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Thank you for your interest.

**Qualifications** - To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish council election or co-option you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union, and
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
  - a. You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards. See paragraph 1.11 for further information.
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**Disqualifications** - Apart from meeting the qualifications for standing for election, you must also not be disqualified. There are certain people who are disqualified from being elected to a parish council in England. You cannot be a candidate if at the time of your co-option:

- a. You are employed by the parish/community council or hold a paid office under the parish council (including joint boards or committees).
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**Applicant:**

**Name:** Jay Brown.

**Address:**

[REDACTED]

**Email address:**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone number:**

[REDACTED]

**Ward vacancy:** IVYBRIDGE WEST

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Applicant Name:

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

Answer:

First of all I love the town and the people in it! I am keen to rejoin the Town Council to be able to serve the Town and its residents, to be a part of shaping the town's future, and being able to discuss ideas, recommendations, plans and such forth, so that the outcome is what is best for Ivybridge and its residents.

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 have previously served as a Councillor on Ivybridge Town Council where I was also on the Planning Committee and joined the Community Resilience Group / Community Response Team. Throughout my professional and non work activities I have shown to be a proven problem solver. I am used to sitting on decision-making / regulatory or governance committees- mainly in the motor sport world. I am used to dealing with complex regulatory / guidance situations. I am one that will listen fully to opposing views. I have a great many years experience in event organising, health and safety, and negotiation with vast range of people from volunteers at ground level right up to governing bodies, not just from motorsport but from my time with the BBC. I have a large contacts book to suit many many scenarios, and a lot of varied life experience

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:

As previously mentioned I have served as a Councillor on Ivybridge Town Council where I was also on the Planning Committee and joined the Community Resilience Group / Community Response Team. I have also completed the "How to be a good councillor" training from DALC and have had mentoring meetings with Cllr Dredge, so I have experience of how the council functions and works. I was a part of the Town's organising committee for the Ivybridge leg of the Tour of Britain cycle race in the lead up to the event and "on the day" I dealt with volunteer deployment as well as manning the ICC coach park from around 7:30 am. During the day I assisted in manning the "stall" and promoting the various activities that were taking place and general P.R. I have been involved with the last few late night Christmas shopping events from early afternoon right through to close, I manned the road closures and various points around the town centre, assisting with the public and again general P.R.

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:

n/a

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:

During my time as a Councillor I have built good working relationships with not only my peers, but with associated agencies and the general public. I am a local business owner (a cleaning company based in Ivybridge) I am also the regional training officer for South West motorsport regional association. (ASWMC) as well as a trainer for the sports governing body Motorsport UK in addition to being a MSUK licensed Dep Clerk of the Course and MSUK licensed safety car driver

I confirm that I am eligible to stand as a Town Councillor, I meet the qualifications and

[ ]



# IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

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**Applicant:**

**Name** .....Donna Michealle Roberts-Cossey

**Address:** ..... [REDACTED]

**Email address:**..... [REDACTED]

**Telephone number:**..... [REDACTED]

**Ward vacancy:**     IVYBRIDGE WEST

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Applicant Name: Donna Roberts-Cossey

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

Answer:

I believe the best way to effect change is to be part of it, I am keen to see Ivybridge make the most of its stunning location and unique history to attract investment in the town, its facilities, and communities.

I have been fortunate to have worked for most of my adult life I am now in a position where I can utilize my diverse skill set, gained from working in both the public and private sectors to give my time and energy back to my local community, improving partnerships between the Council and the community, the Council and its staff and all stakeholders.

My particular areas of interest are.

- Schools and education
- Housing
- Considerate & sustainable Economic growth,
- Planning regulation
- Protection of Ivybridge's heritage
- Social care
- Community wellbeing

I would like to stand as an independent Councillor able to make decisions which I feel are in Ivybridge's best interest rather than to a political agenda.

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 have an extensive & diverse range of business administration skills, with experience gained during my early career as a member of the Survey team, with specific responsibility for title and boundary dispute resolution for HM Land Registry to working for an Aristocratic family running a large country estate of 3000 acres, encompassing 30 residential properties, 15 commercial units and 3 farms.

I am a confident IT user, highly proficient with all Microsoft applications and a range of accountancy programs including Sage, Xero, Farmplan, Brightpay etc.

I have an excellent understanding of rural affairs, in particular the recent issues concerning avian flu, increased fertilizer prices, the impact of fuel prices on the rural economy, I consider myself to be a business savvy town resident with one wellie in the countryside.

My skills and experience will allow me to bring a balanced business-based country considerate view to Council decisions.

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:

Despite working full-time for many years, I have always found time to assist with a variety of voluntary roles,

Chair of the Stowford PTA (Friends of Stowford Scholl) working closely with Helen Tipping to raise funds for various improvement projects within the school and to its associated play areas. (*retired*)

Panel member – BBC Audience participation panel. (*retired*)

Vice Chair of the South Brent Carnival Committee (working alongside Gerald & Jean Cleeve) - organising 2 fundraising carnivals and other local events. (*retired*)

Chair of the Westward Housing Scrutiny Panel. – working with Westward Housing, its staff, and its customers to evaluate processes, make recommendations and oversee implementation. (*current*)

### Hobbies:

A prolific reader, I enjoy fiction and factual in equal measure, a fan of Agatha Christie from an early age I particularly enjoy her genre of storytelling.

A supporter of all things Rugby, having attended a school where Rugby was the game the guys played this is a lifelong passion, although I'm not sure even after all these years I'm fully conversant with all the rules.

A keen horsewoman (now retired from riding), I have owned horses and ponies for over 20 years. I enjoy walking, particularly in the woodlands and on the moorland surrounding the town, usually in the company of my husband & our 2 wonderful dogs.

My Family has been raised in Ivybridge; all of my children have attended Stowford School & subsequently Ivybridge Community College before moving on to university. My youngest son having graduated from Portsmouth University earlier this year following a year of overseas study with the international exchange Erasmus scheme at Carlton University, Ottawa. Canada.

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:

Not applicable



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:

I have long considered applying for the role of Local Councillor, I am now in a position to bring my time and experience to this role, I have taken the opportunity to apply and look forward to attending the Council meeting to discuss the vacancy and my suitability for the role of Councillor on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

I confirm that I am eligible to stand as a Town Councillor, I meet the qualifications and have not been disqualified in anyway.

Signed:

Date:

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**Applicant:**

**Name :** Fang Cao

**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.**

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Applicant Name: Fang Cao

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

I, CAO FANG known as Crystal. I would like to apply for the position of Town Councillor in West Ward. I am interested in this role for two principal reasons.

Firstly, I live locally and want to help others and make a difference. I am willing to give my time doing something that makes my community a better place to be. As a mother of a teenager, I fully appreciate how important a supportive community is in contributing to a young person's mental health and well-being in the longer term. I hope to make some changes, by working together to make a better place for our young people, a place full of fun and encouragement, a place to help them thrive and grow up to be confident, proud and responsible adults.

Secondly, the Town Councillor role is committed to 'engaging with local people, groups, and businesses to determine their needs, making decisions on the services and projects the council should take forward, and getting involved to ensure services meet the community's needs', this mirrors my own interest in politics and to represent local people's needs and try to influence decisions affecting their community.

There is no other role that gives me a chance to make a difference to the quality of life of the people in my local area and influence the way issues are dealt with locally and across the South Ham District.

In addition to hoping to make a difference I also wish to become a Councillor for the following reasons:

I am thinking about how to provide more access to activities for young people by, for example, introducing a 'Free voucher' scheme for young people to use in public facilities, especially those who are from a financially disadvantage family.

I hope to create an accessible, safe and friendly social gathering ground. For example, more covered public benches for our winter days, it will helps the young stay out in the wet weather. CCTVs should be in place to monitor any anti-social behaviour, especially in the centre of the town where young people like to hang around, for example, outside the Co-Op and outside the library.

Moreover, I would like to work with our "Youth Advisory Committee" if there is one, Create an easily accessible Mental Health Service and young advice 'Hot point' to improve and encouraged young people, to engage and communicate with them and get a better understanding of what they want here in their community

And last, I feel the Town Councillor role can be a learning and develop opportunity, allowing me to enhancing new experiences, challenges and achievements for the local community.

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?

Being an effective councillor requires both commitment and hard work, and that we balance the needs and interests of local residents. I believed that my training and experience of

working in a variety of disciplines will equip me to be able to carry out the demands of the role as councillor, and my main skills come from my academic training and experienced in diverse organizations settings.

For instance, I am able to process large amounts of complex information, such as survey data, knowledge of questionnaire designed and good experience at conducting professionals' interviews and public interviews.

I was a research assistant on a project sponsored by the Department of Health UK, responsible for analysing the survey data and drafting the report. Also I have worked with a project funded by The Public Administration Department China. Research in construction and development of the e-government service centers in China

Such are experiences enhance my statistical knowledge, analytical skills , problem solving and questioning skills. I am an Associate Fellow of The Higher Education Academy, UK.

I have working experienced with mixed audience and diverse organizations and have the experience to understand their diverse cultural needs, and well understand the importance of cooperation and team working. I consider myself a good team player, and I am willing to commit to working in a multi-disciplinary setting. I am very flexible, adaptable and open-minded in the work environment.

I have worked as a teaching assistant on MBA courses; I also conducted teaching in undergraduate courses in the University of Liverpool, I am a consultant for crisis management and good at conducting training and case study. I am currently working as support staff for young people with special needs and I have full training to understand and good knowledge of policy frame works related to Safeguarding, Health and Safety policies and procedures, Equality and Diversity and confidentiality of related information for the welfare of young persons.

I am hard working, very conscientious and with strong work ethic and self-motivated, with ability to handle multiple tasks or projects; have the ability to work under pressure and ability to meet deadlines. Am organised and have good time management

I have good professional communication skills with people around me and colleagues, friendly and easily approachable. A good listener, sensitive to others needs and compassionate in help others.

And, my interests include public health such as young, old people and single parent's mental health and wellbeing. I also care about other social issues, such as climate environment, support of vulnerable people.

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)

I am volunteering in NHS England and Royal Voluntary Service  
On- call supporting people who are living with mental health conditions during COVID-19 from June 2020-present.

Applicant Name: Fang Cao

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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

I confirm that I am eligible to stand as a Town Councillor, I meet the qualifications and have not been disqualified in anyway.

Signed: Cao Fang

Date: 7th September 2023



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**Applicant:**

Name .....Dermot Paul Roberts.....

Address: .....

Email address.....

Telephone number.....

Ward Vacancy: IVYBRIDGE EAST/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 have lived in Ivybridge since 1998 and have always been interested in the community. I feel it has been an integral part of my family's life. My 3 daughters all went to the Community College where my wife has worked for nearly twenty years.

As Chairman of Ivybridge Royal British Legion there are many things we have achieved in the community, whilst working with the Council. I wish to become a councillor as I believe there is an awful lot I can achieve in making Ivybridge a place where all inhabitants can be proud of our town, and ensure all are included, no matter what age, race, class, creed, religion, sex or sexuality. I want Ivybridge to prosper in a kind, safe and all-inclusive environment.

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:

As a former Executive Warrant Officer on the Royal Navy's Flagship, HMS Albion, a qualified project manager, and a membership in Leadership & Management level 7, which is the highest you can achieve through Professional recognition. I am an organiser. I can risk assess, add health and safety qualifications, First Aid, and a passion to get things done I believe I can be an asset to the Council. For the last nine years I have organised and led Remembrance Services in Ivybridge. I started the initiative of the big screen to improve people's participation on the day. I have introduced military vehicles, have encouraged more service personnel to attend, arranged a fly past and have improved relations with our cadets. I believe we can improve our Parks and the aesthetics throughout Ivybridge. You have all seen what we have achieved at Harry's Patch: my design and I ensured it came to fruition. I believe by improving the waterfront by Glanville's Mill, and supporting 'the bloomers' throughout the Town, there is a lot more I & the Council can do.

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 have been a member of The Royal British Legion over many years. I supported Dame Hannah Rogers as a volunteer School Governor. I have collected monies for The British heart foundation, Southwest Children's Hospice and many others. I have supported Torbay Sea Cadets, Ivybridge Police and Air Cadets. I am a qualified Football coach and managed a Manstow football team in Ivybridge during the noughties.

I have been supporting Charities since I was a schoolboy and have organised many fund-raising events over the years, including, a Cycle ride across the Atlantic on HMS Albion, Climbing the equivalent of MT Everest while on Submarine Patrol. I led a relay run from Plymouth to Warrington and another one from Plymouth to London for Remembrance services. I completed a solo Coast to Coast walk across Devon and the two moors way, and a 500-mile Cycle ride with a legion colleague visit every RBL Branch in Devon. I organised support, planned routes and achieved the goals accordingly.

I' with others supporting, have raised over to £300,000 in my lifetime. I plan, Risk assess and get things done.

Applicant Name: Dermot Roberts

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:

N/A



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:

I have a passion to improve Ivybridge as a community: we have some amazing people in Ivybridge doing some amazing things, but I feel most of the community do not appreciate some of the initiatives or even worse do not realise they are taking place. I believe we can improve this and bring the community together. We need to try even harder to engage our youth and improve their facilities. Now, there is far too much negativity on social media surrounding our Ivybridge youth, and an awful lot of it is not justified. We need to continue and expand our support for those alone, not just at Christmas, and we need to Support our Vulnerable Adults and our elderly throughout the year. We need to listen, plan then Act, then Ivybridge could become the Town we all strive for.

I confirm that I am eligible to stand as a Town Councillor, I meet the qualifications and have not been disqualified in anyway.

Signed:

Date: