

# THE



**co-operative  
party**

Members' Magazine Autumn/Winter 2021

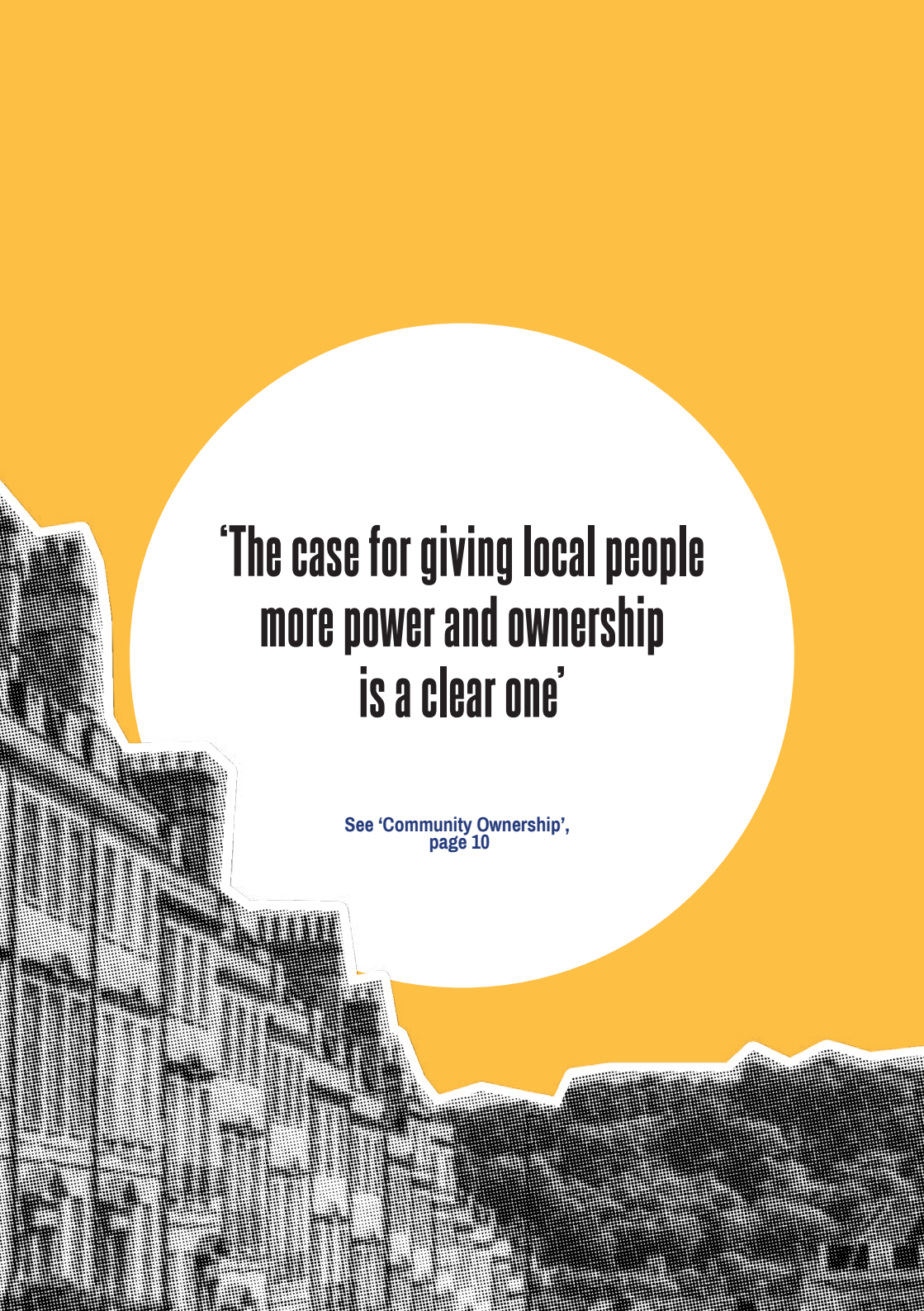
# PIONEER



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**‘The case for giving local people  
more power and ownership  
is a clear one’**

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page 10



# Welcome to your latest edition of The Pioneer

**W**elcome to the new edition of 'The Pioneer: Building Community Power'. I must start by thanking our members and supporters right across the country – your commitment and dedication to our Party and co-operative movement is humbling and hugely valued.

Our last edition of the Pioneer profiled a range of the record 900+ candidates our Party stood in the 2021 elections. I'm pleased to say that post-election our Party is represented at all levels like never before – the Party now boasts record numbers of Councillors, MSs, MSPs, Metro Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners.

Our election successes bring us greater opportunity to influence public policy and represent our movement. The theme for this Pioneer and our Annual Conference

is 'Building Community Power'. We have seen the need for community power like never before over the last period of time. For me Community Power encapsulates much of what we are trying to achieve as a Party, whether it be ownership and influence over vital community assets, high streets, services or local economies. It's great to see so many fantastic contributors looking at these themes through this edition.

I hope you enjoy it and I hope our collective values and principles continue to inspire us to co-operate and be a positive force in politics, community and at home.

Joe Fortune, General Secretary

## THE PIONEER

Tel: 02073674150  
Email: mail@party.coop  
Editorial enquiries: Georgia O'Brien.

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Our membership rates increase by inflation each year. This helps us to build and develop our work, while also ensuring that increases are kept small. The NEC has put forward a 2% increase to membership rates for 2022 – this will be voted on this autumn and if agreed the new rates will start in January. If you would like to change or discuss your membership, please contact membership@party.coop

2022 Membership Rates: Higher/Solidarity Rate: £5.25 per month or £63.00 per year; Standard Rate: £3.25 per month or £39.00 per year; Reduced Income Rate: £2.25 per month or £27.00 per year.



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# WHY FAN OWNERSHIP IS VITAL



**Ian Murray**  
Edinburgh South MP  
Labour

**O**ver recent months, we have seen the best and worst of our beloved game.

The events of Euro 2020 reminded us of what football can provide: the euphoria and heartbreak we collectively endured as new tales and iconic moments entered folklore, demonstrating what can happen when we all share in the game.

But this celebration of our sport was in stark contrast to previous months, when in April plans for a European Super League created widespread anger, as owners of a select number of elite clubs attempted to ride roughshod over the values and traditions of football, and worst of all the lifeblood of the game – the fans.

This showed football at its worst: a broken model where those fans and communities that built these elite clubs over a century were

no longer considered.

And it is this utter disregard for those to whom football matters the most that we must safeguard against if we are to learn the lessons of these disastrous proposals. If there was a silver lining from this debacle it is that who owns our cherished clubs is now top of the agenda.

Because rather than distant owners, it is the interests of fans and the communities football clubs serve that should truly shape our sport.

And fan ownership – ensuring supporters have a genuine stake – is vital.

The Co-operative Party has long championed fan ownership, something I put into practice with my beloved Hearts FC in Edinburgh when they were threatened with extinction as a result of neglectful owners





who cared little for the community and supporters our club had served for generations.

In 2013, I became chairman of the Foundation of Hearts supporters' co-operative (<https://www.foundationofhearts.org>), bringing tens of thousands of fans together as we fought for the future of our club – and eventually ensured the historic moment of Hearts becoming a majority fan-owned club.

Because we know it is fans and communities, not closed leagues, that make football great.

We saw it in the West of Edinburgh, when we came together to save our team. We saw it with the outpouring of support for Scotland at the Euros, we saw it with people rallying to support the England players as they faced horrendous racial abuse. We feel it outside stadiums across the UK, when fans set-up food banks, projects for the elderly, learning for the young and so much more to help others in their community.

These communities aren't "legacy fans" – they are the life and soul of their local teams.

We must ensure that the "fan led" review of football

brings with it the necessary changes to support local fans and communities to own their own clubs.

It's now time to continue pushing the co-operative solution of fan ownership. By putting fans and communities first, we can fix the broken model of football - safeguarding the social, economic, and cultural benefits of our beloved game for generations to come. ●

# COMMUNITY LARDERS

## CO-OPERATION MEANS TAKING PART AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE



**Anna Birley**  
Policy Officer  
Co-operative Party

**C**ommunity fridges are a space where everyone can share surplus food, and where everyone who wants or needs can access great food free of charge.

As well as improving access to food, the fridges go beyond this by empowering communities to connect with each other, and learn new skills through activities such as cookery sessions and workshops on how to grow your own fruit and veg. The fridges are hubs for the community – they help people share skills, build local communities, tackle food waste and help the environment.

Hubbub coordinates the world's largest community fridge network – and their potential just got bigger with a new partnership with the Co-op Group, helping to expand the network to 250 community fridges over the next year.

Food is at the heart of the co-operative movement. The Rochdale Pioneers came together to ensure their community could access good quality food at a fair price. The co-operative model is not just about having

the radical ideas to create a fairer economy, but taking the practical steps to make it happen from the bottom up.

As members of the Co-op today, the partnership with Hubbub shows the difference that co-operative business can still make today. We're a campaigning movement,

**'The co-operative model is not just about having the radical ideas to create a fairer economy, but taking the practical steps to make it happen from the bottom up.'**

standing up for food justice, but we're also ready to participate and make change happen in our own communities. This is possible because members take part – using the democratic structures of the Co-op to set campaigning priorities and by getting involved at a local level too, one community fridge at a time.

There are so many ways that you too can make a difference. Find your local community fridge at [hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge](https://hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge) – when you've tracked it down, why not share surplus food that you're not going to use? Perhaps you're an avid gardener with a glut you can share to those in need, or you're moving house and have spare food to donate. Take food from the fridge too – it's for everyone to use and by using up perfectly surplus food you're reducing food waste and helping our environment.

Above all, it's about taking part and caring for our community – enshrined in our co-operative values and principles and equally relevant now as they ever were.

**'As members of the Co-op today, the partnership with Hubbub shows the difference that co-operative business can still make today. We're a campaigning movement, standing up for food justice, but we're also ready to participate and make change happen in our own communities.'**







# PUTTING PARTICIPATION AT THE HEART OF THE CO-OP GROUP



**Denise Scott-McDonald**  
President of Co-operative Group  
National Members' Council

I've always been interested in politics, but I found my political home when I got involved in the co-operative movement. I like that we're an outward looking movement, full of positive ideas and doers who want to have a positive impact. I've been a Labour & Co-operative councillor in Greenwich for many years, and, inspired by the co-operative way of doing business and doing politics, stood for the Co-op Group's national members council.

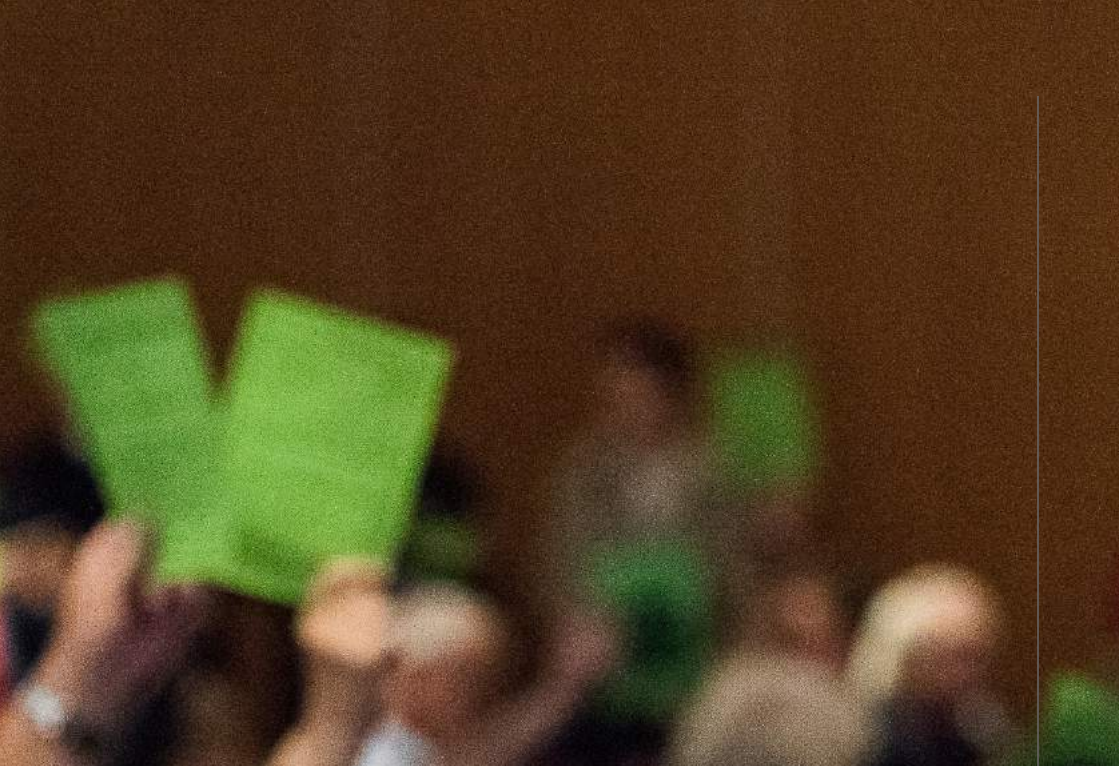
Last summer, when George Floyd was killed by a white police officer, Steve Murrells was among the first to address the issue head on. When I was a little black girl growing up in Lewisham, racism wasn't much talked about outside our own community – but here were people who didn't look like me saying loudly and clearly

that black lives matter.

It felt like a watershed moment, and I am so proud to be the NMC's first black president. Equality is at the heart of what it means to be a co-operator and we have a long history of standing up against racial inequalities, from cotton workers boycotting to American slave owners to co-operatives joining the anti-Apartheid struggle in the 1980s and our longstanding commitment to Fairtrade.

Equality and inclusion are a journey, and one that I am pleased the Co-op Group is making good progress along. Our board is one of the most diverse of any national business – but we can do more to support more BAME colleagues





into management roles. We're publishing our ethnicity pay gap, and can use our campaigning voice to call on government to make this mandatory for all businesses. We're developing a new anti-racism curriculum in our Co-op Academies, supporting black-owned businesses in our supply chains, and ensuring more of our community funds support projects including BAME beneficiaries.

Underpinning my work as NMC president is a strong belief in doing things with not to people. I want to make sure we communicate better with our members, including ways to share their views. Part of our role on the NMC is to hold the board to account, so I want to improve our

definition of what accountability looks like in practice. It isn't enough to have democratic structures in place - accountability requires strong, empowered communities having their voices heard. We do some things well in this area, but I hope to help more members and colleagues know about the council and understand how to participate.

And I hope that by opening up our work on the council we can work out how to become more inclusive and representative. It shouldn't be harder for someone from a black or Asian background to be involved in leading the co-operative sector, so we have work to do to fix this. ●

**'Equality is at the heart of what it means to be a co-operator and we have a long history of standing up against racial inequalities'**



The Long Read

# COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP



**Jim McMahon MP**

Chair of the Co-operative Party  
Shadow Transport Secretary

**F**or many communities across the country, change is too often something that happens to them, rather than with them.

It's something we have all seen in our town centres, for instance, where our high streets suffer when local buildings and community assets are taken over or closed down for good – with no regard for the feelings or needs of the local community.

Instead changes are imposed on them, driven by the interests of overseas investors, profit-seeking absentee landlords, distant wealthy individuals and others to whom the impact on the wider community simply isn't a consideration.

The Government has sat by while banks vacate the high street, including those we bailed out following the banking crisis. The same is true of post offices, again

owned by the government, and of course damaging cuts to local councils hitting at the heart of local community facilities including libraries.

The case for giving local people and communities more power and ownership is a clear one, and one the Co-operative Party has been making for some time. But we haven't just been arguing our point: we've been putting our ideas into action and helping communities across the country preserve the spaces and places they love most.

Take pubs, for example. Still right at the very heart of community life, they don't just provide us with a place to drink, but are places to socialise, convene, share in occasions as a hub of our towns and villages, and to feel connected as a community.

But we have seen the risk that pubs face, when too often they are seen as ideal opportunities for profitable redevelopment by those same distant property developers who have no regard for the impact the closure of this community heart may have.

So as part of our "Love It? List It!" campaign, we've been helping people come together to have a greater say in development plans for their area. The first step for many communities is "listing" these pubs (or parks,





**'I'm proud that areas like mine are building community power and taking matters into their own hands: coming together to make their voices heard on local changes that affect the places they love.'**

buildings, post offices and other facilities in their areas) as an Asset of Community Value, or 'ACV'.

An ACV listing gives the community a valuable opportunity to step in if a community asset is sold off. Should the owner of a pub decide to sell up to a property developer who intends to turn it into luxury flats, the owner must first notify the council and in doing so provide the community with six weeks to say whether they intend to make a bid.

It's something we have recently utilised in my constituency of Oldham West and Royton, where we listed Bardsley's Daisyfield Inn as an ACV.

I was pleased to provide the application with a support letter,

and delighted that the pub has since been granted its status as an ACV. This means that should the pub ever attempt to be sold for redevelopment, the community will be given a legal opportunity to prevent it.

ACVs are a useful tool for communities to take a greater stake in the area that we live in, and we need to ensure more are making the most of the protections they provide. But we also need to give communities more than just a six-week window with a "right to bid", and instead give them a true "right to buy", where communities have first-refusal on community assets. They also need greater funding support too – the communities most at risk of losing vital spaces often





cannot quickly raise the large sums required to buy a building and bring it into community ownership without support.

I'm proud that areas like mine are building community power and taking matters into their own hands: coming together to make their voices heard on local changes that affect the places they love. Now it's time to make sure that every community has the tools and support they need not just to have a say, but also have a real ownership stake in the places and spaces they call home.

We all must step up and lead from the front. At a time of deep frustration in politics, when people feel voting often doesn't matter, and

when everyday people are disempowered by a distance and indifferent government, we must show there is another way. ●



Pictured: Labour & Co-operative MP Jim McMahon with People Powered Retrofit, Manchester

# OUR 2021 ELECTION WINS

This May, we had one of our best ever set of election results – smashing records across the country.

## 16 MEMBERS OF THE SENEDD

(up 5) giving us our largest ever group of MSs at the heart of the Welsh Government.

## 11 MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

(up 4) - our best result yet and ensuring a strong voice for Co-operative politics at Holyrood.

# 11 MEMBERS OF THE LONDON ASSEMBLY

(up 4) meaning the whole group at City Hall is now Labour and Co-operative.

# 5 METRO MAYORS

(up 2) with Andy Burnham in Greater Manchester, Tracy Brabin in West Yorkshire and Nik Johnson in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

# 7 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

(up 4) working to build safer, stronger and more co-operative communities

# 313 COUNCILLORS ELECTED

a fantastic result with a net gain of 145.  
It means we now have a record

# 938 CO-OPERATIVE COUNCILLORS

standing up for their communities in town halls right across the country, gaining seats from Cornwall to Northumberland, Bury, Rotherham, Maidstone and Surrey. We now have seats on the majority of British councils for the first time!

# the conversation

## VIDYHA ALAKESON

Vidhya Alakeson is the CEO of Power to Change, an independent trust established in 2015 to support the growth of community businesses across England with the goal of creating more prosperous and cohesive communities.



### **Who owns our high streets, and why does it matter?**

Ownership of our high streets is fragmented and often remote. That means that many of those who own high street properties have no long-term interest in the place itself. That creates a lot of perverse incentives that damage our high streets such as properties being more valuable to remote investors if they are empty than if rents are lowered to get something to happen inside them. It also



makes it harder to change our high streets because local authorities rarely own significant chunks of it.

### **What are some of the challenges facing our high streets?**

Retail has been the backbone of the high street but long-term trends, accelerated by the pandemic, are seeing a lot of chain retail on our high streets collapse. This leads to empty shops, a loss of economic activity locally and a sense of decline. But high streets are vital to our towns and villages. They shape the identity of places and bring communities together. In many cases, they are the very soul of a place so they must be reimagined not left to die.

### **The Co-operative Party's high streets campaign looks not simply at saving our high streets, but completely transforming them. What would you change about Britain's highstreets, and why?**

I agree. We can't bring back the high streets we had. We need to reimagine high streets as civic and community spaces. The key thing I would change is to put communities right at the heart of high streets, giving them a greater say over what happens and also more opportunities to own and manage buildings on the high street. Community Improvement Districts could play an important role here, giving communities a real say over how high streets are run.

### **Power to Change works with and supports community businesses already making change happen on our high streets – can you share some of your favourite examples of communities who are transforming their town centres?**

I love what Nudge Community Builders are doing on Union Street in Plymouth. Bit by bit they are taking ownership of empty, unused buildings on the street and bringing them back to life. By going building by building, they can really ensure that what they are doing is in line with what local people need and want. I'm also really impressed with what Midsteeple

Quarter are doing on the high street in Dumfries. They have developed a new, community-led vision for the high street and are rapidly buying up properties to make it happen.

### **How can we expand community ownership?**

There is a real opportunity as we emerge out of the pandemic to snap up empty properties to accelerate community ownership before these properties fall into the hands of owners with little interest in the long-term future of our towns and cities. Government, both central and regional, should grab this opportunity and kick start a High Streets Buyout Fund to do just this, by responding quickly and supporting community ownership. ●

**'We can't bring back the high streets we had. We need to reimagine high streets as civic and community spaces. The key thing I would change is to put communities right at the heart of high streets'**

# VALERIE BOSSMAN-QUARSHIE

Cllr Valerie Bossman-Quarshie was elected as a Councillor in 2021 and represents Burnhill Ward on Islington Council.



## **Why did you decide to put yourself forward for election?**

The reason why I put myself forward as a Labour & Co-operative councillor was because as a community champion I always want to advocate, to challenge injustices and bring about true equality. It is incumbent on me and

all Labour and Co-operative members to build and support the idea of sharing wealth and power for all, at council level. However, the slogan is not just one to slap on a piece of merchandise but to ensure we spread the message and build a more inclusive and diverse movement. So that we get a

Labour and Co-operative Government that will truly care for all and build back better!

### **Why did you want to be a Co-operative councillor?**

The reason why I wanted to be a Labour and Co-operative councillor was because of the campaigning spirit. Championing vital issues that concern local and national citizens across the globe. From paying local farmers their fair share of wages to ensuring that shop workers receive their dignity, care, and safety at work. For me personally, the interaction at the doorstep as a canvasser has enabled me to cement those fundamental community conversations on some of the most vital decisions. The idea on how wealth is shared fairly all comes down to how we equip ordinary folk to engage in politics and understand that we all have a part to play. This for me is sharing power at the table of equity to build better representation.

### **Can you tell us about the support you received from the Co-operative Party?**

I have played a pivotal role within my community campaigning with groups like CAFOD, because as a member of the UK Ghanaian diaspora the Food Justice Campaign at home and abroad has meant so much to me. Receiving pamphlets, online resources like motions, letter templates for lobbying politicians for various campaigns like the Food Justice Campaign from the Co-operative Party, which enabled me to be proactive, share and equip me with knowledge and understanding on vital policy

areas. I have also benefited from the Equalities group forum/committees training and weekly seminars. The Co-operative Candidate Development Programme led by Emma Hoddinott was amazing and my favourite to hoard onto are the Pioneer magazines, which are always filled with plenty of information on campaigns and ideas for great policy and membership mobilisation group activities.

If you are thinking about becoming a councillor, sign up to the candidate development programme today. ●

**‘The idea on how wealth is shared fairly all comes down to how we equip ordinary folk to engage in politics and understand that we all have a part to play.’**

Sign up to the  
Candidate Development  
Programme at:  
[www.party.coop/  
candidate-development](http://www.party.coop/candidate-development)

# NORTHERN IRELAND: CO-OPERATION AND DIVERSITY



**Sandra Wilson**  
Member  
Co-operative Party

**H**ere in NI the Co-operative Party is sensitive to diversity in all its forms, and has welcomed the formation of the Equalities Networks. As a disabled, female member of the Party, I am honoured to have been elected onto the committees for both the (dis)Ability and Women's Networks.

My small contribution, apart from serving on committees, speaking at conferences and promoting trade union engagement with the party, has involved setting up cross-community based groups to encourage that co-operative ethos and awareness of different ways to organise, including all regarding of

diversity.

Over 24% of Northern Irish identify as disabled, many as the result of The Troubles, this makes organising and creating co-operative opportunities more challenging.

Small cross-community activities such as mother and toddler, art or cookery classes create the environment where people from all diverse areas of our society feel safe to engage.

Individual communities are working together to support residents in any number of ways. Co-operative farms, fuel provision and housing are all starting to deliver co-operative ideals.

From little acorns, great oaks grow, small community groups create big ideas that we in the co-operative movement are working with, to put co-operation in the heart of Northern Ireland. Ours is a people-powered movement after all! ●



# SCOTLAND: CO-OPERATIVE PRIORITIES



**Monica Lennon**  
Central Scotland MSP

I was delighted to stand as a Scottish Co-operative Party candidate at the Scottish Parliament election in May.

As a candidate supporting the policies set out in the *Owning the Future: A Co-operative Agenda for Scotland 2021*. I am also pleased to say that thanks to the work of the Scottish Co-operative Party, there was a co-operative thread running right through Scottish Labour manifesto.

Along with Daniel Johnson MSP, I have been elected as the Co-Convenor of the Scottish Co-operative Party Group of MSPs, we will be working with the party

and the wider co-operative movement to make the case for a fairer, more co-operative Scotland throughout this session of the Scottish Parliament.

Amongst our priorities will be:

- Growing the co-operative economy
- Delivering a People's Scotrail – run in the interests of passengers and workers
- Enshrining the Right to Food in Scots Law
- Revitalising our high streets
- Making sure that businesses pay their way – no public funds for tax avoiders
- Delivering a just transition to a zero-carbon economy. ●

# WALES: A CO-OPERATIVE NATION



**Julie James**  
Swansea West MS  
Minister for Climate Change

I don't believe there has ever been a more exciting time to be a Co-operative Party member in Wales. At the Senedd election no less than 16 Labour & Co-operative MSs were elected, and some of them, including myself, are now ministers in the Welsh Government.

We aim to take as our blueprint for action the Co-operative Agenda for Wales 2021 "Owning the Future". As part of that, we already have in place a Minister for the Co-operative Economy, but our search for co-operative solutions to Wales' problems will reach across government.

Within my own portfolio I'll work to support and grow the co-operative housing sector, explore

worker-ownership options in our transport system, as well as supporting community controlled renewable energy and driving through leasehold reform.

There is much to do; but Wales can lead the UK in nurturing co-operative models. And that is what we intend to do. ●

**"There is much to do; but Wales can lead the UK in nurturing co-operative models. And that is what we intend to do."**

# CAMPAIGNS: UNLOCK THE HIGHSTREET



**James Butler**  
Campaigns Officer,  
Co-operative Party

**W**e are experiencing one of the largest and most significant social and economic changes in our lifetime, it's happening in plain sight and yet is going on almost unremarked. The latest research shows that a high street worth of shops closed down every 24 hours in the first half of the year. Reassuringly familiar shops like Debenhams and Peacocks have disappeared altogether, the Arcadia Group has gone into administration, and other household names have significantly reduced their high street presence.

Shuttered shops are not a new problem – so the solution cannot be a return to the status quo. To unlock the potential of our high streets we

cannot simply tinker around the edges. Instead, we need to be radical, putting communities in the driving seat not to save their high streets but to change them completely for the better.

The Co-op Party's latest campaign, Unlock the High Street, seeks to highlight the dramatic change, and encourage practical action to turn high streets around. Write a letter, send a tweet, share stories on social media, take a motion to your council. There are actions which each and every member of the Co-op Party can do to unlock our high streets. ●

Join the campaign.

[www.party.coop/  
UnlockTheHighStreet](http://www.party.coop/UnlockTheHighStreet)

# POLICY: COMMUNITY POWER



**Anna Birley**  
Policy Officer,  
Co-operative Party

**T**his autumn we have been thinking a lot about community power – how can we build it and what can it achieve? While we campaign for a Labour & Co-operative Government, we can also make a difference today in our local communities. We know that, as co-operators, change begins from the bottom, and it's only by taking part and working with others that we can make it happen.

In May, we have local elections across the country. From parish councils to central London, these elections mark an opportunity to improve people's lives and create a fairer, more co-operative economy.

Whether you're a candidate, a

sitting councillor or a member of the public, you can take this opportunity to build community power by making sure it sits at the heart of your local Labour & Co-operative manifesto.

Our "12 Ideas" offer you practical ways to make a difference – from food justice to credit unions. This list is there as a resource to help you ensure co-operative ideas and issues feature in your manifesto. You can use the examples of local councils who have already put these into practice to convince your colleagues that they are practical and impactful, and access our resources and policy expertise to help to tailor them to the challenges your local area faces.

They are more than a to-do list for councillors, they offer anyone with an interest in local government a practical way to work co-operatively in local areas. ●

Find out more:

[www.party.coop/  
local/candidates/  
toolkit/](http://www.party.coop/local/candidates/toolkit/)

# EQUALITIES



**Chantal Lee**  
Equalities Officer,  
Co-operative Party

It has been a busy few months for our equalities work with lots of new projects taking off as well as ongoing brilliant work from our members, here is a snapshot of the past few months.

**Chris Herries:** Many of you will know that in memory of our friend Chris Herries we launched a mentoring scheme for women. We have been able to match 11 fantastic mentors from across the Co-op movement with some excellent women from all over the United Kingdom. With regular meetings already taking place we are seeing some great work being done and a legacy that is fitting for Chris.

**Diverse Councils:** Building on the brilliant work of the Welsh Local Government Association we are proud to have launched a working group of councillors from across England that will be looking at how we can diversify council chambers from Truro to Newcastle and everywhere in between.

**Equalities Networks:** We have recently seen some great events held by our Equalities Networks including LGBTQ+ specific councillor training, a Celebration of Windrush Day and policy submission sessions. Each of our networks also hosted an event as part of our conference this year. You can catch the sessions on our YouTube page.

**Training:** We continue to roll out online training covering topics such as Unconscious Bias and Sexual Harassment and are pleased to have partnered with the JLM to deliver antisemitism training. Keep an eye on your emails for further roll out details in the autumn. ●

To opt-in to any of the Networks, please visit [party.coop/equalities](http://party.coop/equalities).



# NEW FACES AT THE PARTY



**Emma Foody**  
Assistant General  
Secretary



**Emma Hoddinott**  
Assistant General  
Secretary



**John Cook**  
Regional Organiser  
(East, South East, London)

The last few months have seen a number of changes within our staffing team here at the Co-operative Party. Earlier in the summer Karen Wilkie, who has served as our Deputy General Secretary for 13 years, retired from the role. We are all very grateful for the support and guidance she has provided the organisation for so long.

Emma Foody joined the team as Assistant General Secretary (Membership and Organisation) whilst Emma Hoddinott moved into the role of Assistant General Secretary (Representation and Political Affairs).

We've also seen our team further bolstered with John Cook joining as our Regional Organiser for the East, South East and London, and Huw Lewis as our Political and Membership Officer in Wales. Our communications offer has also been added to with

Georgia Horsfall joining the team in August and Oliver Goulden in June.

Supporting our member activity and campaigning is at the heart of our work, and with our new team members in place it's exciting to think what we can achieve together.

If you're interested in getting in touch with any of the team, please contact us at [mail@party.coop](mailto:mail@party.coop). ●



**Huw Lewis**  
Political and Membership  
Officer (Wales)



**Georgia Horsfall**  
Communications Assistant



**Oliver Goulden**  
Digital Officer



Scan to apply

# Let's make things **better** together

Our Member Pioneers are the sparks that make great things happen in their community. You don't need experience or qualifications to become a Member Pioneer - just community spirit.

As a Member Pioneer you'll connect Co-op members, colleagues and local causes to make a difference where you live. You'll help us build stronger communities by offering fair access to food, mental wellbeing support and access to education and employment for young people.

If you care about your community, want to make things fairer and create positive change where you can, we'd love to hear from you.

## **Become a Member Pioneer**

Find out more and apply at [communityspirit.co.uk](https://communityspirit.co.uk)



**It's what we do**

# WE BELIEVE IN A SOCIETY WHERE WEALTH AND POWER ARE SHARED.

Our Party is powered and funded by members like you. Your regular contributions help us fight elections, win campaigns, and be a louder voice for our movement.

Thanks to you, in the past few months we have changed the law in Scotland, won campaigns on everything from food justice to protecting our pollinators, and had our most successful set of elections yet.

**But we can't stop there: going into a difficult winter, we need to hold this Government to account, support our local communities, and continue to champion our movement.**

We know times are tough, but can you chip in an extra donation to help us build a fairer future?

## SOLIDARITY RATE

*£5.20 per month*

- \* Help us make a difference and scale up our work
- \* Free pin to say thanks

## 100 CLUB RATE

*£8.33 per month*

- \* Help us make a difference and scale up our work
- \* Free pin to say thanks
- \* Free gift from our Shop
- \* Free tickets to our events

## 1917 CLUB RATE

*£19.17 per month*

- \* Help us make a difference and scale up our work
- \* Free pin to say thanks
- \* Free gift from our Shop
- \* Free tickets to our events
- \* Free copies of publications
- \* Named in our Annual Report

**To support our work visit  
[party.coop/increase](https://party.coop/increase)**



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