

# Railfuture Limited - Election of Directors for 2022/23

The Board of Directors is legally liable for the running of the company. Railfuture Ltd must abide by the Companies Act, General Data Protection Regulation, Insurance Act, Health and Safety at Work Act, Lobbying Act and many other pieces of legislation. It also has a legal duty to act in the best interests of the members collectively, which primarily means ensuring that Railfuture is financially well-run, is not exposed to unnecessary risk, and satisfies our insurers and banks. Candidates must be committed to performing this role if elected. Primarily, of course, they must work constructively and harmoniously as part of a team. They receive no remuneration.

Although Railfuture exists to campaign for a bigger and better railway, the directors' responsibility is managerial and strategic. They manage the company to enable high-quality, modern, professional and effective campaigning work, where relevant to the company's aims, to be done by Railfuture volunteers, and to make available funds where beneficial to members, properly focused/managed, and value-for-money. It is not the immediate responsibility of the directors to campaign, although many do so within their branch activities, and it is not necessary for every director to have a deep understanding of the railway.

The board needs a variety of knowledge, understanding and skills amongst the directors that include company management, project management, finance/accountancy, corporate governance, data protection, legal, human resources, information technology (especially websites and databases), marketing (including exploiting social media) as well as railway matters, both as rail users and professionals working within the rail industry.

There are three vacancies for a full three-year term. These vacancies arise from the end of term for three directors (Allison Cosgrove, Neil Middleton and Roger Blake) and all have chosen to stand for re-election. No new candidates have stood and therefore, with three candidates for three places, there will be no election in 2022. However, in the interests of openness and providing members with information about the directors, their election statements are shown in full below.

The directors express their disappointment that no new candidates decided to stand and urge suitably qualified members to consider doing so in 2023. Please contact Chris Page, national chair, to find out more about taking part.

Details of the election process can be read at [www.railfuture.org.uk/Elections](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/Elections).

Candidates have an opportunity to an informal meeting with impartial representatives to discuss the role of director.

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## List of current directors (up to three-year terms with chair appointed from amongst the directors):

<b>Chris Page</b> – Chair	<b>Allison Cosgrove</b> – Vice Chair and Passenger Director *
<b>Jerry Alderson</b> – Finance & IT Director	<b>Ian Brown CBE</b> – Policy Director
<b>Roger Blake</b> – (Rail) Infrastructure Director *	<b>Neil Middleton</b> – Communications Director *
<b>Mike Rose</b> – Freight & Logistics Director	<b>Stewart Palmer</b> – Governance Director
<b>Wendy Thorne</b> – Membership Director	

Allison Cosgrove has responsibility for supporting Railfuture's 14 branches, aiming to visit around half of them each year. Those marked "\*" have completed their term and seek re-election.

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## Candidate Details and Election Addresses

All candidates were asked to answer questions 1 to 7 and submit an election address of not more than 300 words.

- 1) Length of membership of Railfuture Ltd
- 2) Current and previous Railfuture Ltd branch membership and committee Service
- 3) Current and Previous Railfuture Ltd national group service
- 4) Relevant qualifications and work experience
- 5) Current and previous membership of other relevant organisations with details of positions held
- 6) Participation in other organisations as Railfuture Ltd representative
- 7) Nature and Duration of any association with a rail user group (whether or not affiliated to Railfuture Ltd)
- 8) Election address

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**ALLISON COSGROVE** – Proposed by Jane Ann Linton; seconded by Ron McLean

### Personal Details

- Q1. 14 years
- Q2. Member of Scottish Branch – 14 years, Chair for 8 years
- Q3. Chair of Passenger Group; Current Board member for 9 years : Organiser, Railfuture Lottery
- Q4. Secretary, East Lothian Community Rail Partnership; Member, Rail Action Group East of Scotland (RAGES)
- Q5. Vice Chair & Transport Representative, Dunpender Community Council
- Q6. Member, Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Rail, Board Liaison, Railfuture North East
- Q7. Committee Member, Friends of the Settle & Carlisle Line; Member, Friends of the Far North Line, Friends of the West Highland Line and Campaign for Borders Rail

## **Election Address**

The past two years have shown us how important contact with our members and supporters is to our organisation. We have all become used to Zoom and Railfuture has run excellent webinars which keep us in touch, but personal contact in discussing rail issues, problems and solutions has been much missed.

I personally have missed going out and about visiting branches and getting to know their individual areas, and I hope to resume this as soon as we are able to do so.

As Head of Passenger Group, our energies have been tested to the limit. The East Coast timetable proposals were fiercely opposed up and down the ECML and many representations were made to local and national politicians. I am glad to say this on the back burner for another year. Reduction in ticket office opening hours was another campaign – one example being the station at Berwick on Tweed which was faced with a reduction of 43 hours per week – and again vigorous representation was made, in Berwick's case to a cabinet minister among others.

Our campaign to extend the use of Railcards was well supported by members, thank you for contacting your MPs on this. Regrettably, despite contacting the Transport Select Committee downwards, this was a battle we did not win, but sincere thanks for all your help.

We are now considering in some detail how passengers will be affected by the Williams/Shapps review and will report on this in due course.

We want to meet members, and listen to their concerns, so I'm delighted to say that Railfuture will once again have a stall at Glasgow Model Rail Show at the end of February. We hope to have a presence at many more events in 2022 and look forward to seeing you all again.

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**NEIL MIDDLETON** – Proposed by Chris Fribbins; seconded by Roger Blake

### **Personal Details**

Q1. Since January 2017

Q2. London & South East Committee member since January 2017 & Herts & Beds Division Convenor since May 2019

Q3. TOC Liaison for GTR since July 2019 and informal member of Passenger Group since late 2020

Q4. FCA (Fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales) and MBCI (Member of Business Continuity Institute). Latter part of career spent working in operational risk management in banks, including Barclays, HSBC and Mizuho; earlier part working for what is now PricewaterhouseCoopers (Chartered Accountants)

Q5. Current member of Steering Group of Beds & Herts Community Rail Partnership

Q6. None

Q7. Chair of APTU, a Rail User Group on Thameslink North since 2007; member since 1994

### **Election Address**

Do I call myself a Railfuture Director or a Rail Campaigner first? The answer is definitely "a Rail Campaigner". Over the last 12 months, campaigning focuses have included the flexi-season (both what it should look like and when it didn't, what was wrong with it) the future of fares and ticketing, the annual inflationary fare rise, the East Coast Mainline May 2022 timetable consultation and the railway's recovery from the loss of passengers during Covid.

As a current Director, one of the key things that has been reinforced for me is how, working together, we can produce much more compelling cases for a railway that meets customer needs. I was lucky enough to be asked by the House of Lords Built Environment Committee on Williams Shapps and the future of rail fares to give oral evidence. As I worked afterwards to send in the subsequent written supplementary evidence, our ability to work together gave us a much better submission, as it contained so much local content (in particular, specific examples to reinforce our case) from members. I am keen that Railfuture remains that – a campaigning group that seeks to use the varied opinions and knowledge of its members.

In seeking to deliver effective rail campaigning, Railfuture needs to be seen as a credible and highly respected campaigning organisation that understands the context in which it operates. I want to see Railfuture as relevant to rail users, and an informed constructive, and positive force for change. Over the next few years, we need to focus on that, which will require a delicate balancing act between what is "ideal" and what it is realistic (but still ambitious) – getting that balance right is essential to creating a case that will be properly contemplated and considered by Industry and the Government.

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**ROGER BLAKE** – Proposed by Chris Fribbins; seconded by Gordon Pratt

### **Personal Details**

- Q1. 35 years
- Q2. Current and previous Railfuture branch committee service:  
L&SE committee 2006>, Vice-Chair 2007>.
- Q3. Current and previous Railfuture national group/sub-group service:  
Railwatch Editorial 2010>, Infrastructure & Networks 2014>, Passenger/TOC liaison 2014>.
- Q4. Relevant qualifications and work experience:  
Chartered town planner 1973>; Hackney Council 1985>2015 [Principal Transport Planner, Public Transport Liaison 1997>2015].
- Q5. Current and previous membership of other relevant organisations with details of positions held:  
Transport Planning Society, CfBT, Spa Valley Railway, Great Central Railway, North London Railway Historical Society, Brunel Museum Rotherhithe, Bideford Railway Heritage Centre.
- Q6. Participation in other organisations as Railfuture representative:  
Transport for the South East's Transport Forum, Southeast Communities Rail Partnership Stakeholder Advisory Board.
- Q7. Nature and duration of association with a Rail User Group (whether or not affiliated to Railfuture):  
Co-founder Cambridge Heath & London Fields RUG 1996>; MarshLink Action Group 2008>.

### **Election Address**

Railfuture's Board of Directors is your national leadership team, for a Company with Objects in its Memorandum expressed as "encourage and promote", "support", "influence", "co-operate". Company Directors help ensure that the Board sustains and develops a sound organisational and financial framework for Railfuture, within which that 'encouragement, promotion, support, influence, and co-operation' can be pursued, by national specialist groups, regional/national branches, affiliated groups, and individual members locally.

I again offer my knowledge and experience on two fronts: working life in public sector development planning and transport policy and projects, especially public transport generally and rail development particularly, and a parallel lifetime of voluntarism in third sector organisations including amenity, transport and rail campaign groups, including 35 years as Trustee / Director, and interim Chair, of an international development charity. There are transferable lessons, and personal skills, in sound governance for non-governmental voluntary organisations.

I shall continue contributing to enhancing the effectiveness, credibility and positive reputation of Railfuture as a challenging supporter of the rail industry at national and regional levels, and from that foundation to harnessing and supporting informed and constructive activism of our members regionally and locally.

As examples:

- ~ I have organised seven, soon eight, Rail User Group Awards, affirming the value of local activism and affording local promotional opportunities;
- ~ I co-ordinate our responses to a variety of consultations and calls for evidence;
- ~ I continue to offer strategic advice and guidance to individuals and organisations campaigning to extend access to the rail network by opening new stations and lines, such as the Windrush Line into West Oxfordshire and ACE Rail in north Devon to Bideford.

Railfuture and its members face strategic choices in campaigning for a bigger, better railway. Our most effective contribution is, I believe, our power of persuasion, our informed and jealously-guarded independent influence.

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The logo for Railfuture, featuring the word "railfuture" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The "rail" part is in black, and the "future" part is in a vibrant green color.

**Railfuture – run by volunteers to benefit rail users – Campaigning for a bigger better railway in Britain**

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Registered Office: Edinburgh House, 1-5 Bellevue Road, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7NP (for legal correspondence only)  
All other correspondence to 14 Ghent Field Circle, Thurston, Suffolk IP31 3UP