

2014 BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Candidates for election to the Board of Plymouth Energy Community are summarised as follows (alphabetical order). Up to eight Board members are required. Please note that members are able to vote for no more than eight candidates on the ballot paper provided.

CANDIDATE 1: DAVE GARLAND, PLYMOUTH

As a founder member and having served as a Director during the first year of PEC I wish to continue in this role as I feel that I still have much to offer.

In my time with PEC I have volunteered for a number of “street” events, talking to the public about our aims and plans and I have also acted as Master of Ceremonies – our birthday party being an example.

I have taken part in various other publicity activities on behalf of PEC and am willing to continue to do these as necessary. I have attended all but one of our Board meetings, always trying to make a positive contribution, and I have contributed outside of these in various ways.

As a Chartered Physicist, an ex-senior leader in education and school governor living in Plymouth I feel that I can bring my experience in these areas to the Board as education is such an important part of our mission.

I was a Business Manager in my last post in school and am fully conversant with spreadsheets and the kind of strategic level financial documents that Directors are required to understand.

CANDIDATE 2: BARBARA HAMPSON, PLYMOUTH

I applied to be a Director when PEC started because of an interest in green energy and that I thought it important and that a member of Transition Plymouth should be represented. I have since thoroughly enjoyed being part of its success, sharing its values and meeting the challenges it has brought. I’ve long been interested in sustainable buildings and old buildings and therefore energy efficiency and alternative forms of energy. I’ve studied Environmental Architecture and Architectural Conservation and renovated several Victorian houses. This involves the problems of making houses energy efficient affordably without losing character or causing deterioration to the fabric of the building. I am also a landlord and would like to look more at the problems in reducing energy use in houses in the private rented sector.

I live in the city and am able to do voluntary community work. I am involved with several organisations: Food Plymouth, Transition Plymouth, Stonehouse Time Bank, Stonehouse Action, Glad Rags. These can provide networking opportunities and valuable links into the community for PEC. I have been able to be an Energy Champion and am keen to input on how the role of new volunteers develops to meet needs around fuel poverty and energy efficiency.

CANDIDATE 3: MICHAEL HARRIOTT, ASHBURTON

I am a member of PEC renewables, having invested in the share offer for PV on community Buildings. I became involved with PEC, when I was asked to join the Board of Directors in May 2014. I have a long track record working with Co-operatives, and I am currently a Director of the Co-operative Group, the largest Co-operative in the Country. So one of my commitments is to ensure that we work with our members to create an energy co-operative that serves both your needs and the wider community.

I am also passionate in believing that PEC can become a leader, in tackling fuel poverty, by promoting, energy efficiency, tariff switching and becoming a radical campaigning organisation that tackles the vested interests of the big six energy companies.

I am also very keen that PEC works with organisations and companies that are promoting alternative energy generation systems, I would like to see Plymouth becoming the UK hub for alternative energy, utilising the power of the wind, tides, waves and sun. Plymouth has the potential to be the UK alternative energy city, and I believe PEC can play a vital role in making this happen.

Thank you for your support

CANDIDATE 4: STEVEN ROBERT MEDLIN, PLYMOUTH

I was brought up from a very early age in Devonport, Plymouth, I went to the local Primary School & Secondary education in two Plymouth Schools. At the age of 15 when other children of my age were doing GCE's I was doing N.A.M.E.T.S in the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal, Kent I earned 7 A Level equivalent qualifications. Following my training as a percussionist I was posted to Scotland where I saw out my time. I was still young when I left the Royal Marines I did City and Guilds as a plumber with the Plymouth Company John Fords when I qualified me joined WH Joce & Sons working on the Submarine Complex in Devonport Dockyard. Then in 1997 I was offered a position with a company called UK Installation I then moved to London with my then girlfriend in 1990 we had a daughter by then we had moved to Kent. During my time with the company I was working my way up from a service engineer to a manager eventually a Regional Manager, my area was south of the Thames to Lands End. I had 2 or 3 engineers in each major town & city we were dealing with all types of Gas, Water and Electrical appliances installing & repairing, I was trained in all aspects of the business. Then in 1992 my then girlfriend & daughter moved back to Plymouth. By this time I was starting to show signs of my now debilitating illness. I left my job and returned to Plymouth myself in 1993. I then did training as an Electrician in Plymouth at the College of further education. In 1998 my wife and I had a son & I was diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis and Chronic Asthma I was now not able to work as I had been a workaholic. It was very hard on me so I did a Psychology degree online course with Newcastle University. I then dedicated my time to my family & volunteering. I became a school governor, Chair of Governors, A member of the School intervention team, Member of the PCC scrutiny panel for sport & education & a member of the School independent appeals panel. I am now chair of the Ferndale Community Tenants Group. I won the National Shine Award & Nominated & shortlisted For a TPAS award for my work with getting the more mature people to learn how to use computers. What can I Bring simple answer Local Knowledge, commitment, being able to work as a team member & no job is to big or too small? The only negative I don't like publicity I don't do things for that.

CANDIDATE 5: DAVID PEARCE, PLYMOUTH

- 10 years of experience of actively contributing to a Director role of Food and Drink Devon.
- Working across a range of business disciplines in a senior management position.
- 5 years' experience of running a successful marketing agency in the city which helped to develop and implement the brand and marketing activities for PEC, This provided a great insight into understanding what members want from the organisation, the challenges faced and the ways in which these can be addressed.
- Passionate and committed to supporting the values and ethos of PEC and the transformation it can bring to the city and its residents.

In support of my nomination:

Resident of Plymouth for over 20 years. I am hugely committed to the mission and objectives of PEC, with particular interest in how PEC can support the community and make a difference. I feel I have a good understanding of the organisation through the founding market research that was conducted at the outset for the formation of PEC and the learnings that have been gathered along the way of how we grow membership and achieve success in our endeavours to transform how we buy, use and generate energy in the city.

CANDIDATE 6: DANIEL SHELTON, PLYMOUTH

The model that PEC presents opens opportunities to engage and empower communities, protect the environment and provide sustainable growth within the place we live. It has the potential to grow and lead to significant positive change both in Plymouth and elsewhere. It's for all of these reasons that I chose to become a member and invest in PEC, and it's for these same reasons that I want to be a part of helping to steer PEC's future.

I am 26 years old and have lived in Plymouth for nearly 7 years. I gained a degree in environmental science and a masters in sustainable environmental management from Plymouth University.

Currently I work for Plymouth Community Homes as their sustainability officer; proposing and helping to deliver large scale projects around energy efficiency, waste and green spaces.

I have a strong understanding of energy efficiency in domestic properties, public engagement, environmental legislation, and the wider issues around long term energy security. I am a confident public speaker and am familiar with board level governance structures. I feel that I can bring these skills and many more as well as a lot of enthusiasm to this role for PEC.

CANDIDATE 7: TRACEY SHERSTON, PLYMOUTH

I joined the PEC Board as a Director in July 2014. I feel I can contribute to the aims of PEC through my experience as a Senior Manager in finance at Plymouth Community Homes, I am able to bring strong financial knowledge and skills to the PEC Board, supporting PEC to ensure that both value for money and financial security are maintained. I have 15 years of finance experience in both the public and private sectors. I have an interest in supporting PEC to enable Plymouth to become more environmentally sustainable and the positive impact this brings to the community, both environmentally and financially. Whilst it is early days for me on the PEC Board I am keen to gain more knowledge and experience as the PEC strives to achieve further success in its aims.

CANDIDATE 8: MALCOLM SOWDEN, PLYMOUTH

I am Plymouth born and bred. I attended Ford Primary and Secondary schools and Plymouth College of Art and Design. I worked for Plymouth City Council, Devonport Dockyard, Great Western Trains and Parcelforce. I was Union representative for Transport and General and RMT.

I have been a tenant of Affinity Sutton Housing Association for over 12 years.

I volunteer for Affinity Sutton in the following roles:

Resident Involvement Service Task Team (I travel to London to meet other residents looking at the way the company and committees carry out their work)

Resident Area Panel (Plymouth, Exeter and Bristol)

Performance Auditor

I also volunteer for:

St Neots Patients Group Committee, NHS Doctors Surgery, Milehouse
Devon & Cornwall Neighbourhood Watch

Courses I have attended are:

Community Matters

Community Centre Energy Efficiency

I have been involved in Plymouth Energy Community since the start as a founder member and Director. I am currently Vice-Chairman.

Through my experience and knowledge of Plymouth, I understand the city and its people. I am very committed to PEC and its aims. I always talk about PEC to people I meet. I really care about helping people on low incomes, people who have lost their jobs, pensioners, people with large debts and single parent families; I especially like helping people to switch. I am proud to be a part of Plymouth Energy Community, in Plymouth, helping Plymouth people.

CANDIDATE 9: TIM SYDENHAM, PLYMOUTH

I am a PEC member with a personal interest and professional background in home and community energy.

Until recently, I advised the Welsh Government on its energy agenda and had particular responsibility for renewable energy and energy efficiency. I co-authored *Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition*, the Welsh First Minister's energy strategy, and advised on the procurement of Wales' £100m fuel poverty programme, *Nest*. I was also founder director of *Arbed*, Wales' flagship community-scale retrofit programme, investing over £76m into Welsh homes from 2009-11 and securing a further £45m EU funding for 2012-2015. The *Airbed* programme won the '2011 British Renewable Energy Award'.

I currently work for Plymouth University and am an associate of organisations including Forum for the Future and Regen SW, having advised on initiatives including the £8m *South West Ready for Retrofit* programme.

I have recently been advising and supporting PEC and its Board on a voluntary basis. I believe that, if elected to serve on the Board, my experience of the sector would enable me to make a valuable contribution to PEC's mission to give the people of Plymouth the power to transform their energy future.