

Personal Statements from Candidates for Co-Option.

For: Northstowe Town Council, Full Council meeting 28th January 2025, item 204/24-25

Listed below are the personal statements from the seven prospective candidates for co-option. They are listed in order of receipt. Listed is the surname and first name initial.

Candidate 1- Hunter, I.

- I want to serve the community, to help it to grow into an example for other new towns and developments.
- I am a retired F.E Manager/Lecturer and have been involved in delivering courses for shop Stewards, via the TUC to help them deal with the media (press, media & TV) so could train the Council Members.

Candidate 2- Cattaneo, M.

- I am deeply committed to enhancing the well-being of our community and believe that as a councillor, I can effectively represent and address the needs of us residents.
- As a consulting director, I have been working in multicultural environments, for very large corporations, to deliver innovative solutions and help transforming their business, nationally and internationally.
- Now close to retirement, I would like to bring my experience to foster a collaborative and inclusive environment and ensure that our town thrives and meets the evolving needs of its citizens in a timelier manner
- I have direct experience working with suppliers in commercial engagements, from the initial definition of requirements to negotiations and finally to deliver the expected outcomes.
- I have a well-recognised ability to manage people effectively also in stressful situations and develop constructive relationships towards joint objectives, with a win-win approach that minimises tensions and maximises the outcomes.
- I would like to work in developing and managing realistic plans and achieve measurable results for our community in the least possible time and in the most effective way, proactively managing risks that could undermine development programs.

Candidate 3- Talakalakoppa, S.

Hi,
I'm **Sandeep Talakalakoppa**, been resident of Northstowe since July 2021. I was born and brought up in Bangalore, India (India's Silicon Valley), and may be due to this, my educational background is Science. I have a master's degree in Microelectronics and have worked/ been working in related Tech companies (Intel, Arm, Broadcom ETC) for more than 15 years now.
Personally, I would not associate myself with any ideologies like capitalism, conservative, liberal, socialist or communist. There are good and bad things in each of these. I prefer to think (and what I learned from my educational and work experience) that there is no perfect system or ideology, and things can always be improved.
From what I've seen happening in Northstowe over last few years, some things were not planned properly, and some things went wrong due to not executing in a timely manner. Having said all that, Northstowe is a vibrant community, people are nice and welcoming here.
Being a councillor to such a vibrant group of residents and such a young and budding new town is a privilege. I would like to be part of key decision making, contributing to the community and monitoring, making sure that local resident's voices are heard and represented.

Candidate 4- Hodgson, G.

I would like to be a Councillor as I am passionate about local government and community engagement. There are vacancies on NTC committees, which means some development work is at risk of taking longer if meetings become inquorate. I have lived in Northstowe since 2022, having been an active community builder in Romsey, Cambridge since 2017.

My skills and experience as a County Council officer (Senior Commissioning Manager in Adult Social Care), coupled with previous experience in Education, Publishing and International Relations, as well as my volunteer work over decades, and my current trustee position in Northstowe Hub CIC make me uniquely qualified to provide a well-rounded perspective on decisions to be made by NTC.

I am happy to serve on Planning Committee or others where there are vacancies/skills gaps, and as a frequent user of public transport (not owning a car), I bring lived experience of the complexities of navigating transport infrastructure in and around South Cambs.

I am also committed to environmental protection, conservation and the development of an inclusive, resilient community that works for residents of all ages, backgrounds, family incomes and mobility. I am excited to see how the new Community Centre will become a key asset in our community, having gained considerable experience of using The Cabin over the past 18 months.

As a father of four with two children currently studying at NSC, I also have an interest in how younger residents experience life in Northstowe. Having lived overseas for 25 years and being multilingual, the cultural diversity of Northstowe is also something I am keen to see celebrated by NTC. I am a White Ribbon Ambassador and also have considerable experience of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work at the County Council, as well as Employee Relations, workplace wellbeing and personnel management.

Candidate 5- Birr-Pixton, J.

I have lived nearby since my family moved to the area in 1987. I went to school in St Ives and University at ARU in Cambridge. Prior to moving to Northstowe in 2022 my partner and I lived in Fen Drayton for 11 years. I think I have a reasonably good knowledge of, and links to, the local area.

We moved to Northstowe to be in a young and growing community, and I would like to contribute to that. I would be interested in planning, transport and green spaces parts of the council – so perhaps the Planning Committee, Assets Committee and Phase 1 Open Spaces meetings, as required.

Candidate 6- Sardar, N.

I am enthusiastic about becoming a Town Councillor to contribute to Northstowe's growth as a vibrant and thriving community for future generations. Having applied for the position before, I am even more motivated to bring my skills and experiences to the council, to ensure the town continues to develop into a place where everyone can flourish.

I currently work in the IT department of a pharmaceutical company, where problem-solving, communication, and teamwork are integral to my role. Throughout my life, I have actively participated in committees and initiatives aimed at supporting others, from organizing social events during my school and college years to making a cricket team back home. These experiences have honed my organizational and leadership abilities.

Notably, I led a team that provided aid during a flood in Bangladesh, an effort that continues to serve the community there. Additionally, my tenure as an Assistant Manager at Lidl, strengthened my management skills, particularly in team coordination and shared goals.

I believe my diverse background across industries equips me to bring a unique perspective to the council. My strong communication and interpersonal skills would enable me to engage with residents effectively and collaborate with fellow councillors.

I am open to contributing to any of the council's committees or working groups where my skills can add value, whether it's community engagement, infrastructure, or planning. Additionally, I would welcome the opportunity to represent the council in external partnerships to foster collaboration with other stakeholders. I am deeply committed to making a positive difference in Northstowe and am confident in my ability to support its continued success.

Candidate 7- Kumar, N.

I am a computational biologist with over 10 years of experience in infectious diseases and technology. Born and raised in India, I moved to the UK in 2010 for my PhD and began my professional career in Cambridge in 2014. After spending eight years in Cambridge, I moved to Northstowe in December 2022 with my wife and daughter, and we immediately got attracted by the town's diverse community and beautiful environment. Last year, we welcomed the arrival of our second daughter, and I established my own life science consulting company to advise and support researchers in analyzing their scientific data. In my free time, I enjoy walking by the lake, socializing with neighbours, playing table tennis, and cricket.

Being a part of this vast community, I am eager to play an active role in shaping its future, ensuring it continues to grow as a sustainable, safe, and welcoming town. As a Councillor, I would have the opportunity to apply my management, decision-making, problem-solving, communication, and leadership skills to represent the views of residents, address local challenges, bring about solutions, and work collaboratively to enhance the quality of life for everyone in Northstowe.