

## **Personal Statement from Paul Davies a Nominee for the forthcoming North Ward Shere PC Election - July 29th**

Along with my wife Jackie I moved to Pilgrims Way, Shere in 2014, where we now live with 2 working cocker spaniel dogs. Why should I a comparative newcomer to the village wish to stand for Parish Councillor ?

I firmly believe that having worked in the City of London and Singapore as an Insurance Broker for 50 years alongside many talented people I have the experience to add to the current cadre of parish councillors. When we moved to Shere from Thames Ditton we hoped for a more relaxed environment than the busy routine of city life and suburbia; but It's clear that in to maintain it much ongoing work is required.

We live in a beautiful area recognised as an AONB; but there are issues clear to all villagers that require attention if the locality is not to be damaged

What are they ?

What needs to be done ?

### **1) TRAFFIC**

Top of the list: congestion, random parking and vehicle speeds, including cyclists into the village especially from Sandy Lane and around the William Bray pub which especially needs attention. Parking? what is the point of double yellow lines with no enforcement available. Solving these two issues could perhaps answer the congestion question. The answer maybe the radical idea of making Shere centre a pedestrian only area, preventing through traffic and redirecting traffic around Park Road/Little London. We should compare with other villages experience.

### **2) ENVIRONMENT**

The visual aspect of Shere and its locality is such that many tourists are encouraged to come here and spend time in the village. The problem is there are areas requiring attention post lockdown, an example being kerbside weeds in the centre.

### **3) SAFETY OF RESIDENTS**

Whilst the London Olympics of 2012 encouraged amateur cyclists to visit this area it has made our narrow roads more dangerous for all especially elderly & in firm residents. The lack of any form of warning especially makes crossing our roads a dangerous activity.

### **4) LITTER**

The new litter boxes in and around Shere are an improvement, it is also important that visitors are encouraged to use them. I believe that some visitors think that there are people in the village whose sole responsibility is to clean up after them. Shere seems to be relatively well serviced by Guildford BC recycling and refuse collectors but even they can be stretched during busy holiday periods.

### **5) DOGS**

As a dog owner it is our responsibility to clean up after our animals. I think the majority of Shere residents understand this. However, it is frustrating to see that some dog owners seem to believe by hanging bags on trees or fences a magic removal team moves in to collect these on their behalf

and suitably dispose of them. Tidying Shere takes time and money, whilst the result is a cleaner and healthier environment it will take an effort to succeed.

Further improvements can be made as well. For instance what is happening to the former bowls green ? Could it not for instance be made into a grass tennis court ? There may well be other options here but surely this area can be put to more positive use than lying idle as it is currently.

Why should you vote for me ? I am 69, I play golf and am a season ticket holder at Harlequins Rugby Club. I played cricket for Guildford, Byfleet and Chobham, and have been a member of Surrey County Cricket club since school. I take a huge interest in Shere, and listen to those who have lived here all their lives, the history of the village and how issues have been resolved or remain outstanding after many years. I was brought up in the village of Chobham when it was indeed a village, where local issues were not dissimilar to Shere.

I understand village life and all that goes with it. Times change and with increased population, car ownership and free time we have to be more nimble maintaining our village to a high standard if we want to be proud of where we live. I want my enthusiasm to benefit Shere community.

Please vote for me, Paul Davies on Thursday July 29th.