

The **co-operative**

membership 

Your candidates 2009

South East Region

South London Area



Your vote counts

After a detailed review of The Co-operative's democratic structures and practices, elections are now being held for each of our 46 area committees.

Area Committee members have an extremely important role to play within The Co-operative. They're elected by members within their own specific area to represent their interests in what is an increasingly large, diverse and successful co-operative business.

As members, you decide who'll represent you on your area committee. Your participation is vital and your voice is equal to all other members. By voting in our elections you can play your part in ensuring that the candidates who you feel will best represent you and help you get the most out of your membership of The Co-operative, are elected.

In this challenging economic climate, and amid the difficulties faced by some of the UK's leading financial institutions, co-operatives and other mutually-owned businesses have received increasingly positive media coverage in the last few months. The difference is that businesses such as The Co-operative are owned and democratically controlled by their members, and exist to provide a service to their members, rather than to maximise profits for their shareholder investors. Electing your representatives has therefore become more important than ever.

In this booklet, you'll find details of those members seeking your vote. You will also find information about how our democratic structure works.

Your vote counts – please use it!

About our democracy

With effect from Spring 2009, The Co-operative will comprise of seven regions, each of which has a number of areas within it. You are a member of our South East Region and you will therefore be allocated to one of the five areas within the Region, ie, Kent, North London, South London, Surrey & Berkshire or Sussex.

Each area has an area committee. Members can stand for election to their area committee and can vote for the people they want to represent them. Each region also has a regional board. Members of the area committees within each region elect representatives to their regional board. The South East Regional Board will consist of 14 members in future.

Nationally, The Co-operative has a Board of Directors, which (with effect from May 2009) will consist of 20 members. Area committee members – the members you've directly elected to represent you locally – elect representatives to the Board of Directors, each of which must be a member of their regional board. 15 directors will be elected in this way – two of these being elected within the South East Region. Five others will be elected by a separate constituency, as they are representatives of independent co-operative societies that are part-owners of The Co-operative.

The Board of Directors is the highest tier of our democracy. Its responsibility is to provide strategic leadership and to hold management to account at the highest level. The Board is also commercially, legally and morally responsible for members' assets. In turn, it is the responsibility of management to meet the Society's strategic objectives.

Each region has a regional values & principles committee, made up of members from the regional board and each area

committee within the region. These committees work with members and the regional membership teams to ensure the national membership strategy is put into effect and that our co-operative values and principles are brought to life for the benefit of members and communities across the region.

What do area committees do?

Area committees' roles and responsibilities fall into three main areas, ie:

- **governance and democracy** – safeguarding our co-operative status by representing members and generating the highest level of member participation with The Co-operative's trading and democratic activities and structures. A key responsibility is their role in electing members of their regional board and the national Board of Directors
- **community and membership activity** – promoting the co-operative agenda through activities for members, education about co-operative values and partnership with like-minded groups. This area of work includes the distribution of grants from The Community Fund
- **championing the consumer experience and adding commercial value** – liaising closely with management from The Co-operative's various businesses. They receive reports on trading performance and develop an awareness of the various co-operative businesses within their area, providing local knowledge and input in respect of current trading matters and future opportunities.

Area committee members are ideally co-operatively minded, constructive, passionate about their local community and are creative thinkers. They'll have (or want to acquire) an understanding of financial information and of the commercial environment in which The Co-operative operates.

They need to be committed to their role, which will involve some activity at weekends and evenings. They'll have personal integrity, sound judgement, a commitment to equal opportunities and a desire to develop their skills and knowledge.

Area committee members will in future receive an annual fee of £2,000 plus expenses. Chairs of area committees will receive an additional fee of £500 per year.

Standing for election

To stand for election to an area committee members are required to:

- have been a member of The Co-operative for at least a year at the time they seek election
- live (or, by exception, work) in the area in which they stand for election
- undertake a modest level of trade with The Co-operative (or, in the current elections, have a minimum of £25 in their membership account)
- commit to maintaining our co-operative status, upholding co-operative values and principles, complying with The Co-operative's Code of Conduct for elected members and fulfilling the requirement to undertake professional development during their period on the committee.

There are opportunities to seek election every year. Why not give it a go in future? Further details can be obtained from your Regional Membership Team.

Diversity

At The Co-operative we want our democracy to be representative of the members and communities we serve. We are especially keen to encourage a balance of women and men and more younger people, people with disabilities and those from ethnic minority backgrounds to join our elected bodies.

How to Vote

The election process is managed for The Co-operative by Electoral Reform Services (ERS). Your vote must be received by ERS by Monday 16 February at noon.

The method of election used will be the Single Transferable Vote (STV). STV is the most truly proportionate electoral system and one of the most commonly used PR methods. On the ballot paper enclosed you are asked to indicate your preferred candidates by placing the number one next to your first choice, number two next to your second choice and so on until you can no longer express a preference. You may vote for all candidates, though you do not need to do so. If you place an 'x' next to any of the candidates on the ballot paper, this will result in your ballot paper being invalid. If you would like to learn more about the STV process, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions page on the ERS website: www.electoralreform.co.uk

You can cast your vote by either returning the ballot paper by post in the freepost envelope provided, or using the internet by following the instructions on the ballot paper.

If you know any other members who have not received a ballot paper and would like to vote, please ask them to contact the Returning Officer at the address below at the earliest opportunity.

Who to contact

If you have any queries about the election, you should contact your Returning Officer:

Karen Froggatt
The Co-operative
1st Floor Persimmon House
Anchor Boulevard
Crossways
Dartford DA2 6QH

Tel: 01322 312301

Email: karen.froggatt@co-operative.coop



Your Candidates

There are 15 places available on the South London Committee. 17 candidates have submitted valid nomination forms, ie:

Phil Bale
Tina Thomas*
Mandy Brinkhurst
Tom Searle*
Munir Malik*
Timothy Godfrey
Jean Petherbridge*
Peter Willsman*
Faith Smith*
Clive Fraser*
Martin Tiedemann
Kathryn Smith*
Janet Gillman*
Marilynne Burbage*
Tony Thorpe*
Peter Cooper
Steve Healey*

*current committee member

Those elected will serve for the following terms:

5 will serve for 3 years

5 will serve for 2 years

5 will serve for 1 year.

The candidates who receive the highest number of votes will receive the longest terms of office, with the potential exception of candidates living in the London boroughs of Sutton and Croydon. As a result of changes to the South London Area's boundaries, a minimum of 3 elected members must reside in those boroughs as a transitional arrangement.

Election Address

Candidates' details are listed in random order – this having been determined by the drawing of lots.

Each candidate has been encouraged to supply an election address and some other supplementary information, ie, their age, ethnicity and details of their occupation. In instances where this isn't provided, or where the candidate has asked that it isn't publicised, the term 'not submitted' will appear within that section of their election address. With regard to ethnicity, candidates were invited to tick alongside the relevant ethnic group on their nomination form. Candidates have also been encouraged to supply a recent photograph.

Candidates have been invited to respond to a number of questions in their election address. The answers to these are shown in four separate sections of their address and relate to the following questions:

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Question 1 – What is your current involvement in The Co-operative? (maximum 20 word response)

Question 2 – What qualifications and/or experience do you possess that are relevant to the position of area committee member? (maximum 50 word response)

Question 3 – What other qualities would you bring to the role of area committee member? (maximum 50 word response)

Question 4 – What aspirations do you have for The Co-operative? (maximum 80 word response)

The results of the election will be posted on our website (www.co-operative.coop/membership) and will also be publicised widely in our trading outlets.

Access for all

This publication can be obtained in Braille, large print or on cassette by calling 0800 0686 727, emailing customer.relations@co-op.co.uk, or writing to The Co-operative, Freepost MR9473, Manchester M4 8BA

www.co-operative.coop

The Co-operative

New Century House

Corporation Street

Manchester M60 4ES





Phil Bale

Town of residence – Peckham North SE15
Occupation – Compliance Consultant – UK Financial Services
Age – 31
Ethnicity – not submitted

- 1 I regularly attend member meetings of The Co-operative and trade with a range of its businesses.
- 2 I believe that The Co-operative would benefit from my recent experience on Britannia Building Society's Members' Council. Britannia is the UK's second largest Building Society and during my three year term I worked with senior management and directors, evaluating current strategy and suggesting further improvements to the business.
- 3 I'd say some new ideas and a challenging mind, mixed with some energy and enthusiasm! I am very active in my local community and founded a new resident group called Evolution Quarter in 2007, which has most recently been campaigning for better public transport provision in South London.
- 4 I am keen to promote the continued growth of The Co-operative's businesses in South London and encourage further innovation in the products and services that are provided to members. I would also like to encourage much greater involvement and awareness of The Co-operative, particularly amongst younger people, something which is vital for the long term success of the movement.



Tina Thomas

Town of residence – Thamesmead West SE28
Occupation – Retired high school principal; chemistry graduate Dublin University 1969
Age – 66
Ethnicity – Black or Black British – African

- 1 Currently I am a member of South London Area Committee and active member of Black Asian Minority Ethnic steering group.
- 2 I attended the Co-operative College from where I gained useful knowledge and obtained certificates in five different courses. As a member of the outgoing committee I have a good insight into the operations of the Co-operative Group and better understanding of the roles of the Area Committee membership.
- 3 A demonstration of sense of responsibility and good relationship with the people in my community. I will continue to attend all meetings, events and store visits and effectively participate in decision making as regards trading performances. I will encourage more people to become active members of the Co-operative Group.
- 4 My aim is to help the Co-operative Group to create a thriving future for business and communities that is environmentally suitable and socially just.
I will continue to support the values and principles of the Co-operative Group and look into the ways by which the Group can gain more support from my community.
I am seeking your vote to enable me to continue to use the knowledge I have acquired to serve the Group faithfully again.



Mandy Brinkhurst

Town of residence – Eltham SE9
Occupation – Community Services Manager for a charity, and a local Councillor
Age – 52
Ethnicity – White British

- 1 I am a member and shop at Co-operative. I am increasingly impressed with the organisation's involvement within the community.
- 2 I am involved in my community, managing a Cub Pack for 8 years, volunteer Advocate, local Councillor, and a school governor. I have extensive knowledge of my local community. For 19 years I was in the retail sector as a senior manager accountable for managing and developing the business.
- 3 My working and voluntary roles provide good knowledge of the local community and their issues and also vast retail experience. My roles have required me to manage budgets, work to targets and develop solutions to meet ever changing needs within the business. I have good interpersonal and communication skills.
- 4 On a personal level I believe it is important to be involved in your local community; one of my main aspirations for The Co-operative would be to further the development of the community involvement at home and abroad and build upon previous successes.
I would also like to improve levels of customer service in local branches of the retail chain, therefore increasing overall consumer experience, building on the new branding currently being delivered by The Co-operative.



Tom Searle

Town of residence – Wimbledon SW19
 Occupation – Director Children’s Charity
 Age – not submitted
 Ethnicity – White British

- 1 Member of South London Area Committee. Member of Regional Values & Principles Committee
- 2 Chair of Lambeth Children’s Fund 8 years; Member of Merton Youth Committee for 21 years; Governing Council Member SOGAT for 10 years; Trade Union Congress – 4 years; Chair London Woodcraft Folk 6 years; Undertaken training from Co-op College.
- 3 Listening to customers and staff identifying the needs, monitor store standards in the area and make suggestions to be considered by the management as to how to they could be improved. Promoting the co-operative agenda through activities for members and the community.
- 4 I am seeking your support in standing for the South London Area Committee. I am committed to the co-operative values and principles, especially those of democratic member control. I fully support the upgrading of our stores and banking services including the ideals of good with food, good with money. I welcome the new purchase of the Somerfield stores and look forward to strong co-operative trading present in South London. I am committed to working in partnership with our staff.



Munir Malik

Town of residence – Welling DA16
 Occupation – Chartered Accountant, Former Councillor, European Parliamentary Candidate, share child-care
 Age – not submitted
 Ethnicity – Other Asian background

- 1 Committees: South London Area; Regional Values & Principles (Vice-Chair), BAME Co-operators Network (Chair), Diversity Working Group, Treasurer Housing Co-operative.
- 2 Embedded and fully trained in the Co-operative Movement. Experienced in Management and Governance issues, able to hold management to account and review their strategy. Suggest alternatives, which in the past have led to stopping store closures, re-organising and trading them successfully. I make an ideal customer and member’s champion.
- 3 I care passionately about my family and the communities around me, this includes all of you. In Committee meetings I think about making your life better and inter-act with managers to improve Co-operative businesses, to meet your needs. In representing you, I use relentless drive to improve The Co-operative.
- 4 We are: Experiencing a Co-operative renaissance • Proud of the improvements made to our businesses and acquisitions, like Somerfield, to grow our sector • Leading the way in Fairtrade, ethical and responsible trading • Ensuring the Co-operative indeed is good for everyone.

My aspiration: We can be better and still have a lot more to do! I hope you share my vision, find out more contact me 07957991641, munir.malik@lynkreach.co.uk.

Please re-elect me by placing number “1” against my name.



Timothy Godfrey

Town of residence – South Norwood SE25
 Occupation – Campaigns Officer, Director of a Charity and local councillor
 Age – 33
 Ethnicity – White British

- 1 I am proud to bank, shop and insure with the Co-operative. I attend half yearly and annual members’ meetings.
- 2 I have always worked for or run small, customer orientated businesses. I believe that this is the most important focus for the Co-op, from store to phone the customer owners need to experience exceptional customer service levels. The Co-op needs to set industry standards, not M&S or John Lewis!
- 3 I am a Director of the Warehouse Theatre in Croydon and have previously been Chair of Governors at Archbishop Tenison’s Church of England High School. I have experience of working with community groups and volunteers. The Co-operative is as important to the local community as a school or theatre.
- 4 The purchase of Somerfield will bring back The Co-operative to many High Streets across our area, enabling the Co-op to be a genuine choice for regular food shopping. The Co-operative must not stop there. It must continue to grow and serve new areas. The ethical dimension of the Co-operative is very important to me. It already leads with fair trade and environmental issues. It needs to continue this work and be at the cutting edge of responsible, ethical trading.



Jean Petherbridge

Town of residence – Abbey Wood SE2

Occupation – Retired

Age – 61

Ethnicity – White British

- 1 I am a member of the South London Area Committee.
- 2 I have been a member of the South London Area Committee for the last four years. I work as a fair trader with Traidcraft and also give talks on the importance of fair trading in line with co-operative values and principles.
- 3 I am a Christian and as such am deeply concerned about unfairness in global trading, use of animals to test products to be sold to the public. I have travelled to Kenya to meet people involved in Fairtrade Co-operatives who are benefiting from achieving sustainable remuneration.
- 4 I hope for the Co-operative to gain strength in the market place. I hope for people to take on board the values and principles of the Co-operative Movement. The Co-operative needs to continue to advertise itself and pioneer new areas of community support and involvement. The ethics of the Rochdale Pioneers will become even more pertinent in the present credit crunch and I hope for the Co-operative Movement to regain its relevance to global living and mutual support.



Peter Willsman

Town of residence – Plumstead SE18

Occupation – Retired Trade Union official. Occasional freelance journalist

Age – 64

Ethnicity – White British

- 1 South London Area Committee member. South London Co-op Party Council member.
- 2 Two degrees in social sciences (including economics). Currently member of: Area Committee (over 10 years); Co-op Party Council/RACS Political Committee (since 1988); Management Committee Greenwich Co-op Development Agency (over 10 years); Labour Party's NEC and National Policy Forum – I press Co-op issues with Ministers. Former ILEA Councillor.
- 3 Committed to extending the influence of our membership/pursuing issues raised (always available – 0208 854 7326). Greenwich Leisure developed from an idea I pressed through Labour Party and CDA. I use own judgement eg over shop closures and don't simply follow officers' recommendations. Thank you to members for support in past.
- 4 We should use the Somerfield acquisition, allied to national advertising, to become the dominant force in convenience stores. This requires a more effective pricing policy and focus on availability and quality of products and service. The Co-op difference is our bedrock. Our ethical policy eg Co-op bank, shows the way. The Community Dividend is excellent for promoting our message eg supporting youth projects increases awareness of co-operation among the young – our future. It needs more publicity.



Faith Smith

Town of residence – Lewisham SE13

Occupation – Local Government Officer, Telecare Department

Age – 47

Ethnicity – Black or Black British – Caribbean

- 1 I am currently a co-optee on the South London Area Committee and an active member of the BAME network.
- 2 I have attended various members' meetings and events, such as the BAME Network Conference. I have undertaken projects that have helped to shape the availability of different foods in our local stores, and have undertaken store visits to research current and future trends.
- 3 I am totally committed to our Co-operative Values and Principles. I am interested in my local area, and how we fit in the whole Co-operative Movement. I am passionate about democracy and inclusion in my day to day life I seek to be a fair and helpful member of Society.
- 4 The Co-operative Movement has proved to be a forward thinking and innovative business. I am proud to be part of a society that is shaping the future, and teaching us to have values and principles. In the future The Co-operative will continue to be a leader on ethical issues. My involvement within the Co-op Group will help to shape the future for generations to come, and to encourage new members. The way forward is to co-operate.



Clive Fraser

Town of residence – South Norwood SE25

Occupation – Town Planner

Age – 48

Ethnicity – not submitted

- 1 V/Chair, Surrey & Berkshire Area Committee • Member, Regional Values & Principles Committee • Member, National Environmental Advisory Committee
- 2 Experience as elected member in Co-operative Movement and local government, including: 4 years Surrey and Berkshire Area Committee; Director Croydon Savers Credit Union; Elected Labour & Co-operative Councillor Croydon Council, 1994-2002, roles including Chair Finance Personnel & Equalities Committee, and later Cabinet Member Economic Development & Employment.
- 3 Keen co-operator committed to good team work and achieving common goals:
 - Understanding and commitment to developing the co-operative sector in London as a member of Co-operatives London
 - Political link and understanding as Secretary (and former Chair) London Regional Co-operative Party Council.
- 4 The revitalised Co-operative has demonstrated its strength of the democratically owned member's business model, both in increasing commercial success, and its strong ethical approach. Achievable future aspirations over the next 3 years would be to; Increase the presence of Co-operative outlets, not only through the Somerfield acquisition, but also smaller scale acquisitions and developments; Support and develop new cooperative businesses; Enhance and increase its commitment to environmental sustainable in stores, financial investment, and property management.



Martin Tiedemann

Town of residence – Croydon CR0

Occupation – Political Organiser for the Co-operative Party

Age – 32

Ethnicity – Other white background

- 1 I am an active member and customer and work with The Co-operative in the wider Co-op Movement.
- 2 I work promoting co-ops and mutuals with a wide range of people and groups. I am secretary of Croydon Co-operative Party and served as a councillor for eight years, supporting local credit unions and other co-operative ventures. I led the Council's process which made Croydon the first Fairtrade London borough.
- 3 I have been a director of several companies and a senior school governor with experience of finance, employment and premises issues. I have chaired committees and worked with community groups, championing local causes. I am a regular customer of local Co-operative stores and of the Bank.
- 4 I want The Co-operative to be a successful business, delivering quality services for its customers and being a force for good in local communities. I want it to continue being a role model for co-ops and ethical business, listening to its members and customers. I want us to challenge the other supermarkets and show up the way they treat communities, farmers and small businesses. I want us to serve all people well, regardless of race, age or gender.



Kathryn Smith

Town of residence – Welling DA16

Occupation – Public Relations Consultant (including public affairs, marketing, strategic planning, research)

Age – 48

Ethnicity – White British

- 1 Area Committee/Regional Board • Director, Co-operative Group; Co-operative Financial Services • Vice-Chair, National Values & Principles Committee • Chair, Co-operative Action Foundation
- 2 Throughout my career in the public and private sector, I developed experience in leadership, strategic thinking, performance appraisal and governance. Skills I have used over many years serving you - our members. And, before my election to the Main Board, I was Chair of your Area Committee for 7 years.
- 3 I have a deep commitment to serving the community. I have excellent interpersonal skills and undertake considerable training to enhance my skills and ensure my effectiveness on the committee. I care passionately for Co-operative values and principles and have worked to put these at the heart of all our businesses.
- 4 I have been honoured to represent you for over 20 years. Somerfield's acquisition provides an exciting opportunity to improve services to members. Already, newly re-branded stores provide better shops and quality products, while demonstrating our commitment to Fairtrade and the community. The Co-operative model is facing a renaissance. A collapsing banking system (not our ethical Co-operative Bank) shows the true value of mutuality and co-operation. I will champion members' rights and build a successful future for our Society. Thank you.



Janet Gillman

Town of residence – Charlton SE7

Occupation – Retired Membership Manager, Greenwich University SU, elected Greenwich Councillor

Age – 67

Ethnicity – not submitted

- 1 Currently Vice-chair, South London Area Committee, Treasurer, Greenwich Co-op Party and Co-op delegate to Greenwich & Woolwich Labour Party.
- 2 Holder of Co-operative Directors Certificate and certificates for 'Ideals, Principles & Structures', 'Membership & Member Ideals' and 'Presentation Skills' and more recently have undertaken 'International Co-operation' and 'European Co-operatives' modules. Co-chair of Greenwich Fairtrade Steering Group, school governor and member of registered social housing board.
- 3 Representing Charlton on Greenwich Council, I regularly meet users of Charlton Village store, am known to the Manager, and attend meetings of nearest Co-op Community Council and feel equipped to represent the views of co-op members. As school governor, encouraged the school to bid for Co-op sponsored solar panels, successfully.
- 4 As an elected local authority representative with opportunities to present alternatives such as social enterprises and co-operatives to deliver public services in areas such as social care and procurement, I believe the Co-op should promote and support these ideas emphasising ethical and environmental issues and co-operatives working for the sustainable development of their communities as the centre of importance. Greenwich Leisure Limited being a local and prime example of excellence.



Marilynne Burbage

Town of residence – Carshalton SM5

Occupation – Horticultural and Medicinal Plants Consultant (now very part-time).

Age – not submitted

Ethnicity – not submitted

- 1 Member: Area Committee; Regional Board; Regional Values and Principles Committee (Chair). Trustee: Co-operative Community Investment Foundation. Director: Co-operatives^{UK}
- 2 Member since 1960s; Area Committee member since 1998; undertaken Co-operative Certificate/Diploma training. I consider that my employment and community background give an understanding which is extremely relevant. Employment experience includes produce legislation, workplace hazard analysis, personnel matters (advised/trained horticultural producers/suppliers particularly from/in developing countries; accredited union lay officer).
- 3 Interest in all aspects of Committee's roles – from trading to governance, community and promotion of values and principles. Experience of wider Co-operative Movement through: Co-operative Party (Sutton Branch Chair); National Federation of Progressive Co-operators (Joint Secretary); Co-operatives UK; UK Co-operative Forum; New Ventures Panel; Community involvement experience, Carers Partnership Board.
- 4 Continuing re-invigoration and expansion, including new ventures meeting Co-operative values and principles; the Co-operative's encouragement and support for all consumer co-operatives and the wider Co-operative Movement; successful purchase and integration of Somerfield, increasing volumes securing reduced pricing from suppliers reaching members, whilst ensuring fair practices/prompt payments to suppliers; more own brand, including 'Fairtrade'; increased turnover/profit benefiting members and allowing increased involvement in community/environmental projects at home and globally. Ultimately, co-operation amongst co-operatives fully implemented in our practices.



Tony Thorpe

Town of residence – Sutton SM1

Occupation – Civil Servant

Age – 54

Ethnicity – White British

- 1 Member of Surrey & Berkshire Area Committee and the South East Regional Values & Principles Committee.
- 2 I have been a branch/area committee member in CWS/Co-operative Group from 1991 to 2005 and since 2006 and am currently Chair of Surrey & Berkshire Co-operative Party and Chair of NFPC. As a committee member I have attended various training courses, including the 2003 Group Summer School.
- 3 While a committee member I have visited and shopped at a large number of Co-op stores in the South East and taken a close interest in the way the business is managed and the role of elected members in relation to both trading and membership involvement and development.
- 4 I believe that The Co-operative's management must work fully in partnership with our elected members and emphasise the "Co-op Difference". We should strengthen our democratic structures, involve members more at grassroots level, promote diversity and develop our working relationship with the Co-operative Party. Our aim should be to become a world-class Co-operative business in partnership with other Co-operative retail societies and the wider Co-operative and mutual sector, working with Co-operatives UK.



Peter Cooper

Town of residence – Croydon CR0

Occupation – Retired Insurance Underwriter and now Librarian with an adult school

Age – not submitted

Ethnicity – not submitted

- ① A lifelong member of the Co-op and buy my groceries from the Co-op shop and bank with the Co-operative Bank.
- ② A member of the Surrey & Berkshire Area Committee for about 8 years and of the Values & Principles Committee until October 2006. I have passed several of the training modules for area committee members. I am in close contact with local communities.
- ③ I can analyse performance figures of retail outlets and constantly look out for improvement and raise matters in committee. I would look to recommend expanding Co-op presence in pharmacies etc. I support the Co-op involvement in community affairs, 'Fairtrade' and credit unions.
- ④ My aspirations for the Co-op Movement are an expanding presence of the Co-op portfolio and welcome the acquisition of 'Somerfields' (apart from pharmacies there must be other smaller outlets ripe for takeover in the future). In as far as it possible within the Committee I would endeavour to ensure that our outlets are adequately stocked to meet the needs of our diverse customer base and thus encourage potential customers and expand the Membership.



Steve Healey

Town of residence – Lewisham SE13

Occupation – Qualified Professional Fire Safety Officer

Age – 53

Ethnicity – White British

- ① Have been proud to serve on the South London Area Committee since 1991, and have gained much experience for membership.
 - ② Member of the Institute of Co-operative Directors. Studied at the Co-operative College. Am in possession of the Certificate of Co-operative Studies. I support values and principles. Have Regional Board experience in decision making, helping to develop a successful co-operative business for the wellbeing of our members.
 - ③ Am serving as Committee Liaison Officer to the Sidcup Co-operative Community Council and the Eltham CCC. Am a good listener in regard to members' questions and concerns surrounding the running of their Co-op. I feel the importance of involving members in order they are made to feel a greater importance.
 - ④ To re-instate food stores in co-operative deserts where needed. Members should have more opinions and control of Society assets. We have a responsibility to safeguard assets in the Co-op, of which we own, in order to protect for future co-operators. The recent disposal of department stores and the undemocratic closure of Welling superstore, indicates the level of member control. Member opinion and understanding of store closures will give a valuable active link where it is needed most. Making membership meaningful.
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