



## Candidate Statements

### NALC Larger Councils Committee

### Direct Elections – Councillors for the period January 2016 – December 2017

Mike Drew, Yate Town Council, Avon .....	2
Ray McCall, Billingham, Cleveland.....	4
William Smith, Horden Town Council, Durham.....	5
Peter Quinn, Shildon Town Council, Durham.....	6
Angela Snell, Polegate Town Council, East Sussex .....	7
Richard Alvin, Chigwell Parish Council, Essex.....	8
Richard Perry, Heybridge Parish Council, Essex .....	9
Keith Eden, Saffron Walden, Essex.....	10
Brian Wilcox, Hereford City Council, Herefordshire.....	11
Eric Carter, Newport, Shropshire .....	13
Adrian Osborne, Sudbury Town Council, Suffolk .....	15
Kieran Diamond, Southwater Parish, West Sussex .....	17
Jan Cosgrove, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.....	19

**To vote - [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCC\\_Cllr](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCC_Cllr)**

## Mike Drew, Yate Town Council, Avon

### Attendance in 2015 – 100% (2 out of 2 meetings).

- Member of Yate Town Council 1983 – present. Town Mayor 1998 – 2000. I am currently Chair of F&GP.
- Member of Avon Exec/County Committee 2003 – Present – and President/Vice President
- Chair Northavon/South Gloucestershire Group 1990 – 2010.
- Avon Rep to National Council 2011 – present. Served for a period in the late 80s.
- NALC Finance Committee 2014 – Present.
- NALC Larger Council Committee - co-opted May 2015.
- I am currently a member of the Larger Councils Committee, having been co-opted into it. The diversity of the experience within the Committee makes it a strong advocate for what we can do as larger councils, within our sector and to government and the community.

With over 30 years experience working for our community as a councillor at all tiers (Yate Town Council 1983- date, District 1983 – 1996, County 1985 – 1996. Unitary Council 1995 – Present (including term as Chair), Avon Fire Authority 2003 – Present, Deputy Chair 2012 – Present), and over 25 years engagement with NALC and our local Avon County Association, I have seen how effective local councils can be in transforming opportunities – if we work together and speak out for localism. I have always seen NALC as having a crucial role in advocacy for town and parish councils and the distinctive ability we have to make a difference.

Yate Town Council is the largest member Council in Avon with a budget of over £900,000. Since elected to Yate TC I have campaigned for the Council to develop new services in response to the community and to lead the transfer of services from remoter principle authorities to the community. We have developed new services in response to public demand – a heritage centre, pop-in café as a venue for older residents, a £1.5m youth cinema and café, And have taken over local parks, all play facilities, commons, and a major sports facility with national standard running track – and forging local community partnerships to engage residents and users in delivering better services more effectively. When the Unitary decided to stop funding youth work, we commissioned a study of what young people felt was needed in the town and now fund the youth run Cinema/Café, two Youth Clubs and Detached Youth Work. As chair of Finance and General Purposes for most of this time, I have led this work, building a relationship of trust with other councils in terms of quality of service and demonstrating that if we listen to residents and work with them larger local councils can deliver better services more effectively in partnership with residents.



I have always believed that the Larger Councils have much to contribute to NALC – in terms of the needs of larger councils but also in supporting other parishes. In the 80s I was involved in the campaign to get NALC give proper recognition to Larger Councils. I believe that larger councils should work in cooperation with smaller town and parish councils to their mutual benefit. As principal councils cut back on their services due to financial pressures so Town and Parish Councils will be expected to step up to make sure that local communities do not suffer. Larger Councils are likely to be in the forefront of this. It offers an unrivalled opportunity to transform our communities through working with them to provide responsible quality services cost effectively. Town and Parish Councils are able to generate the trust of the public to provide those services in an effective and value for money way. Larger Councils have the capacity to provide those services to both their own town/parish and work with their neighbouring parishes to assist them.

We must build on the work that NALC has in campaigning for our sector and make sure that government policies assist us and not hinder. This means that we have to be able to provide good examples of what the sector can achieve and support our sector to deliver – and disseminate those examples to inspire others and challenge perceptions about local councils and government in general.

## Ray McCall, Billingham, Cleveland

Member of Stockton Borough Council 2002 to 2005 (By Election) 2011 to 2015 Billingham North Ward.

Member of Billingham Town Council 2010 to present (twice elected Chairman).

Member of Teesside Valuation tribunal – 1997 to 2014 when reaching age 72 (retirement age).

Governor of four schools (now of only one as Vice Chair – 1992 to present).

Board Member of New Horizons (Teesside) which is a mental health support charity, involved in housing and care of mental health patients on discharge.

Please see over ref. of Committees in Billingham Town Council on which I serve:

Member of Committees on Billingham Town Council:

Services & Amenities

Finance Policy & Resources

Staffing

Budget Working Group

Signatory for cheques etc.



## **William Smith, Horden Town Council, Durham**

**Attendance in 2015 – 50% (2 out of 4 meetings).**

I have been on the NALC Committee as a representative for 2014/15 and have experience by sitting on various committees for many years, including Vice Chairman of Horden Parish Council, Vice Chairman of Horden Recreation Ground, Chairman of Horden Social Welfare Centre Committee, Chairman of Horden Heritage Centre, Vice Chairman of Horden Regeneration Partnership, County Durham Association of Local Councils Representative, Chairman and Horden Representative of East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils, East Durham Representative of County Durham Association of Local Governors, USDAW Union and Health & Safety Rep, USDAW North East Equality Committee, USDAW North East Political Committee, County Durham Association of Local Councils Executive Committee and Easington CLP, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS North Tees and Hartlepool Trust Group Committee. I have all the experience required for the role.

Through my roles on the Parish Council and different committees I am familiar with the standards required by me to fulfil certain roles such as adhering to Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Declaring an Interest and the like. As I actively attend regular meetings I have, over the years, gained knowledge of how to follow an Agenda and produce Minutes of Meetings.

I enjoy working with the community in my voluntary based roles which include supporting local groups applying for funding, encouraging new volunteers to participate, actively promoting the work and efforts of young and old.

In my current role as Vice-Chairman of Horden Parish Council I try to support my fellow Councillors as best I can, giving guidance to new Members and providing support to the Chairman as required. I attend all the Parish Council's activities and events which gain more momentum each year.

As well as being a School Governor at two local schools I enjoy volunteering my skills to school projects such as gardening, parent/children training and sports days, cookery and computer courses.

My hobbies include watching and playing football and various sports, antiques and pottery and family days out.



## **Peter Quinn, Shildon Town Council, Durham**

Throughout my life, both professionally and as a Town Councillor I have been committed to serving the public, with the aim of improving wellbeing for those in need.

I have over 20 years experience as a Town Councillor on Shildon Town Council and currently hold the position of Deputy Leader. I held the post of Town Mayor in 2013 taking a keen interest in council initiatives to improve Shildon, via networking with other Town and County Mayors.

As a Councillor of a Larger Town Council we face many challenges and by being a pro-active, motivated council, we can bring about changes for the better. I actively seek public opinion on Council Services and as a local Councillor will endeavour to consult and make a difference to people's lives in our community. I am passionate and committed to local government and believe in the devolvement of some services down to Parish and Town Councils. At this grassroots level we can make a difference to our town for the benefit of residents.

I am also an active member in the local community as a volunteer. I am a committee member of a local community centre where I volunteer to fundraise to sustain the running of the centre and help out in the kitchen environment. I am also member of a community safety group which promotes community safety issues in Shildon and community safety initiatives for young people such as Keep Fit, Keep Safe and Keep Healthy as well as community safety carousels. I attend local Police and Communities Together Meetings and support initiatives arising from these meetings in partnership with other local organisations. I enjoy the satisfaction of making a difference and improving the wellbeing of local people, whether this be in a small way by replacing a litterbin or seeking large scale funding for a new Skate Park.

I work as a Chef and keen to help and support local organisations whenever I can with catering support especially to the elderly on the town. I have previously been a member of NALC where I gained knowledge through the many learning opportunities.

I would welcome the opportunity to be an active member of NALC's Larger Councils' Committee in the future during these challenging times to put forward the views and interests of Larger Local Councils.

## **Angela Snell, Polegate Town Council, East Sussex**

After a successful and rewarding career in Secondary teaching, I have been a Head of English in a large comprehensive school, and finally teacher training, as a Senior Lecturer I ran the GTP and PGCE training courses at a university, I moved to East Sussex and became involved in local politics. Both change have invigorated and enthused me as I am at my best when faced with new challenge, experiences and demands.

I believe my professional background and approachable personality have equipped me well to complete my duties as a Town and District Councillor following my election to Polegate Town Council and Wealden District Council in May of this year. In addition to having the necessary skills and abilities I have chosen to live in Polegate and I am committed to doing my best as a councillor and resident to develop, regenerate and support my local community.

Since moving to East Sussex in January 2014 I have secured part-time employment as a Deputy Superintendent Registrar for East Sussex County Council. It is both an honour and privilege to either complete all the necessary paperwork or to conduct the marriage ceremony. Obviously this work is mainly seasonal and predominantly takes place at weekends and it has been a delight to officiate on these memorable occasions and to also get to know the various marriage premises and staff and to explore the wonderful East Sussex countryside.

My hobbies include reading and I am a great fan of film and the theatre. I also attend a local gym and Zumba classes held at the local community centre.

As an active member of the local Conservative Association I help in the organising of fund raising events such as Ladies Pamper Nights, Psychic Evenings and coffee mornings. At these events I am to be found carrying a bright pink bucket which is used for the raffle and have appropriately been nicknamed "The Raffle Queen".

Naturally since being elected I also attend local events and carry out the required civic duties.

I hope to become a member of the NALC Larger Councils' Committee in order to gain further insight , knowledge and ideas about working as a councillor so that I can effectively serve those who elected me and support and work with my fellow councillors.

## Richard Alvin, Chigwell Parish Council, Essex

Richard Alvin is the founder and Chairman of private equity company Audere Capital following the sale of two media companies, one print and the other online.

Audere Capital currently have 15 investments in media and fashion companies from the media company **Capital Business Media** which has offices in London & New York.

Richard fulfills the role of Group Managing Director at CBM which owns some of the UKs leading business brands including SME title Business Matters which Richard heads.

Audere Capital's media investments continue with PR company Brighter Comms where Richard is Executive Director. Fashion investments see Richard have board memberships including Elizabeth Emanuel's new fashion brand Art of Being, luxury leather goods startup Oliver & Lewis and fledgling youth leisure brand ULE which has become a key supplier to Paul Smith.

As well as being a media commentator and speaker on UK Media and SMEs across the UK, America and Europe and an advisor the government and the Mayor of London on small business Richard recently fronted the business transformation television programme Save Our Business broadcast across the US on the TNT network.

Richard was named by The Observer newspaper & The Courvoisier Future 500 as 'someone to watch' in their top 100 business people and is a Freeman of the City of London and recently made a Fellow of the RSA for his work with business.





## **Richard Perry, Heybridge Parish Council, Essex**

I am looking forward to serving the National Association as a team player, adding my expertise and experience within the leisure and tourism industry.

I have been involved with the licenced trade for 20 years and am a co-founder member of the “SOS bus” (a community facility helping vulnerable people within the late night economy which in turn relieves emergency services.) This scheme was successfully piloted in Southend-on-Sea and now SOS buses can be found all over England.

As a successful businessman, I plan to contribute to the Association in respect of its continuing work assisting Councils in their ability to reach their full potential and also increase their profiles within their local communities.

## **Keith Eden, Saffron Walden, Essex**

1. Successful business career over 40 years skilled in repertoire of recruitment, training, managing of staff in organisations up to 2,000 strong.
2. Company Director since 1974 and conversant with all appropriate obligations of that role.
3. Uttlesford District Councillor 2007/15, Deputy Chair of Planning, Chair of Transport Forum.
4. Saffron Walden Town Councillor 2007 to date. Town Mayor 2013/14 and at one time chaired all Committees.
5. Trustee of Saffron Walden Museum 2007/14. Now Hon. Vice President.

Interest in Public Transport and member of six different support groups.

## Brian Wilcox, Hereford City Council, Herefordshire

**Attendance in 2015 – 50% (2 out of 4 meetings).**

Dear Colleague

For the last 37 years, I have lived and worked in Herefordshire – a large rural County in the West Midlands comprising 133 parishes. I entered local government service over 50 years ago and have been a council officer in Birmingham, Surrey and Herefordshire.

With the advent of local government re-organisation, I took early retirement from my post as a Chief Officer of a multi-disciplinary department of a District Council in 1998. I became a non-Executive Director on the former Herefordshire Health Authority in 1999 until its demise in 2003, as well as a member of the Employment Tribunal Service that same year: an office from which I retired last month.

For the past 31 years I have served as a Magistrate, including representing Herefordshire's magistrates for many years on both regional and national judicial bodies.

I became a councillor in 2003, with my becoming Mayor of Hereford in 2012 and am currently twin-hatted being on both Hereford City and Herefordshire Councils.

Earlier this year, I was elected to become both Chairman of Herefordshire Council (a unitary authority) and Chairman of West Mercia Police and Crime Panel. I am also currently a member of NALC's Larger Council's Committee having been first elected in 2013.

Some may therefore wonder why I wish to continue on this Committee.

The Government is concentrating on locality working and more devolution of services to local councils; with those local councils often devolving powers and assets to town and parish councils. Joined-up thinking is an essential part of both policing and local government. I see my role as being a part of that process with my vision of local communities determining their own future, whether it be by way of neighbourhood planning or providing local services which districts and counties are no longer able to afford.



Two years ago, you kindly elected me to the LCC at a time when NALC itself was under some scrutiny. I am pleased to have been a part of the process that has seen improvements during the leadership of our (comparatively) new Chief Executive, Jonathan Owen, and have been pleased to see progress in improved communication, both up and down, with government officers and parish councils respectively (particularly through the county associations). This needs to continue and I would ask that I am given another two years to help encourage that to be expanded further. My other main objectives will be:

1. To promote and safeguard town and parish councils.
2. To highlight the needs of people living in the shire counties and rural areas.
3. To ensure that government initiatives address the real needs of local communities and that city and urban areas do not take precedence over rural parishes.
4. To further promote local issues to be determined by local communities in pursuance of the Government's localities agenda.
5. To take up concerns raised by other larger councils and ensure they are properly addressed.

I have booked in to attend the LCC conference in December where I hope to meet representatives from several other councils and listen to their thoughts and aspirations. I would welcome anyone approaching me to raise relevant issues which, if re-elected, I may take up on their behalf.

I hope that I can rely on your support.

Many thanks in anticipation

## Eric Carter, Newport, Shropshire

I am applying for this position as a Cllr both at Town and Borough Council level, and as such, feel I can offer knowledgeable and practical skills to the role, provided by my broad involvement within the sector over many years. My relevant experience is itemised below:

### Councillor Experience and Roles

- 23 years as a Councillor on Telford & Wrekin Council
  - Conservative Group Leader 1991 – 1995
  - Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Tourism 2007-2011
  - Lead Member for LDF/LTP 2007 – 2011
  - - Shadow Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Tourism – 2011 to present
- Representative on the Birmingham, Black Country & Coventry City Region 2007-2010
- Board Member of Regeneration WM 2009 – 2011
  - Member of Local Strategic Partnership 2007 – 2011
  - Representative on West Midlands Regional Assembly 2007 - 2010
  - Member of National Steering Group – Urban Commission 2009 – 2011
  - Board Member of Marches Local Enterprise Partnership 2010 – 2011
    - Member of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Fire Authority – 2009
  - Chairman of Strategy & Resources Committee Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Fire Authority Sept 2013-2015
  - Board member of Shropshire / Wrekin Tourism Association – 2007-11
  - Member of The Marches Strategic Rail Group – 2011
  - Director and Chairman Newport Regeneration Partnership - May 2014 to present.
  - Elected Chairman of The Marches Strategic Rail Group – June 2015
  - Elected as Vice Chairman of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Fire Authority – June 2015
- Member of Newport Town Council from 2007-2011 re-elected May 2015 to present
- Vice Chairman of Plans committee

### Current/Previous Positions within Party/Group

- Vice Chairman Wrekin Conservative Association – 2002

- Group Whip 2007 – 2011
- Appointed as LGA Conservative Group Peer Councillor – Jan 2012 to present
- Regional Secretary English Region National Association of Councillors – 2011 to present

#### Skills and Expertise

- Served 20 years as Chairman of Newport Chamber of Commerce
- Fellow of Institute of Directors
- Fellow of Institute of Freight Forwarders
- Experience of over 20 years in addressing bodies such as Rotary Clubs, Conservative Associations and Chambers of Trade. Relaxed and confident at public speaking presentations – formal and informal.
- Leadership skills – passed through Leadership Academy with necessary accreditation 2009/10.
- Regular delegate to CCA and Conservative Conferences, and am acquainted with leading members and officers across the political spectrum.
- Experience of leading regeneration of deprived estates in the Borough, and improving engagement with disadvantaged communities.
- Experience of lobbying MPs, Government departments etc. with regards to funding gaps, regional structures etc.
- Organising and chairing conferences nationwide on such diverse subjects as Broadband, Tourism, Housing and Transport.



## **Adrian Osborne, Sudbury Town Council, Suffolk**

Sudbury is a town in Suffolk that has been a major market town for around 1000 years having a renowned silk industry and part of the important woollen industry in times present and past.

The town council is held in high esteem by all other Parish, Town and District councils. We have always been forward thinking and innovative in meeting the many challenges that face our town and others. The Town Council is currently undergoing a review of all its services and is ready to face the many challenges and opportunities which will inevitably come our way sooner rather than later.

By being involved with NALC, Sudbury will be able to push the barriers further both in the governance and ideas that come from other councils and councillors in the way they operate and achieve the high standards required by our electorate. This valuable information will then be shared with our neighbouring councils both in Suffolk and Essex as well as nationwide.

The Suffolk Association of Local Councils has been very supportive of Sudbury. However, we feel that involvement with NALC will provide an opportunity to raise the bar and be a benefit not only to Sudbury Town Council but also other councils, both small and large, throughout Suffolk.

I have been a Town Councillor for 11 years and a District Councillor for 9 years and have been Town Mayor of Sudbury both in 2009/10 & 2012/13.

During this time I have been fully committed and dedicated to trying to ensure people have a good quality of life but at the same time delivering on the needs of both the Town Council and the District Council.

As Town Councillor I have and continue to sit on the Planning Committee and the Leisure, Environment and Highways Committee. I also am Vice Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee.

As a District Councillor I sit on the Suffolk Standards Board for Babergh District Council and was also a member of the Community Scrutiny Committee. I also sit on the Planning Committee which involves making some challenging decisions in trying to support growth but at the same time retain a quality of life for our residents.

I also sit on the Environmental Steering Board, which as its names implies, is responsible for steering through the delivery of short, medium and long term projects. A review is currently being undertaken of Babergh's Public Realm with the purpose of retaining a high standard of delivery and

protection of our open space areas but at the same time identifying creative ways of providing the service under the ongoing constraints of restricted spending levels.

I also represent Babergh on the many outside bodies including Sudbury Citizens Advice Bureau and have recently been asked to become a Trustee.

I am also very active within the community sitting on the following groups:

Woods Around Town whose purpose is to create a woodland area for Sudbury as well as undertaking various community projects. We recently planted a hedge around an open space area on one of the developments in Sudbury. On the day the planting took place we had fifty residents helping the group with the planting.

I sit on the Gainsborough Trail group – purpose is to create a Biodiversity Trail around Sudbury, Cornard and Chilton, where people can safely walk and cycle.

I also sit on a voluntary group called Street Watch – this is an innovative group which is affiliated to the Police and provides them with support in patrolling our streets. We provide a friendly face to the public but at the same time help people feel secure and safe.

I am Chairman of the Sudbury Branch of the R.N.L.I. who last year raised over £8000.00

I feel that my experience as both a Town and District councillor will provide the NALC Committee with valuable information regarding rural market towns helping to give a balanced view and ensure that the interests of rural councils, both small and large, are well represented.





## **Kieran Diamond, Southwater Parish, West Sussex**

In relation to your recent advertisement regarding councilors and clerks to get more involved in NALC by placing themselves forward for election to the Committee. I would like to nominate myself based on the variety of skills and experience evidenced below.

I have enjoyed a diverse and successful career both in HM Forces and police service, predominantly, working in criminal investigation, intelligence-led policing, international policing and serious organised crime. During my policing career, I undertook leadership roles that required me to oversee both criminal and police officer's gross misconduct issues. I acted as an advisor and mentor to Surrey Police Chief Constable and senior command team. I was the designated lead for Police Federation National Detectives Forum as the force representative regarding detectives' career progression and training. In part, my position required me to act as a conduit between Federation members and chief officers in a consultation process with the overall objective to deliver efficient effective and economic policing, in the interest of the public and serving officers.

Previously, as a police officer, I was committed to upholding the standards of the organisation and regularly consulted with the management, the professional standards department, Crown Prosecution Service, partner agencies, independent advisory committees, Members of Parliament, Police Authority and chair meetings in this regard. In representing 1,995 Surrey Police Officers it was paramount that their 'voice' was heard for the good of the force and public.

In my role as a trainer and mentor I have developed both police officers and police staff in obtaining promotion and improving investigation and intelligence processes. I have represented my Force at the Police Indian reform conference held in New Delhi and the Police Training Academy in the Punjab Policing Academy in Amritsar. In addition, I was previously selected by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the European policing exercise in Berlin, where I was responsible for the investigation, custody, forensic team and covert intelligence multi-national teams.

I'm a strong believer in transformational management and accountability; All public servants should have the highest standards of integrity and transparency. Everyone should always strive to deliver, a high quality of service. As a Parish Councilor, I continue to maintain standards being a holder of civic office position it is a privilege that requires great integrity and accountability. Retirement from Public Service has afforded me the opportunity to diversify into areas of work whilst utilising skills and competencies I have developed throughout my working life.

I am a professional who has the ability to work alone, alongside others and to lead others. I am an effective communicator and have a pragmatic approach to challenges that I am set. My aptitude for lateral thinking provides me the ability to think theoretically and therefore, alertness to ideas for improvement. To date, I have put my expertise and skills into practice in undertaking training to become a magistrate, my change management and projects skills as the vice-chairman for Horsham & Mid-Sussex Commissioning Patient Reference Group, my organisational and skills into practice



in employment as a meeting coordinator/ consultant for a financial company and my interest in community matters by becoming a volunteer Parish Councillor. I also sit on the following committees/groups; West Sussex County Council Standards committee, Horsham District Council Standards Committee and Horsham & Mid Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS).

We're facing an exciting and challenging time for all councils and as a parish representative - involved with NALC – it will allow me the opportunity to have a say and contribute significantly towards improving all communities on a local and National level.

## **Jan Cosgrove, Bognor Regis, West Sussex**

I have been an elected Town Councillor from 1992 - 2003 and then again since May this year.

I served as Chair of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee, and then as Town Mayor 2003/2003. I also served as a district councillor 1995-2007 and was Group Leader.

I am retired having worked as a chief executive in the voluntary sector mainly in children and youth provision.

Presently, I am national Secretary of Fair Play for Children which campaigns for the Child's Right to Play, and have recently authored the Association's NGO Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child re the current UK reporting schedule - in this I have pointed out the extent to which LEAs are in breach of their statutory duties under the 1996 Education Act to provide universal youth services based around recreation needs.

I have been a persistent user of Freedom of Information with principal authorities to extract basic information around such statutory matters and performance.

I Chair the Number 18 Project (Bognor Regis) Ltd which is a drop-in youth cafe, information shop, counselling centre and arts project, where LEA support has ceased and where it is the last surviving open-access youth provision in the town.

I also run an online daily paper, The Bognor Regis Herald, and operate a one-man classical online radio station, British Music Radio, dedicated to classical music of the British isles.

I have two grandchildren, one in special education. I led the rescue from liquidation of our 350 seat theatre in 2005 and it now breaks even without public subsidies. I am active on the Town Council as regards our current premier project, to secure the investment made in buying our town cinema by adding a fourth screen.

I also run One Bognor, a campaign aimed at finding the public appetite for a) the abolition of District Councils such as Arun and their replacement with shire unitaries plus a reconfiguration of the six current urban parish councils covering this area into one Bognor Regis Urban Town Council, for better delivery and services.