

The Cairngorms National Park Elections (Ward No 4)

Candidate's Statement by ALEXANDER CHAPMAN CAMPBELL

The Cairngorms National Park is a place I have treasured for many years. I've been mystified by its ancient pinewoods, humbled by its blizzards and held spellbound by the silence of its plateaus on those perfectly still spring days. With our son, aged 1, and daughter, aged 4, my wife and I are preparing to build a house in Glenlivet from straw bales and lime render. I've always been interested in the relationship between humans and the natural world, and I'm passionate about playing my part in helping to solve our current nature crisis. The Cairngorms National Park is an exciting place to be right now. It is already demonstrating what is possible when we work harmoniously with our environment, and how both nature and people can thrive as a result. I would love to play a part in supporting this work as it evolves over the next few years. Alongside my interest in ecology is my work as a professional musician and composer. I would hope that a place on the board would offer me an opportunity to represent music and the arts within the National Park, and support the important, and sometimes undervalued role, it can play within our communities.

Candidate's Statement by AMY CULPEAN

I am Amy Culpean and I am standing as candidate for Ward 4. With my family, we have been living and working in Strathdon for 10 years. 2023 and the years to come will bring many challenges to the Park and its residents. Progress is required towards sustainable use of our resources and greener energy. Pressing local issues like broadband, better transport solutions and better opportunities for the younger generation need to be addressed. Housing and the necessary services to enhance population growth must be looked at, hand in hand with all organisations. Tourism is essential to the economy and this has to be in collaboration with residents and the sustainability of the Park. Our conservation efforts have to intensify, to protect the natural heritage of the Park, whilst also protecting our unique cultural heritage, making the Park a happy and holistic place to live and work. My previous experience working in a bank and recruitment agency, alongside my financial studies, gives me a good understanding of how important a thriving local economy is. The Park Authority Board needs younger voices, who understand what is like to work and raise a family here, with the challenges of the 21st century. Coming from a rural background, I know it is fundamental to listen to and work with the farming community. I am passionate with a can-do attitude and I look for practical solutions. I am committed to listen and take your ideas and concerns to the Board. Thank you.

Candidate's Statement by JOCK EDWARDS

My name is Jock Edwards and I have lived and worked in the Cairngorm National Park since 2004. Currently I reside in Corgarff, Aberdeenshire in Electoral Ward 4 of the Cairngorm National Park Authority (CNPA). I am standing as a candidate for a place on the CNPA board in the upcoming elections in 2023.

I'm old enough and through life experiences realise that there is a great deal I do not know...however I feel I could do good things as an elected board member for Ward 4. My love for the National Park is deep and has only strengthened over time with regard to its: beauty, variety, size, uniqueness, diversity and the people that live and work within the park. If elected as a Board member I will be a representative who works hard to do the right things for residents and the CNPA. I want and feel passionately to do more than just absorb and enjoy the lovely world of our National Park.

Hopefully I can help provide clarity for residents with regard to working with the vision of the CNPA. With the help of others ultimately I can work to improve things for visitors and local communities in the Cairngorm National Park.

Candidate's Statement by ANOUK KLOPPERT

After studying Musicology, Anouk Kloppert moved to Aberdeenshire in 1995. Raising her family, she worked in education and for Alzheimer Scotland. She relocated last year to Alford, having been an Aberdeenshire Councillor since 2017 and a member on the Sustainability Committee.

Her lifelong appreciation of the outdoors maintains her connection with nature through experience and participation. Living in Scotland, her interest in the environment stimulates her studies on how the environment interacts with communities. She enrolled in an Environmental Studies course at the Open University.

Over recent years, Anouk was appointed to the boards of Friends of McDonald Park, River Ythan Trust, Wood Recyclability and The Gaitherin giving her essential Board skills and understanding of the connection between the environment, heritage, and modern culture. Anouk believes the Cairngorms National Park is one of the most important environmental assets in Scotland by its nature, people, and place. The Cairngorms is a uniquely diverse place with many stories to tell and lessons to teach. Climate change will affect the species and habitats, and all who live and work in the Cairngorms.

Opportunities for innovative adaptation and mitigation are essential for environmental sustainability. For the Cairngorms to prosper, with a safe and secure future, it is most important to listen to all and move forward together. Anouk believes the best way to support this, is "from the inside" by "active participation" and she would like you to vote for her to be your voice on the CNPA board during this time of transition.

Candidate's Statement by ELEANOR CHRISTINA MACKINTOSH

I have lived in Glenlivet all my life. My husband and son farm Tombreckachie, which lies beside the river Livet.

As your current elected representative on the Cairngorms National Park Board I carry out my role conscientiously. I work hard to bring the needs of the communities on both sides of the Lecht to the forefront. Proposed changes to Government policy, partly due to the climate crisis, means our rural way of life will change. Whilst we may accept the need for change these changes must be proportional and not lead to the demise of our fragile communities.

It is crucial to have a local voice on the Board who understands the current issues and cares about the people and the place. This ensures that the local perspective is not lost when considering matters at a National level. To be successful you must be able to influence and take others along with you. No-one will effect change on their own.

Covid and Flu continue to make it difficult for everyone to be out and about so I am therefore unlikely to be able to canvass as diligently as I have previously. Please feel free to email or give me a call to discuss any Park issue.

If re-elected I will continue to listen to your views and take them forward to strive to help the Cairngorms National Park Authority tread the delicate balance between this Park being a living working place and an area of outstanding environmental importance.