

Thames Chase Trust Chair and Trustee Recruitment

Thames Chase Trust



THAMES CHASE TRUST

CHAIR AND TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT

Welcome message from Oliver Rogers, Interim Chair.

Thank you for your interest in the role of Chair for the Thames Chase Trust. It is an exciting time to join the Trust as we continue to develop and strengthen the organisation, building on our 34 years of delivering Community Forestry in this landscape.

Since its inception in 1990, the creation of Thames Chase Community Forest has been driven by its approved Forest Plan: The Thames Chase Plan. It is refreshed every ten years and we are currently working on the next version, to be published in 2025. The Plan has served to steer and guide our extensive and diverse programmes of work, networks of partners and volunteers and has truly delivered for landscape, people and wildlife across our 98-square-mile project area on the edge of east London and south-west Essex.

In recent years, trustees have overseen significant growth including the creation of a dedicated and experienced team of staff, supported by our many volunteers who have always been at the heart of everything we do. The staff team is based at the Thames Chase Forest Centre, located in Upminster, Essex. This serves as the 'shop window' and central hub for the wider Community Forest project. It provides a focal point for our communities and features various outbuildings, including a 17th-century Essex barn, the Thames Chase Visitor Centre and Tea Room. The greenspace immediately surrounding the central complex of buildings and car parks is managed by Forestry England and is home to a variety of surfaced trails, a community orchard and important habitat including woodland, hedgerows, ponds and meadows.

We take great pride in our work, its impact, our collaborative partners and the generous support received from our patron, Jennifer Tolhurst, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex and Ann Bartlett, Life President of the Thames Chase Trust. With solid foundations now in place and so many opportunities to develop, strengthen and further secure the Trust and Community Forest, we believe that this is the perfect time for our new Chair to join and be the figurehead for our dedicated and passionate charity.



THE VISION WITHIN THE THAMES CHASE PLAN

By 2030, Thames Chase Community Forest will be recognised as an inspirational example of landscape regeneration where enhanced, connected woodland and green space has made a clear difference to wildlife and peoples' lives'

To fulfil our vision, you will have the backing of our committed Board of Trustees, actively engaged in governing, developing, and providing strategic direction to the Thames Chase Trust.

As our new Chair, we expect you to share our fervour for the enrichment, preservation, and stewardship of the Thames Chase Community Forest. Collaborating with the Board of Trustees, Vice Chair, Staff and Volunteers you will help shape the long-term sustainable future of Thames Chase Trust as a charity and serve as an ambassador for our cause.

If this resonates with you and you are eager to apply your skills and expertise to further our mission and realise our future aspirations, please continue reading.

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The objects of the Charity are to promote for the benefit of the public generally any charitable purpose within London and Essex area and beyond connected with the enhancement and improvement, maintenance and protection of the environment and landscape and in particular to:

- promote, provide and enhance woodland for the benefit of the public
- promote the general improvement of agriculture and of industry and commerce, particularly in relation to woodland or forestry products
- promote and provide for the improvement of derelict land or harmful sites
- provide or help to provide for the general public facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation particularly involving the enjoyment of land and woodland as a public amenity (and in furtherance to help to provide safe and convenient routes and modes of transport for the public, for safe cycling, and for the development of facilities including nature trails, reserves and sanctuaries, horse and cycle and footways, parkland and visitor facilities and car parks)
- promote community participation in healthy recreation by providing facilities for playing particular sports
- educate the public in environmental matters, in ecology and provide better appreciation of the environments and ways of better serving, protecting and improving the same and education and training in all matters relating to the environment and its interaction with the social and economic wellbeing of the community
- promote the arts within the woodland and natural environments
- promote for the benefit of the public the ecology and use of the natural environment and all species living in it
- promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, enhancement and improvement of the environment and to educate the public in the importance of sustainable development in relation to all the activities of the Charity
- Further information about the Charity Commission which regulates charities in England and Wales can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission> (Thames Chase Trust registered charity number: 1115627)



THAMES CHASE TRUST CHAIR

OBJECTIVE

The Chair will hold the Board of Trustees to account for the Charity's mission and vision, providing inclusive leadership, ensuring that each trustee fulfils their duties and responsibilities and functions as a unit for the effective governance of the charity.

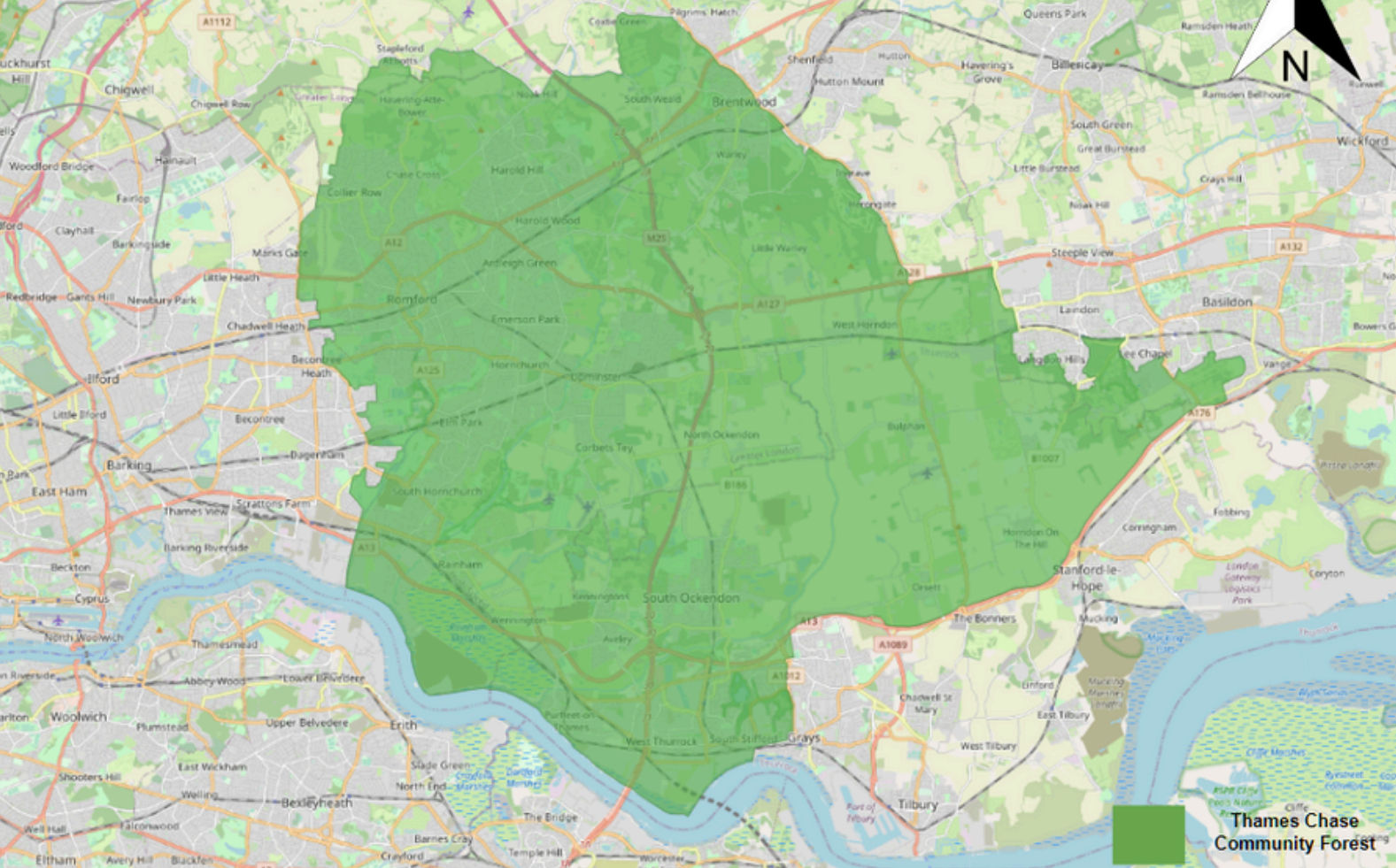
The Chair will also support the Director/Deputy Director to achieve agreed objectives.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROLE

- Lead on the development of the board, ensuring that it functions effectively, meetings are led inclusively, and the board carries out its duties.
- Ensure that the trustee board annually reviews its structure, effectiveness, delegations and key policies, and implements agreed changes as necessary.
- Ensure that the Board of Trustees is regularly refreshed and incorporates the right balance of skills, knowledge and experience needed to govern and lead the charity effectively and which also reflects the wider population.
- Chair meetings of the Board of Trustees effectively and efficiently, bringing impartiality and objectivity to the decision making process.
- Ensure that Trustees are fully engaged and that decisions are taken in the best, long-term interests of the Charity and that the Board takes collective ownership.
- Work within any agreed policies adopted by the charity.
- Support and supervise the Director/Deputy Director and acting as a channel of communication between board and staff.
- Act as a figurehead for the charity (for example, representing its interests and values at functions, meetings or in the press).

Compensations: The role of Chair is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although expenses for travel may be claimed.

Time commitment: AGM, 4 Board meetings per year. Additionally, the Chair is also expected to have regular meetings with the Director/Deputy Director and also represent the Charity at various events and meetings with key stakeholders.



SPECIALIST AREAS

We are currently also recruiting for Trustee board members as well as the Trustee Chair role. At this time, the board of trustees is seeking individuals with interest and specialisms in the following areas of our business:

- Finance including Green Finance and Business skills
- HR
- IT
- Natural/ Built Environment including the history and heritage of the Thames Chase Community Forest landscape
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Health & Wellbeing
- Fundraising/Grants
- Education
- Community Engagement/Visitor Experience including the management of associated facilities
- Planning

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in applying to become Chair of the Thames Chase Trust, or applying to become a trustee please submit a covering letter and CV outlining why you are interested, your experience and interests to Stephen Cantle via email:

stephencantle@gmail.com

Closing Date: 12 noon, Friday September 6th. Interview date, Wednesday September 11th

Thank you for your interest in Thames Chase Community Forest

Thames Chase Forest Centre, Broadfields, Pike Lane, Upminster RM14 3NS