**Recruitment for Limestone House Volunteer Chair 2025**

**Job Title:** Chair of the Board of Directors & Trustees (Volunteer)

**Reporting to:** The Board of Directors & Trustees (annually to the Members)

**Working hours:** Hours & days to be agreed with the chosen candidate

**Based at:** Limestone House (ECVC), 50-54, Elmton Road, Creswell, S80 4JE

Limestone House (Elmton & Creswell Village Company) is a charitable company and a shining light for regeneration in Elmton and Creswell and the wider locality of this deprived area, delivering excellent and continuing services, community activities and resources which aim to raise the hopes of individuals. Limestone House offers a meeting place to reduce social isolation, improve health and wellbeing, reduce mental health and also offers opportunities to improve ‘Life Skills’ to enhance the quality of life and enable people to gain employment and recreation.

The village of Creswell grew from a small farming community to its present size because of the mining industry, and it thrived until a disastrous accident took place in 1950, in which nearly every household in the village lost a member of their immediate or extended family. This terrible event was followed by the closure of the mine in the 1991, and these two tragedies lead to the community dropping into despair. Shops closed, and the area was declared one of the most deprived in the country.

Then, in 2002, residents in Creswell and neighbouring Elmton decided to try to improve the situation and, with the support of Derbyshire County Council, Bolsover District Council, and the Elmton with Creswell Parish Council, obtained a grant to purchase the former Nat. West Bank premises on Elmton Rd, Creswell, which became the Creswell Resource Point. The Elmton and Creswell Village Company (ECVC) was formed to start the regeneration work, Chesterfield College ran computer and other training courses in the Resource Point, office space was available for hire, a small Charity shop was opened, and facilities were provided for Advisory Services to come in once a week. It soon became clear that the needs of the Community were great, and a much bigger building was required, and two old burnt out shops on Elmton Rd. and an adjoining shop were purchased with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and many other funders. Limestone House was built and opened in July 2004 as a place to restore a ‘pride of place’ for the community and encourage residents to look forward to a better future. It provided a cheerful focus for people to meet, learn, get help, take up opportunities and enjoy excellent food & drink.

Whereas most other Village Companies set up at this time have now closed, the Elmton & Creswell Village Company (now Limestone House) continues to thrive, with the tireless dedication of local volunteers, part time staff, advisers and supporting organisations. Its aims are shown in the mission statement, and while many people have been helped through its activities, new challenges demand a continuing effort to adapt & change to meet these new challenges.

The role of the chair is pivotal to the future of Limestone House as a Charity and may vary depending on the individual but usually includes:

* helps plan and run director & trustee meetings (and as a membership charity, the annual AGM members’ meeting including a presentation reporting on the financial year)
* takes the lead on ensuring that meetings are properly run and recorded
* takes the lead on ensuring that our directors & trustees comply with their duties and the charity is well governed
* Has a second or casting vote if a vote on a trustees’ decision is tied, as specified in the charity’s governing document
* may act as a spokesperson for the charity, attending local community and charity events & meetings to raise our profile and feedback the challenges faced
* acts as a link between trustees and staff
* line manages the project leads on behalf of the trustees
* Prepares the annual director & trustee report

We have included a copy of “the essential trustee” and “a chairs compass” to help you better understand the role and what will be expected.

Interviews will be held throughout 2025 with the appointment planned to start from our next AGM in October 2025, giving the Members time to meet & greet the proposed new Chair.

Before being considered for the role you will need to become a Director & Trustee of Limestone House for a minimum of 3 months, go through our usual recruitment process including references etc, attend a formal interview with our current Chair & Vice Chair and shadow our current Chair for 1 month.

Successful candidates will be informed within 3 weeks of their formal interview and start in role from October 2025.

To apply email, us for the application pack and supporting documents at the address below or pop in to collect one while having a drink & a bite to eat.