

ADRIAN 4 KIRKBY STEPHEN

April 2023

Dear Voter,

Kirkby Stephen Town Council Elections

Elections will be held on 4th May for Kirkby Stephen Town Council. I am one of eleven candidates contesting nine seats and I am writing to ask for your support on election day.

The Town Council has a massive role in our community both through the services that it provides and through the influence that it has on other public, private and voluntary bodies.

Kirkby Stephen is a wonderful place to live but I think the Town Council could and should be making it even better. I would like to join the Town Council so that I can play a part in that.



Issues that the Town Council should consider tackling include:

- Traffic congestion, car parking, poor street / footway lighting and lower speed limits in residential areas.
- Public transport, including better bus connections with Kendal and Penrith, better rail services and a better connection between Kirkby Stephen West Station and the town centre.
- Housing, including the need for appropriate development, the provision of more affordable housing and measures to limit the number of second homes and holiday homes.
- Improving access to health and social care services.
- Supporting a vibrant town centre as part of a vibrant local economy.
- Improved facilities for local people including better maintained play areas.
- Improving the town's offer to tourists and visitors, for example, by considering the opening of a museum or heritage centre.
- Stopping the discharge of sewage into the River Eden.
- Improved financial management and value for money.

Kirkby Stephen Town Council is not party political. Town Councillors do not represent political parties and I think this is a good thing. They are there to work together for the good of the town. If elected I would work with all the other councillors to make Kirkby Stephen even better.

On the other side of this letter I explain what I can bring to the table.

If you would like to contact me about the elections or any other matter, please feel free to do so. My contact details are shown below.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Waite.

Local Government Reorganisation

Local government in Cumbria was reorganised on 1st April. Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council have both been abolished and we now have Westmorland & Furness Council in their place. Kirkby Stephen Town Council will therefore have an even more important role than it had previously:

- First, the Town Council will have to speak up loudly for the town. In the past we have often been ignored in Penrith and Carlisle. With fewer councillors on the new authority than on the old ones, there is a danger that in future we will be ignored in Kendal. We cannot allow this to be happen.
- Second, Westmorland & Furness Council will want to devolve services to town and parish councils. That is a good thing as it will give local people more control over what happens locally, but it will mean more responsibilities for Kirkby Stephen Town Council.

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ADRIAN 4 KIRKBY STEPHEN

About Me



What could I bring to the table as a member of Kirkby Stephen Town Council?

I have lived and worked in the Eden valley since the 1990s, and in Kirkby Stephen since 2021. I cannot think of a better place to live. I have three children and four grandchildren.

I am an accountant with seventeen years' experience in local government to Strategic Director level and 25 years' experience of running a management consultancy & training business that mainly supports local authorities and housing associations. I am a former Chair of a Housing Association.

Health & Social Care



Several years spent as an unpaid carer has given me first-hand knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the NHS, social services and social care. The people who provide these services are excellent, but they are let down by a system that is 'broken' in many respects. Disabled access is not always good. Many unpaid carers also need more support. The Town Council is not responsible for health or social care but should use its influence to ensure that Kirkby Stephen people have access to good health and social care services.

Housing

My experience in local government and housing has shown me the importance of good housing, not only for its own sake, but as a way of unlocking opportunities. During my time as Chair of Impact Housing Association we developed housing and support services across Cumbria and Lancashire especially for vulnerable people.

Heritage

I have a passion for history and the natural environment. I have a first class honours degree in Geography, used to be the organiser of a medieval re-enactment society, and am a member of Appleby Archaeology Group and the Upper Eden History Society. I am passionate about preserving heritage and using heritage to benefit the community.

Community

I have campaigned on several local issues in Kirkby Stephen, including public transport, street lighting, play areas, traffic congestion, sewage discharges and a local museum. You may be familiar with my letters in the 'Cumberland & Westmorland Herald'. I believe strongly in community politics. For example, it was my complaint to Eden District Council about the Westgarth play area that led to the current review of play areas taking place. I have also reported problems with street lights and grounds maintenance to the district and county councils.

The Election

The election will be held on Thursday 4th May 2023. The government has decided that, in this and future elections, voters will have to show a photo ID when they vote in person. If you wish to vote in person and you don't already have photo ID, you will need to apply for a voter authority certificate.

To apply for a voter authority certificate, you must contact Westmorland & Furness Council by 25th April 2023 at Town Hall, Corney Square, Penrith, Cumbria. CA11 7QF. Tel: 01768-212253. Email elections2@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk