

**Councillor Graham Stewart**

Chair to Stoke Mandeville Parish Council  
Stoke Mandeville Village Community Centre  
Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville Village  
HP22 5UJ

Oak Tree House  
Lower Road  
Stoke Mandeville Village  
HP22 5UX

13<sup>th</sup> July June 2022

Dear Cllr Stewart,

I would like to formally put myself forward for co-option onto the *Parish Council Communities Committee* (PCCC) and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)

I live in the heart of the Village of Stoke Mandeville, amongst many other historic properties which make the village unique and full of charm, something which I believe the Parish Council, residents & businesses need to work hard to preserve for future generations.

I was a volunteer during the pandemic for both the village and the 'world's end' connecting neighbourhood of the Parish of Wendover, promoting good neighbourliness, support, and a sense of community at an urgent time for everyone as a Regional Warden running the WPC 'Good Neighbourhood' Scheme. I am Vice-Chair and Chair of Staffing & Training for *Wendover Parish Council* and have served on that Council for 2+ years now, I am also a Governor at *Aylesbury Grammar School*, leading their marketing efforts as well as their Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts.

Passionate about the sense of community and the preservation of our historic village, I have re-formed *The Stoke Mandeville Village Society* (something which was originally started in 1973 but disappeared in the 1980's). The re-ignition of this Society is to support the Parish Council and other associated groups, residents, and businesses to preserve what we have and improve/enhance where we can - ensuring that we retain all which makes 'village life' unique to our village. My involvement with the NPSG could be ensuring the 'Conservation Area' proposals and also the 'Village regeneration' project is fit for purpose and meets the needs of our villagers now and in the future.

As a seasoned marketing, branding & communications consultant, with 30+ years' experience in the corporate and non-profit world, I am particularly keen to support the Parish Council with its *community engagement and communications*, something which I believe the Communities Committee could take on given it's 'Community' remit and the importance for the Parish at such an uncertain time.

I care passionately about community activities in the parish – all part of 'village life' in my view – putting up Christmas decorations on the village green, working with the PC for 'village gates', Christmas trees & lighting, putting up historic plaques etc. I will work hard to support Barbara Ezra (current Chair of CC) in undertaking various initiatives in the village as well as the Parish neighbourhoods and will support you and Andrew Clarke (current Chair of NPSG) to further the fantastic work already done by you both and so many other dedicated volunteers, with a view to completing the NP in the early next Spring.

I have a good relationship with our 3 Bucks Councillors, given my role with Wendover Parish Council and represent the Council on the *Wendover & Villages Community Board*, so know that space well. I also have worked closely with *Wendover HS2 Mitigation Action Group* for 18+ months so am well versed in all things HS2, funding applications and the various parties involved here which impact our amenities and inform the NP.

I am passionate about Climate Action initiatives, am a member of *Climate Action Wendover* and partner closely with them on all WPC activities. They have agreed to see how they may support the village (as a starting point) and believe this too could be part of the Communities Committee's remit in order to put a plan together which could be implemented and engage the Parish community in doing so.

Given the *SMV Community Centre* is going to be the Parish Council's responsibility going forwards, there is much which I believe we can do for this wonderful space, building on the brilliant work already done by the current committee. Times have changed and I believe the business model for this space needs to evolve to ensure that the

space is able to support as many residents and visitors as possible, with an all-encompassing welcome to anyone regardless of demographic, belief, faith or social status.

Finally, I have a lot of my plate from what I have outlined above, but as they say, give a busy person something to do and it will get done. I have a track record for developing ideas and delivering on them, problem-solving, successful collaboration with many varied stakeholders, cutting through red tape and keeping the mood respectful at all times.

I sincerely hope that my stepping forward to support the Parish Council with my skills, connections and experience will be viewed as an asset for the Parish and I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Jo Durden-Moore**