

Nominations received for Smaller councils' committee (Direct election)

Smaller councils' committee (Direct)
3 vacancies
Election required
Josephine Parish
Mervyn Head
Ian Harrison
Martyn Thorpe
John Barrett
Graham Ford has withdrawn as he has been elected by National assembly

SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE DIRECT ELECTION NOMINATION FORM

Title	Mr
First name	John
Surname	Barrett
County association	L.A.L.C. Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils.
Council name	Nettleham Parish Council
Precept	£184.200
Electorate	3437, (2011 census) now more like 4000

Are you a (please mark appropriate box)	
Clerk	
Councillor	x
County association staff member	

Explain why you are standing for this committee (250 words max)
I have experience as Town Councillor, Snaith, East Yorks, 12 years. Experience as Elected East Yorks. Councillor (Unitary authority), was on cabinet for 3 yrs. Moved to Nettleham in 2019. Recently joined L.A.L.C and feel that I can add much to discussions and thinking of NALC due to my experience gained. I say what I feel, I don't mince my words, but am precise in what I say. I am able, due to Police training to sort wood from the trees.

Please outline three key achievements, skills or experiences that are relevant to the position applied for (250 words max each)

I retired as Police Inspector from West Yorkshire Police in 2006. Became Snaith Town Councillor 2007. Town Mayor 2010/2011. Elected as East Riding of Yorkshire Councillor 2011 and 2015. Worked up from Deputy of Health and Wellbeing scrutiny, and other committees, to Chairman of Western Planning. Joined the Cabinet under Steve Parnaby in 2016 and was portfolio holder for Highways until 2019 when moved to Nettleham for family reasons. Joined Nettleham Parish Council 2020.

Became member of L.A.L.C. 2021.

SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE DIRECT ELECTION NOMINATION FORM

Title	Mr
First name	Ian
Surname	Harrison
County association	Nottinghamshire
Council name	North Muskham Parish Council
Precept	
Electorate	

Are you a (please mark appropriate box)	
Clerk	
Councillor	*****
County association staff member	

Explain why you are standing for this committee (250 words max)
<p>I consider the role of NALC to be essential in the support of smaller councils who are increasingly involved in the delivery of services and community support to fill the gaps resulting from the reduced capacity and resources of upper tier authorities.</p> <p>The Pandemic has demonstrated the potential of smaller councils to effectively organise and facilitate supportive infrastructures to assist with care and wellbeing of the vulnerable members within communities and given the ageing profile of rural communities and the inevitable tightening of public finance, this ability will be increasingly realised.</p> <p>I consider that my substantial experience as a serving senior local government officer, which has included strategic positions within a District Council, and latterly at a Town Council, and my 20 + years as a Parish Councillor of which 15 have been as Chairman, would add to the competency and effectiveness of the committee if I was elected to serve.</p> <p>I continue to have a strong belief of and commitment to “community” and the essential development, pro - activity and visibility of Parish and Town Councils.</p>

I also believe that Parish and Town Councils, being closer to their communities than upper tier authorities, are well placed to champion and encourage personal and community behaviours to help reduce the Co2 footprint and mitigate the impacts of climate change and loss of wildlife diversity. Importantly, many smaller rural communities will be at the sharp end of the4se impacts, in particular flooding. I have significant experience in this area.

Please outline three key achievements, skills or experiences that are relevant to the position applied for (250 words max each)

Key achievements:

Identification of need, development of initiative and delivery by my leadership

1. At local level through my voluntary work in and for the community
 - A new £700,000 Rural Community Centre
 - A new parish allotment using grant won monies and negotiated planning conditions attached to a new affordable housing scheme
 - The re-establishment of a popular riverside footpath
 - The successful formation and chairmanship of a multi parish group fighting inappropriate local gravel extraction
 - Numerous fund-raising events for local good causes and Charites including the local hospice, Lyme Disease Association, Nottingham Hospitals and Cancer research.
 - Establishment and protection of a local wildlife reserve
 - Formation of a local first responder scheme
 - A support scheme for the local vulnerable during the Pandemic

2. At local, regional and national level through my employment in local government
 - Development of a £1m Town Centre CCTV scheme
 - Development of a parish flood resilience programme and facilities
 - National Govt -BEACON award for emergency planning
 - Provision of property protection schemes for flood risk villages in the Trent valley
 - A food support scheme for Newark Town during the pandemic
 - Nationally and internationally acclaimed event- The European Juggling Convention held in Newark 2019

3. Domestically:
 - Married for 45 years with 2 children

- (Still surprisingly) Owner of an Airedale Terrier (possibly my greatest achievement!)

Skills:

To work (and indeed to be an effective Member) in local government; empathy, an understanding of complex issues and communication (especially listening!) are key.

My main skills include:

Communication- both written and spoken.

I have developed these over the years having delivered many presentations and reports at conferences and committees including delivery of highly complex initiatives and importantly have delivered often difficult messages to public meetings during emergencies where life and property were at risk.

At highly charged Parish Council meetings where and when attendance has been high, (usually Planning issues) I have had to communicate clearly, with emphasis and at times with authority and assertiveness.

In my times of "relaxation" I am a leading member of a local amateur dramatics group and have recently started a small enterprise delivering murder mysteries and street theatre in local communities.

The need to actually listen and to demonstrate empathy in a community leadership role is absolutely essential. I consider that I have good empathy skills and can communicate with all levels of society and in particular I have the skills to understand an issue, to find solutions to the issue and to communicate those solutions to others.

My other key skills I would suggest are:

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Perseverance and self-motivation
- Resilience
- Ability to work under pressure
- Self-confidence and confidence in others
- Enterprise and entrepreneurial.

Experience:

Since 1974 local government reorganisation I have through occupation and involvement with local democracy had considerable experience and demonstrated commitment and ability in a multitude of front facing services and organisations. This includes:

- 40 years as a senior Officer in local government
- Member of Strategic management team
- Leading and managing teams delivering Community Safety and CCTV, Energy Management, Community Resilience, Fuel Poverty, Occupational Safety and Risk Management.
- Development of policies, public consultations and preparation of numerous reports and delivery of reports at Committee and Council meetings.
- Delivery of presentations at national and regional conferences
- Leadership and management of District flood response in several high impact events effecting 2000 properties
- 20 + years as a Parish Councillor
- Including 15 years as Chairman
- Previous Member of the Local Standards committee
- Standing as a candidate in a District Council election
- Member of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF)
- Chairman of the East Midlands Provincial Council Safety Group
- Independent Board member of the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee- (Env Agency)
- Development and delivery of Asbestos awareness training courses, (nationally) as a part time Safety consultant
- Management and development of Town Centre Markets and events at Newark.
- Working with some 80 parish councils, the County Council and several district councils to develop an emergency planning resilience programme

SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Title	Mr
First name	Mervyn
Surname	Head
County association	Lincolnshire
Council name	South Kyme Parish Council
Precept	£6784
Electorate	337

Explain why you are standing for this committee (250 words max)

Since the 'Handforth Parish Council' phenomena, the standing of Parish Councils and Parish Councillors has been severely impacted, resulting in Parish Councils being viewed by many as being irrelevant and farcical.

I believe that Parish Councillors and the Clerks that support them should be better trained and Parish Councils should be included more in the wider decision making processes that will affect their area. I am a strong advocate for Parish Councils to engage with their residents and precept accordingly for those things that are needed within the parish to enhance the environment, support the local community and enhance community cohesion.

With the above in mind, I believe that the Local Associations and the National Association of Local Councils have a very important role in developing and helping Parish Councils to achieve their full potential to serve their residents better. I have been a Parish Councillor since 2008 and since becoming a District Councillor in 2018, I have successfully campaigned at my District Council for more involvement with Parish Councils and a more important role for our Local Association (LALC) in getting information to the Parish Councils to encourage better engagement between District and Parish Councils for the benefit of their residents.

If elected to the Smaller Councils Committee, I would work through the committee to promote and improve the role and training of Parish Councillors, encourage better engagement between Parish Councils and their residents, particularly in the areas of improving community cohesion, increasing biodiversity and tackling Climate Change.

Please outline three key achievements, skills or experiences that are relevant to the position applied for (250 words max each)

When I became a Parish Councillor on South Kyme Parish Council in 2008, there were no formal procedures or policies in place. In 2009, I researched, wrote and got my Parish Council to adopt its first ever set of Standing Orders and also a contract of employment and disciplinary procedure for the Clerk. By so doing, the Council became more effective as a body and the position of Clerk was recognised as that of a Council employee with associated employment rights

In addition to the above, I organised the first annual Village Meeting in living memory for South Kyme. Section 137 funding was used to provide refreshments for residents that attended the meeting and as a result of this meeting and Annual Parish meetings in succeeding years, a much better community spirit and cohesion has been achieved.

I am also a founder member of the Village Tidy Volunteer Group, which is promoted and sponsored by the Parish Council to maintain the grass areas and footpaths in the village.

In 2009, I took over the Parish Council accounts and computerised them, producing formal budgets, up-to-date cash book and balance sheets for the council to make sound financial decisions. In the succeeding years, Council spending has increased threefold to provide such things as dog waste bins, litter bins, purchase grass cutting equipment and support large village events to promote South Kyme, purchase equipment for the Community Speedwatch group, including two Speed Indicator Devices.

South Kyme sits astride a river (Kyme Eau) and I have worked to promote the enhancement of the river for leisure. I promoted the setting up of a separate working group for enhancement of the river and I sit on the Kyme Eau Working Group for the Parish Council. This group comprises two members from the Parish Council, members from the Environment Agency and the Sleaford Navigation Trust who are the navigation authority for the river.

Through this group, we have been able to secure funding to build two 70ft mooring stations for Narrow Boats and also provide fishing platforms. The river is now much used for boating, fishing and canoeing. I am currently working on a project to secure funding to provide a purpose built

canoe access point on the river. The Parish Council voted to support funding of £1500 for the Narrow boat mooring, the remaining £40k+ coming from grants.

The moorings have been a great success and each year the village has a boating festival and scarecrow completion in early May which brings the village together.

I am an Engineer by profession and in 1988, with a colleague I set up a small specialist welding company doing work for the oil and defence industries, doing business in Europe, the Middle East, India and the Far East.

I am retired and currently Chairman of my Parish Council and also a District Councillor and Executive Board member for North Kesteven District Council (NKDC), with responsibility for Environmental Health, Waste and Recycling , Building Control and Licensing. I also sit on a number of other committees for NKDC: I am Chairman of a Grants Committee, a member of a Planning Committee, a representative on two Internal Drainage Boards, Council representative on a European Union Funded project, a member of NKDC's Climate Committee, River Sleas Committee and I also represent NKDC on the Lincolnshire County Council Waste Partnership committee, which brings together seven District Councils to formulate a joint approach to waste collection and recycling in Lincolnshire.

I am passionate about promoting the benefits that good Parish Councils' can bring to their local communities. With my length of experience as a Parish Councillor and my various roles as a District Councillor, I believe that I have a broad range of experience that would be useful in my role as a member of the Smaller Councils' Committee and could make a positive contribution to promoting ways in which to enhance the roles of Parish Councillors and Councils both within their local communities and within the wider districts as a whole.

SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE DIRECT ELECTION NOMINATION FORM

Title	Councillor
First name	Josephine
Surname	Parish
County association	Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils
Council name	Corfe Castle Parish Council
Precept	£31,377
Electorate	1300

Are you a (please mark appropriate box)	
Clerk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
County association staff member	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explain why you are standing for this committee (250 words max)

I believe there is real potential for 'parish power'; but there needs to be genuine support for those parishes who lack capacity. Many smaller councils are at a disadvantage in terms diminished capacity. In my view alternative methods need to be developed to enable smaller parishes with reduced capacity to join conversations that could affect better outcomes for their communities.

The thriving parish councils we see through NALC are inspirational, demonstrating achievable, positive outcomes and this is excellent, but this 'parish power' needs to be wider-spread.

The most urgent of issues facing us is Climate Emergency. It is crucial that ALL councils, including the smaller struggling councils, take urgent action to mitigate against Climate Emergency. It is therefore more crucial than ever that methods of empowering these harder to reach parish councils are developed immediately.

I am proud to have sat on this committee for the past nearly 2 years. I am grateful to NALC for having a Smaller Council's Committee (SCC) in place. However I believe there is still room for improvement so that the voices of the many Smaller Councils (which make up the greatest number of parish councils nationally) can be better heard and represented.

I am aware that our current committee make-up is not representative across regions and there is no clear communication route with those who we are said to represent.

The current Committee members are keen to: (1) increase the number of elected members; (2) improve communication to enable the SCC to be more relevant and accessible to Smaller Councils; suggested ways forward could be NALC holding some Virtual Networking events specifically for Smaller Councils and the different County Association Area Committee meetings feeding back pertinent Smaller Councils issues; (3) learn from Qualitative research data of Smaller Councils would greatly help inform the SCC.

Please outline three key achievements, skills or experiences that are relevant to the position applied for (250 words max each)

PREVIOUSLY WORKED AS A CLERK: Although my experience of local government only commenced in 2016 as clerk to a very small parish council, I immersed myself into my role with great enthusiasm; I attended all the available training; it was a 6 month wait for new clerk training, so I mirrored an experienced clerk in a nearby parish and attended various neighbouring parish, town and district council meetings, keen to learn good practice; I attended seminars and conferences facilitated by the Rural Service Network, South West Councils, SLCC, PDC and DAPTC; I helped develop a good network of clerks and councillors who were keen to share expertise (good-practice, model documents and inform each other of important consultations) and work together in the face of shared concerns; it was easy to form an informal cluster of 5 neighbouring parish and town councils in the face of Local Government Reform as connections had already been made, the group continues to meet quarterly working together and sharing common concerns and is proving to be invaluable.

PARISH COUNCILLOR:

Sat on the Smaller Councils Committee during the past 2 years (see above explanation of why I am standing).

As a lead member of our Environment Working Group, we have made much progress since June 2019 when our Council made its Climate Emergency declaration. Engaging with our community is our current main focus.

Our Parish Council has taken on additional services; negotiated taking on the public toilets along with the revenue-earning residents' car park; it finances the Youth Club, subsidises the Sports Trust; facilitated the setting up of the Community Land Trust.

Our local area branch of DAPTC has highlighted the need to connect with the smaller struggling parishes and is working on ways to achieve this.

OTHER TRANSFERABLE EXPERIENCE: I have a Law degree and prior to raising a family, I worked for and ITV documentary production company for 3 years, working directly to the Controller of Factual Programmes and the Finance Manager. Over the past nearly 20 years I have been running our family beach café.

I was a founding member and Secretary of the Corfe Castle Community Land Trust. My personal aim was two-fold; to set up a good system of Governance and to ensure that the aim was to provide genuinely affordable housing instead of the usual unaffordable affordable housing. I am no longer a board member but am pleased to say a site has been identified and a planning application to provide 14 genuinely affordable homes is being considered by the LPA.

SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE DIRECT ELECTION NOMINATION FORM

Title	Mr
First name	Martyn
Surname	Thorpe
County association	Nottinghamshire
Council name	St Albans Parish Council
Precept	£28,269.00
Electorate	2,700

Are you a (please mark appropriate box)	
Clerk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
County association staff member	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explain why you are standing for this committee (250 words max)

I have a passion for local government which stems from a non-political interest. I have for the last 6 years been a civil servant and this brings me much pride that I am in a career that sole purpose is to support the wider society.

The prospect of being on the committee and being able to advocate for Smaller Councils on a national platform is exciting to me and something I am willing to commit a lot of time and energy towards.

I have recently been recommended to be part of my local Borough Councils Standards Committee as a Parish Representative and will be taking up the role shortly.

Being able to talk about Parish and small councils and support them whether locally or nationally is something I want to continue doing for main years.

Please outline three key achievements, skills or experiences that are relevant to the position applied for (250 words max each)

An achievement I am proud of is leading my Parish Council during the COVID-19 pandemic. I was elected as Chairman in May 2020 and oversaw rapid changes in legislation having to at pace implement new measures to enable to Council to function.

On top of this I have to deal with the departure of several Councillors due to non-attendance and the departure of the Clerk. This meant that I had to liaise with the local association to get the relevant information to recruit another clerk and hold interviews virtually. The recruitment was successful with the appointment of a new clerk.

Over the course of my chairmanship the reputation of the Parish Council improved with in May 2021 the Council having its first election for 3 years due to the number of candidates putting their name forward for the vacant seats.

The reputation was improved due to improved communications with the community, with myself taking on media responsibilities, updating our Facebook page and Website, also because of the implementation of a Parish Photograph competition which has showcased the natural beauty of the Parish.

While it was not an easy period to lead especially has was relatively new to being on the Council I can reflect on the period and know that I did a great job of keeping the Council functioning and helping to improve it.

Since becoming active in Parish Councils since November 2019 I have found that a lot of upskilling was required to gain the relevant knowledge to help the council be effective. The Council was formed in May 2018 from the splitting of the former Parish Council into two due to having two distinctive areas. This meant that no sitting Councillor had a wealth of experience or knowledge.

I took it upon myself while chairman to gain knowledge to help the Council and did this by self-funding an Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA) qualification. This isn't standard practice for Councillors and is normally done by Clerks. I did the learning in my own time and completed it in April 2021.

This qualification has expanded my knowledge massively and meant while we were between Clerks, I was able to help guide the Council in the interim.

I am proud of gaining the qualification and this has now given me a good basis to expand my knowledge from.

One of my greatest achievements to date has been raising local concerns regarding housing and developments.

In November 2020 as Chairman of the Parish Council I was invited to the Nottingham Association of Local Councils AGM (Annual General Meeting) which was attended by the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (now Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) MP Robert Jenrick.

During the meeting there was opportunity to ask questions to the Association and Secretary of State so I took this chance to raise concerns which Parishioners and the Parish Council had regarding housing develops and the Greater Nottinghamshire Plan which was detailing areas for new developments on previously unbuilt on land in greenbelt areas.

The response received was promising and well received when reported back the Parish. This is still an ongoing topic for the Parish.