

# Vote Steven Heddle Number 1 for Kirkwall East



## It's not just the same old story

When we are all campaigning on similar issues it can be hard to differentiate between the candidates.

At 47 I'm still one of the younger candidates (!) but a difference this time is that I've been your councillor for the last 5 years. In this leaflet I set out some of the things I've done and what I think some of the issues are. On the back I say who I am and why I'm standing.

**STILL** Your open-minded, committed,  
enthusiastic, local candidate

<http://www.kw15.co.uk>

A new councillor can easily find the first few years to be a learning curve and end up in a comfort zone as a backbencher. After all, nobody can achieve anything on their own, so why bust a gut taking forward your own ideas - or so the wisdom goes.

I've not subscribed to that, and got stuck in as soon as I started in 2007.

**I've used my initiative to get things done:**

- successfully leading a campaign to have the new KGS built at the heart of the community, in a schools campus with a new Arts Theatre, when that wasn't even an option before I started
- placing more emphasis on attainment in schools
- successfully building a case to prevent the Christmas Bonus being stopped entirely, persuading my colleagues to retain it for the most needy, when initially I got no backing at all
- restoring Dounreay as a political issue for the Council, so that the OIC rep on the Dounreay Stakeholder Group is once more an elected member. As that rep, I have stood up for Orkney's interests.
- consistently opposing centralised procurement where this is unfair to local businesses, and working with officials to come up with ways that allows local participation.
- helping retain funding for the St Magnus Festival and Orkney Science Festival in the face of cuts in festival funding
- securing storage space for the Wireless Museum after they had to leave their existing OIC premises, despite indifference from officials
- championing the use of Facebook and Twitter to get the Council communicating better (still work to do here)
- challenging Northlink's introduction of photo ID and running a survey that got 1200 responses in two weeks.

**I've challenged the orthodoxy:**

- of routine enhanced early retirement
- of personal use of Council vehicles
- the 2009 OIC management restructure that put in place more senior managers
- of the Convener and Vice-convener being elected for the life of the council,

and used Notices of Motion (which force reports to come to the council) to get debates on the Sheltered Housing Wardens, procurement, and latterly to achieve an objective review of the Council's practice of Friends and Family expenses payments, with reference to an external body such as Audit Scotland.

**I've taken on responsibility and work:**

- as a member of 5 sub-committees, one as vice chair then chair
- as a member of 4 working groups
- as a member of 4 external bodies
- as vice-chair of Monitoring and Audit , then Education and Leisure
- and latterly as the chair of the Education and Leisure committee

**And tried to achieve the best for my constituents at all times** - leading to some of the most satisfying moments for me, e.g. when persuasion proves successful in getting a salt bin for the pavements at Rosebank, helping resolve issues with neighbours, getting dog dirt bins relocated, helping with housing queries, getting answers to questions...

There are too many to mention here, but I'm happy to share my thinking on any via [www.kw15.co.uk](http://www.kw15.co.uk).

Here is a selection of ones that exercise me:

**Care of the elderly is still an issue** - in Kirkwall this is linked to the new hospital project and new facilities will be built. But the cost of care from the council remains extortionate so private alternatives should be encouraged.

**The council should invest in Kirkwall** by matching funds raised if the Business Improvement District is approved, progressing a Townscape Heritage Initiative to attract external funds, supporting businesses in The Street through more short stay free parking and getting the empty car parks full again, and foster residents' associations such as KETRA.

**Residential parking** is also a problem in some areas such as East Road and around School Place - residents should be consulted on a possible permit scheme.

**Alternate weekly waste collection** approaches, despite opposition. But lessons learned in the pilot areas must be acted on, and flexibility offered. If it fails it should be rethought. Refusal to collect recycling that isn't inside a closed bin is unreasonable.

**Planning and roads** - Kirkwall's growth is outstripping its infrastructure, particularly to the northwest. A new coastal road could contribute to measures to prevent coastal flooding, and make it safer for walkers.

**Renewables should benefit the wider community** Kirkwall and St Ola should have a community wind turbine. The council should invest in or co-develop larger scale windfarms, not necessarily in Orkney, and progress ideas for a community energy company. National government must be pressured to ensure community benefit as a right, not a sop.

**Spending money wisely** Projects pursued by the council should have a sound business case. I'm sick of cheeseparing budgets when speculative developments costing millions get nodded through. Maybe we've saved too much, and should loosen the belt. Now is the time to shout, before the new council sets it priorities.

**Securing Orkney's influence** Local government reorganisation is always a threat, and the Council's Single Public Authority initiative is a bold idea to steer public policy rather than be steamrollered by it. This should be encouraged, and we should actively and single-mindedly promote the county at all political levels.

**Communication** The council still has a long way to go, although it is saying much more than it did 5 years ago, and has dabbled with Facebook and Twitter. It needs to use social media more effectively, and routinely volunteer more information than it does at present.

**If elected I'll be pursuing these, and more. I'm open to ideas, and what constituents have to say.**

**And I'm not forgetting that a councillor should be available and able to show up when required, and promptly and fairly help out with issues such as nuisance, roads, pavements, planning, street lighting...**

## Who

**I was born and brought up in Kirkwall.** After KGS I graduated from Aberdeen and Edinburgh Universities with a BSc and PhD in Physics and worked in R&D and engineering, before returning to Orkney in 1999.

**Since returning I've taken an active part in community life** by being a member of the Kirkwall Community Council, the School Board, Orkney College Management Council, and as one of your councillors for the last 5 years. I'm responsible for a number of websites, including [orkneycommunities.co.uk](http://orkneycommunities.co.uk) and [allaboutorkney.com](http://allaboutorkney.com) and through these have worked with dozens of community groups.



**I also run a business and technical consultancy**, and have advised hundreds of local businesses, as well as working across the Firth and in Shetland. I also work with HIE Orkney on IT and telecoms issues.

**I never wanted to end up anywhere else** and am committed to helping Orkney be a great place to grow up in, and grow old in.

## Why

**I'm standing because I want the Council to be active and forward looking**, and responsive to the wishes and needs of the people it serves. I have the drive, determination and sense to make a significant contribution to representing the people of Kirkwall East, and securing the future of the County.

**I'm motivated by the great satisfaction and pride I would derive from being able to represent you** - I'm not looking for a hobby or a supplement to my income.

**You should vote for me** as I take the responsibilities of being a councillor for the ward and for the county very seriously. I will represent your concerns and opinions firmly and with clarity. I will be well prepared for all meetings, actively participate in them, and research the background to issues.

**I'm determined to see everybody treated fairly**, and for the council to be accountable for the decisions it makes.

**If elected I will always be contactable and approachable** and will keep you informed.

## Contact me

With nearly 2000 households in the ward I'll not be able to speak to everybody before May 3rd, and you may have been out when this leaflet was delivered. If there is anything that you wish to discuss please get in touch using these contact details and I will respond or call round.

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