

Community Energy England AGM 2022: Director Appointments



Election

Under the Community Energy England (CEE) bye laws, CEE may have up to 10 elected directors, of which:

- No less than five shall be duly authorised representatives of community members
- No less than one director shall be a duly authorised representative of corporate members and one representative of public/third sector members
- The remainder may be from any class of member.

Directors standing down this year are Mark Luntley (Energy4All – community member) and Mark Kenber (BHESCo – community member). We are very grateful for their contribution to CEE and the sector throughout their time on the board.

The directors who remain on the Board are:

- Afsheen Rashid, Repowering London (community member, *CEE Chair, currently on maternity leave*)
- Martin Crane, Carbon Alternatives (corporate member)
- Mary Gillie, Energy Local (community member)
- Rachel Hayes, Regen (public / third sector member)
- Ollie Pendered, Community Energy South (community member)
- Debbie Trebilco, Whitby Esk Hydro (community member)

CEE's rules state that any director who has served more than thirty-three months since being elected shall retire by rotation. The following existing directors are re-standing this year:

- Peter Capener, Bath & West Community Energy (community) – *current deputy chair*
- Helen Seagrave, Electricity North West (corporate) – *current interim chair*

Our intention is that Helen and Peter will continue in their roles as interim chair and deputy chair if re-elected.

Candidates

There are four spaces on the board at the 2022 election. The following list of candidates comprises:

- Peter Capener, Bath & West Community Energy (community) – *current deputy chair*
- Connie Muir, Croydon Community Energy (community)
- Alastair Mumford, Exeter Community Energy (community)
- Helen Ryder, Hartlepower (community) – *nominated as treasurer*
- Helen Seagrave, Electricity North West (corporate) – *current interim chair*

The candidates were asked to outline their aspirations for CEE, the board, and the contribution they will be able to make to the organisation – these statements are set out below.

Voting

Voting will take place during the AGM using a Zoom poll in which members can cast their votes.

Members unable to attend the AGM in person may appoint another member as their proxy, who will attend the meeting to vote on their behalf. Any member organisation not able to attend and who is not able or willing to vote via proxy may vote using this [form](#) up to 5pm on 12 July 2022 (this deadline allows us to collate responses prior to the AGM).

The number of proposed directors exceeds the number permitted by CEE’s rules, so there will be a competitive ballot. **Members are asked to vote for four candidates only.**

Candidate profiles

<p>Name: Peter Capener – <i>current CEE deputy chair</i></p>	<p>The opportunities for community energy to play a more significant role in the energy agenda are growing as the sector develops new business models for expanding the scope of community energy delivery. But with a challenging policy landscape at Westminster, CEE is needed now more than ever to help create the environment within which we can learn, innovate, influence and grow stronger together.</p>
<p>Member affiliation: Bath & West Community Energy</p>	<p>I can offer 35 years of experience of working on renewable energy, energy efficiency and fuel poverty with a strong focus on community energy. This time includes the delivery of practical projects and programmes as well as experience at senior management and board level for national and regional NGOs and co-founding and developing Bath & West Community Energy. BWCE has grown from a voluntary organisation to one employing eight people with 12.5MW of community solar, a pipeline of new projects that could more than double this capacity over the next few years and several innovation projects on local energy markets.</p>
<p>Membership category: Community</p>	<p>I can bring knowledge and understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing community energy, experience of developing successful cross sector partnerships, and policy and wider energy sector links as co-chair of the ministerial community energy contact group and a trustee of Centre for Sustainable Energy. I was delighted that BWCE was a founder member of CEE and I was able to help in a short stint as CEE’s first chair. I’d be honoured if members felt that I could continue to play a useful role in CEE’s development going forward.</p>
	

Name: Connie Muir	<p>Connie is the founder of Croydon Community Energy, based in South London, which secured £10,000 of funding and is working with three project sites, all within eight months of incorporation. She was asked to be a community energy representative at the Power For People roundtable to help shape the Local Electricity Bill, and was asked to speak by Sarah Jones MP at the launch of her Croydon Climate forum. She has a professional background in the energy supply industry, currently working as a Project Manager for EDF Energy.</p>
Member affiliation: Croydon Community Energy	
Member category: Community	
	<p>Connie helped launch Croydon Climate Action, which has given her experience in coordinating and mobilising volunteers to run campaigns, such the Mayoral climate pledge campaign. She helped organise Croydon’s first Great Big Green Week last September, and was successful at bidding for £2000 from the Climate Coalition to support the week of activities, including author talks, a photography competition and a Green festival in the high street.</p> <p>She is highly skilled in social media management and communications, building project momentum and organisational administration. Connie aims to embed climate activism into everything she does, and although a newbie to the sector, is extremely passionate about community energy and bringing people together. She is also a Brownies leader and is currently studying German!</p>
Name: Alastair Mumford	<p>I will be able to bring my experience of working in the low carbon sector, particularly in the public sector and renewables but also in the areas of electric vehicle infrastructure and building retrofit. I’m a committed supporter of the community energy sector and been a volunteer director for Exeter Community Energy for many years and currently holding the chair role. Increasingly I’m now also on the other side of the fence commissioning services from community energy organisations in my role as Energy Manager at Devon County Council.</p>
Member affiliation: Exeter Community Energy	
Member category: Community	
	<p>I hope to be able to further the community energy sectors work with local authorities which can be very useful and mutually beneficial relationships. Procurement and legal can be difficult but innovations in contracting arrangements do offer opportunities. I’m also keen to see CEE expand further into the world of retrofit, which would massively benefit from community energy involvement. On behalf of Devon County Council I’ve been working with Devon community energy organisations to set up a support service and see the organisations deliver revenue generating, technical services.</p>

<p>Name: Helen Ryder – <i>nominated for treasurer role</i></p>	<p>I'm regularly described as positive, bubbly and helpful, I've spent the last 15 years working and volunteering for various Charities and Non-Profits, of which the last 5 has primarily been in a financial capacity. In December 2016 I established myself as a Self-employed Bookkeeper to supporting local charities and start-ups, becoming their finance officer allow them to concentrate on what they do best.</p>	
<p>Member affiliation: Hartlepower</p>		
<p>Member category: Community</p>		
	<p>In April 2021 I was asked to become a Trustee of Hartlepower and have enjoyed getting involved in their Green Energy initiatives and other projects that benefit our area. I am always very keen to be hands on and involved in projects that benefit and support the North East.</p>	
<p>Name: Helen Seagrave – <i>current CEE interim chair</i></p>	<p>I am standing for re-election at the end of my first three years on the Community Energy England board. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with the community energy team and the other board members to provide a voice for the community energy sector across England and supporting groups to deliver all their amazing projects. I feel I have made a positive contribution to the development of Community Energy England during the last three years both as chair of the governance committee and now as interim chair and I would very much like to continue as a board member.</p>	
<p>Member affiliation: Electricity North West</p>		
<p>Member category: Corporate</p>		
	<p>My role as community energy manager at Electricity North West, a distribution network operator (DNO) allows me to bring industry knowledge and insight to board discussions. My focus at Electricity North West is to support the communities across our region to develop energy projects. I lead our strategy development and service delivery and as a result I have developed insights into the support the sector needs and how DNOs and other actors can respond.</p> <p>I would love to be able to continue as a board member because I believe I still have a lot to contribute to Community Energy England to enable it to support the community energy sector achieve its full potential.</p>	