

The Community Farm Personal Statements 2024

Ped Asgarian (*Standing for election*)

Ped is the Director of Feeding Bristol, a charity that is working to create a more equitable food system that meets the needs of all the citizens of Bristol. They work closely with a variety of stakeholders across the city, from grassroots organisations to local authority and the public health team; working with these stakeholders they produced the One City Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan in 2022. Ped would be able to support The Farm's work through both his experience of working within the local food system and running charitable organisations, and his knowledge of the issues associated with food inequality and injustice. He also brings a wealth of contacts and networks from across Bristol and the region. Ped is a founding member of Bristol Food Producers and has been a trustee there for the past 8 years and has formerly worked at The Community Farm. He is very excited to have the opportunity to come back and support the farm as it continues to grow and develop it's a positive impact.

Ian Cooper (*Standing for election for the first time*)

I am a qualified management accountant with 25 years of experience in the legal sector. I reside in Portishead with my wife, and we have grown-up children and grandchildren living nearby. Community work has always been a significant part of my life, I have volunteered as a helpline with national organizations for 15 years and served as a treasurer for a local charity more recently. The raison d'être of the Community Farm has inspired me to seek a position on the Management Committee. Whilst I recognize that I have much to learn about sustainable farming, I am eager to take on this challenge.

Elisa Tomissini (*Standing for election for the first time*)

I have lived in Bristol for the last 23 years and built a career in the Financial Services sector. I achieved my Chartered Accountant qualification in 2008, and since then I have been working in roles revolving around strategic business management, with the latest role focusing more on the commercial aspects. I am passionate about understanding key business drivers and using that understanding to drive business efficiency, so I would like to use the skills I have built over the last 20 years (in a very corporate environment) for a more altruistic purpose, while also feeling a sense of connection with my roots. I am originally from the north of Italy, a small and remote village in the Dolomites where growing your own vegetables is a standard way of life, but I have not been able to feel that connection since living in a city. I would love to support The Community Farm as a volunteer in any role that suits my skillset or where I can add value in any way, and hopefully learn something new along the way.