

New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd Annual General Meeting 5th March 2020

Candidate Statements (in alphabetical order)

Mike Brown

I have been involved in our project since its beginning in 2014 and have been Chair of the Board since the award of our Stage1 grant from the Big Lottery in 2016.

Though not an expert in retail or property management I can offer a career background in communication and administration which I have applied in co-ordinating the skills and energy of our Board members and staff in meeting the needs and expectations of our community.

We are now at the halfway stage of our five years of Big Lottery support. The construction and setting-up phase of our project is complete. If re-elected I would hope to play a part in refocussing our energies as we plan for life post-subsidy and continue to develop our role in the community.

I believe that in future rural areas will increasingly depend on self-help, creative and flexible thinking, and co-operation and collaboration. I hope NGCE will explore the role it can play in this within the Glenkens.

Simon Kennedy

Having lived within New Galloway for over 20 years I am aware of the physical changes to the area and challenges faced by the residents. Taking into account my previous Community Policing role I understand the importance community engagement to identify current needs and wishes of residents and visitors. I appreciate the necessity of both private and voluntary sector to work closely together towards achieving identified goals, whilst maintaining and improving any ongoing concerns.

I have recently retired from the Police service and I have previous committee member experience in various roles having been involved with a number of both professional and voluntary groups delivering various projects aimed at community safety.

I would like to be considered for a position on the management committee and would hope to use my previous experience and local knowledge for the benefit of the organisation and residents of New Galloway.

Helen Keron

I would like to stand for nomination to the Board of NGCE because I have a long-standing commitment to the project that I would like to renew. I am well acquainted with the history of the project, and have been delighted to see it's progress over the past year.

I was on the board of the shop project from its inception in 2014 until I stood down in May 2016 in order to take up the role as Project Manager for the renovation of the shop and flats.

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Helen Keron, continued

I am currently working as the Education and Community Engagement Officer for the Galloway Glens, and so can share my networks and examples of best practice with the NGCE Board. I am also the Vice-Chair of Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, our regional Third Sector Interface, and the Finance Director of GCAT.

I feel that I have the time, knowledge and enthusiasm to make a useful contribution to the future of NGCE and I look forward to the opportunity to continue supporting this amazing community venture.

Maybelle Thomson

I am conversant with the Glenkens and the wider community, having lived all my life in the area and the village for thirty six years. My background is education and for most of my thirty four years in teaching my remit and responsibilities were middle management level. I believe I have advanced interpersonal skills and have a proven record of leadership, steering, creating, and sharing vision and positive ethos. Skills in quality assurance, audit, modeling good practice and collaborative working are second nature. Experience in Careers, Employability Coordination Groups and Modern Apprenticeships were within remit.

Three years ago I started my own enterprise as a florist within the wedding industry. This was in association with a new venue. Further to this I have been working as an assessor for a local Modern Apprenticeship training provider. I have enjoyed and refreshed my professional development recently in the hospitality industry, working in, front of house and bar service.

I believe in the importance of voluntary input in local initiatives: to this I actively served on the Community Council, and support existing initiatives when I can. Charity work supporting Marie Curie and McMillan Cancer are also high on my priority list.

Margaret Watson

Brought up and educated within the Glenkens and Stewartry I have lived within the parish of New Galloway and Kells for the vast majority of my life. I have been part of NGCE since its inception and on the management committee for 5 years.

My current role within NGCE is to support the work of the Community Engagement worker and promote collaborative working with other groups in the Glenkens.

I work full time as a Sector Head with Scottish Enterprise supporting economic development and sit on the Board of two other local charitable organisations; Abbeyfield Stewartry Society – an organisation which supports older people to maintain their independence as long as possible whilst living in a secure and caring environment, and Glenkens and Community Arts Trust. I feel the knowledge and experience I gain from all three adds value and complements the work of NGCE.

I am passionate about maintaining a vibrant, viable and sustainable community that supports its people to maintain happy, healthy and prosperous lifestyles, all of which are underpinned by the contribution the shop, holiday lets and community engagement worker make.