clerk@kirkby-stephen.com

From: Mark Harling [redacted]
Sent: 26 September 2026 07:48
To: clerk@kirkby-stephen.com
Subject: RE: Application for Town Councillor Co-option Vacancy

Flag Status: Flagged

Christian Barnes
Town Clerk
Kirkby Stephen Town Council
Local Links
Vicarage Lane
Kirkby Stephen
CA17 4QX

Dear Mr Barnes,

Re: Application for Town Councillor Co-option Vacancy

I am writing to formally express my interest in being considered for the current vacancy on Kirkby Stephen Town Council through co-option.

As a resident of Kirkby Stephen, I care deeply about the town, the people who live here and its future. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute positively to the work of the Town Council and to represent the views and interests of the local community. I confirm that I meet the legal eligibility requirements for becoming a Town Councillor.

My main motivation for applying is a genuine desire to serve the community and to be an active, approachable and constructive voice for local residents. I believe it is important that people feel listened to and that the Council remains accessible to the community it represents.

Through my work and community involvement, I have developed experience of working with young people, families, professionals and local organisations. This has given me a good understanding of some of the opportunities and challenges facing people within our community and has taught me the importance of listening to different viewpoints before reaching decisions.

I have a particular passion for supporting young people in Kirkby Stephen. Having worked directly with young people locally, I have seen how important it is for them to have safe places to meet, positive activities, trusted adults and opportunities to become involved in their community. I believe young people's views should be heard when decisions are being made that affect their lives and their future.

However, my interest in becoming a councillor extends beyond youth provision. I would want to represent the whole community and contribute to discussions around local services, community facilities, public spaces, safety, accessibility, the local environment and the practical day-to-day matters that affect residents and businesses.

I understand that being a Town Councillor also means making difficult decisions at times. I am comfortable listening to different opinions, asking questions, considering the available information and working collaboratively to reach balanced and responsible decisions. I would approach the position with an open mind and recognise that councillors have a responsibility to act in the interests of the community as a whole.

Although I have not previously held elected public office, I believe my professional and community experience has provided me with transferable skills that would allow me to make a positive contribution to the Council. I am accustomed to working as part of a team, dealing professionally with challenging situations, taking responsibility, solving practical problems and communicating with people from a wide range of backgrounds.

Most importantly, I care about Kirkby Stephen. I want to see the town continue to be a safe, welcoming and thriving place where people of all ages feel part of their community and where local people have confidence that their views are being heard.

I understand the commitment involved in attending Council meetings, participating in committees and community initiatives, reading relevant information and preparing properly for decisions. I am fully prepared to dedicate the necessary time and effort to fulfil the role responsibly.

Thank you for considering my application. I would welcome the opportunity to attend a meeting of Kirkby Stephen Town Council to introduce myself, answer any questions councillors may have and explain further what I believe I could contribute to the Council and the wider community.

Kind regards

Mark A Harling
Tel: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]
HPAC registered [redacted]