

LRALC

Supporting Local Councils in Leicestershire & Rutland

Appendix 1

Meet the Candidates

The board has operated effectively throughout the year.

Clause 19(1) and 19(3) of LRALC's Articles of Association state:

Any person may be elected by the members as an elected director through an election process to be set by the directors and which may utilise proxy or postal voting.

Directors may be appointed by

- (a) ordinary resolution at an annual general meeting, or*
- (b) a decision of the directors*

The following people have offered themselves for election to the Board of Directors:

- Margaret Bowler
- Sharon Coe

Clauses 19(4) of LRALC's Articles of Association state:

At every annual general meeting one third of the elected places for directors must be vacated, those directors serving longest since last elected being the ones to stand down. When there are directors of equal length of service since last elected those directors to stand down will be drawn by lot.

The following Directors are due to retire on 5th October 2024:

- Pat Crane
- Tony Hirons
- Geoff Hlland

Margaret Bowler

A Parish Cllr for just over 10 years and currently Vice Chair of Markfield Parish Council. I have conscientiously attended Parish Forums, Rural Conferences, LRALC led Forums and believe I have a very good grasp of the landscape regarding Parish Councils both nationally and locally. I have also worked with a range of organisations such as the Rural Community Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and a wide range of professional advisers and consultants as the need arises in Parish Council.

During my public service, not only have I been an experienced public board member but also a private board member. Currently I am Chair and Trustee of Markfield Community Library (Registered Charity), in its ninth year since transferring into the hands of the community in 2015. The Trustees are very proud of the volunteers and support from the local community.

I would like to give back to our membership organisation to contribute at a local level to the Governance of LRALC as I wind down a public role that I have carried out for 30 years. It has been an honour and a privilege to have served as a magistrate in Leicestershire and Rutland. Within that role as one of only three judicial office holders I sit on a Judicial Business Group which covers the East and West Midlands which is responsible for the strategic, efficient and effective delivery of magistrates' courts.

I have a very strong Governance background having also been Chair of Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust leading them to First Wave Trust Status and Chair of Governors and Director of Leicester High School for Girls. I look back at the roles as a *job* well done and at the right time for myself and the organisation. I have been able to hand over to successors (many of whom I have mentored) and established many networks. I know the patch and people of Leicestershire and Rutland very well.

Having witnessed the recent evolution, the current Directors and Officers have embarked on and they must be congratulated, I would hope to be able to contribute going forward. I believe I can bring to the table strategic thinking and decision making but also accessibility and communication with the membership. I can offer my commitment and integrity.

Finally, I do read the weekly Round Robin!



Sharon Coe

Sharon has been around or involved in local government all her life, her family being involved from an elected side, and her husband as an officer all his working life until taking early retirement.

Sharon herself started her working career in the financial arena working for a local Building Society for 30 years working her way up to be a Branch and Agency Manager of branches across Leicestershire and beyond. This involved high level strategic and personal management over this broad geographical area. Sharon holds the CEMAP qualification allowing her to provide mortgage, financial and pension advice. Sharon is a member of the Institute of Leadership and Management after achieving that qualification.



After a career change, Sharon went to work part time as Deputy Clerk at Whetstone Parish Council. During this time she obtained the CiLCA qualification (the industry standard) and this enabled her to take on another part time role as Clerk for Wymondham and Edmondthorpe Parish Council within the Melton District, only resigning from this role when the opportunity to work full time at Whetstone Parish Council arose. After 9 ½ years at Whetstone, Sharon decided to spread her wings to manage the prestigious Uppingham Town Council in Rutland.

Sharon was elected to Blaby District Council in 2015, managing this alongside her day job. She was Audit chairman for 5 years, sitting on Planning and Scrutiny committees and the Chief Executive appointment panel. Sharon was honoured to be elected as Chair of Blaby in 2018/19 before taking a cabinet position as portfolio holder for Health, Wellbeing, Community Engagement and Business Services, a position that added to her knowledge base.

Sharon has served on Blaby Parish Council as Staffing Chairman and has helped other parishes on an ad hoc basis, mainly financial and cemetery records.

Sharon has also been a school governor for her local high school.

After taking retirement earlier this year, she is now pursuing her other voluntary passions and believes that her skills of management, both practical and academic, and her ability to work at a high strategic level are all applicable and are easily transferrable to this role.

Sharon is currently the chair of Whetstone Parish Council, a role she relishes as it is her home village.

Sharon's ethos is to work hard, be dedicated, listen and, more importantly, to hear, enabling people to have a voice.

Pat Crane

I have been a member of Desford Parish Council since 1997 and have experienced almost every committee during that time. I am currently Chair of the Planning Committee and worked with fellow councillors and residents to produce our Neighbourhood Plan, which was passed at a referendum in May 2021. We are now reviewing the Plan. I am also Chair of the Allotments Working Group and a member of the Procedures Working Groups as well as a liaison group with local businesses. I am Chair of Desford Village Hall (trustee/management committee)

I regularly attend the Parish Forums organised by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and their annual conference and first joined the LRALC as an executive member to represent the borough in 2011.

I have been Chair of Desford Community Action Group since it was set up in 2002. I became involved with the RCC (Leicestershire & Rutland) when we did a Parish Appraisal in 2001. I became a judge for the Best Village Competition (now the Rural Awards) and was co-opted onto their Board of Trustees in 2009.



Locally, I have first-hand experience of the Good Neighbours Scheme, as a committee member for my village scheme. I am on the Management Committee of the Church Centre and a trustee of our Community Managed Library. I am a trustee of Desford in Bloom and Desford Heritage, both of which have obtained CIO status this year. We are currently planning a Festival of the Forties to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day next May. In my “spare” time, I help to run a Drop In and Lunch Club and volunteer at Desford Foodbank, plus various church committees. I am secretary of Desford Patient Participation Group.

My Parish Council has experienced at first hand the valuable training, advice and support from the LRALC. I would welcome the opportunity to continue to represent the grass roots on the Board of Directors for one more term of office.

Tony Hirons

My name is Tony Hirons. For some years I represented Harborough District on the LRALC Board. I have been a member of LRALC's Financial Investment Board and was also part of the team that lead to LRALC's present status as a Limited Company. For some years I was Vice Chairman of the company and was also the LRALC representative on The National Association of Local Councils (NALC). I presently serve as Chairman of LRALC.

I have been a Town Councillor for Lutterworth Town Council for over 15 years, during which time I have been proud to represent Lutterworth as Town Mayor on three occasions. Over the years I have attended various LRALC training courses, from Induction to more specialised areas, and know at first hand the value of their training. I also believe that LRALC has a vital role to play, with their advice and expertise, in aiding and advising Parish Meetings, Councils and Town Councils throughout Leicestershire & Rutland.

I have been proud to represent LRALC at both local and national level and I believe my previous career in PR and Corporate Relations can help to promote LRALC to as wide an audience as possible.

Tony Hirons



Geoff Hulland

I am Parish Councillor for Waltham on the Wolds and Thorpe Arnold and was elected to the Board of LRALC in 2022 and under the terms of our Articles of Association, I am seeking re-election to the LRALC Board.

I am a Certified Management Accountant and my early working life was in the Dairy Industry, for the last 25 years I have worked in Logistics and Supply Chain Management. Roles have included Financial Management and General Management locally and nationally, latterly running my own business providing support in Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

As a director of LRALC, I want to use my skills and experiences to develop the role of LRALC within Parish and Town Councils.

Geoff Hulland



Vacancies

Three vacancies remain on the board which can be filled directly by the board as Selected Directors. These vacancies will be advertised to all parish and town councils. A Selected Director will serve until the next AGM and may seek re-appointment thereafter.