

Four new councillors for Malmesbury Town Council

Malmesbury Town Council has welcomed four new councillors to the local authority.

Joining in May were Cllr Mubashir Akhtar, who stood in the local elections, while his wife Cllr Jumana Akhtar, along with Cllr Olivia Wallis and Cllr Helean Hughes have been coopted.

Malmesbury Mayor, Cllr Stephen James, said it is rare to have so many new councillors joining at once, and great news for the council.

“It’s wonderful that so many want to step forward,” he said. “As a council, we are delighted to welcome Mubashir, Jumana, Olivia and Helean, and we are excited to be working alongside them for the benefit of everyone living and working in the town, as well as the town’s many visitors. Their experience, expertise and perspectives will enhance the council significantly.”

Cllr Jumana Akhtar, said she had considered standing in the election but hadn’t done so due to commitments. She said: “After the election, there was still space, and I thought that I should try to be coopted so I can make a positive difference to Malmesbury.

“I am extremely passionate about sustainability and protecting green spaces. I already am a part of different sustainability groups around town but would like it to be something the whole town can focus on. I also believe in supporting women and girls in sports and making sure the sports clubs around town are active in increasing numbers of women in their clubs.”

Cllr Mubashir Akhtar, said: “I am already involved in community work around Malmesbury and love supporting those people who are the most underrepresented and vulnerable in our society. I think this will give me a better opportunity to work for the community and make a positive difference in the place my family call home.”

Cllr Wallis, who moved back to Malmesbury last year, having lived here in 2020, said: “After moving away for work, we always longed to return to this community – and I’m so glad to be back. I’ve always been amazed by the quantity and quality of local events, facilities, and opportunities on offer in Malmesbury. There’s so much going on, it can be hard to keep up – both for residents and visitors.

“I truly believe there’s something for everyone to get involved in here if they want to – whether that’s supporting our high street, celebrating Malmesbury’s heritage, or enjoying facilities and activities like our town cinema and festivals. Through my role within the council, I hope I can champion and promote the many opportunities that Malmesbury has to offer its residents and visitors, so they can continue for many more years to come.”

Cllr Helean Hughes, who has lived in Malmesbury for 14 years, added: “I recently retired after 35 years as a public servant and have always admired and respected people who work to improve the places they live in. With a little more time on my hands, I felt I could commit to this role wholeheartedly. Malmesbury is a wonderful place to live; it is steeped in history and culture, and the countryside is second to none. Above all of this, it's the people of Malmesbury that make it a great place so I am delighted that I will be able to contribute towards the on-going success of the town as a councillor.”