

Paul Vidler – K&ESR Candidate Statement

I have been an active volunteer member of the K&ESR since 1972, when I started working in the Signal & Telecommunications Department. I was S&T Manager for 5 years in the 1980s at the time of the design and construction of the Rolvenden signalling installation. I passed out as a signaller in 1976 and continue to work Tenterden Town and Rolvenden boxes.

I am a chartered town planner and worked in a number of positions in local authority planning departments, retiring in early 2020.

For over 30 years I have provided the Railway with voluntary planning advice and secured planning approval for a number of developments, including the Rolvenden carriage storage shed and the secondary catering outlet and replacement offices at Tenterden.

Since being elected as a Board member in 2019, I have chaired the Risk and Compliance Committee. I also initiated the establishment of the Environmental Sustainability Working Group, which I now chair. The group provides advice and guidance to the Board, General Manager and the wider railway on environmental and sustainability matters. I am also a member of the Heritage Railway Association Environmental Advisory Committee.

Post Covid lockdown I joined the Infrastructure Department and the Wednesday Work Group in particular. I can often be found repainting the signal posts along the line – just as when I was a young volunteer!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with the K&ESR. Our volunteers and employees are at the heart of our Railway. As a Board member I would continue to promote and encourage all to work together and enjoy the K&ESR as one Railway.

I will continue to apply the skills, knowledge and experience gained whilst working on the Railway and in my professional life to the wider benefit of the Railway. My aim is to ensure the long term sustainability of the K&ESR as we head towards the anticipated reopening to Robertsbridge.