

Steven Chown - 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>We have made important steps to make the game more inclusive but there is still a long way to go in tackling the discrimination and misogyny that still persists. In terms of practical steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support #HerGameToo campaign Work with @HerGameToo_ECFC Continue Trust sponsorship of Exeter City Women’s Team Support the growth and expansion of This Girl Can sessions, building on the success of sessions for girls aged 12+ at Wonford Work with other Board members to increase diversity on the Board and membership of the Trust
<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>The Supporters Trust model has served the Football Club and Supporters well for nearly 20 years, bringing success and stability after the grim, dark days of the Russell and Lewis era. Next year will be the 20th anniversary of Trust ownership of the Club. This is something to celebrate. If the Club continues to be well-run and resources used wisely, it would take an extraordinary set of circumstances to relinquish ownership.</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</p>	<p>Suggestions from supporters on how to improve the match day experience are welcome. The Supporters Trust needs to work with the commercial team at the Club to test these ideas in terms of feasibility, practicality</p>

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<p>Building and external Fan Zone eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve ventilation / reduce overcrowding in the Famous Exeter City Real Ale and Cider Emporium Bar / provide a sales point direct into the Fanzone; • 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>and cost. As a regular at the FECRACE Bar I can see the overcrowding can be not just be uncomfortable but off-putting for first time visitors, who we want to return. Some improvements have been made including the one way system at the FECRACE bar even though this has meant us NDG supporters losing ‘their’ place in the corner of the bar!</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>1. Two including the AGM. I have raised the issue of putting the agenda of forthcoming meetings on the Trust website, so Trust members can know in advance what will be discussed. I would want to discuss how to encourage more Trust members to attend to get a diversity of views and questions.</p> <p>2. I am currently the CEO of Exeter Community Initiatives, charity partner of the Supporters Trust. I will be stepping down from this role at the end of the year. The Secretary and Returning Officer have been notified of this conflict.</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 new Stagecoach Stand is one area I have not experienced a match day. Catering is an important part of the match day experience. Unacceptable waiting times need to be addressed. Options of how to improve the service should be discussed with the commercial team at the Club.</p>
<p>In the last year what 3 key things have you done actively support the Trust?</p>	<p>As CEO of Exeter Community Initiatives I have worked with the Trust on joint campaigns including appeals to support disadvantaged</p>

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	<p>families the City and ensuring many fans who may not have the opportunity, get to see a game. If elected my role will change but with my knowledge and understanding of the charitable and community sector in Exeter I will seek to further the aims of the Trust to be a social benefit organisation.</p>