

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (in alphabetical order)

Graeme Banks - I have lived in Steep for over thirty years and worked at Bedales School throughout that time. For the last eighteen years I have been Head of English and last year took on a new senior management role as Head of Outreach. In this capacity I am, among other things, responsible for Bedales local community service. My four children were all educated at the Jubilee Nursery and Steep Primary School and they, together with my wife, who teaches at Dunhurst, have been involved with village life in many ways.

Jo Bell - I am seeking re-election having served four years to-date. I live in Steep with my husband and three young children and our dog Max who you may have met on his wanders!

I work full-time for a FTSE 250 company as a Business Development Director and I am a Chartered Surveyor with an MBA. Whilst I am constantly juggling my time, my skills and experiences enable me to make a valuable contribution to the PC, and I am particularly interested in ensuring it is a fully accountable and democratic body.

Stuart Briarley - I am 38 and have lived in and around Steep for the past 10 years. I have one child at Steep Primary school and another at Jubilee Day Nursery. My wife and I love the village and enjoy running and cycling in the surrounding area.

I am standing for parish councillor because I want to help the village plan for a sustainable future that meets everybody's housing, transport and energy needs. I also want to represent the views of younger residents.

Simon Bridger - I am 38, and married with 3 young children. I have lived and farmed at Ashford Farm for 13 years, where we have cattle, sheep, pigs, free range turkeys and geese, which we supply to local customers. As the farm is spread between Steep and Steep Marsh, I hope this places me in an ideal position to represent both communities. I believe in protecting and preserving the beautiful countryside in which we live and building a strong, united community where we look out for our neighbours.

Annie Chapman - We are lucky to live in a strong and supportive parish. We have something unique here and it is important to retain the special connection that parishioners have with each other, both young and old. Our position within the National Park warrants that development should be sustainable and make the most of the vernacular of our ancient villages. I would like to join the parish council to fight for positive change and ward off all that is to our detriment.

Sarah Cleminson - I live in Steep, with my husband and two teenage children. As a part-time Chartered Accountant, I have time to contribute and support our lovely parish of Steep. I would like to preserve the tranquillity of Steep, whilst ensuring that we build a great sense of community for all residents; ensuring our roads remain safe, well maintained and our streets retain such charming character. As a team player I bring my independence, honesty, fairness and business skills; together with my positive, cheerful personality.

Terry Cook - I have lived, farmed and worked here at Oakhurst Farm for 45 years, milking cows and, more recently, with beef and sheep.

I have served on the Parish Council for 30 years and have always been proud to do so. I have a special interest in planning and landscape issues which affect our village, with involvement in the Village Design Statement, the Parish Plan, Ashford Hangers and the Common. Social activities include the Film Club, Bonfire Night and the New Year's Day Walk and lunch.

Peter Cruttenden - I have lived in Steep since 1984, and was previously Parish Councillor from 2001-2005. I have a background that includes senior financial management with IBM, trusteeship of a national charity and vice chair of a Housing Association group.

I care about our community and its exceptional landscape, having worked on the original Village Design Statement and more recently on the landscape assessment study. I am committed to working for a broad community consensus on matters of importance for our future.

Charles Gibson - A retired Chartered Surveyor who has lived in Steep for 28 years, I have served on the P.C. for 15 years. My remit has included responsibility for the Common and 3 years ago I was successful in raising money for the new play equipment. I am currently applying for E.U. funds for the proposed extension to the Village Hall – a project I would like to see through.

I am also on the Boards of two Housing Associations and am a passionate supporter of Affordable Housing.

Nick Hurst - Living in Steep Marsh since 1992, I am standing for re-election to the parish council following my initial, enjoyable and productive first term. The IT portfolio is under my remit, and Steep PC has migrated to a secure, parish-based email communications system. Married to a local artist, with one son, professionally, I am a project manager in the IT industry.

A vote for me will help maintain the balance of representation across the parish, and I will continue to fulfil the responsibilities of the post.

Natasha Kirwan - I grew up locally and recently moved back to Steep with my husband and young children. I have worked as a teacher overseas, a fundraiser, and in politics, most recently in the House of Lords.

I am standing for election because I care about Steep and want to play an active role in its future. If elected I will listen to local concerns and make decisions fairly and transparently, in the interests of the whole community. Please vote for me!

Jim MacDonald - A Steep resident for 14 years, I want to help our community flourish. I served for three years as a governor at Steep Primary School and am a member of the Village Plan team. My focus there is on landscape assessment and biodiversity, building on a career in green tourism and longstanding interest in sustainability. I teach science part-time and sit as a magistrate. I bring a fresh approach, a professional outlook and a strong commitment to accessibility and accountability.

Jenny Martin - I have lived in Steep for 30 years and been a Parish Councillor for 4. I enjoy riding my horse and walking the dogs around our lovely village. As a Councillor I've made 2 successful funding bids to improve footpaths and bridleways. I'm passionate about the Hangers. I've co-organised and participated in 3 volunteer days at Lutcombe Pond. I'd love to see a reduction in the traffic in Church Road. Please vote for me so that I can continue to 'make things happen'.

Suzi Openshaw - I have lived in Steep with my husband and 3 young children for almost 5 years, and grew up in Hampshire. Having recently taken redundancy from my job as a Project Manager I would now relish the opportunity to give something back to the village. If elected I would listen to and promote the views of the Parish, particularly in encouraging our community spirit and protecting this beautiful rural area. I would appreciate your vote.

Caroline Robinson - My family has lived in Steep Marsh and more recently in Steep, for 20 years. I have been a Parish Councillor for 10 of these and last year I enjoyed the challenge of being Chair. My particular remit has been the War Memorial (for which I was responsible for organising the renovation and makeover), the Village Hall and roads (fighting pot-holes, mainly in the Marsh). Looking forward, if elected, I would like to campaign for a quieter surface to the A3.