

Community Energy England AGM 2020: Director Appointments



Election

Under the Bye Laws of the Association, Community Energy England (CEE) may have up to 11 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 Members in accordance with the Bye Laws and Articles
- The remainder may be from any class of member.

CEE's rules state that any Director who has served more than thirty-three months since being elected shall retire by rotation. Rachel Hayes - Regen, Ollie Pendered - Community Energy South, Afsheen Rashid – Repowering London, and Debbie Trebilco are standing down accordingly. Each are re-standing for nomination. Martin Crane – Carbon Alternatives, is standing for nomination for the first time.

The Directors who remain on the Board are:

- Mark Billsborough, (co-opted)
- Peter Capener (Community)
- Mark Kenber (Community)
- Mark Luntley (Community)
- Helen Seagrave (Corporate)

Candidates

The following list of candidates comprises:

- Three nominees from Community Sector Members
- One nominee from a Corporate Sector Member.



The candidate was asked to outline their aspirations for CEE, the Board and their contribution.

Voting



Members attending the AGM will be given their voting form at the beginning of the meeting. 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 survey up to 7pm on 28 June 2020 (this deadline allows us to collate responses prior to the AGM).

The number of proposed directors does not exceed the maximum number permitted by CEE's rules, so there will not be a competitive ballot. Members are asked to vote for or against candidates or may abstain from voting on a candidate.

Candidate profiles

Name: Martin Crane	<p>Heat accounts for over 1/3 of the UK’s carbon emissions, but in 2018 only 2% of new community renewable capacity was for heat and yet there are a small number of excellent community owned heat projects. How can we replicate these heat successes? The Government support for heat networks is currently generous. Renewable heat projects are hard, but a community approach should be a bit less hard and more enticing to more people.</p>
Member: Carbon Alternatives	<p>I would like to see how we could do more to help community led heat projects. I’ve spent time in Denmark looking at their co-operative heat companies that supply heat to half a million homes and believe this approach achieves lowest costs, maximum community benefit and highest carbon savings.</p>
Membership class: Corporate	<p>I am a Director of Springbok Wood Heat Co-op and investor in many other renewables co-ops. My day job, for the last 15 years, encompasses the technical and economic aspects of heat networks, at first for a large utility and for the last six years working for myself.</p>
	
Name: Rachel Hayes	<p>As an elected director of CEE since its inception in 2014 I am pleased to re-stand this year.</p>
Member: Regen	<p>Community energy organisations have a key role to play in the transition to net zero. As trusted grassroots organisations they are uniquely placed to engage people at scale in the decarbonisation of our energy system. CEE has worked tirelessly to maintain community energy’s profile in government and with regulators, acting as a much needed and strong voice for the sector, as well as directly supporting the groups delivering projects on the ground where community energy organisations are already decentralised energy generators, potential facilitators and providers of domestic flexibility to system operators.</p>
Membership class: Public	<p>I am very proud of what CEE has achieved so far throughout its work with central government, local authorities and system operators and I look forward to supporting the exec team to build on its networks and experience to date. My skills bring a different dimension to the board, providing direction on membership, events and communications to best act as a strong voice for the sector and to represent you, our members, whilst maximising our impact for the sector as a whole.</p>
	<p>I hope you will support me to continue to be able to do this, working with the exec team and board.</p>

Name: Ollie Pendered	I am honoured to be putting my name forward to stand for a second term as Director of Community Energy England. I joined Community Energy England in 2017 and it has great to be part of the Non Exec team supporting Emma Bridge and the Community Energy England team who are going from strength to strength and keeping pace with the development of the sector.
Member: Community Energy South	
Membership class: Community	
	<p>Based in Lewes, East Sussex I am also Chief Executive of Community Energy South a regional support organisation in the South East; we work closely with Community Energy England and many community energy groups and sector partners. In 2018 Community Energy South partnered with Climate Change Charity Possible (formerly 10:10) to establish Riding Sunbeams and in 2019 together we built the world’s first solar PV system that directly powers railways. Riding Sunbeams is working hard to develop this work alongside Network Rail the UK's largest energy user contributing the pathway to decarbonising rail travel and working with the community energy sector to achieve this.</p> <p>In 2002 I first started working in the energy sector with National Grid as part of their Community Relations Framework across England and Wales. In 2009 I joined Ovesco as a Director and also set up a local community energy group in my village. In 2013, with Ovesco I led a Community Energy Peer Mentoring programme with 12 Community Energy groups that led to the set up of Community Energy South. I was a Big Energy Saving Network Champion for 5 years combining community energy work with fuel poverty and energy awareness campaigns. In 2016-17 I was seconded into the Local Energy team at BEIS to represent community energy and support partnerships for the energy sector. I am currently the Independent Chair for the Greater Brighton City Region Energy Group.</p> <p>I believe in the need to develop regional support networks for community energy and to build long term partnerships to support community energy across communities, the third sector, government, local authorities, the UK's Regional Energy Hubs, our regional DNO's and other regulated business such as Network Rail and the UK's water companies.</p>
Name: Afsheen Rashid	I have over 10 years’ experience of developing and delivering community energy projects in socially deprived neighbourhoods and challenging urban environments. Having worked for the Department of Energy and Climate Change as Senior Policy Advisor in 2014 and Lambeth Council for 4 years I also have a strong understanding of national and local policy making. I am also a board member for Friends of the Earth and was
Member: Repowering London	

<p>Membership class: Community</p>	<p>awarded with an MBE for my work in delivering renewable energy the deprived communities in London.</p>
	<p>In my day to day role as Chief Executive Officer of Repowering and Chair of Brixton Energy I am excited to see the opportunities and partnerships that are developing for community energy. Community energy has a unique offering in that it ensures people are at the heart of the energy system. As the voice of the sector CEE has an important role to play to ensure we have the best policies and support to facilitate the growth of the sector. As Director of CEE my focus has been the strategic development of the organisation and advising on policy so that CEE can meet the needs of its growing members. I will be honoured to be able to continue my work in CEE.</p>
<p>Name: Debbie Trebilco</p>	<p>The last three years have again been challenging. It has been critical to build relationships to ensure community energy becomes an indispensable part of the strategy for local and Government action.</p>
<p>Member: Whitby Esk Hydro</p>	<p>There is progress. One example was this year's Northern Powerhouse meeting (just ahead of lockdown). As CEE's delegate, I was able to give a passionate demonstration of the power of communities working towards greater engagement in their own energy. This resulted in an article in the public sector news on the need to work together on moving to zero carbon lifestyles.</p>
<p>Membership class: Community</p>	<p>Shortly after, our world changed.</p>
	<p>There has rarely been a better time to get community renewables building again. Some relaxation (onshore wind), coupled with local authorities declaring climate emergencies, means communities must be involved in designing solutions. Be it solar on PFR public buildings, community wind power, revisiting community hydro under new impetus, it is all there if we constructively challenge the status quo.</p> <p>If re-elected I will work tirelessly to ensure that as we rebuild our new world, we harness the community spirit so amply displayed recently; to ensure the local voice and local influence on our energy use and generation are a foundation of our new sustainable-living world. Within CEE, I currently serve on our governance and finance subgroups. These groups ensure that CEE runs its activities and finances in the service of our members in representing the power of Community energy with influencers both local and national.</p> <p>The rules of the game have changed; but the passion to involve and empower communities has never been stronger.</p>