

Cotswolds National Landscape Board

1. Purpose of the report

To inform the Committee of the two candidates who have put themselves forwards to represent this area on the Cotswolds National Landscape Board

2. Background

Nick Hare from Sopworth Parish Meeting

But for a 15-year spell in my twenties and early thirties when I lived and worked in London, I have lived in the Cotswolds.

I was brought up in the village of Darlingscott, between Shipston-on-Stour and Chipping Campden. My father farmed, turning to antique dealing in the early 1970s. He instilled in me a life-long interest in the particular characteristics of the Cotswold landscape, Architecture, Churches and way of life.

Professionally, I have been responsible for the design, project management and development of country houses, both old and new. This has given me an understanding of both the strengths and weaknesses of the planning system and also an appreciation of craftsmanship and a working knowledge of traditional construction, conservation and sustainable development. My role entails the appointment, management and performance of a large team of professionals, contractors and specialist tradesmen, all of whom have their own important role to fulfil in achieving a common aim.

My skills could thus be described as being a balance between design and delivery rather than a focus on one or the other.

I feel this puts me in a good position to observe the board's stated aims as being an effective mechanism for the conservation and enhancement of the area's natural beauty, thereby increasing public understanding and enjoyment of the area's special qualities.

As a recent grandfather, I feel a renewed responsibility to future generations in ensuring that we are able to conserve those special aspects of the Cotswolds' landscape, architecture and traditions where sensible and practical, whilst at the same time acknowledging that change and development is desirable if it ensures a continued understanding of the social and economic well-being of local communities in the AONB.

Brendan McCarron from Grittleton Parish Council

I am interested in helping the Cotswold ANOB in its efforts to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds AONB and increase understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by serving as a board member.

I also interested in representing the interests of Parishes in the AONB Management Plan and helping to ensure their voice is heard. I live in a rural Parish that is part in and part out of the area and which will be affected by changes to planning regulations and any changes in status of the ANOB.

I work for a charity and advise on governance for UN peacekeeping operations, run the organisation's leadership academy for directors of finance in the UK public sector and for the federal government of Canada and I train senior managers on change and reform in the World Food Programme (WFP) and work on capacity development for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). I act as an examiner for the Treasury's business case training and am a visiting expert at the Centre for Excellence in Finance in Slovenia focused on strengthening public financial management in South Central Europe.

I have degrees in Plant Biology and Business Administration, in 2011 I was nominated as an Honorary Senior Fellow at the University of Birmingham. I served two terms as chairman of the old Wiltshire Police Authority's Standards Committee, served as a school governor in two schools and am a parish councillor.

3. Financial implications and risks

There are no financial implications or risks to the Council.

4. Proposals

Members consider which candidate they would like to vote for.

Claire Mann
Acting Town Clerk
July 2021