

Whitley

Rachel Eden

Rachel was first elected as a councillor for Whitley ward in 2010. She is the founder of a local accountancy practice working primarily with charities and Reading-based small businesses.

A mum of two, Rachel is passionate about ensuring every young person in Whitley has the best start in life.

Rachel has served as both the council's lead councillor for Housing and for Adult Social Care. She is currently the Mayor of the Borough of Reading.

Micky Leng

Whitley is Micky Leng's home and where he has lived with his wife and brought up his 2 boys for 27 years. He is a sub-contract carpenter in the building trade. You will often see him walking his dog in South Whitley Park – where they also enjoy meeting lots of residents – and their dogs.

Micky was elected in 2019 by the good people of Whitley and is honoured to have been chosen to represent Whitley Ward for the Labour Party again.

Micky promises to continue working hard for Whitley residents – being the voice between the Council and you. He will continue with his commitment to the Labour Party and to you, to better facilities, better parks, cleaner streets, accessibility, inclusivity and good quality affordable housing for Whitley and for Reading.

Micky is, and will continue to be, responsive and answerable to you in person, by email and by phone and on his doorstep. And he will continue to work hard for you and with you to make bad things good, and good things even better.

Alice Mpofu-Coles

Alice has lived in Whitley for almost 20 years and woven herself into the fabric of community life – both in work, volunteering and as a trustee for several charities. She has two adult daughters who grew up in Reading and is a former Social Worker who currently works as a Researcher.

Alice was first elected as a Labour Party Whitley Ward Councillor in 2021 and recognised the need to strive for better neighbourhoods, education, health, and social care services. She has been a Labour Party member who has thrived on bringing its values of equality and social justice to the fore. She is committed to working with the residents of Whitley Ward and wider Reading. Alice believes it is vital to have strong relationships which lie within the community and to listen, engage and act.

Church

Andrew Hornsby-Smith

Andrew runs his own local publishing and planning consultancy business in Reading. He's had experience serving as a local councillor, having previously served for 16 years, and was leader of the Labour Group for two of those. His main interests include planning, transport and the environment.

Andrew runs an environment group in Reading to tackle climate change, and he's given several presentations at Reading Climate Festival. He's a qualified transport planner, and project manager and he's represented neighbourhood groups at major planning inquiries. He's also a qualified teacher, specialising in language support.

In his free time he volunteers for a local charity – helping people get home safely late at night. He's served on the East Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum and chaired other police liaison groups. Andrew is an active trade unionist, and if elected will work hard to deliver good quality local services and support those suffering from the cost-of-living crisis or anti-social behaviour. Andrew's other interests include year-round swimming and walking., and he also plays a very loud mediaeval musical instrument.

Ruth McEwan

Ruth is delighted that she has been nominated to stand in Church Ward in the local elections in May. Reading has been her home for over thirty years and her four children were born here and went to local schools.

Ruth works locally, and for several years worked for a local charity. She now manages an Extra Care Scheme supporting older adults in their homes, helping them to remain independent. She is also a Governor at a local school, and a trustee for two local charities.

Since being elected as Church Ward Councillor in 2018 Ruth has been a member of Adult Social Care Committee, Planning Committee and Sept Committee. More recently she became the Lead Member for Corporate and Consumer Services.

Paul Woodward

Paul has been a councillor in Church Ward since 2011. Since that time, Labour councillors have been returned election after election. Residents in the ward know that they will be listened to, and that Paul and his colleagues care about the things that matter to them.

Paul has fought to retain the character of the ward by preserving the best things, such as The Cowsey - the green heart of the ward, and fighting inappropriate developments, such as the university's original hall of residence plans on Northcourt Avenue, or houses in gardens such as The Brybur Close garages.

In addition, Paul has also lobbied for more road surfacing, tree planting and a war on fly-tippers.

Redlands

Marg Cobb

Marg moved to Reading in 2014, well before our current hard times, and loves our town. Marg is committed to the ideals of social democracy, fairness and equity and this is reflected in her local activities and is her foundation for making decisions.

She has extensive experience working with, and in, public not for profit organisations, registered charities and government. Everywhere she's lived she's been involved in her local community, giving her a deep understanding of how communities work, how to access them and how to provide services to meet their needs.

Our Redlands community deserves to be engaged with RBC decisions, how they affect them and how to effectively engage with them be it about rubbish collection, parking, planning or something else.

Reading should continue to be a diverse, prosperous, green, equitable and growing place for everyone that is a model of a great council. Marg will work for everyone in Redlands, alone, and with her colleagues, to make Redlands and Reading even better.

Will Cross

Will has lived in and around the ward for many years. He works as a welfare rights adviser, helping residents who are affected by the government's welfare reforms to challenge unfair benefits decisions. He's seen on a daily basis the struggles that residents are facing in our community. If elected, his focus will be on tackling inequality and the affordable housing crisis, as well as the climate emergency. Will is proud of the Labour-run council's achievements in cutting carbon emissions, building new council homes, introducing kerbside food waste collection and providing extra support to families on low incomes during the pandemic.

As your local candidate, he's been working hard to tackle littering and fly-tipping in Redlands, and is glad that the council will soon be introducing a free bulky waste collection service. He successfully pushed for the council to add more roads in Redlands to the road resurfacing programme, including the top of Alexandra Road and the part of Hexham Road that buses use. If elected as your councillor, he will always fight hard to make sure that Redlands ward gets its fair share.

Amjad Tarar

Amjad lives and works locally in East Reading as a solicitor, having studied law at the University of Westminster. He's been a Labour party member for more than 8 years. His children attend local schools and Reading University.

Amjad's a dedicated community worker and serves as the Secretary of the Pakistan Community Centre in Reading. He helps people across Reading with social and family problems, particularly assisting women suffering domestic violence.

Amjad has a strong belief in community harmony and has facilitated interfaith events between different communities across Reading.

If elected as a councillor Amjad will liaise between the Council and residents to resolve parking and waste collection issues, press the Highways Department to use government grant money to fix the potholes in our streets, and support safe cycling.

Amjad will represent all residents, believing that we each need to stand for the many, not the few.

Katesgrove

Liam Challenger

Katesgrove is Liam's home, and he loves representing his home ward and making a difference in it, from small things to huge changes. Like many of his generation, Liam's life was transformed in 1997. Among many things the last Labour Government did was invest in new schools, building state of the art buildings that gave him the best start in life.

Liam has helped countless people by following up on their issues, some simple from arranging new bins to more complex ones such as supporting families from being made homeless. Alongside this, he has campaigned hard to bring in a greener and cleaner ward, which not only has enhanced the look of the ward but also helped tackle anti-social behaviour and problems with parking. Liam has pushed the council to help tackle the inequality in pay amongst black workers.

Outside of his political work, Liam has been a volunteer at a Foodbank, a trustee of several charities including housing ones, and contributed through a Department for Education group to the first charter defining a set of rights for university students while studying.

George Matthew

George lives in Katesgrove and he asks for your support to be one of your Labour councillors. He is committed to actively contributing to the development of the neighbourhood and the town. George has always been interested in building strong relationships with the local community through organisations such as the Katesgrove Community Association (KCA), which does sterling work in conservation and monthly litter-picking. He would work hard to represent the multi-ethnic, multi-faith and multi-cultural community as a whole.

Right now, with the uncertainty and instability brought upon us by years of austerity, the pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis, we more than ever need a local Labour party to tackle the multi-faceted challenges we face.

Reading is a dynamic and thriving place but has pockets of serious deprivation and deep-rooted inequalities. George believes in the multi-agency approach to Reading's public services, with the council working with the voluntary community sector to improve the quality of life for our families.

George knows only the Labour Party can deliver on local priorities, which is why he is standing as a Katesgrove ward candidate for the Labour Party.

Mamuna Naz

Mamuna has been an active member of the Labour Party for 4 years.

She says that, as a ward, Katesgrove needs to push for a better environment and to take tougher measures against anti-social behaviour. She also feels strongly that we need to fight for better services and facilities for the ward's youth, who make up half of the residents who live here. Mamuna and the other two Labour candidates would lead a strong campaign to fight for these things.

Katesgrove is a multicultural ward and Mamuna is well aware of the issues which the local community is facing, especially litter, fly tipping, green spaces, clean parks, schools, and parking problems in the ward.

Mamuna believes that we all benefit from diversity and greater equality, and that together we can affect meaningful change in this ward and as a whole in this town.

Mamuna is standing to be a Labour councillor because she believes passionately in Labour's values of equality, tolerance, community and solidarity. She wants to contribute to putting those values into action in Katesgrove ward and Reading borough as a whole.