



Candidate Statement

ANDREW SMITH



I was one of the majority who voted in favour of the takeover by Michael Eisner. It was clear to me that decades of under investment in Fratton Park had left a problem that the fan owned model was unable to solve. The last four years has seen many achievements off the pitch - easily the best managed period since I started watching Pompey in 1970. It is absolutely no fault of the fan owned model or those running the club for the last four years that the work required on the ground needs investment on a scale beyond the capacity of the club to generate.

With the success on the pitch last year and the appointment of Kenny Jacket we have seen a huge take up of season tickets. There is a risk that supply and demand will dictate that ticket prices will rise substantially and a generation of young supporters will be lost. When I started to support Pompey as a boy - travelling in from Chichester to watch games - admission was cheap. But for that, I may never have got the Pompey bug. I've now been a season ticket holder for nearly forty years. The need for not just a safe but expanded stadium has never been greater. By the time you read this it may be down to Mr Eisner to address these challenges.

The PST must engage constructively with the proposed Heritage Advisory Board. If we are to remain at Fratton Park any expansion must be done in such a way that doesn't see reductions in capacity during construction. This can be achieved with careful planning.

I was a member of the PST's working group looking at ground options. Although Mr Eisner has his own team of advisers and the working group's reports may now be academic, in the interests of transparency the PST should publish these reports.

Andrew Smith

I had a career in IT and have had experience at a senior level in non-executive roles within the public sector. I believe have the right skills to cope with the "politics" of the Trust and its role and relationship with the club.

I served on the Trust's Stadium Sub-Group for Long Term Strategy as its minutes secretary.