

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority: Self Nomination Form

Your Name: Graham Thomas

Your Appointing Authority or Body: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

How long have you been a member of the National Park Authority?: Nine years; Also a member of Brecon Beacons National Park Committee for another 11 years (1985-1996)

Post(s) for which you would like to self-nominate (please number in order of preference):

NB. A member cannot hold more than one Chair or Deputy Chair post but if members wish to stand for more than one post, putting your nomination in order of preference will enable the agenda to be managed in order to accommodate this.

Post	
Chair of the Authority	
Deputy Chair of the Authority	
Chair of Planning, Access and Rights of Way Committee	
Deputy Chair of Planning, Access and Rights of Way Committee	
Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee	
Deputy Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee	
Chair of Policy Forum	✓
Deputy Chair of Policy Forum	
Chair of Sustainable Development Fund Committee	
Deputy Chair of Sustainable Development Fund Committee	

Your Case for Appointment (maximum of 600 words)

Please do this for each post you would like to be considered for, but you do not need to do a separate statement for the posts of Chair and Deputy Chair of the same committee unless you wish to highlight different issues.

You should include:

- Your reasons for standing for the post
- What skills and experience you could bring to the post

- What you would like to achieve for the Authority and the committee

Write your Case(s) for Appointment here (Max 600 words)

I was educated in the University of Life forged on the anvil of necessity and graduated through tenacity.

On that long journey I have gained experience through a combination of my working life and representation of people both at work and in the community.

My main employment, before retirement, was as a Press Toolmaker with an indentured apprenticeship 1966 to 1971 and worked in that field for various companies, large and small, until my retirement in 2016. For 11 years of that period I worked as an Engineering Instructor and trained engineering apprentices in a dedicated training centre at Hoover, Merthyr Tydfil. This background has provided me with the insight of working within a key, albeit reduced, sector of the economy. One cornerstone of my vision of the way forward is through expansion of manufacturing within a green economy embracing renewable energy; fibre broadband connectivity, high tech "clean" industry. This has the potential to create a high skill/high wage economy helping to provide employment while reducing carbon footprint.

I developed organisational, representative, scrutiny and management skills through various positions held in my "other life" ranging from union Convenor and Community Councillor through to County Councillor and County Borough Councillor.

From 1985 to 1996 I was a member of Mid Glamorgan County Council and held the position of Chairman of Direct Services as one of the main standing committees of the day. During that period I was the Mid Glam., representative and member of Brecon Beacons National Park Committee that met in the old town hall buildings in Brecon.

From 2004/2008 I was a member of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Cabinet Member for Culture; Recreation and Tourism. This has provided me with key experience in management and delivery of key services that relate directly to Brecon Beacons National Park. From 2012 to the present day I have served as a member of RCT County Borough Council including holding the offices of Vice/Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Vice/Chairman of Finance and Performance Committee. During the last nine years at RCT Council I have served on Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and in recent years as the current Vice/Chairman of Policy Forum since its' inception.

I have served as Election Agent to two Members of Parliament, Ann Clwyd MP and Bethan Winter MP at four General Elections. I was also Election Agent to Vikki Howells MS at the 2021 Senedd Elections. The role of Election Agent required/provided experience in organisational; communication; finance/budget and leadership skills that are essential in delivering effective and efficient results.

We have just been through a period of crisis with Covid 19 and although restrictions continue to be amended there is still some time before a "normal" or "new normal" situation emerges. This followed a 10 year period of National Austerity; Brexit and a technological revolution, all of which will have impacted and continue to impact on decisions as we enter a new future.

Focus will be on protecting the National Park; enabling inclusive public engagement with the National Park; supporting living and working in the National Park. This will include reversing the loss in biodiversity; reducing carbon footprint; addressing the collapse in economic systems while enabling people to visit, work and live within the National Park, with sustainability at the centre of all our decisions. We are emerging into a changing and largely unknown scenario that will require our full and collective attention.

The post of Chairman of Policy Forum would benefit from the application of such personal skills, as outlined above. Our Forum, in itself, is key to involving members in the delivery of key policies to maximise effective and efficient management of the limited resources at our disposal.

I respectfully request your support to be elected as Chairman of Policy Forum.

Graham Thomas.