

## **Personal Statements of the current CELL Big Local Partnership Board**

With the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the CELL Big Local Partnership fast approaching, the current board members have prepared personal statements by way of introduction (**see below**).

If you live, work or volunteer (full-time) within the CELL area, have a few hours to spare each month (typically 3-5 hours) and would like to make the CELL area '*a better place to live, work and play*', why not submit an application form to join the CELL Partnership Board? In order to sustain the work of CELL Big Local overtime we would be delighted to welcome new members to the current team.

For more information or to obtain an application form, please contact Rebecca email: [Rebecca@cell-biglocal.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca@cell-biglocal.org.uk) or telephone: 01670 863000.

Applications forms can also be downloaded from our website <http://www.cell-biglocal.org.uk/docs/PartnerPack.pdf>

Completed application forms must be returned to Rebecca by post (Rebecca at Lynemouth Resource Centre, Bridge Road, Lynemouth, Northumberland, NE61 5YJ) or email **by 5pm on Tuesday 19th April**.

If you plan to nominate someone else, please ensure that you have their permission first.

The new board will be decided by public vote at the AGM, with all CELL residents and those who work or volunteer full-time within the CELL area eligible to vote.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April**, from **6.30-7pm** at Linton Village Hall, Linton, Northumberland, NE61 5SE.

### **Personal Statements:**

- **Mrs Pat McCann**

I was born and brought up in Whitley but migrated south when I married. I returned in 2008 when my husband (from Jarrow) retired and to be near family. I have been involved with CELL Big Local since inception in 2013 and from May 2014 I took over Chair of the Steering Committee that had brought together interested residents to get the whole process off the ground. This was achieved and although it seems a long time in the making we have in fact made significant progress. In April 2015 when The Plan was officially endorsed and the Partnership needed to be established I was voted in as Chair of The CELL Big Local Partnership. It has been a long road with many ups and downs but now we are seeing the results of so much effort. It is very rewarding to see how well The Team have worked together and encompassed new members effectively. I think I have helped to keep an eye on the bigger picture and I feel my role as Youth Task Group Leader has helped improve youth facilities within the villages. I am happy to stand as Chair, if asked, for one further year. Ideally if someone could join me in the Youth Task Group they could take over the role of TG Leader in 12 months. With what is planned with the YMCA it will be a very exciting time to be involved.

- **Councillor Milburn Douglas**

As the Lynemouth Ward County Councillor I have been involved with CELL since it started in 2013. The group has made a lot of progress during a short period of time. I am a member of the Cell Partnership Board and also attend the cell project progress meetings, my input is working with volunteer groups, clean up days around our local communities and I am working with members of the Linton Community at present to try and form a volunteer group to work with CELL and Groundwork to improve their environment. I would be delighted to stand again in my role as the ward County Councillor.

- **John McCann**

I am a retired Management Consultant and I have lived in Cresswell since August 2008 and was a Parish Councillor from 2011 to 2013. I have been a member of the Coastal Villages Community Forum since 2011 and I have been involved in Big Local since the Summer of 2013. I was a member of the original Steering Group before becoming a member of the Partnership and the Transport Task group has been the main focus of my Big Local activity. I believe that we have made a noticeable difference to transport issues in the CELL area over the last 18 months. I intend to be available to Big Local for at least one more year and look forward to working with the rest of the Partnership and new volunteers to continue the progress that has been made so far.

- **Max Cairns**

I have lived in Ellington since 2003. On retiring from being an IT manager in 2006, I became quite active in the community. I served on the Parish Council for three years, and on the committees that achieved the renovation of the Ellington Village Hall, construction of the Ellington Pond Conservation area, and setting up of the volunteer-run Ellington Library. I am still one of the volunteers at the Library and Treasurer for the Pond. I have been involved with the CELL Big Local project since its beginnings.

BUT: I plan to retire from these community involvements at the end of this year (December 2016), so if there is a shortage of places it would make sense to give your vote elsewhere.

- **Bill Tarbit**

I was born in Lynemouth many years ago (Dad was the school caretaker and Mum worked cleaning the school) and after a long career in local government, I took early retirement in 2009. I was keen to put something back into the community where I grew up and had many happy memories and I took up the opportunity to be a member of the CELL Big Local Partnership in 2013. I am a member of the Housing and Community Buildings Task Group which has begun to develop a vision for co-locating several community buildings in Lynemouth; the Task Group is also looking at working with housing associations and the County Council to develop a strategy for tackling landlords, empty properties and private rented properties in the CELL area. I am keen, passionate and enthusiastic about the challenges ahead and seeing the area transformed and pride restored across the whole area.

- **Sal Armitage**

I moved to Ellington in November 2012 from West Yorkshire, where I had taken early retirement from my role as Head Teacher of a large primary school. I moved into the village with my partner who had previously lived in Killingworth. As I was completely new to the area I was very interested in seeing what sort of community groups there were. I felt I would gain a better insight into the area by becoming an active member of the community and I would in the process meet new people. A neighbour told me about the steering group and I went along to a meeting, not their first meeting but still very early on in the planning process. I realised that this could be something I could get involved in. I knew that some of the skills I had acquired whilst being a Head Teacher would be useful in my role as a committee member. In return I would learn about the area and the communities of the four villages. Since my first meeting I have regularly attended the steering group and became a member of the partnership board. I work for 3 days a week so cannot always offer my time to task groups on a regular basis but do offer support whenever I am able. I love living in Ellington and feel that the 4 villages should be able to provide services that their communities want and deserve. The Big Local has given us the opportunity to reflect on those services and to try wherever possible to create sustainable new ones and to enhance those already on offer. I am prepared to devote some of my spare time to the process of creating a positive future for the youth and the communities in general of these four villages.

- **Mr Kevin Hindmarsh**

I lived in Lynemouth since I was born. When the lottery funded Big Local made one million pounds available to spend on improving our local area I thought it was too good of an opportunity to miss and felt I had to get involved in the process. I am currently the Group Leader of the "Improving the street and green environment" task group and a member of the CELL Partnership Board. Over the past two years working with our partners Groundwork (NE) and thanks to generous match funding from the Crown Estate there have been improvements made to the Dene, a valued green space, and an independent volunteer group, Friends of Lyne Dene, set up. There is much more that can be achieved, but, in my view more resident involvement is essential. I will be happy to stand again for my current roles.

- **Christina Manners**

I'm a partner in Bacmans Community a social enterprise company; based in the Lynemouth Resource Centre. We help local residents with employability and removing barriers that keep them in poverty. Originally from Ashington, I have lived in Ellington for 25 years and have family ties to Lynemouth. I have worked for many years in the third sector. As an Adult Ed tutor I worked in Linton; Lynemouth and Ellington delivering community classes. I been involved in CELL since nearly the beginning, progressed from interested to steering group to partnership. Currently I hold the posts, in CELL, of Vice Chair and task group leader for Strengthening Communities and have an active role in Cell Life.

- **Bob Manners**

I am one of the four partners in Bacmans Community. We are a social enterprise company that is based in the Lynemouth Resource Centre. I have personal family ties with Lynemouth and Ellington as my father and mother both lived for many years in Lynemouth for over 25 years, and I have lived in Ellington for the last 26 years. Bacmans Community strives to help local people in employability skills and trying to remove any barriers that that keep them in poverty, as for my background I have worked for many years as an Adult Education Tutor in various schools in the local area. I have been involved with the CELL almost since its inception, progressing from being just interested to being on the steering group then on to the Partnership. I am one of three people responsible for producing the CELL Life Newsletter.