

Nomination statements - The Egrets Way AGM

Wendy Brewer of Kingston Road

'I became involved in the Kingston to Lewes cycle track project in 2009 when asked to represent my local residents association in a joint venture with the Kingston Village Action Group. After 2 years we had certainly made progress, albeit slow. Local landowners had agreed to allow access to their land for the critical section of the proposed route and ESCC had carried out a preliminary feasibility assessment. However, when we were invited to join forces with the newly formed Ouse Valley Cycle Network Project in late 2011, it was immediately obvious that this merger would be beneficial to all parties. I joined the OVCN Steering Committee and within two months Sustrans had carried out a feasibility study for the whole network. Then core funding from the DfT for the Kingston to Lewes path was announced. The next 18 months were a lesson in what can be done with enthusiastic supporters, expert advice and a time limit.

Now that this first branch of The Egrets Way is already in use and the next two in the pipeline, I would hope to continue to participate in what has been a very interesting and rewarding community enterprise.'

**Chair, Kingston Road & Cranedown Residents Association
Lewes**

Neville Harrison

I have been involved with the Ouse Valley Cycle Network since its beginning in 2011 anticipating that a riverside route linking Lewes and Newhaven and the Ouse Valley communities had a real chance of succeeding. Helped by the creation of the South Downs National Park and a Government promoting the environmental and health benefits of cycling and outdoor exercise we have made good progress. With two phases in use (Kingston to Lewes and Rodmell to Southease), planning permission granted for the remainder of the route and substantial funding allocated we seem set to achieve more this year.

We are working in partnership with the SDNPA and Sustrans on the latest phase and I would like to continue my involvement and see the riverside route completed. I remain committed to the Egrets Way vision and guiding principles and I am willing to continue to give my time and energy to this worthwhile and achievable project. I have chaired the project from the start and bring to it my experience as Chair of Southease Parish Meeting, Member of the South Downs National Park Authority and a Member of the South Downs Access Forum.

March 22nd 2015

Zara Luxford Rodmell

'My family and I moved to Rodmell two years ago. We are an active family of walkers, runners and recreational cyclists, on moving to the Ouse Valley we were immediately struck and disappointed by the lack of safe cycling opportunities for us as a family. I thoroughly support the aims of OVCN in developing and increasing access to safe cycling in the Ouse Valley and linking it to the South Downs. I love the South Downs and count myself extremely lucky to live and work on them. I believe in promoting access for all to the Downs for recreation and inspiration. Whilst I have been unable to join the OVCN committee before now, if elected I look forward to becoming fully involved as a committee member in the future, to act as a link to Rodmell Parish Council and residents of the village.'

Property Operations Manager, South Downs East, National Trust

John Parry of Lewes

I act on the OVCN committee as a Lewes resident and cyclist but also as the Director of the Railway Land Project which supports the Egrets Way. I bring the experience gained from building an environmental centre in Lewes, organising a cycling sponsor trip along the Avenue Verte in France with adults with learning disabilities and Priory school children for the centre and a general strategic vision for how the Egrets Way could be used for environmental education for all ages.

Director The Railway Land Project, Lewes

Noel West

I have lived in Piddinghoe for the last 7 years and would love to see The Egrets Way completed to open up Piddinghoe for cyclists and walkers. At the moment there is no safe way to move north out of the village, and it would be great to provide free movement for youngsters and seniors alike.

I was Managing Director of an engineering company for 30 years and can bring my skills of management and marketing to the Egrets Way steering group.

Susan Thompson of Swanborough & Iford

I love cycling, walking and actively promoting access for all to the wonderful South Downs National Park as South Downs Access Forum member. I'm keen to develop broad Ouse valley connectivity and to help to make the most of fresh opportunities to develop a shared recreational riverside route as a great natural asset for the Ouse Valley. As a founder member of OVCN I've contributed to the project since the start as OVCN Secretary: developing and maintaining the OVCN website, organising publicity and engaging with members and the local community at events.

I am the OVCN connection for Swanborough and Iford, Cycle East Sussex and ESCC Cycling Partnership. I'm also an active member of Cycle Lewes and the Lewes Neighbourhood plan committees.

Drawing on my business skills as director of Artbox - a local design company, I contribute creativity, flexible thinking, energy, enthusiasm and good humour to the multi-talented OVCN committee. I'm very proud of our achievements - we're now well on track towards our aim for safe, shared, sustainable village connections from county town to channel port.

Creating resilient Ouse valley community connections will involve infrastructure improvements but also relies on real people: generous partners, a committed committee and broad community support. The rewards are already in sight... smiling people of all ages walking and cycling and riding safely, healthily and happily along the first few sections of The Egrets Way.

24th March 2015

Elle Compton

I have been involved in the OVCN since the first meeting at Spring Barn Farm in 2011.

I am committed to sustainable living - I use public transport, walking, cycling, or my pony, as my means of transport.

I believe in easy access to nature and the countryside for all – whilst ensuring protection of the environment – and this will be so easy and enjoyable with the completion of the Egrets Way.

I would bring my experience in project management of community, arts, and education projects to the committee – including skills in budget management, creative thinking, and communication with partners and stakeholders.

25:03:15

Barbara Dart

I have been a resident of Kingston for nearly 20 years and am a very frequent walker of the paths and byways of the local area, enjoying the beautiful countryside we have here. I am also a (fair weather!) cyclist and am very keen to promote cycling wherever possible, especially on traffic free paths which are much safer for both young and old. I am totally behind the OVCN and wish to support it in any way I can, having seen the benefits of the first completed stage from Kingston to Lewes. I am involved with some other local groups and hope to be able to liaise with Kingston village residents on future plans for the cycle network.