

Richard Bearman

I have been a member of the Green Party since 2003 and have never been a member of any other political party. I have held a variety of roles at local, regional and national level including line management of local party staff and previously serving on GPRC.

I have held these posts in Norwich Green Party and the Eastern region:

- Norwich co-ordinator Nov 2007 - July 2011
- Eastern region joint co-ordinator 2006 - 2008.
- Green Party Regional Council rep. for Eastern region 2008 - 2012



I remain active in my local party as a 2021 target ward co-ordinator, which will keep me connected to the experience of getting Greens elected at the local level.

I was a Norfolk County Councillor from 2009 to 2017 and led the Green Party Group for most of that time. During that period we used our position to influence the direction of the council, achieving significant advances in environmental and social policies and holding the leadership to account. I worked closely with the senior council officers and used my management skills to contribute to the shortlisting and interviewing for Directors of both Children's and Adult Social Services.

I have held various voluntary positions in registered charities and NGO's including two 5-year terms as trustee for Garden Organic, a national charity with annual turnover of about £5 million. I am currently Chair of a local charity, the Grapes Hill Community Garden Group in Norwich. I have extensive experience as a School Governor having served at 4 different local authority schools over the past 20 years in diverse roles such as Finance Committee Chair, Safeguarding Governor, as well as Vice-chair and Chair of the Governing body.

In addition to having a relevant background in the charity/voluntary sector, during my earlier industry career I co-founded a small consultancy company where I spent 15 years delivering specialist technical training courses.

Following our move to Norwich in 1986 we have personal experience of putting green policies into action through retrofitting our house with solar panels and a rainwater recovery system. We also grow organic fruit and vegetables, and walk, cycle and use public transport.

At this time of unprecedented climatic and social change the Green Party must look to the future and embrace further changes however challenging that may be. Organisational change is one of the most difficult times for any business, charity or political party: the Green Party deserves and needs the best talents to do this.

I believe I can play a key role in moving the Party forward by working collaboratively as part of the Executive body, holding the senior managers to account and providing clear and structured objectives for the CEO and staff.

The Green Party needs to engage with communities up and down the country and our membership needs to reflect the widest diversity. I will use all my experience in the various roles I have played to enhance GPEX and further the green Party's agreed political strategies at a national level.