

College of Fellows Convenor Election 2021 Candidate: Helen Tranter Fellow (Retired)

All candidates are required to provide a candidate statement that will be made available to members online and may be accompanied by a photograph. Your statement may not exceed 500 words and should outline how you would deliver the Terms of Reference with particular reference to your ability to convene members, organise meetings, chair those meetings, be a reputational face for the College, promote Fellowship and facilitate discourse within and beyond the College.



CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

A dictionary definition of fellowship mentions participation, sharing, community of interest, companionship and friendliness. A definition of college includes an organised body of persons with shared functions and interests and a place of professional study beyond degree level. These words encompass my vision for the College of Fellows as a network.

Our shared interest is landscapes in the broadest sense, including green infrastructure, parks, high streets, gardens, protected landscapes and the wider countryside. As a group, our skills range across design, planning, construction and management. As individuals, our talents cross the boundaries of arts and science and what we have in common is that we share a passion for all things green and outdoors. Following the inclusion of our recently invited fellows, we are a group with great breadth and depth of experience and we have the potential to harness this to achieve much for landscapes, and for the Institute, as well as furthering our own personal and practice ambitions and wishes.

Membership of the College of Fellows is now broader than that of the remainder of the LI membership. Therefore, we have the potential to lead the way on delivering the LI's strategic objective of growing our membership so that we represent landscape architects and also those of us who have entered the profession from different disciplines and backgrounds. We should celebrate

the diversity of our disciplines and recognise the symbiotic relationship between us, as we have much to learn from each other. Together, we could grow our impact and make a difference, internally, by acting as a sounding-board for new initiatives and policies and, externally, by facilitating discourse and raising our profile outside the Institute.

The recent Fellows survey has identified the need for a Directory (or equivalent) and this is essential if we are to collaborate with each other. I would like to see the Directory broken down into regional groups, and each region be encouraged to organise an annual site visit and/or event. I would also like to see us all meet in person at least once a year with an optional dinner afterwards so that we can connect together at the personal level. I think the Fellows themselves should choose the topics for meetings (possibly rotating between regions) and that the current format be changed so that there will be more debate and fewer formal presentations. I think we should be self-determining and everyone should have a say.

For many years, I worked in a local authority as Head of Service dealing with planning and management of green infrastructure, culture and communities. I have been Vice President of the LI, Honorary Secretary, Chair of the Public Sector Working Group and Chair of the Entry Standards Working Group and this gives me a good understanding of the culture of the organisation. Therefore, I hope you will give me the opportunity to build on this by voting for me as Convener and enabling me to work with you to achieve the vision described above.