

## Candidates standing for election as board members – Hastings Commons CLT AGM 2023



### 1. Simon Basey

Hi, I'm Simon! My background is in commodities, and I spent 15 years working for BP in their trading business, firstly as a trader and later managing trading teams. I currently run a commercial/residential property company based in Hastings, with my most recent project being to convert a bathroom store in St Leonards into an arts hub with 5 artists' workshops, a pottery studio and a florist.

I'm passionate about supporting affordable long-term housing and am a board member of Housing for Women, a London-based housing association with 900 properties, focussing on housing and support services for marginalised women. I am a team leader with Warming up the Homeless and project managed the launch of the Hastings Homeless Centre (round the corner from Hastings Commons). I also volunteer with Refugee Buddy Project.

Through my work background I have many commercial and people skills to contribute to Hastings Commons such as expertise in financial management, building diverse teams and developing innovative solutions. Having run businesses in Singapore and London I can also advise on effective operations and risk management, project oversight and long-term strategy delivery.

I have practical local housing experience as Director of two Hastings residential buildings and through running major projects in the local area (as well as being a Hastings resident), while my role at Housing for Women means I also have knowledge of national social housing trends. My work in Hastings combined with my local volunteering demonstrate my commitment to strong local communities and mean I am very aware of social challenges in the area, which motivates me to want to make a difference as a trustee.



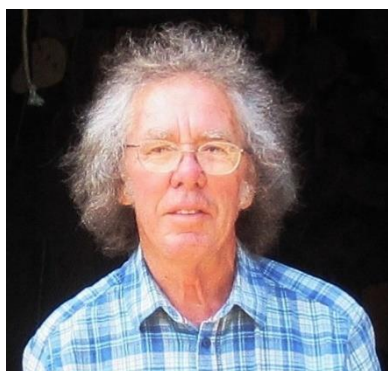
### 2. Richard Butchins

I have lived in Hastings since 2019. My grandparents were from Hastings and they were born, lived and died here. I used to spend childhood holidays here and I have a strong family connection. I moved here before the pandemic and find the atmosphere very conducive to my work and lifestyle (not hectic in other words).

I take part in local exhibitions and I source my materials locally and find inspiration from the area and surrounding countryside.

I would like to be more involved with other makers and creators in the area to initiate collaborative projects. I would also like to run occasional courses in documentary film making and foster the idea that local people could create an archive of the town. I have many years of experience and feel it would be nice to be able to pass some of that on to others. I have a particular interest in the ND community – as I am part of it – and feel they have talents and perspectives that would benefit everybody.

I am by nature co-operative and forward thinking and feel that I would bring something to the Hastings Commons world – so to speak.



### **3. Steve Peak**

I am a retired journalist and author, but still writing newspaper articles and books, plus running my own website [www.hastingshistory.net](http://www.hastingshistory.net). My local books include *Fishermen of Hastings* (1985, which has sold over 12,000 copies), *Mugsborough Revisited* (2001), *The Hastings Papers* (2007), *A Pier Without Peer* (2016), *Hastings Country Park: A History* (2019) and *The America Ground* (2021).

My 1985 fishing industry book led to major changes in Hastings Council policies regarding the fishing industry and its community. I revived the Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society, which forced Hastings Council to allow the fishing boat owners to have the free use of the Stade, which has been a crucial factor in preserving the industry locally, following the collapse of all fish stocks. In the early 1990s I was company secretary of Hastings Fishmarket Ltd, and I raised the funding for the replacement of the old fishmarket with the one in use today.

I am the longest-serving trustee of the Old Hastings Preservation Society (since 1986). I am the honorary curator of the Hastings Fishermen's Museum, which has well over 100,000 visitors a year and is financially self-sufficient. In the late 1980s I created the Hastings Nets Shops Museum, which I still run. I am a member of Hastings Council's Museum Committee, representing the Museum Association, and am former chairman of Friends of Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve.

Outside Hastings, I worked for Time Out magazine in the 1970s as the news researcher and was on the founding committee that set up the weekly magazine City Limits in 1980. In 1977 I and a colleague set up StateResearch (now called Statewatch) that has monitored and recorded the evolution of the police state in which we are living.



#### **4. Jenni Carbins**

Hastings Commons is a visionary regeneration initiative and UK best practice model, bringing real change to East Sussex, and it would be a privilege to play a role in its future success.

As a Placemaking Strategist with a strong track record in long term, urban regeneration and place transformation projects, I'm well positioned to help support the Commons, its staff, stakeholders and communities.

During the past 10 years I founded and built a successful placemaking agency that has contributed to many of the most significant regeneration precincts in London. My experience covers residential (sales and Build to Rent), commercial (office and innovation), retail, meanwhile use and animation in many different settings. Previously I was Director of Marketing at a major public institution - Southbank Centre - during the transformation of Royal Festival Hall into arguably the London's most successful waterfront destination.

Some of the places I've helped shape into thriving social and economic centres include Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (five very different legacy projects), King's Cross, Greenwich Peninsula, Bracknell Town Centre and Elephant & Castle. I also have experience in delivering places at development stage; Thamesmead, East Bank and Eastwick & Sweetwater (the final piece of the Olympic legacy).

My experience working across such a range of projects has made me very aware of, and skilled in, balancing the needs of existing and new communities - prioritising positive impact on people's lives, as well as sustainable economic development. And I have a wealth of experience working with investors, fund managers, private developers, local authorities, housing associations, architects, designers, landscape architects, creatives and entrepreneurs, as well as experts in research/analytics, branding/marcomms, innovation and sustainability.

I believe I fit the bill in terms of passion for making great places and high levels of experience, strong connections and a track record of delivery.