

Candidate for the election to Knowstone Parish Council

Jeremy Filmer-Bennett

Ladymead
Roachill
Knowstone
EX36 4EB

I am among the group of Knowstone residents who called for this election so that the people within the parish could have a say in the selection of their parish councillors; the current councillors are not elected but appointed. I am delighted that we have three candidates to offer themselves for election for the two seats available.

The local issues I would like to address include:

- Ensuring our residents get the maximum benefit from the Wind Farm funding
- Get a clear and quick resolution as to the future of the Sidemoor picnic site on the Link Road
- Consult the people of Knowstone in order gain a plan for the development of the windfall piece of land at East Farm
- To ensure that the meetings of council are scheduled to enable the council to properly consider all planning applications that are relevant to the residents of Knowstone

I have been asked on two occasions to assist the Parish Council, once to assist with the review of the Parish Plan (not yet done) and to chair a committee on the future of the aforementioned picnic site. I am keen to progress these items but feel that the leadership of these proposed committees is a duty for Parish Councillors; therefore I wish to be elected to the council.

A little about myself.

I am from Devon stock; my grandfather was born and bred in Plymouth and was a Royal Marine and served his country, I have relatives in the West Country. I returned to Devon some 30 years ago to open a business in Tiverton. We moved to Oakford and I worked for the North Devon Chamber of Commerce representing the business community of Northern Devon, at local, county and national levels, where I made many friends and contacts. I was then appointed Chief Executive of the Devon and Cornwall Business Council which represents the business community of the two counties at local, regional, national and European level. I gained considerable experience in working with Government and politicians at all these levels. I set up the Somerset and Devon Local Enterprise Partnership (a quango led by the private sector to develop the economy of our two counties).

I have experience of working on and with local elected bodies. I held positions as a trustee of Beaford Arts and Hospiscare as well as chairing Devon Wheels to Work.

Since I retired to Roachill I have become a trustee of the Parish Hall committee, attend the Parish Church and take an active interest in the community. I am Chair of Governors of St. John's Primary School in Tiverton and I believe passionately in local people having their say through the local political process.

I would ask you to vote for me. Should you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me on 01398 341924 or by email filmer.bennett@btinternet.com