

Sheppey East Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board Members

Garry Ratcliffe – Chair

Garry, 53, lives with his husband, Kyle, and their four adopted children just off the Lower Road, positioning him directly within the community the programme serves. Locally, Garry is well known as the co-founder of Curly's Legacy, the charity behind Curly's Farm. He currently serves as the Head of Provision for the farm, which operates as an independent special school dedicated to supporting the most vulnerable young people in the community.

With 30 years of experience in education—spanning roles as a teacher, headteacher, and most recently as the CEO of a multi-academy trust—Garry is highly skilled in managing large, complex budgets and driving strategic collaboration across diverse groups. His extensive governance experience includes successfully chairing the board of We Are Beams, a disabled children's charity in North Kent, for five years.

Bobbie Taiano – Member

I have lived near Leysdown & Eastchurch for 20 years; I am retired with a passion for gardening and cooking.

I worked in Medway for most of my working life with a charity for family carers. I have experience working with both a Health Authority and local council. During my time there I met family carers in the community experiencing difficulties and have a good understanding of working with families, small groups and people of different backgrounds. I also worked for 3 years as a swimming teacher at Sheerness.

I have had a local allotment for 7 years, which has been a positive experience. Although I am always learning from other people, my best success has been growing a melon!

I also have a dog which means I meet many other dog owners whilst out walking the dog and get to have a good chat about many different things.

Dean Grace-Hicks – Member

I am a mental health nurse with over 23 years of experience caring for people and leading large healthcare teams. I currently work as a Regional Manager, overseeing four healthcare services, and I am also completing my BMA to further develop my leadership and management skills.

Throughout my career, I have worked across acute, community, corporate and prison healthcare, giving me extensive experience in leadership, governance, finance and service improvement.

I have lived on the Island for the past eight years with my partner and children, and I care deeply about our local community. I believe the Island has enormous potential, and I am passionate about helping it thrive. Joining the board is an opportunity to give back, work collaboratively with others, and help create positive, lasting change that benefits residents now and for future generations.

Gary Hunt – Member

Gary Hunt moved to the area a few years ago from Dartford and is delighted to be part of the Sheppey East community. Throughout his career in public service, central government, governance and the voluntary sector, he has been passionate about bringing people together and helping communities thrive. He has led local charities, worked alongside volunteers, and currently serves as Chair of the Crayford Manor House Astronomical Society. His interests include local heritage, the arts, music, science, ecology and the natural environment, all of which he believes help create stronger, more connected communities. Living on the border of Sheppey East, Gary is proud to support the Pride in Place programme and looks forward to working with residents and partners to celebrate what makes the area special while helping to create opportunities for future generations.

Jamie Woodrow – Member

Jamie Woodrow is the Site Manager and Health and Safety Lead at a specialist school in Sheppey, where she oversees the day-to-day management, maintenance and safety of the school site. She is committed to creating safe, inclusive and welcoming environments that support pupils, staff, families and the wider community. Alongside her operational responsibilities, Jamie has helped develop community initiatives, including a community room, local events and opportunities that strengthen links between the school and the surrounding area. Through her work, she has gained experience in facilities management, health and safety, partnership working and community engagement. Jamie is committed to using her practical experience and collaborative approach to support the work of the Pride in Place Sheppey Fund Board and projects that benefit the island and its residents.

Nathan Wood – Member

Nathan Anthony Wood was born on the Isle of Sheppey and has lived there all his life. He is married with two children and is proud to be raising his family within the same community that shaped him.

He is the Managing Director of Farmwood Ltd, a family business established by his father in 2002. The company has grown from a small local business into an established employer, providing skilled jobs, training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Outside work, Nathan has supported local sports clubs for many years and currently volunteers as a youth football coach with Sheerness East Youth Football Club. He understands the importance of strong community facilities, opportunities for young people and giving families reasons to feel proud of where they live.

Nathan brings local knowledge, business experience and a practical approach to the Board, with a focus on making sure investment delivers genuine and lasting benefits for Sheppey East.

Nicola Waghorne – Member

Nicola has lived on the Isle of Sheppey for most of her life and is proud to serve the community she calls home. She is a wife, mother and grandmother who believes in the importance of bringing people together, sharing skills and supporting others.

Before moving into the charity sector, Nicola worked for British Airways, developing strong customer service and organisational skills. She is also a qualified horticulturist with a lifelong passion for gardening, alongside a love of crafts and traditional skills.

For more than 13 years, Nicola has worked for Sheppey Matters in Eastchurch, where she has developed and delivered a wide range of community projects, helping people of all ages improve their wellbeing, reduce loneliness and gain new skills. She is passionate about creating welcoming spaces where people can connect, learn and thrive, and is committed to making a positive and lasting difference across the Isle of Sheppey.

Peter Constant – Member

I fondly call the Isle of Sheppey a "tropical island paradise" when outsiders ask! I have lived in Warden Bay with my wife and disabled daughter for five years, but my connection to the island spans back to my childhood in Twydall, when I regularly visited Leysdown.

Now retired, I started my career as an analytical chemist, worked for a holiday company in Spain, and spent most of my professional life as an international business development manager for an American chemical and engineering company, managing markets across Brazil, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

I am incredibly proud to represent the residents of Sheppey East on the Pride in Place Board. I look forward to making a real difference and improving our community for everyone.

Serena Williams – Member

I work in a senior governance role within the Civil Service, and my career has also included positions in education and policing. Throughout my professional life, I have been passionate about working with people and helping to make a positive difference in the communities I serve.

I am delighted to be joining the Pride in Place Sheppey East Neighbourhood Board and look forward to getting to know local residents. I hope people will find me approachable, friendly, and willing to listen. I have a particular interest in ensuring that the voices of less represented members of our community are heard, including disabled people and those from ethnic minority backgrounds.

A proud Swampy, I always try to shop local, eat local, and drink local whenever I can. Outside of work, I enjoy live theatre, live music, and indulging my passion for baking and cooking.

Tracy Rogers - Member

Tracy Rogers has proudly called Eastchurch home for over 13 years and is passionate about serving the community she loves. Originally from Gravesend and moved to Walderslade in 1975, Tracy has shared her life with her partner, Stephen, for 39 years and is a proud mum to Bethany and Emila.

A keen supporter of community life, Tracy previously worked with the Starquest Performing Arts group at Sheppey Little Theatre, where she built lasting friendships with local families. As Vice Chair of Eastchurch Parish Council, she is actively involved in village initiatives, including the Big Lunch, Christmas Lights and Hug in a Mug.

When not carrying out council duties, Tracy enjoys walking, theatre, live music and travelling. She especially values Eastchurch's strong community spirit and friendly atmosphere, and considers it a privilege to represent the village with pride, dedication and compassion.

Lee Jarmain – Member

Lee Jarmain is an experienced Business Development Manager, manufacturing professional, and community leader with over 45 years of experience spanning engineering, lean manufacturing, business development, and social enterprise. As Business Development Manager for The Pyramid Project CIC, he has built strong partnerships with employers, education providers, local authorities, and community organisations to create opportunities for young people who are NEET, those with SEND, and socially excluded adults. Drawing on an extensive career in manufacturing and continuous improvement, Lee combines commercial expertise with a passion for community regeneration. He has played a leading role in initiatives supporting employment, skills development, and place-based investment across the Isle of Sheppey, while also contributing to charitable and voluntary organisations. His collaborative approach and ability to connect people, organisations, and ideas have helped deliver lasting social and economic impact.

Kevin McKenna – MP Sittingbourne and Sheppey

At university I studied microbiology but chose to train as a nurse after seeing the nursing care many of my friends received during the AIDS crisis. I specialised in critical

care and then moved into health policy, completing a Darzi Fellowship and working for NHS England.

My move into politics came from this experience administering policy and the belief that more healthcare voices are important in politics; most healthcare workers don't have the option to get involved the way I did due to their long working hours! Healthcare remains close to my heart, and since my election to Parliament, I've been elected as an officer of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Health.

My husband and I live in Sittingbourne, and I'm proud to represent the constituency where I live.

Lee-Anne Moore – Councillor, Sheppey East Ward

Lee-Anne Moore is a Swale Borough Council ward member for Sheppey East.