

**NEW**

**Your  
questions.**

**My answers.**

**Sam  
Davies**

Queen Edith's **independent**  
City Council election candidate

**6 May 2021**





Since the launch of my campaign to be a Queen Edith's City Councillor, the support has been overwhelming. **Thank you!** Now it's time to answer some of the questions about why you should vote for me as a member of our community who is standing independently.

**Q. What exactly is an independent councillor?**

**Sam Davies:** "Quite simply, a councillor who isn't tied down to having to vote for a political party line. **This is a growing trend** – there are entire towns now where every councillor is independent. Here in Queen Edith's, we've seen councillors making the case for something the people here want, but who are then obliged by their party to vote *against* that. I'm offering a chance to do things differently."

**Q. Can an independent councillor achieve anything?**

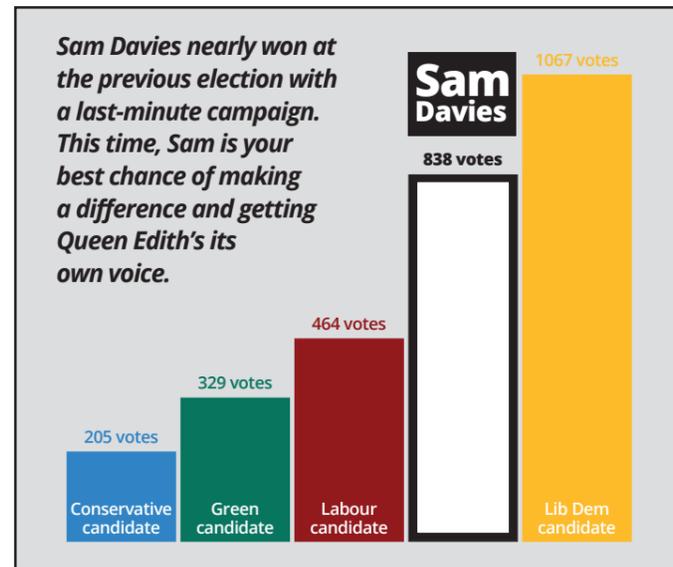
**Sam Davies:** "Yes! Too often in recent years I have attended Council meetings but as a member of the public, I could not contribute to the debate on behalf of local residents. You need to be part of the Council to make decisions, but you don't need to be a political party member. **It only takes one person to raise an issue.**"

**Q. How will you know what the people of Queen Edith's want, Sam?**

**Sam Davies:** "Residents have shown that setting up great communications really isn't hard. We are already the best-informed residents in Cambridge, thanks to the volunteer-run *Queen Edith's magazine* and *Queen Edith's News* weekly email. **I will always aim to be the most approachable councillor in the city,** offering a 24/7 answerphone service, up-to-date use of the web, email and social media, and regular printed newsletters to every home."

**Q. What will you be trying to get done?**

**Sam Davies:** "I believe in growing things from the ground up. The last year has shown how this community wants to support its neighbours. I've been running surveys and workshops for two years now, aimed at identifying what our shared priorities are. Now we need to act on this. **Great ideas have come from residents,** from how to improve youth amenities to solving the upcoming problems of electric vehicle charging and creating more community spaces like 'Joy's Garden'. I want to take this progressive agenda, recognising the climate emergency, straight from residents to the City Council."



**Q. Are you part of any political group?**

**Sam Davies:** "No – although at various points I've been asked by every major party if I would stand for them! I believe that, at a local level, the best community outcomes will come from making space for people who don't feel party political tribes are relevant locally. I've encouraged other residents to also step forward and stand as independents in this election. Should any of them do so, I'm sure they too will have the neighbourhood's best interests at heart, so do please consider what they have to say."

**Q. What have you done for Queen Edith's, Sam?**

**Sam Davies:** "I love living in Queen Edith's and getting stuck into the challenge of making our neighbourhood an even better place to be. I spent several years volunteering at Queen Edith Primary School before becoming Chair of the Queen Edith's Community Forum in 2015. There I've helped start great community initiatives such as the **Happy to Help** neighbourhood support scheme, the Saturday morning **Food Hub** and opening **Joy's Garden** on Baldock Way. I was awarded an MBE for community services in 2020, which I was proud to accept on behalf of us all. After great success getting the County Council to spend £150,000 on upgrading the shared use paths on Long Road in 2014, I've been encouraging them to explore options for improving access from Queen Edith's to green spaces on the edge of the city. Indeed, **I've been attending council meetings at all levels for several years as a member of the public,** raising issues of local importance. It's up to you to decide if all of this merits putting me on the City Council, but I hope I've demonstrated my commitment to the area."

**Q. What are the big issues coming up?**

**Sam Davies:** "In the short term, we need to support families recovering from the impacts of the pandemic. In the long term, we must help Queen Edith's and the city tackle the climate emergency. Crucially, in planning, we need to make new developments work for us, generating better local amenities on a serious scale, not just a few

benches and bits of artwork. The next Local Plan will reshape our neighbourhood, and **we need it to include policies that will help make Queen Edith's a better place.** We must not sleepwalk into trouble."



*Sam Davies addressing a Greater Cambridge Partnership board meeting as a resident, taking Queen Edith's transport issues directly to the top ...because nobody else was doing it.*

**Q. I have more questions. How do I get in touch?**

**Sam Davies:** "If you just want a question answered, you can email me at any time. If you'd like to discuss something, leave a message on my 24/7 telephone line and I'll get back to you for a chat. I'm also setting up Zoom sessions if you'd like to talk about issues perhaps with others – just email me for the next date and time. I'm also very responsive on Twitter and I have a Facebook page. See over for details of all these. However, unlike some other election candidates, **I will not be knocking on doors, as I know many residents feel it is irresponsible to be doing so during the current pandemic.**

**Q. How can I help get you elected, Sam?**

**Sam Davies:** "Make sure you're registered to vote, and don't forget to do so on 6 May! If you'd recommend me to your friends and family locally, that would be a real honour. You might even consider putting the other side of this page up in your window – **this could have quite a dramatic effect if lots of people do it.** Ask me for a garden board to visibly show support. Would you like to spend an hour delivering leaflets? Contact me at any time – see over to find out how."

# Sam Davies

## Queen Edith's independent City Council candidate 2021

### Want to know more?

**Email** Sam at [hello@sam4qe.com](mailto:hello@sam4qe.com)

**Leave a message** on Sam's 24/7 answerphone on [01223 756 568](tel:01223756568)

**Write** to Sam Davies at 301 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 0QS

Twitter [@Sam\\_in\\_Cam](https://twitter.com/Sam_in_Cam) • Facebook [@Sam4QE](https://www.facebook.com/Sam4QE)

**Read about Sam's campaigns and ideas at [sam4qe.com](http://sam4qe.com)**

