

Community News

Issue 40 - April 2017 - COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group

Powys County Council has 73 electoral wards with 56 being contested in this 2017 election. 16 wards are uncontested with candidates returned unopposed and one ward did not receive any nominations.

The County Council elections will be held on Thursday 4th May, and voting in Presteigne will be at the Memorial Hall between 7am and 10pm (in parallel with our Town Council election).

PACDG have arranged an Election Hustings with all available candidates, on Friday 21st April in the Memorial Hall from 6.30pm to 7.30pm - please put this date in your diary, this will be your chance to listen to the candidates and ask your questions. Look out for posters around the time confirming arrangements.

Three local people were nominated and stand for election in the Presteigne Ward - Beverley Baynham, Wendy Toomey, and our existing councillor Gary Banks. So you have a better idea of what each candidate stands for, and hopes to achieve in these very challenging times for local government, we asked all three to let us have an election address - and here they are (un-edited and in alphabetical order):

GARRY BANKS - *I came to Presteigne with my family in 1960, my late father had a garage business in the town. During this time and up to his premature death in 1974 he was a member of the Urban District Council of Presteigne. I entered local government after winning my election for Radnor District Council in 1988 and a year later became a member of the Presteigne and Norton Town Council of which I have been Mayor on two occasions. After reorganisation I was elected to Powys County Council.*

After many years of experience as District and County Councillor it has enabled me to gain the expertise in local government needed to be successful in obtaining the very best for our area. For a number of years we enjoyed one of the highest spends per head of population in Powys.

I have held many important positions in local government i.e. the Chairmanship of Powys County Council during which I granted the Freedom of the County of Powys to Her Majesty's Welsh Guards. I also created the Gold and Silver Civic Kite awards which the current Chairman continues to present.

I served as a member of the Brecon and Radnor Community Health Council for 8 years and later served four 4 years on the Powys Local Health Board and was appointed Champion lead member for cleanliness and infection control.

More recently my early intervention as a member of Cabinet on Powys County Council preserved secondary education, here in Presteigne and East Radnor.

I was instrumental in identifying an appropriate grant through the Army to restore the Memorial Hall, which I then informed the Chairman of the Hall Committee and, with Powys Grants Officer's help, there was a successful outcome.

I am a serving member of the Sports Lot Grants Committee by which several local organisations have benefitted.

I was active and firm recently in defending Day Centres and Adult services to include Prestmede Care Home. These matters I took direct to the Portfolio member responsible and the Leader of the Council, whilst keeping the Manager of the Day Centre informed.

I am presently engaged as the County Councillor pursuing a much-needed programme of further sheltered housing for rent locally here in Presteigne.

I have earned the reputation as a hardworking, determined member of Powys County Council, especially when services are under threat in my constituency.

BEVERLEY BAYNHAM - *My name is Beverley Baynham - I have been a Town Councillor in Presteigne for the last 9 years and I wish to take the next step and become your County Councillor for Presteigne and Norton. I am 37 years old; married, with 2 children who have attended both Presteigne Primary and John Beddoes Schools. I am a local girl raised by my parents; Brian & Margaret Lloyd and my extended family at Home Farm, Norton. I attended Presteigne Primary & John Beddoes Schools and Coleg Powys.*

I am professionally trained to Level 3 in Association of Accountancy Technicians and I have a Masters Degree in Management & Leadership for Health & Social Care. I have worked at the East Radnorshire Day Centre since 2001 where I am now the Manager, a role I enjoy and take great pride in.

I have been involved in the local community all my life. As a parent of young children, I was a Trustee of Presteigne Little People's Playgroup where I was Treasurer for 6 years. In 2008 I made the decision to join

Presteigne & Norton Town Council, a role I have carried out with honesty and integrity, working hard to the best of my ability at all times. I was appointed a Parent Governor of John Beddoes School in 2011, and more recently a Local Authority Governor of Newtown High School. I am one of only two people who agreed to stay as a Governor under the new regime representing the views of East Radnor - ensuring our children have a voice.

In May 2013 I was fortunate to be elected as Mayor of Presteigne & Norton, a role I carried out with enthusiasm, great pride and dedication. It was a true honour and privilege to represent our community. Over the last 9 years I have been involved in many projects, including:

- Resurrecting Presteigne Carnival
- Securing Affordable Housing
- Providing Allotments
- Co-ordinating the purchase and installation of 2 community defibrillators
- Fundraised £3850 for the Day Centre & Playgroup

The community needs a strong voice, working hard for the future of our community. I believe I can be that voice representing your views to Powys County Council. I am young, hardworking, approachable, enthusiastic and passionate about our community. I am a good listener and I would be truly honoured if you would put your trust in me and vote for me to be your County Councillor. I wish to give something back to the community that I love and has given me so much.

If you would like to contact me please do so on [07977042517](tel:07977042517) or vote4bevbaynham@gmail.com"

WENDY TOOMEY - Vote for Wendy - get the job done ! I'm Wendy Toomey and I've been working for the people of Presteigne & Norton for 10 + years.

I've deliberately chosen to live, to work and to invest in Presteigne & Norton. Like you, I know that this is one of the most special places to live in the whole of Great Britain. I'm not a politician. However, I've been asked to stand for County Council and Town Council by the many people who know me and have seen that when a job needs doing, I will get the job done and done well.

Just some jobs I'm doing as a private resident for the people of the area:

JOB #1. PROTECTING WHAT WE HAVE LOVED FOR GENERATIONS...What we all love about Presteigne & Norton is under attack. The undemocratic Powys Local Development Plan will destroy much of what is special about Presteigne & Norton and will replace what we have loved for generations with bad developments which will suck jobs and money out of the place which we call home. As a private resident, I've driven to Powys County Council many times to represent the community and defend our existing jobs and cash from the onslaught of bad policy. Trust me with your vote on 4 May, and I will protect and enhance what we have loved for generations.

JOB #2. CREATING JOBS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS...I manage the local recycling centre, making yearly income for the community, and I ran the famous Presteigne & Norton Zero Waste Project. This innovative project has brought national TV and radio to our special place, and it has shown other less advanced towns in Great Britain how a well-planned, environmental project creates local jobs and generates extra cash for local people. Trust me with your vote on 4 May, and I will create more jobs and cash for local people through the expansion of our national expertise in Environmental Projects

JOB #3. PROMOTING PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON AS A DESTINATION FOR INWARD INVESTMENT...Presteigne & Norton has one of the most thriving economies in Mid-Wales, with a vibrant Business Park, a traditional Retail High Street and a robust Leisure and Tourism Sector, which provides a big source of employment in the area. This economic success is partly due to the public relations campaign sponsored by the Chamber of Trade and the Presteigne Tourism Project - I am an active member of both. Trust me with your vote on 4 May, and I will drive more inward investment to Presteigne & Norton.

JOB #4. DEFENDING THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY...I've been a primary school governor and been on the committee for Presteigne & Norton Community Plan, surveying to find out what residents want. It is clear. We need action on jobs and housing. We need early years provision- the young are our future. We need to support the elderly and disabled in our community. We need decent public transport. With big changes in Powys and cuts to important local services, someone strong needs to represent Presteigne & Norton right now. Trust me with your vote on 4 May and I promise to speak out at County Hall for all Presteigne and Norton residents

JOB #5. CREATING THE MID-WALES CONFERENCE AND ARTS CENTRE...I've been working hard to support and promote the Mid-Wales Conference and Arts Centre project on the old Kayes factory site. This exciting plan would see the creation of 20 low-cost, live/work flats for local entrepreneurs, a permanent, covered market, an exhibition and conference hall and a multi-media studio, to encourage business investment and youth participation. Presteigne & Norton is already famous for the depth and quality of creative businesses in the area and this new Conference and Arts Centre will bring more people here and give a place for local creative entrepreneurs to live and work. Trust me with your vote on 4 May, and I will ensure that entrepreneurs and are promoted and encouraged.

To deserve your vote on 4 May as an Independent Candidate, tell me about your priorities at **DROP IN SURGERIES** on Thurs 13 Apr Radnorshire Arms, 6.30 to 8.30 pm , Sat 15 April Radnorshire Arms, 9.30 to 11.30 am, Thurs 20 Apr Memorial Hall, 1.30 to 3.30pm, Tues 25 April Memorial Hall, 9.30 to 12.30. It's good to talk.

If you have any questions on what's happening - or not happening - in our community, do let us know and we'll do our best to provide an answer, or at least point you in the right direction - simply email pacdg@icloud.com

Feel free to tweet or forward this to others. If you would prefer not to receive further issues of the News, please email us with REMOVE and we'll immediately take you off the the distribution list.