Hugh Douglas-Smith – Manifesto for President
January 2021

About me

I live in the UK and have been involved with Joomla since the beta of J1.5. In 1997 I co-founded a web development company where we have since moved all our work to the Joomla platform. Prior to that I have held board and senior management positions in both International software companies as well as a major European tier 1 Internet Service Provider. I have a keen interest in technology and in particular Open Source.

The concept of being able to get many people from diverse backgrounds, cultures and experiences to collaborate together where the output is greater and better than the sum of the parts both enthrals and excites me. I have contributed to the Joomla project for a number of years, most recently as DC of Legal and Finance, prior to that as DC of Operations. I look forward to being able to continue to serve the community for a further year.

The role of President

Joomla has a somewhat unusual structure in that the board has a level of equality between its members, so the role of President differs from what the name suggests by being primarily a role of bringing together each of the members and officers and being the catalyst which ensure a productive environment encouraging co-operation and good communication.

My experience through business life as well as being the chairman of a couple of significant charities in the UK gives me a wealth of experience of bringing volunteers together and encouraging a productive, safe and co-operative environment for them to work within.

We are set now on the final push towards the launch of J4, a major milestone in our history and one that will require planning and promotion to show the world where Joomla is going and re-establishing us as a major player in the CMS world. But beyond J4, we need to plan for J5 and set a strategy to take us further.

I see the role of President as key to enabling this and encouraging a productive environment across the community. We also need to actively encourage new volunteers to join the community and ensure that when they do, we make it easy for them (and all of us) to work co-operatively and safely together. To have a respect for the input and opinions of all that we work with. I recognise that software development is a discipline that encompasses creative style as well as coding excellence, we must learn to embrace the thoughts and ideas of others and be ready to accept that maybe there is value in an alternative view. To that end, I see the President's role as being pivotal in promoting a safe environment for us all to work within and to really strive to rid the community of the bitterness that sometimes peaks. I don't have a magic bullet to make this happen, but I can assure you that I will work tirelessly to forge a better, safer and more co-operative environment across the community. I just need each and every one of you to believe that this can be done and be willing to work towards it.

On that basis, I am honoured to put myself forward as a candidate for President of Open Source Matters and trust I can count on your support, both in the election and should I win, to assist me to bring about the changes I have described.

Thank you.

Hugh Douglas-Smith