

Rural Urban Synthesis Society – AGM 27 June 2026

Standing down as Treasurer and Society Secretary:

Phil Morris: Phil is a semi-retired accountant who has worked in social housing for most of his career. He has been our Board Treasurer and a key member of the Finance and Audit Committee. His accounting knowledge within the housing sector has enabled RUSS to understand and manage financial risk.

Standing for re-election:

Jon Broome: Jon has been involved in RUSS since the very early days. His extensive knowledge of self-build community-led housing has supported decision-making and reflective learning around Church Grove and will help guide us as we seek to take RUSS forward with new projects.

Proposed by Ed, Seconded by Joel

Standing for election as a board member

Alex Crane: I'm a resident at Church Grove, a long-time supporter and member of RUSS, and I've lived in Lewisham since 2005. I was also a founding member of Transition Brockley, a community initiative focused on helping local residents reduce reliance on fossil fuels. I'm passionate about community-led projects and previously served as both a board member and chair of Dulwich Hamlet Football Club Supporters' Trust. In that role, I helped lead a volunteer team and as Chair had oversight of areas including community engagement, fundraising, finance, communications, membership, merchandise, and governance. Professionally, I've worked in the built environment for more than 20 years and am currently a Director at Chetwoods Architects.

Proposed by Ed, Seconded by Joel

Standing for election as a board member, having been co-opted since the last AGM:

Annie Sheng: Annie has experience in planning consultancy, social housing, promoting housing rights and community engagement. She has an MSc Housing and City Planning and is working towards RICS quantity surveying. Since graduating, she is developing skills in quantity surveying, procurement, construction, project and financial management. She is keen to continue her passion for social housing through contributing to the RUSS board.

Proposed by Ed, Seconded by Joel

Retained members of the board:

Jessica Barker-Wren: Jessica has been a central member of the Future Projects group, with a keen interest in innovative and sustainable design. Her facilitation experience, including public architectural tours, will greatly support the educational offer of the RUSS School of Community-Led Housing, particularly for critical outreach to local youth groups.

Ed Mayo: Ed has experience leading several third sector organisations, including Pilotlight and the New Economics Foundation. He's supported the growth of these organisations, including enhancing their financial sustainability and their social impact. He's enthusiastic about supporting our long-term strategy, including succession planning for our board and staff members.

David Robinson: David is a Development Finance Analyst for Hyde Housing Association and is interested in supporting RUSS's business planning. Having previously worked in asset management, his contribution to future projects will benefit greatly from his experience in property valuation and financial modelling.

Joel Simpson: Joel's recent tasks for the Board have included supporting staff and volunteer recruitment and helping to facilitate a number of RUSS outreach events. He looks forward to supporting the development of the RUSS business plan, as well as enabling local community groups to get involved in future projects.

Louis Worthington: As a Church Grove resident, Louis's work has included reporting board updates to the Residents Group, supporting housing allocations processes and liaison with CDS. He is also central to the Lease Working Group, investigating ways of enhancing mortgage opportunities for prospective buyers of community land trust homes.