

Report to: Council

Report Ref: C1903
Meeting Date: 3rd June 2019
Agenda Item: 4
Prepared By: Town Clerk

Subject: Co-option



1.0 BACKGROUND

An insufficient number of candidates stood for election to the Over Ward of the council resulting in one vacancy. In accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1985 the council may co-opt any person to fill the vacancy remaining unfilled or, if 35 days have elapsed since the date of the election, Cheshire East Council may order an election to fill the vacancy.

The vacancy has been advertised on the Town Council website and in articles in the Knutsford Guardian. An application form was prepared for potential candidates to apply to be co-opted with a deadline set for the 20th May. Two applications have been received.

2.0 PROCESS

The applications received are from Mr Colin Banks and Dr Elizabeth Beswick, their applications are overleaf. Both applicants have been invited to attend the meeting to answer any questions members may have to enable them to determine their suitability as a councillor for the ward.

In accordance with standing orders voting on the appointment shall be by show of hands unless two members request a signed ballot. The Town Clerk will have prepared signed ballot slips prepared in the event this option is requested. It is important to note that any member may request that the minutes record the way all members vote¹, and as such a secret ballot is not permissible.

The decision and discussion on co-option of a councillor should be held in public, it is both the Town Clerk's and the National Association of Local Council's view that it is not justifiable to exclude the public and press whilst this is considered given the public interest in the selection of a councillor.

3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

Council should consider the co-option of a councillor to fill the vacancy for Over Ward.

¹ A request must be made before or after the vote, but before moving onto the next business.



APPLICATION FOR CO-OPTION

Name	Mr Colin Banks
Residence	Over Ward, Knutsford
Qualified to stand	Yes, elector, occupier, place of business and lives within parish
Disqualified to stand	No
Party	Independent

What are your main areas of interest which are relevant to the Town Council

I am happy to participate in any fundraising activities for local charities, particularly for the provision of outdoor activities in the town. I have a personal and general interest in the provision of facilities for young people.

Sensitive development with environmental protection built in is a very important way forward in my view.

I support the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

I am a strong advocate for the public understanding of science and technology

Please set out what skills, experience and knowledge you feel you will bring to the council

I was committee member and Captain (2011) in New Mills Golf Club, Chairing General Committee meetings and the Management Committee. I rewrote the constitution of the Club to reflect changes in discrimination law in the year of my Captaincy. (Current member of Antrobus Golf Club)

I have been involved in many fundraising activities, alongside my wife Christine, including three family barbeques for Scout/Guides. Three quiz nights for Scouts and Tennis Club (junior courts fund) and whist night for Scouts.

I am currently Vice Chair of KROW campaigning for the open land to be preserved at Longridge/North Down area and have volunteered at the latest Beer Festival

I am a dog owner and a regularly converse with many local residents in the Over Ward during my walks, from all sectors of the community.

I have Lived in Over Ward for the past 7 years.

What you would like to achieve as a councillor?

- I. Continue to engage with all sectors of the community in Over Ward and give them a voice in KTC
- II. As I head to retirement give more time to the town that has welcomed me so well
- III. Look forward to a time when young people have plenty to do in the town without recourse to bad behaviour
- IV. Promote local groups and activities for a vibrant community. KLT, LOL Cheshire, live music venues etc.



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- V. Support other Councillors in their projects
- VI. I am unfamiliar with KTC dynamics so to familiarise myself with that is a key goal
- VII. Try and amplify the voices of those less powerful in the Town, connect them with local politics, voting and issues that need their attention
- VIII. Getting young people interested in democracy and elections, school talks

Why do you want to serve as a councillor for Over Ward from 2019 to 2023

To effectively represent my neighbours in Over Ward and encourage interest in local democracy

I want to feel that they will approach me with concerns.

There may be some unique issues which could be resolved but maybe are not brought out into the open. I would like Over Ward residents to have that opportunity.

Return some service to the community

Please set out any further information you feel that supports your application to be a councillor for Over Ward

My job with Cheshire Sciences UK Ltd takes me across the country. I promote and sell purification systems into pharmaceutical and university labs. I am used to asking questions and listening to the answers, to gain an understanding of requirements. I am heading towards retirement in the next few years so would be keen to devote more and more time to local community affairs.

I often speak in front of learned audiences on technical and scientific matters within my area of expertise

I founded and Chair a Book Club in town with around 24 members and 12-15 monthly attendees. It is very popular and has attracted a loyal following over the past 5 years.

I have five children, two at home, and have engaged with Scouts, Guides and Air Cadets over the years mainly in fund raising activities, parking at the Heath and Tabley Races etc.

I am vice chair of KROW, campaigning to protect our open land in Over Ward.

I am a member of Antrobus Golf Club.



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APPLICATION FOR CO-OPTION

Name	Dr Elizabeth Beswick
Residence	Ollerton
Qualified to stand	Yes, within 3 miles of boundary.
Disqualified to stand	No
Party	Conservative

What are your main areas of interest which are relevant to the Town Council

As a GP I am interested in the possible development of a new health centre which is needed for current and future residents as the current medical provision is unsuitable for the demands of the population of Knutsford.

I have experience of running a practice and a business so have experience of personnel issues.

I am interested in looking after the assets of the council and am keen to get involved with the refurbishment and running of the cemetery.

Please set out what skills, experience and knowledge you feel you will bring to the council

I have been a town councillor for Norbury booths for the past year and I have been on Planning, Events and Environment committees, I am up to date with the proposed new developments and the environment issues posed by them.

As a GP running a practice, I can use my experience in contributing to any health committee with regards a new medical centre.

What you would like to achieve as a councillor?

Ensure that Knutsford remains a great place to live, so that any developments are in keeping with the town and adequate and suitable community facilities are provided.

Environment issues such as air pollution with the increasing traffic and potholes continue to be areas of concern for residents which the council needs to try and resolve.

Ensure good value for money for ratepayers and ensure that the assets of the council are used for the benefits of everyone.

Liaise with police regarding law and order issues in Knutsford.



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Why do you want to serve as a councillor for Over Ward from 2019 to 2023

Although not currently living in Over Ward, I have lived there in the past so I am familiar with the area.

With the need for a new medical centre for the town, it is important that it is accessible for Over Ward residents.

The poor bus service is an ongoing issue for Over Ward which needs addressing by the council.

Having been on the planning committee for the past year, I know the problems posed by the new housing developments in Over Ward, especially with regards to access and traffic. I am keen to continue to highlight these and also the need for adequate community benefits if the developments go ahead.

Please set out any further information you feel that supports your application to be a councillor for Over Ward

As a GP I am used to working with community organisations and I am keen to get involved in the community groups in Over Ward to address their concerns, in particular the proposed new housing developments and the siting of any new medical centre as well as any other concerns.

I am keen to get involved with the community activities at the Welcome and to represent the Ward.



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