

Personal Statements provided by Candidates for Kiltearn Community Council Election

Monday 27 November 2023

BUIST, Gabrielle

I was born in Raigmore and spent my childhood near Forres. I then lived in Stockholm, Barcelona & London. I got a BSc in Sociology with Environmental Science and then worked for many different charities in Partnership, Development and Managerial roles, as well as designing and delivering courses on sustainability. I am passionate about Community Resilience! I love living in Evanton with my wee family (whose roots have been here since the 40s) and I was until recently Community Development Officer for Evanton Community Trust. We are a vibrant community with loads going on. I am a positive and pro active person and I am excited to see what KCC is capable of.

CROOKES, Susan

I am an enthusiastic member of the community and I wish to be elected to the community council to work to be an effective representative for our community. I am on the parent council at school and can be a good voice for the younger generation in our community. As a community health worker, I work with older adults and am aware of the diverse needs of our older community. I believe I could be a good voice for them in our community. I wish to see a community United and working together for the benefit of us all.

DENNETT, Shelagh

I have been a community council member since 1999 and treasurer for the last 4 years. I do my best to help the council to help the public with their many complaints, activities, and requests. Helping the community going forward.

FINLAYSON, Mike

I believe that Community Councils must, above all else, have a strong caring concern for all local residents and their community wellbeing and prosperity. I served, for 30 years, in Trading Standards and Consumer Protection. I was a member Kiltearn Community Council for many years (some as chairperson). I relinquished this position when I was elected Highland Councillor for Ferindonald/Cromarty Firth wards and served in this capacity for 20 years. Part of this involved participation in all the Community Councils in these wards and the East Ross Committees. If elected I promise to act with integrity and honesty all aspects of the Community Council remit.

GRAHAM, Annelie

I was involved with the Parent Council of Kiltarn Primary School for many years, the We Are Evanton Facebook page and have been a Minute taker for the KCC since January 2023. I would like to see the KCC be a voice for Evanton and try to really encourage the locals to get more involved in having a say about the issues and events going on in the village: fun things, practical things, things that need improving, new and fresh ideas that the KCC can help make possible, making good use of the community money that is available.

LARK, Luthien

I am a passionate and enthusiastic member of the Kiltarn community, and I would like to contribute to its development and well-being. I care deeply about the environment, young people, and creating valuable pathways to sustainable community projects. I believe that these are essential for the future of our village and its residents. I also think that it is important to have an infrastructure that supports the growth of the village, in particular plans to reinstate the railway station, which would bring more opportunities and connectivity to our area. I have the skills and experience to be a good candidate.

MACDONALD, Alpin

If elected my aim will be: 1. To ensure that the new Council will always follow the compulsory Code of Conduct. 2. To establish beyond doubt that the Village Hall and the Jackson picture belong to the people of Kiltarn Parish. 3. To make it clear that no one had any authority to sell our Hall to the Community Trust. 4. To stop officebearers paying themselves out of the Community Fund. 5. To persuade housing officials not to transfer troublesome tenants to Evanton. 6. To transfer the distribution of the Wind Farm Fund from our Council to an independent body such as Foundation Scotland.

MACLEMAN, Mandy

I have lived in Evanton for the past 32 years and have recently retired from a management position with Highland Council. I believe that a strong Community Council will listen to the Kiltarn Community and work to improve our area to make Evanton the best place to live!

MCHARDY, John

I have lived in Evanton for over 44 years and always been keen to play an active part in village life and along with my wife Edith have raised 3 children. For the past 8 years I have been an active Member of the Community Council and been able to assist in delivering many improvements funded using monies available in the Windfarm Fund. If re-elected, I would continue to work along with others to resolve issues affecting our Community and ensure that we continue to have a Village that is a vibrant and welcoming place.

MCNAIR, Sarah – *no statement received.*

PAYNE, Gary

I have lived and worked in Evanton since 1972, being mostly self employed until retiring in 2003. I then had eight years as an adviser at the local Citizens Advice Bureau, following which, becoming a member and, for part of this time, Secretary of the Kiltearn Community Council. For health and other personal reasons, I left in 2022. I hope with re-election, I can contribute to the duties of the KCC and promote the well-being of the Evanton Community. Currently, I own and publish the Evanton Online website and "The Evanton Post" newsletter.

PEOPLES, Celina

I have lived in the village all my life I have seen many changes within the community, but one particular change that has been more noticeable is community spirit. I have tried to support other groups within the village which I am a member of one or two as well as a beaver scout leader. Helping to build a foundation to bring everyone together is something I am passionate about, working and supporting those within the community. I want to help build a stronger and more resilient Evanton, to bring back our well deserved community spirit and this would be done if elected.

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