

Item

NON COUNCILLOR AND COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM



To:

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Streets and Open Spaces

Environment & Community Scrutiny Committee 04/10/2018

Report by:

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Wards affected:

All

Not a Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The three year term of office for the seven Conservators of the River Cam appointed by the City Council (four non-councillor appointments and three City Councillors) ends on 31 December 2018.
- 1.2 The maximum term of office is 3 x three-year terms with thereafter a break period of three years before a re-application can be made.
- 1.3 New appointments are required for the three year term commencing 1 January 2019
- 1.4 Legislation requires the seven city council appointments to be made by the Council on the recommendation of the Executive Councillor.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

- 2.1 To agree the recommendation of the non-councillor appointments of Jim Ross, Kate Hurst, May Block and Ceridwen Salisbury to the Conservators of the River Cam commencing 1 January 2019 for Council's approval.
- 2.2 To note that Council considers and approves the nominations of three City Councillor appointments (two Labour and one Liberal Democrat appointment) to the Conservators of the River Cam commencing 1 January 2019.
- 2.3 To write, on behalf of the Council to all the current non-councillors Conservators whose term will end thanking them for their valuable contribution

3. Background

- 3.1 Applications were invited through an open recruitment process over a four week period which ended on 31 August to apply for the voluntary position as a Conservator of the River Cam.
- 3.2 All four current Conservators were eligible to reapply for a further three year term, with only three existing Conservators choosing to do so.
- 3.3 A total of thirteen applications were received.
- 3.4 The Executive Councillor for Streets and Open Spaces agreed that members of the Environment & Community Scrutiny Committee would form a selection panel to consider the applications received and recommend four for approval for the non-councillor City Council appointments.
- 3.5 The selection panel consisted of Councillors Smart, McGerty and Gillespie which met on 17 September. The Executive Councillor for Streets and Open Spaces took part in the discussions with the selection panel but did not have a vote.
- 3.6 Selection was based purely on the written applications and considered alongside the following criteria which was advertised:

- An interest in, and/or evidenced knowledge of, some aspect of river use.
- Not a Councillor or officer of Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, other District or Parish Councils in Cambridgeshire. Not a relative or close friend of any current elected member or officer of the Council.
- Live or work in the City of Cambridge.
- Commitment to serve the community, attend meetings and a willingness to take required training and to offer requisite time to perform the duties to the satisfaction of the City Council.
- Willingness to sign up to a Code of Conduct applicable to members of the public made Council appointees.
- Must declare any party political membership on the application form.
- Will have disclosed to the Council during the application process any matter in his/her background, which, if it became public, might cause the council to reconsider the appointment.
- Committed to a three-year term of office.

3.7. The Panel recommended the following four candidates:

Jim Ross - Has been a member of Camboaters, holding the position of Chair and Treasurer, experience of establishing good working relationships between the river users and local authorities, having set up monthly meetings to address issues and improve communication and understanding between the parties. Lives on the river and has a professional background in urban design.

Kate Hurst – Has a residential mooring license, sits on the committee of the Camboaters Community group, and is the Boathouse Manager and Head Coach at Christ's College Boat Club, Water Safety Officer of both Christ's College Boat Club and City of Cambridge Rowing Club.

May Block – Has held various office positions with Cambridge Canoe Club such as Competition Manager. Appointed to the Environment Agency Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee, British Canoe Union (now Canoe England), Environment and Conservation Panel. Currently taking part in the pollution monitoring scheme organised by a consortium of the Environment Agency, Wildlife Trust and various

Angling groups. Invited member to the sub committee Health and Safety of the Cam Conservator.

Ceridwen Salisbury – Civil engineer who lives and works in Cambridge, whose work is focused on designing drainage systems for projects in and around Cambridge, including the colleges and other riparian bodies. Holds a MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development. Member of the Cambridge Canoe Club and holds the position of Club Racing Secretary.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

There are none.

(b) Staffing Implications

There are none.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment is not applicable. The initial appointment was advertised on the Council's website and social media. It was also advertised various web sites relevant to the post. It was conducted in accordance with the Council's recruitment guidance.

(d) Environmental Implications

Nil Impact

(e) Procurement Implications

Nil Impact

(f) Community Safety Implications

Nil Impact

5. Consultation and communication considerations

The recommendations are the outcome of an open appointment process. The recommendations are made by the Panel. Consultation, as such, was not appropriate for the non-Councillor appointment.

6. Background papers

Previous report to the Environment Scrutiny Committee – 26.06.12

Minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Committee – 26.06.12

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=713&Ver=4>

Previous report to the Communities Services Scrutiny Committee – 08.10.15

Minutes of the Communities Services Scrutiny Committee – 08.10.15

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=176&MId=2791&Ver=4>

7. Appendices

Application Form for 2019 Recruitment

8. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Claire Tunnicliffe, Committee Manager, tel: 01223 - 457013, email: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk.