

Part-Time Voluntary Communications Coordinator



Role Title: Part-Time Voluntary Communications Coordinator

Organisation: Love Our Ouse (Community Interest Company)

Location: Remote, with occasional meetings in the Ouse catchment (Sussex)

Time Commitment: Approximately 1–2 days per month (flexible)

Contract Type: Voluntary with potential for payment funding allowing (expenses may be covered where agreed)

Reports to: Board of Love Our Ouse

About Love Our Ouse

Love Our Ouse (LOO) is a community-led organisation dedicated to strengthening people's connection with the River Ouse and supporting the practical implementation of the River Ouse Charter of Rights. Through celebration, learning and action, we enable communities and stakeholders to care for and regenerate the river from source to sea.

In the three short years of its existence, **Love Our Ouse (LOO) has made an impact far beyond its size:** it has conducted numerous activities to inspire communities to learn, care and act for their river and led them in the **first successful campaign to see a river in the UK have its rights recognised by a council.** This ground breaking achievement has since inspired a national movement for river rights that puts the needs of rivers and communities at the heart of their governance.

It has done all this despite being run, largely by volunteers and with extremely limited resources. Its recent **nomination for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service** reflects these accomplishments.

However, **these successes have presented new challenges which we will need to rise to.** They have led to increased demand, both locally and nationally, on how communities can be deeply engaged in the regeneration of rivers and how a river's rights can in practice be upheld. This demand is not matched by our current capacity.

We now seek to consolidate and build upon our successes by **strengthening our institutional capacity, build partnerships and scale-up our activities** to support communities to celebrate, learn and act to uphold the rights of the local river they love: the Ouse.

Background to role

LOO has recently completed the development of a new five-year strategy for 2025-2030. One of the objectives of this strategy is **'By 2030, strengthen the institutional capacity of Love Our Ouse to regenerate the river Ouse'**. In order to help achieve this we aim to secure the following outcome:

3.1 Development and implementation of an effective communications strategy

Outcome: Regular, timely and effective communications to stakeholders

Indicator for success: Increased number of people reading the LOO newsletter and number followers on our social media platforms

Purpose of the Role

To provide strategic and practical communications support that helps Love Our Ouse:

- Raise its profile locally and nationally
- Clearly communicate its mission and impact
- Engage communities, partners and supporters in celebrating, learning about and action for the Ouse
- Support fundraising, partnerships and advocacy

Specific three-month priorities for the role include: learning about LOO's communications needs, creating monthly e-newsletters using Mailpoet, generating social posts on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn including supporting promotional communications for our Thriving Ouse Festival taking place in Sept. This hands-on experience will help shape an effective strategy.

This is a **light-touch practical and advisory-role**, ideal for someone who wants to contribute expertise without a heavy operational commitment.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Communications

- Advise on a simple, coherent communications strategy aligned to organisational priorities
- Help refine key messages, tone of voice and storytelling approach
- Support positioning of Love Our Ouse within wider environmental and river rights networks

Content and Channels

- Provide guidance on social media, website and newsletter content
- Help identify opportunities for campaigns, storytelling and engagement
- Occasionally review or edit key communications materials

Media and Profile

- Advise on media engagement opportunities (local and national)
- Support development of press releases or key announcements where needed
- Help build relationships with relevant media and partners

Capacity Building

- Support volunteers and directors to improve communications skills and confidence
 - Recommend simple tools, templates or processes to improve efficiency
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Person Specification

Essential

- Experience in communications, PR, marketing or digital engagement
- Ability to translate complex ideas into clear, accessible language
- Strong editorial judgement and attention to tone
- Interest in environmental issues, community action or rivers

Desirable

- Experience working with small charities, CICs or volunteer-led organisations
 - Knowledge of environmental communications or behaviour change
 - Media relations or campaign experience
 - A personal relationship with Ouse River or willingness to develop one
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What We're Looking For

- A **practical, low-ego advisor** who understands the realities of small organisations
- Someone comfortable working in a **light-touch, flexible way**
- A person who can help us **focus on what matters most**, rather than do everything

What You'll Gain

- Opportunity to shape communications for a **nationally significant, emerging movement** (river rights)
- Experience supporting a **grassroots organisation with growing influence**
- Connection to a network of environmental practitioners, communities and innovators
- A chance to contribute meaningfully to the regeneration of a river and its communities

How to Express Interest

Please send a short note outlining your interest and relevant experience/CV to:

info@loveourouse.org

Website: www.loveourouse.org

Closing date for applications: 23.59hrs 6th May 2026.

Love Our Ouse welcomes applicants from all backgrounds and is committed to inclusion and equal opportunity.