

Candidate Questions

Question	Candidate Answer
<p>“This is set to be a largely all-male board for the first time in a long time. With the fantastic growth of the City Women’s team, how are you going to continue and expand on our commitment to Women’s football and ensure Exeter City will still be leaders off the pitch when tackling sexism and other forms of discrimination at St James Park and on social media? And with reports of discrimination at the Bristol Rovers home game, what further policies would you put in place to ensure girls feel safe and welcome at SJP?”</p>	<p>It is very unfortunate that we will have a largely male TB and Club Board post the election. There will however be influential input from an officer and ex-Trustee.</p> <p>Meetings are open in part for anyone to join and contribute. Through encouragement and engagement we need to make members, particularly women, more aware of their ability to participate in this way.</p> <p>If re-elected it would be an ambition to see more secondment opportunities being introduced to increase diversity.</p> <p>We have over 40 Grecian Groups associated with the Club. Surprisingly we have left it to a minority of Clubs like Watford to entertain a specific “Women for Watford Supporters Club.” It is surprising we have not formed a group. Especially as the number of women and girls attending football matches at SJP has visibly increased substantially year on year since the 1990s.</p> <p>Hopefully such engagement will allow a more balanced submission to seek being a Trustee in future years.</p> <p>I am a member of both the Trust Community and Owners/Members work groups and both are aware and make progress on their responsibilities on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion level. I am also a member of the Club’s One Game, One Community Group whose focus is “Football for All.”</p> <p>Also secretary to the Women’s Technical Board and encouraging development of women and girls football. To promote the Women’s Team and keep momentum going I am keen to see them at SJP as much as possible. Accept that we have to protect our massive investment on the playing surface and not overuse it. But feel as a next step the Women’s team should have as many opportunities as the Men/Boys’ Academy U18’s and U23’s to use the facility.</p> <p>I was a member of the original Behaviour Task Force many years ago. That task force largely became redundant due key members not wanting to risk adversely affect the overall atmosphere. It did see stickers on seats, a stay on-side campaign and refocus of the 62277 text helpline.</p> <p>I was pleased to be asked to help with the new group established after the Bristol Rovers match. There are certainly things to be learnt from the positive atmosphere at the Women’s Euros (as opposed to the Men’s Euros). The new group seems to be following the same solutions of drip-feeding education through messages, videos and features. The group is extremely committed but ultimately needs your support. Please use 62277 and any other means to report all forms of anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The EFL “Enjoy the Match - TOGETHER” campaign could not be better timed to</p>

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	<p>support equality, diversity and inclusion. The ambition a season ago was to achieve a gate of 6000. To maintain this we need all supporters along the line “Football is nothing without fans.”</p>
<p>“Whilst accepting that such an event would almost certainly mean a vote of the membership, if, at some point, a certified viable and substantial offer came forward to invest in the club, from an individual, or a group, what would be your personal position, should the said investor wish to gain majority control of the club as a prerequisite of such investment.”</p>	<p>My personal view is that if the model isn’t broken why would you replace it? The Trust model has served us well. The Club has never had a 19 year history of development and growth like we have seen since 2003. I accept that progress has been and will always be slower due to having no “Substantial Individual/Business/National backer” but it has been a solid, stable and sustainable growth built on strong foundations. Take the Big Screen. Everyone knew it was needed and I recall the Club installing a temporary screen at the St James Road end, must be 10 years ago, to test reaction and confirm the commitment to “one day.” Available finance meant that “one day” arrived last season. The replacement of the Old Grandstand was another massive project delivered by the Club under the same “when we can finance it” proposal. OK it did not stretch the entire length of the pitch as I understand the landlord of “The Jungle Path” could not be tempted to part with their property because of their own strategic need for the land in an emergency. I believe in our model and quite honestly can’t understand why more Clubs have not followed our lead. Everyone in football seems to speak favourably of our Club but at the critical time prefer quick money in the hope of immediate success. Finally, nobody credibly stood up to take over besides the Trust in 2003. There is no reason to suggest that situation has changed in 2022. Nothing has ever caused the Trust Board to consider what would be the criteria for non-Democratic ownership. From past experience it is hard to believe that any alternative ownership would be able to guarantee substantially they would be a rival in the best long-term interest of the Club, members and our supporters. Over the next few years it will be interesting to see the roll out of the Government Fan Led Review and how that impacts on Club ownership and any preferential move towards our model. We could not do it without you. TOGETHER.</p>
<p>“Given the Trust’s stated aim “to make the match-day experience at Exeter City FC a premier experience, unrivalled by our competitors” and recent improvements to the fan experience in both the Adam Stansfield Stand undercroft and Selco Stand Hospitality area would you support the need for improving the fan experience in both the Park Building and external Fan Zone eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve ventilation / reduce overcrowding in the Famous Exeter 	<p>Plans have been flexibly in progress to improve the Park and external Fan Zone. They are constantly being evolved and reviewed which has resulted in no definitive plan so far. I was under the impression that some were a possible action for last summer. Indeed the Thatcher’s patio bar had a revamp but not as extensive as had been considered. Both projects must be completed as soon as the finance is in place. However, I would not advocate making any expensive interim improvements that do not build</p>

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<p>City Real Ale and Cider Emporium Bar / provide a sales point direct into the Fanzone;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide cover to and somewhere to put drinks on in the Fan Zone; provide better facilities for those providing entertainment in the Fan Zone ? <p>If not, why not ?”</p>	<p>into and work towards the overall refurbishment of the infrastructure once the Club are owners of the Park building and Fan Zone.</p> <p>It is definitely projects that the Ownership and Membership Work Group need to continue to task the Club Supporter Engagement Committee to prioritise.</p> <p>I am extremely proud of my contribution, enthusiasm and energy over the years to help improve the welcome that all our supporters receive across the board at Exeter City. My colleagues in the Ambassador Team do a fantastic job in this respect.</p> <p>I have always understood that it is only be a true commitment to customer service that any organisation can continue to develop and grow.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many Trust meetings have you attended in the last 12 months? Do you have any family or financial ties to Exeter City AFC or any other potential conflicts of interest? 	<p>I have attended all TBs in the last 3 years.</p> <p>I am a long standing very minor shareholder (inherited) in Exeter City. I am also minute secretary to Old Tiverton Road (Exeter) limited which was created by interest free Director loans to buy and hold the Park building for the benefit of Exeter City to purchase by settling the loans as soon as possible. All rent paid by the Club goes towards reducing the Director’s loans. The company was set up to provide no benefit for the Directors.</p> <p>I am secretary to the Exeter CITY Community Trust who receive sponsorship from ECFC. CCT is a standalone charity that in part has a service level agreement with ECFC. The basic template is provided by EFL Trust.</p> <p>Whilst I see these as a positive for Trust and members I have made the appropriate declarations of interest at meetings and abstain.</p> <p>I receive no financial benefit from the Trust or Club for whom I have been a volunteer in one role or another since the age of 12.</p>
<p>"What action do you intend to take to finally sort the Stagecoach bar serving issues? There is always an unacceptable wait to be served, especially at half time. If you leave at the half time whistle you are unlikely to be served before the second half starts. The club is clearly losing revenue as many people simply give up waiting. One solution maybe to start serving before the half time whistle, i.e. anticipate the demand?"</p>	<p>The service at all our refreshment points is and always has been a concern. There are some units that are restricted by size. The Club simply could not squeeze more staff in them.</p> <p>I have continually advocated hawkers to be employed and more staff where the units can support them.</p> <p>Reluctance to adopt a pre-pouring regime has also been a serious irritation. But understand when this has been trialled supporters have insisted on a freshly poured pint!</p> <p>Staffing levels of these points appear to be the same as for our days of 4000 gates. Even in those days my Ambassador Team took responsibility to try and direct queues. There is a need for smarter working and extra staff where we have space. Interestingly here has been a recent advert for programme sellers and I expect the reality will highlight that there continues to be no casual labour market for working</p>

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	<p>1-2 hours 23 times a year.</p> <p>When I ran the catering service many years ago I thought I had a winning formula. But found that the staff were unavailable during Christmas, holiday periods and from February when exam preparation took over.</p> <p>I know the bars struggle to obtain Agency staff because of the short working period and infrequency.</p> <p>It's a work in progress for the Ownership and Membership Work group and the Club Supporter Experience Committee.</p>
<p>In the last year what 3 key things have you done actively support the Trust?</p>	<p>I have been a member of and contributed to the Ownership and Membership Work Group, Community Work Group and Trust Finance Group.</p> <p>I have supported and organised events, zooms (Fans Forums).</p> <p>I am a member of a group working with the Club to develop the penetration of Trust membership.</p>