

APPLICATION FOR CO-OPTION TO LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

Kevin Pughe Supporting Statement

Many councillors and LLTC staff will know me as I served 4 terms on the council between 1998 and 2015. During this time, I was an active councillor with high attendance, serving on The Planning and Transport Committee, and chairing the Combatting Crime sub-committee and Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group.

I am a member of the Lib Dems, but if appointed I'd serve the term as an Independent. I would work constructively with the other Grovebury Ward councillors to address residents' ward issues.

My objective was and is to support policies and initiatives to improve the environment for residents, whether this be green open space, improving community safety, or the vitality and appearance of our historic town centre. As the originator of the idea of additional community policing, I am pleased to see Operation Dodford still in operation. As a champion of the Ouzel Valley Park, I am encouraged by how well residents and visitors are using all the town's ample open space.

In recent years big strides have been made in engaging with the public via social media, and the visibility and presence of councillors in the town centre is impressive. I would like to see further improvements in public engagement, such as consulting residents on their spending and programme priorities. I would like to see further progress in implementing the Ouzel Valley Park and open space strategies.

The many voluntary groups, societies, and festivals generate the community spirit that makes Leighton Linlade a great place to live. With a rapidly growing town the challenge is to maintain this, and avoid becoming an anonymous dormitory suburb, where people don't chat in the street or know their neighbours. LLTC has a vital role in maintaining and promoting this.