

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We have a new board voted for by you to help us deliver services and expand our home building ambitions in the coming years. Let us introduce you to them.



Nicola Somerville, Chair

Nicola has worked within the housing sector since 1998 covering many aspects from supported housing to more operational/strategic dimensions. She lives in Newport with her young family and brings a wealth of professional and personal experience to the board. She has been board chair since September 2017.



Alex Stephenson

Alex is the head of property services for Wales and West Housing Association. He has a housing career spanning more than 15 years and is a qualified accountant. Alex joined the board in September 2017 and cares passionately about delivering excellent customer service and Newport.



Chris England

Chris is an accountant and has been involved with us since before stock transfer in 2009, leading the shadow board through the transfer process. Chris was our first chair, a position he held until September 2015, when he was appointed chair of the audit and risk committee. Chris lived in Gaer for more than 15 years, before returning to Bassaleg in 2008.



Councillor Jane Mudd

Jane is the Newport City Council cabinet member for regeneration and housing. She is a full time principal lecturer in housing at Cardiff Metropolitan University, where she is the head of the department of social policy. She is a qualified and experienced housing practitioner, and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Housing (FCIH). Jane is our immediate past board chair and a former chair of the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru.



Kevin Ward

Kevin joined the board in September 2017 bringing his experience and skills from the publishing world, including being editor of the South Wales Argus (2012–2016). Kevin has lived in Newport since 1989, having grown up in Cwmbran and Worcester. He is currently managing director of Kevin Ward Media Ltd. He is passionate about Newport, its people and its potential. He is a sports fan and is a Newport County AFC season ticket holder and shareholder.



John HARRY

John originally trained as a chartered building surveyor and has worked in both the private and public sector. Prior to his retirement, John was chief executive of an NHS trust and, since retiring, has volunteered his experience and skills by helping a number of organisations. As well as being a long standing board member, John is currently the chair of Newport Live.



Cathy Bryant

Cathy is a lawyer at Blake Morgan LLP, where she provides corporate taxation and share option schemes advice. She has sat on a number of boards of directors and understands the issues facing businesses. Originally from South Africa, Cathy has lived and worked in Wales for nine years. She joined the audit and risk committee in 2016 to provide independent support. In September 2017, she became a board member and a member of the audit and risk committee.



Helen Taylor

Helen joined the board in September 2017. She is a lecturer in housing studies at Cardiff Metropolitan University where she teaches on modules relating to policy, research skills, and homelessness. Helen has previously held the role of board member for Tai Pawb and currently sits on the boards of Cymorth Cymru, Welsh Housing Quarterly and the Housing Studies Association.



Janice Morgan

Janice joined the board in September 2017. She has previously been a member of Newport County Borough Council, the chair of Gwent Homes, a founder member and vice chair of Family Care Housing Association and one of our involved residents. Janice set up Newport's first Women's Aid group. She was chair and treasurer of the Caerphilly and Newport MS Society, as well as treasurer and newsletter producer for her church.



Jayne Rose

Following Jayne's active involvement over a number of years in both the community and our activities, such as the challenge panel, she joined the board in 2014. Jayne is a resident of Pillgwenlly, has previously lived in Duffryn and is vice chair of the audit and risk committee.