

Elected Director Nominees

April 2019



Voting deadline: Sunday 14th April

Christina Biggs

Campaigns organiser, Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways



Interest in the role

I have had a good year as elected director and have many ideas I'd like to take forwards:

I have just started a city-level conversation about how to consolidate freight for smaller businesses in addition to the existing scheme;

I have had an idea for a positive opt-in challenge for a car-free Bristol Clean Air Day 2019;

I would like to pursue the issue of airport expansion and how to encourage business and leisure flyers alike to reduce their flying;

I continue to be heavily engaged with the Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways and am working with other campaign groups on a way forward for a regional bus plan.

I am delighted with the energy of Spark Forum and would like to see that become better known and attract even better ideas and willingness of larger to offer help in kind. I would particularly like to become more engaged with contributing to the One City Plan and seeing that become more SMART – both ambitious but also attract the energy and investment to become a reality.

Skills and experience

I continue to publicly represent the Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways to the West of England Combined Authority and local councils. I help write and collate responses to consultations, such as for the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP4). Having been engaged with WECA from before its inception I have a good knowledge of the politics and limitations of this key institution and have good relationships with both officers and politicians.

I helped to set up Bristol Clean Air Alliance in March 2018 and am currently on the steering group. Through this I have got to know the Bristol City Council Clean Air Team and am now well

informed on the current Clean Air directives from the government and the details of the various Clean Air Zone options that the Bristol City Council are currently deliberating on.

Christians in Science Bristol – I am the Bristol local group leader for this national and international network and co-ordinate the organisation of the roughly twice-termly speaker meetings, this year on “Our Fragile Planet”, next year being “Science and Society”.

Jessica Ferrow

Independent consultant, Jessica Ferrow

Interest in the role

Bristol is a remarkable city. I’m grateful and proud to have called it home for the past 10 years. For me, it’s one of the very best places to live in the UK – and the world.



But not everyone sees Bristol through this lens. Global challenges such as climate change, air pollution and growing inequality - are major and urgent, and are already hitting the most vulnerable the hardest.

We need new ways of doing things, and we need them now.

The good news is that Bristol is bursting with abundant resources, passionate people and creative ideas. By bringing these elements together in unprecedented ways, we can find new solutions to our biggest challenges.

I believe we must ‘think global, act local’. As a unique network of more than 850 organisations united by the same vision, I see the BGCP as a crucial lever for change. That’s why I would love to play a greater role in the Partnership, and help to make the most of its extraordinary potential.

Skills and experience

I’m a self-employed sustainability consultant working with purpose-driven companies including Pukka Herbs, Ella’s Kitchen and BT on their sustainability strategy and communications. My career in sustainability spans over a decade, starting in the solar industry and including time working for Bristol-based CIC, Low Carbon South West.

During 2015, I set up and ran Go Green - the business programme for Bristol’s year as European Green Capital. As well as organising dozens of networking events for the Bristol sustainable business community, I wrote all the content for the Go Green tool that more than 1,000 businesses used.

I've also been a key driver in the launch of the Spark Forum, which has been well received by Partnership members so far. I'm a systems-thinker, permaculturist and skilled communicator, and my wide and varied network helps me build connections around the city.

Having long been involved with Bristol's green sector and the BGCP, but still an individual, I believe I can provide a rare, independent, outside-in perspective to the Partnership.

Jules Peck
Founder, Avon Mutual Bank



Interest in the role

I am passionate about the inclusive and sustainable future of Bristol's region. I would like to support the work of BGCP with my extensive experience of working on sustainability and with companies and the public sector. As an elected director I would hope to help all our members come together around a really exciting vision for shared prosperity. I think of anywhere in the UK Bristol is already a leading light in terms of innovation around sustainable and equitable living but I think there is masses more we can do. I'd love to bring my experience of working with other regions and movements around the world to add inspiration - things like the Quebec Social Economy and the Social Solidarity movement and Economy For Common Good.

Skills and experience

I have worked all my career in sustainability and inclusion in the private and public sector, in NGOs and in politics. I've worked ten years in politics for the UK Prime Minister, for the UN and for the EC. For ten years I've worked with CEOs and Chairs of some of the worlds largest companies and for ten years I have founded and run a number of charities and social businesses. I am also a research fellow on the future of the economy and so have lots of understanding of potential; future directions for the Bristol eco-region.

I have served on a number of boards including as chair and so have good governance experience which would be useful in this role.

I therefore have a good understanding of how diverse organisations can come together around a vision for a better world. I have a record as a successful entrepreneur most recently as the founder of our region's soon-to-open first ever community owned high street bank Avon Mutual serving the people and businesses of our area.

Manu Maunganidze

Founder, Nature Youth Connection & Education



Interest in the role

I am passionate about how ethical/eco focused organisations can become embedded in the mainstream. Giving an ethnic minority/immigrant perspective to this action-focused green movement is at the core of why I would like to become a volunteer director. Far and wide, this is a voice that does not get full representation in debates relating to the future of our planet. As a teacher, I am passionate about how to place the discussions surrounding a sustainable future into our education system as well as our economic thinking and action.

Skills and experience

I have been a teacher in Bristol for 7 years, and have come in contact with hundreds of individuals/families who have given me some understanding of how an ethically minded future is possible in this city, if only the business community was geared towards it. I have coordinated events and activities through schools to raise awareness of and cause action in aid of pressing local environmental issues. My contact with various eco education organisations has allowed me to envision and be inspired by ways in which businesses, CICs and charities can have a massive impact on the engagement of young people in the green debate. I have recently set up my own organisation (NYCE) which aims to use nature connection skill-building to mentor and provide ecological education for economically and culturally marginalised urban youth from Bristol.
