

**MINUTES
ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 16TH APRIL 2024
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY**



1

In the Chair: Councillor John Ray, Romsey Town Mayor

ATTENDANCE:

A Councillor C. Birkett	P Councillor A. Goddard
P Councillor C. Burgess	P Councillor N. Gwynne
A Councillor J. Burnage	A Councillor R. Kohli
P Councillor M. Cooper	A Councillor J. Parker
P Councillor J. Critchley	A Councillor R. Theron
P Councillor I. Culley	P Councillor J. Urquhart
P Councillor S. Gidley	P Councillor S. Wilkinson

Clerk. Judith Giles

Members of Public: 0

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. C. Birkett, Cllr. J. Burnage, Cllr. R. Kohli, Cllr. J. Parker, Cllr. R. Theron

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 30th May 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record

PROPOSED: Cllr.S. Wilkinson

SECONDED: Cllr.J. Urquhart

CARRIED

Matter Arising:-

None

4. ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report was received from the outgoing Mayor, Councillor J, Ray and the Chief Officer, Judith Giles

Mayor's Annual Report

My Mayoral Year has been extremely busy. The Romsey Show and Walk the Test Way in September organised by the Rotary Club of Romsey Test, was hugely successful with over £90,000 raised for the charities represented and some 525 walkers. Remembrance Day saw the return of the Royal Engineers. We were delighted to welcome two other military units, the Field Medical Corp and the Army Air Corp who organised for 3 Apache aircraft to do a fly pass over Romsey. With over 100 military marching and over 250 cadets from our local groups it was quite a spectacle in the Market Place. Christmas Light Switch and the Winter Carnival saw 1000's fill the town followed a couple of weeks later by the ever-popular Saving Santa event hosted by the Romsey & District Chamber of Commerce and Carols in the Market Place hosted by the Rotary Club of Romsey Test. Rose and I have had a busy but delightful December with many concerts in our beautiful Abbey and other community Christmas events. Mayor's At Home evening was a chance for Rose and I to thank all the people who have supported us throughout my Mayoral Year. Mayor's awards were given to – Marion & Chris Maxey – Romsey Choirs, Liz, Wagner, Dick Hewitt and the late Mark Edgerley – Romsey Festival and Janet & Peter Morton for the volunteer litter picking in the town every day. I am having a Mayor's Ball in on 4th May in the Crosfield Hall and a Charity Golfing event on 26th April.

Chief Officer Annual Report

2023 -24 has been a busy year. The merger with Romsey Extra Parish Council is now complete. Christmas events again were a huge success as are the different markets we have in the town throughout the year. The Town Hall is thriving. After the closure of Barclays Bank in the town centre, Barclays have a hub here three days a week which is proving very popular. Councillors are working on many projects to improve our town, so watch this space...! Howard Brisland, Buildings & Environment Manager is retiring on 30th April 2024. A big thank to Howard for all his hard work over the last eight years. The improvements he has brought to the Town Hall have been brilliant, in particular the installation of a lift. After twenty years of service I am retiring on 31st August 2024. It has been a "great journey". The highlight was probably been involved in organising HRH the Queen and Prince Phillips' visit to Romsey in 2007. To experience and be part of what a town has to do when having such a royal visit was mind-blowing. Never seen so many police, security etc in Romsey. Post boxes sealed up, drains checked and covered. Snipers on the roof around the Market Place. It is a memory I will never forget. Other events I organised include the Freedom March by the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment in 2011, the War Horse event in 2015 unveiled by Princess Anne and not forgetting taking over the management of Christmas Lights ten years ago. All lights had to be replaced, inspections and risk assessments carried out every year to ensure light switch-on event can happen. Thank you to Romsey Town Councillors for their support to me since 2004.

5. AUDITED STATEMENT

The Audited statement of accounts for the year to 31st March 2023 was approved. (Appendix 1)

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Critchley

SECONDED: Cllr. M. Cooper

CARRIED

6. FINANCES TO 31ST MARCH 2023

The accounts for the year ending 31st March 20123 were approved (See Appendix 2)

PROPOSED: Cllr. N. Gwynne

SECONDED: Cllr. S. Wilkinson

CARRIED

7. MAYOR'S CHARITY

Mayor's Charity Account was received. Total Funds as at 31st May 2024 is currently £10,830.00 Council congratulated Cllr. J. Ray for a very successful mayoral year.

8. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

County Councillor's report - Cllr. M. Cooper to the Romsey Town's Annual Parish Council for the year 2023-2024.

Cllr. M. Cooper

1 2023 - 2024 is my 19th year as your County Councillor. Throughout that time I have served on the Regulatory Committee which is the County's planning committee. Additionally, I am my Group's Spokesperson on Regulatory. It meets on a monthly cycle and is concerned with minerals sites, waste recycling and disposal, new highways projects, school planning applications, Rights of Way, footpath issues and planning enforcement. Many of the minerals and waste applications are, by their very nature, large and controversial and involve site visits, often to the far-flung corners of England's third largest county. Throughout the year we have been waiting for the Hamble Airfield minerals application to come to committees. So far there are 5,000 objections.

I also serve on the management committee of the River Hamble Harbour Authority where I can indulge my interest in all matters maritime; an additional interest and concern of mine is in maintaining the delicate balance between the precious estuarine environments of south Hampshire and the seemingly limitless demand for water based recreation. I have stood down from the Hampshire Pensions Panel and Board as its meeting times clashed with pre-existing diary entries.

2 County Council funding. In 2024 Hampshire County Council and Adult Social Services receives 73% of the Council Tax. In the past it used to be in receipt of considerable additional government grants. However, the era of 'austerity' since 2010 means that most of those grants are now gone and the County's budget has reduced by 40%, equivalent to an annual spending cut of £685 million. Every year savings have to be found which are well and truly reducing service provision. Hampshire is currently

seeking additional savings of £132 million by 2025-26. If these savings are not made it means a section 114 notice may be served which is the equivalent of a Council going bankrupt.

3 Market Place Enhancement and Upgrading The Hundred. It is now five years since the Market Place was refurbished, using mainly developer S106 funding, and I still get very positive feedback from local residents. I have continued to promote the need to continue the refurbishment on down The Hundred to ensure that the existing town centre is well connected to the 'South of the Town Centre' proposals. SoTC is receiving negative publicity even though plans are not yet fixed. The Market Place enhancements had a very similar negative response. Nevertheless, 18 months ago the Market Place was the winner of the 'Solent Quality Place Award'. I for one, am very pleased we stuck with the Market Place scheme and I hope that whatever appears in the SoTC scheme will achieve similar accolades. Now and again we need to use our vision. What's at stake is the vitality and viability of the Town Centre.

The traffic calming still seems to be working ; the aim is that pedestrians should 'own the road' forcing vehicles to proceed very cautiously indeed. A 20 mph speed limit would reinforce pedestrian 'ownership'.

4 The Romsey Town Centre 20 mph Zone. I have long advocated 20mph zones in the Town Centre and on our housing estates. Indeed, I have a number of leaflets I put out in the 1990's advocating just such a policy. During the year the County announced that it would not be pursuing 20 mph zones. It is, put simply, a cost saving measure. Instead, it announced that if Parish and Town Councils wanted 20mph zones they could have them so long as they funded the County to do the installation. The Town Council has made the brave and bold move to press on with a Town Centre 20 mph Zone and I will do all I can to facilitate the project. The Town Council's survey supports that such a zone is wanted by the majority of residents.

5 The Plaza Roundabout, Winchester Road and 'Operation Resilience'. Members will recall that the new road surface from the Plaza Roundabout to Cupernham Lane was installed in April 2023 after many delays. The final quality looked very impressive and I congratulated County Officers and their Contractors for a job well done. Unfortunately, the building site at 109A Winchester Road required that all the service runs into Winchester Road needed to be re-constructed and two areas of the brand new running surface needed to be excavated. The resurfacing work last year had been done at night and the road remained open between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. It was deemed unsafe to do the same and so the Winchester Road was closed for a fortnight. One week included the February 2024 half-term which was fortunate. Despite the inconvenience - after all, Winchester Road is the main artery between the town and the eastern suburbs - I only received one emailed complaint. Rather than patchwork repairs, the County insisted that the whole width of road should be resurfaced to the standard of the rest of the one year-old surface. So far it appears to be holding up well.

6 County Councillor Grants awarded in the financial year 2023-2024.

Hampshire County Councillors have a devolved grant budget which is currently £8,000 a year. This is designed to seed corn small local charities and organisations and is primarily for funding capital items or 'things' rather than general running costs. Organisations should email me on cllr.mark.cooper@hants.gov.uk to gain my support for a grant in principle and then apply on the County Council website. Each application is sent to me electronically before I sign them off. The system has been running since 2012 and I've awarded 139 grants so far. The grants awarded this year are:-

- 1) Voices for Hospices Choir£250
- 2) Prescription Art Test Valley Art Autumn Sessions ..£500
- 3) Test Valley Young Entrepreneurs Contest£500
- 4) Romsey Town Council Christmas Lights.....£1,000
- 5) Artful Collective Creative Christmas Workshop£438
- 6) The Romsey Singers visit Stuttgart, Germany.....£500
- 7) Romsey Chamber Music Festival £500
- 8) Prescription Art Therapeutic art sessions£500
- 9) Romsey Opportunity Group Sensory Play£891

Total **£5,079** Cllr Mark G Cooper

02.04.2024



Test Valley Borough Councillor for Cupernham Ward Report to RTC's APM for 2023 - 2024. Cllr. M. Cooper

1 Southern Planning Committee:- I have been Chairman of TVBC's Southern Planning Committee since July 2019. This is a busy committee meeting on a three week cycle despite the fact that the vast majority of planning applications are delegated to officers. There have been 65 SAPs in that time. The average meeting length is 1 hour 49 minutes, the longest being 5 hours and the shortest 8 minutes. A lot of my time is spent on ensuring the officer reports brought before the Committee are free of typographical errors and omissions and include planning conditions that may have been referred to in the officer report but which are missing from the conditions list. Nothing undermines public confidence in the planning system more than mistakes in written reports. I still find planning a fascinating area. I originally worked in Town Planning in Auckland, New Zealand in 1970; I'm not sure whether it's a good thing to be still engaged with the subject 54 years later. Being on the Town Council's Planning Committee is extremely helpful in that I get to see all the applications in Abbey, Cupernham and Tadburn and hear the views of my equally engaged Town colleagues.

2 The Whitenap development:- Nothing new to report. Now that there is a planning application in for the access arrangements - all other matters remain reserved matters - I have had to take a back seat as my sister and I have property that is on the development site boundary. However, there has been no progress as far as I am aware. My colleague Cllr John Parker and the case officer, who is now Mark Staincliffe, will ensure as close an adherence to the 2016 Borough Local Plan as possible.

3 Romsey Future and South of the Town Centre:- On this issue I am repeating what I reported back last year because it is important that colleagues understand the thought process of their Borough Council colleagues. In recent years Romsey's population has grown to 21,518. The last time I looked up that figure it was less than 15,000. It is forecast to grow to 23,640 by 2027. It is thus important that the facilities that are needed to service that population are provided here in the Romsey. The 'South of the Town Centre' project which is part of Romsey Future, concluded that the land-use on the bus station car park and the Crosfield Hall site is significantly sub-optimal and could be used to further enhance the town's viability and vitality. There will be a number of residents who will be sad to see the present Crosfield Hall go once the new one is built and in use. The decision making on this matter has been interesting and based on a Deliberative Democracy process. Back on 19th September 2019 the Romsey Borough Councillors had a presentation from Nexus planning consultancy. The ideas formulated by Romsey Future and Nexus were outlined. This included, among much else, a number of broad proposals for the long term enhancement of South of the Town Centre, including:-

- (a) The maintenance and opening up of views of the Abbey
- (b) respecting the settings of listed buildings
- (c) highlighting the water courses as key assets
- (d) creating walks along those water courses
- (e) in the medium term, redeveloping the bus station, with an 'in-and-out' circulation for buses, plus commercial uses on the ground floor and residential on the first and second floors
- (f) creating a more permeable pedestrian experience in and across Broadwater Road in order to connect the Crosfield Hall site to the town centre



(g) building a new fit-for-purpose Crosfield Hall with improved pedestrian links to the town centre

(h) In the longer term, redeveloping the Crosfield Hall site with retail, possibly ALDI, and a 250 space four deck car park. The old ALDI site could revert TVBC and be developed as a Community Hub on The Hundred.

These concepts were tested. Test Valley, and Romsey specifically, was selected as one of three government pilot areas for a Citizens' Assembly. It was/is an example of Deliberative Democracy. DD depends on giving people detailed evidence; asking them to weigh up the pros and cons and then coming to an agreed recommendation. 10,000 invitations were sent out to a randomly selected group from the electoral roll. The returns were then stratified based on age, gender, and usage of the town until a panel of 50 people was selected. It was an expensive process funded by a £60,000 government grant. The Citizens' Assembly met over four sessions in October and November 2019. The attendees were paid £75 per day and asked to attend all four sessions. The process was witnessed by officers and councillors. The Citizens' Assembly exhaustively examined, tested and then endorsed the proposals.

Romsey and TVBC Councillors, of whatever persuasion, are inclined to support the Romsey South of the Town Centre concept, that is the scheme supported by the Citizens' Assembly five years ago.

Crucial to the future success of Romsey as its own viable economic entity is the enhancement of the pedestrian links between the town centre and the South of the Town Centre developments.

But remember, nothing, as yet, is fixed, and the Borough has outlined a new round of consultations to test out public opinion on possible futures to take place later in the Spring.

Cllr Mark G. Cooper

Cupernham Ward Report – 2023 – 2024 – Cllr. J. Burnage

Throughout the year, the ward councillors Janet Burnage, Neil Gwynne and Rohit Kohli have been active in the ward, assisting residents with any issues or concern.

Cllrs Gwynne and Burnage remain active with Wilder Romsey and continue to work alongside TVBC Countryside Officers to improve the run-down areas on some of the older housing developments in our ward and work on the Abbotswood Nature Reserve to ensure that it continues to be a natural resource for the wildlife in the area and also a pleasant place for all residents to be able to access.

We have also been in contact with residents on the King's Chase development over concerns related to poor parking by users of the sport centre at the weekends; there is parking available but users still will park on the access road into the development, which in turn can block the road. Staff are putting notices on the cars parked along the road to advise them to use the car park and/or overflow car park. It is down to Hampshire County Council to put in double yellow lines and this is also being looked into.

Councillor Burnage is working with concerned parents/carers to try and secure funding from Hampshire County Council to install some form of safe crossing over Cupernham Lane from Woodley Lane to Mercer Way – this is not only for the safety of children, but with all the additional housing being built Cupernham Lane is now a much busier road.



On the subject of development - all councils and councillors have to abide by national regulations re what development can, and cannot, be amended or refused. As ward councillors we played our part in - and were extremely pleased by - the refusal to give planning permission to the proposed development north of Oxlease. This area, by both the canal and Fishlake Nature Reserve, needs to be protected.

Cllr. J. Burnage

Report from Cllr. S. Gidley and Cllr. N. Daas – Abbey Ward

Abbey Ward Borough Councillor report back to Romsey Town Council

Looking back on last year's report it is frustrating to note that many of the issues are ongoing,

The good news is that the water problem at the entry to the Rapids has been resolved, making this junction much safer and easier to navigate after heavy rainfall. There was an issue with travellers at the Rapids last year and the Council dealt with this as quickly as possible, whilst adhering to legal time constraints. The remaining mess was dealt with quickly and the site has been reviewed to see whether there is more that can be done to prevent travellers gaining access.

Speeding remains a problem, especially along Greatbridge road where some residents have had cars damaged. Working with county and town councillors a consultation on a 20mph zone has been initiated.

The problems with the Brewery site are well known and we have been keeping the pressure on the Borough Council to find a solution. Work is ongoing but the situation is sensitive so we are unable to say more at this particular time.

There has been much public concern about the redevelopment of the South of the Town Centre and the future of the Crosfield Hall. The Masterplan was drawn up before COVID and much has changed about the way we live our lives. Hence, the Borough Council is reviewing some of the baseline assumptions about shopping and leisure before developing a final plan. We take a close interest and there will be extensive public consultation about this project before a final decision is made.

Cllr Nik Daas and Cllr Sandra Gidley

9. Reports from the Floor

Romsey Twinning Parish Report 2023

The past year has seen exchanges with all three of Romsey's twin towns. At the end of April 2023 a group from Romsey spent a long weekend in Paimpol, a visit described in last year's Report. In July we welcomed a party from Treviglio to Romsey, their visit timetabled to coincide with Beggars Fair. The Italian visitors were accompanied by members of TAE Teatro, a Treviglio theatre company which had performed previously in Romsey in 2017. Once again the actors entertained the Beggars Fair crowds with their lively and colourful brand of street theatre featuring stiltwalking and masked characters from the commedia dell'arte. It was a particular pleasure to welcome also the Mayor of Treviglio who joined the Italian twinningers for the last part of their Romsey visit along with a small party from his office. It was Sig. Imeri's first visit to Romsey and we are grateful to the Town Mayor, Cllr. John Ray, for making time in his busy schedule to show his counterpart around the town.

In October a group from Battenberg travelled over to Romsey by coach. Their weekend featured a visit to the Whitchurch Silk Mill and a farewell dinner at the Empress of Blandings in Copythorne, to which we were delighted to welcome the Town Mayor and Mayoress.



With the growth of many different modes of communication an increasingly important aspect of our activities has been to foster and encourage links between other Romsey groups, especially youth groups, and their counterparts in the twin towns. Over the past year we have supported a correspondence exchange between Year 6 pupils at Cupernham Junior School and young students of a similar age at schools in the Paimpol area. We also facilitated and supported a concert in Treviglio by Romsey Youth Choir as part of their tour of northern Italy at the end of July. Future links involving sports clubs and scouting groups are currently being explored. In August we were pleased finally to deposit the Twinning archive at Hampshire Record Office where it has been catalogued and is now available for public inspection. The archive represents sixty years of twinning records. It had previously been stored in the Town Hall but we were asked five years ago by the Town Hall to remove it. It is good to know that the archive is now kept safe and secure and to the requisite conservation standards.

In the coming year we look forward to visits to Treviglio in April and to Battenberg in October. A group from Paimpol will visit Romsey at the end of May. The most exciting development of the year promises to be the launch of our website in the summer. Although we have a Facebook page Romsey Twinning has not had a formal presence on the internet since the demise of Romseynet so we hope that this will prove to be a significant vehicle for raising our general profile and for the recruitment of new members.

Roland Matthews

Chairman

Honorary Archivist's Report – Barbara Burbridge

Jennifer Wilsdon and I have completed phase one of the Archives project, namely the sorting, cleaning, photographing, labelling and, where appropriate, wrapping in soft archival Tyvek. Computer tables have been compiled to match the categories - artefacts (3D) / buildings and views / documents and notices / events / groups / mayors / oddities / overlarge items / portraits. Thumbnails to be inserted into tables.

A further computer table has been compiled of items on public display and a start has been made on creating an inventory of civic regalia and listing work to be done (eg repairs and obtaining the correct archival textile storage).

Future work includes assessing the contents of the strong room and recommending items in need of improved conservation. Earlier work then needs to be revisited.

Throughout the year our efforts have been supported by members of the Town Hall staff and this friendly help is much appreciated.

Parishioners Questions

None

The meeting closed at 7.40p.m.



**TOWN COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION
MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS**

ABBAY WARD

Cllr John Critchley



Towards the end of a career as a professional architectural photographer and lecturer, John came to live in Romsey twenty-one years ago. For John, cooking is one of life's real pleasures and is a way of getting people around a table to talk and enjoy life. He also enjoys the garden, reading (especially non-fiction), theatre and foreign travel. A believer that good communication solves many problems in life, John hopes that as a town councillor, he can be effective in trying to make this super town an even better place to live and work.

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07831 870120

Cllr Ian Culley

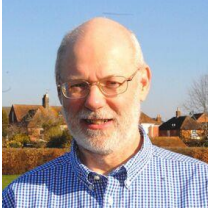


Born in Hampshire, Ian has made Romsey his home for over forty years. He is married with a son who is an engineering geologist. Ian studied law at Exeter University and recently retired after practising for many years as a solicitor both in private practice and as a Senior Crown Prosecutor with the Crown Prosecution Service. Ian loves Romsey and now wants to put something back.

Contact:
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01794 522298 / 07835 087955



Cllr Simon Wilkinson



Simon grew up in Worcestershire, came to Southampton in 1983 as a student, and moved to Romsey in 2006. He believes in enabling people to be happy and is increasingly concerned/involved with environmental issues. He works in technology and his immediate family comprises his significant other, his son and four cats.

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Cllr Colin Burgess



Colin moved to Romsey from the Glasgow area in 2005. He retired in 2015 after spending most of his IT career working for DFID, the then Government Department responsible for the UK Aid program. Colin feels privileged to have been part of a large team with a moral and worthwhile purpose. His role opened his eyes up for the need to alleviate poverty and fix the Climate Emergency. He believes in showing compassion and equality to others regardless of their background. Colin's hobbies and interests include running an allotment, cycling, rugby union (strictly spectating), walking and volunteering. He is a volunteer driver for Romsey Good Neighbours, who incidentally are always looking for new drivers!

Contact:

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07771 888678



CUPERNHAM WARD

Cllr Neil Gwynne



Neil has lived in Romsey since 2011, and this is his second term as a Town Councillor. He is also on his second term as a Borough Councillor, currently as Leader of the LibDem group. In his first term Neil established Wilder Romsey and was Romsey's Mayor between 2022 and 2023. He has also spent ten years as Chair at the Plaza Theatre.

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Cllr Janet Burnage



Janet's association with Romsey goes back to the mid-1960s. Educated in Romsey she has always felt a close affinity with the town and it's feeling of community. Her love of Romsey made her feel that she wanted to do more to help maintain and build on that community spirit, so in 2011 she was elected onto Romsey Town Council. Janet was Romsey Town Mayor from May 2019 to May 2021 – having a two-year period due to Covid. She has represented the Cupernham ward on the Planning Committee and is a past chair of the Building and Town Committee. She is a staunch supporter of the independent shops in Romsey and can be seen in the town most Saturday mornings.

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Cllr Christopher Birkett



I live and work in Romsey, I am passionate about serving the community and being an advocate for those whose voice is not always heard. I volunteer for several local charities including the Lions club, Sea Cadets and Plaza theatre. We are very fortunate to live in such beautiful surroundings, I enjoy any opportunity to get out and explore these with the family and our pet dog. I am also a foster carer and would like to get more young people interested in volunteering for their local community.

Contact:

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01794 512837

Cllr Aidan Goddard



I've lived in Romsey since 2016, along with my wife. We decided to settle here and purchased our home a few years ago. I work full-time as a software engineer, mostly for local companies, but have recently been working from home for a company based further away. As a younger councillor, I hope to be able to bring a different point of view to our debates, and push for changes that benefit the entire population of Romsey. My favourite colour is usually purple.

Contact: cllragoddard@romseytc.org.uk

01794 512837



Cllr Rohit Kohli



Rohit Kohli, a seven-year resident of Romsey, is a dedicated community member with a rich professional background. After a twenty-five year corporate career, he joined his wife's business and committed himself to local service. He's a trustee and volunteer at Abbotswood Community Centre, founder of a free table tennis club, and former school governor in Southampton. Rohit's passion lies in enhancing community life and unity in Romsey.

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Cllr Russell Theron



Russell is a former pupil of Romsey School and is one of the new faces to join the Town Council. After a successful career in Hospitality Management, Russell moved back to his home town of Romsey where he currently lives with his husband and their Foster Children.

Russell is the Vice Chair and Youth Liaison Officer at the Plaza Theatre and regularly volunteers with local charities including Romsey Young Carers and Romsey Lions.

Russell is passionate about the future generation, and the needs of the town's younger residents.

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ROMSEY EXTRA WARD

Cllr John Ray



John was born in Romsey and has lived and worked here all his life. Married to Rose with three children, he has owned a hair salon in the town for nearly forty years and has been a Councillor for twenty years. He is Chairman of Romsey Carnival Committee and President of Romsey Good Neighbours.

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TADBURN WARD

Cllr Mark Cooper



Mark has been a Romsey Town Councillor since June 1986. He was Romsey Town Mayor in 1991, 2007 and 2012 and has also been a member of Test Valley Borough Council since 1986 and Hampshire County Council, representing the whole of Romsey town, since 2005. He specialises in planning and regulatory matters and is a member of the Hampshire's Regulatory Committee, Hamble River Authority and the Hampshire Pension Board and Panel. He was Mayor of Test Valley 2021 - 2022 and is Chair of the Borough's Southern Planning Committee.

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Cllr John Parker



John has lived in Romsey for nearly fifty years. He and his wife, Tessa, have two children and three grandchildren, all of whom live locally. He is a retired IT consultant. He was first elected to Romsey Town Council in 2015 after twenty-nine years on Romsey Extra Parish Council and Romsey Town Mayor in 2016 – 2017. In 2019 John was also elected as a TVBC councillor for Tadburn ward, a role that continues today.

His primary interest is in planning and has been very involved in the development of several iterations of the TVBC local plan. He has been a member of the Romsey Future team since its inception in 2013.

John is also an active member of Romsey Twinning.

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Cllr Jacqueline Urquhart



Originally from the Midlands, Jacqui settled in Romsey in 2000 to bring up her daughter and wants to make sure that Romsey retains its market town character and remains a welcoming place to live. She is a pharmacist and works in the pharmaceutical industry. She has a particular interest in environmental issues.

Contact:

cllrjurquhart@romseytc.org.uk
07365 246294



Cllr Sandra Gidley



Sandra describes her life as people, pharmacy and politics. Her main motivation in life is helping people and she became a community pharmacist and also trained as an antenatal teacher. Aware of injustice she decided she had to try and improve the system and thus became politically active. Between 2000 and 2010 she was the MP for Romsey. She then devoted her time to pharmacy politics and chaired the English Pharmacy Board before becoming President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. She now spends her time enjoying grandchildren and belonging to a range of local organisations.

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