

**Subject:** FW: Application for co-option

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Date: Tue, 9 May 2023 at 19:49

Subject: Application for co-option

To: <[clerk@kidlington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kidlington-pc.gov.uk)>

Good afternoon.

My name is Phil Wyse and I would like to apply to be co-opted onto the parish council.

I am a resident of Roundham ward and stood as an Independent candidate in last week's election. I was disappointed not to achieve enough votes to be successful this time but that has not diminished my desire to serve our community. My late father John, served on both the parish and district councils. More recently my sister Tracey also served as a co-opted member of the parish council. With that past history, I have had fellow residents encouraging me to stand for several years. Something that my late father said to me has been coming to mind a lot recently. When he first decided to stand for election after retiring, I asked him why he was giving up his time to do that and not just enjoying his retirement. His answer was "your mother and I have lived here since we got married. We brought you and your two sisters up here and this will always be our home. Now is the time for me to give something back to this community we love". I didn't really appreciate at the time how much he felt compelled to pursue his desire to give something back. I definitely understand that now and whether that be directly serving on the council or helping the community in other ways, I am determined to play my part and give something back.

I grew up in Kidlington and have lived here most of my life. During the week I work full time as an IT manager for RM Education (formerly Research Machines for those of you old enough to remember). I primarily work from our home on the Banbury road these days but occasionally travel into the office in Milton Park. My wife Carol was also born and bred in Kidlington and works for the Fire and Rescue Service. Prior to the Covid outbreak Carol worked in the fire station on Sterling road but now also mainly works from home. My role involves managing a team of around fifteen staff spread across the UK, sixty in India and four in Melbourne. Pre-Covid I would usually travel to the beautiful state of Kerala in southern India two or three times a year. The opportunity to work with many different cultures has been an absolute privilege and I am extremely lucky to now have many friends as well as colleagues around the world. I have a son who lives in Cheltenham with his partner. Both are part of the transgender community and being part of their life journey inspired me to become a founder member of the Equality, Diversity and Equality committee at RM. That led me to then also train as a Mental Health First Aider. During the first Covid lockdown I began volunteering as a helper with Cherwell Larder. I think that really ignited my passion to get more involved in the community. Most of my Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings are spent helping with the incredible work done by Emily and her team of amazing volunteers. In what spare time I do have, I enjoy attending Oxford United home games, Rugby Internationals and England cricket matches. I also enjoy catching a game on TV in one of our local pubs and putting the world to rights over a few pints of real ale.

The low turnout in last week's election shows that there is a big opportunity for the parish council to improve its engagement with our community. This is one of the key areas where I believe that I can add some value. I have friends and contacts who are involved in all sorts of community groups that I would like to help build closer ties with. These include sports clubs like Kidlington Youth Ladies Football Team, Gosford All Blacks Rugby Club, Kidlington Running Club, Kidlington and Yarnton FC, Kidlington Bowls Club, etc. There are also many other groups not related to sport we could connect with. My late mother was an active member of Kidlington Townswomen's Guild, Friendly Faces and the Lunch Club. She regularly attended Foresters Hall for Sunday lunch. As another example I know there is also an active Kidlington Historical Society. I recently attended the Kidlington Voice breakfast meeting in Willow Tree cafe. This reinforced to me how important it is for the parish council to have strong ties to our local business community to help foster a prosperous and thriving local economy that brings jobs

and facilities to the area. We also need to explore ways to engage with the young people of the village to understand their hopes, fears and aspirations. They are the next generation of voters and hopefully councillors. Their opinions should matter to us and I would love to see our young people choosing to get involved in shaping their future community. I would like to be able to use my wide range of contacts in our community to try to find new and innovative ways to connect with people from different demographics for whom the current communication methods may not work.

The Oxford United stadium proposal is the hot topic for many people right now but I don't want my application to be solely about this one issue. My personal opinion is that it could offer great benefits to our community and the parish council should engage in proactive discussions with Oxford United, OCC and CDC to try to obtain the best possible outcome for our community. I also believe that we must listen to and respect those who have misgivings and try to work with all stakeholders to try address and mitigate those concerns where possible. However there are many other important issues that the parish council has to address and if my application is successful I will be fully committed to helping address all of those challenges.

Thank you for taking the time to read my application.

Kind regards,

Phil.

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