

ALUN AYLESBURY

Stoughton Parish Council

I have been one of the two 'West Sussex Parishes' representatives on the National Park Authority since its foundation. I now ask you to re-elect me.

We are very fortunate to live in the attractive part of Sussex included within the Park. In serving you on the Planning Committee (for the last several years as Deputy Chairman) and the main Authority, my aim always is to support the Parishes in trying to preserve and enhance the things that make this such a good place to live, while avoiding unnecessary or unwelcome inconveniences to those of us who actually live here.

In my working life I have been a lawyer specialising in Planning and Local Government law, so I am able to bring a great deal of specifically relevant experience to my role at the National Park.

It would be an honour and a pleasure to be allowed to continue.

THERESA BENNETT

Storrington & Sullington Parish Council

I moved to Sussex 22 years ago and enjoy the SD daily as a walker, rider, and lover of the countryside in matters of natural history, horticulture, and archaeology.

I have gained several degrees, including both a Masters in Classical Civilisation (Kings), and a PG Dip in Management. I subsequently spent 15 years as Principal Officer in the Planning and Heritage Dept. of St Albans District Council, a role which gave me a deep understanding of heritage, conservation and management of urban and rural parklands, communicating with key stakeholders and residents.

I have been a member of the Magistracy of Central and West Sussex for sixteen years, covering all aspects of the work that a JP undertakes.

I am deeply invested in the South Downs in all aspects of my daily life and would regard it as a privilege, to represent both Storrington and the interests of the wider community in the ongoing stewardship of this wonderful region.

PATRICIA HEWLETT

Petworth Parish Council

I have been a town councillor for Petworth for several years and stand on the Planning and Open Spaces committees. I also head up the Planting and Horticulture working party, being responsible for designing and planting the floral displays, including the maintenance of green spaces and the creation of green corridors around the town.

I have led Petworth's entry to the regional and national Royal Horticultural Society's "In Bloom" competitions for the last six years, achieving gold medals, winning the regional award and placed second in the Nationals. I work with the National Trust to achieve suitable planting schemes where Petworth Town Council and the National Trust combine and with the school and community garden.

As a member of the Planning and Open Spaces committees my particular interests are the preservation of listed buildings, conserving the uniqueness of our town and our surroundings in the South Downs National Park.

PAUL MANSFIELD

Sompting Parish Council

My name is Paul Mansfield. I am Chair of Sompting Parish Council and an Adur District Councillor. My family have lived in Sompting for many years. I grew up and was educated here.

We are fortunate to be only a couple of miles from the sea, but our most precious asset is the South Downs which covers about a third of this parish, north of the A27.

As a councillor, I have sat on various committees. I have dealt with conservation, environmental, flooding, public access, Planning, nuisance issues.

I can work alone and am also used to working with colleagues in partner organisations e.g. various tiers of local government, Police, voluntary sector, landowners, community groups, contractors, as well as my many dealings with members of the public.

I am very keen to be considered for a position on the Board and feel I have a lot of enthusiasm and experience to offer.

JANE MOTE

Pulborough Parish Council

The South Downs National Park defines and nourishes us in our rural parishes - and it's why I came to live in Pulborough. Having walked and cycled the length of the Downs I couldn't be anywhere else. Even my company's name beechtobeach reflects the unique perspective when among beech trees looking down towards the sea.

I understand that the SDNPA needs to be accessible to all whilst supporting a balance between the environment and users of the park. I believe my expertise in communications could be invaluable to helping sustain that balance. As a former journalist, Head of BBC London and TV programme maker I've always had a mission to open people's eyes to nature. Since moving to Sussex, I have made pro bono films for the National Trust, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Sussex Green Living, Horsham Youth Eco Forum and won a CPRE award for Connecting people with the Countryside.

ROGER MORGAN-GRENVILLE

Tillington Parish Council

I am a 63 year old writer on nature and biodiversity, who has lived in the SDNP area for most of his life. I have a specific interest in land use, livestock and sustainable farming, as well as being the chair of trustees of a small campaigning wildlife charity, Curlew Action. I support the general aims and direction of the SDNP, and would like to use my experience and connections to enable it to move further and faster in the right direction.

SUE NYFIELD

Ebernoe Parish Council

I live in the beautiful parish of Ebernoe that sits in the corner of the South Downs National Park and is famous for its wonderful ancient woodland and annual Ebernoe Horn Fair, a lovely traditional community event.

The SDNP is a major employer and utilises a substantial budget. I have experience of managing multi-year budgets and large numbers of employees with the emphasis on team work. As a Trustee and Director of a grant making charity, I have experience of working with national and local organisations.

I have sheep and skylarks in my fields, Muscovy ducks on my pond and I support many wildlife and environmental charities including the Woodland trust, RSPB, Butterfly Conservation, Sussex Bat Group and Sussex Wildlife Trust.

As well as belonging to a number of walking groups, I am also keen to promote the interests of responsible horse riders and dog walkers in the SDNP.

ANDREW SHAXSON

Harting, Elsted & Treyford Parish Councils

Having always lived in the National Park I am a retired farmer. I have been a Parish Councillor for 35 years, formerly a District Councillor for 20, a member of the SDNPA for nine years, and am currently vice-chair of CDALC. I chaired the SDNPA planning committee for five years.

This extensive experience has provided me with a wide knowledge of the issues and concerns that affect Parishes and National Park residents, including planning delivery. Parish, District and SDNPA membership has made me aware that pro-active communication between parishes, local authorities

SDNPA ELECTIONS 2023
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

and the SDNPA is essential to ensure all parties act in the best interests of the SDNP. If elected, I will strive to ensure the National Park Purposes are fulfilled, and to take proper account of parish concerns and views that result from us living here, especially ensuring they are considered in line with the SDNPA's Statutory Duty.

RICHARD WATTS

Midhurst Town Council

I am passionately interested in the well-being of the National Park as a whole and would very much like to be part of the team that protects this vital landscape.

Midhurst is one of the larger towns within the National Park and sits squarely within its heart.

There are many things happening in Midhurst at the moment, particularly following the damage done by the recent fire and the closure of our high street for a prolonged period. We believe that Town Council representation within the park authority will be a benefit to both parties as we start to look at what the future for Midhurst might be.