

## **Pen portrait - Cllr David Chapple**

### **Who am I?**

I am married to Ann and my two children (Lizzie and James) were both brought up and educated in Oundle. I was at Norwich School then the University of Nottingham then the College of Law in Guildford. I lived in Oundle from 1981 to 2015 before moving to Glapthorn.

### **Why did I join the council?**

I became an Oundle Town Councillor in December 1986 following a contested by-election and have remained a councillor ever since. I was motivated to stand for election because of the then draft Oundle local plan and have remained passionately interested in the planning issues affecting Oundle ever since. This has resulted in me chairing the Town Council's Planning Committee for many years. The role can be frustrating since a town council is only a consultee on planning applications and cannot determine these, although we can express our opinion on all applications. We also contribute to planning consultations and try to influence future planning policy as it affects the town.

### **What have I done?**

I am by no means a single-issue councillor and have always sought to play my role not only in preserving what is good about Oundle whilst also seeking to improve the town in whatever ways the council can. As such I have had the privilege to have led the council as its mayor four times over the years and to have championed the awarding of grants to local organisations undertaking all manner of community work and sporting and artistic endeavours. This of course involves spending money raised through, amongst other things, the council tax. Setting budgets and prioritising where money is spent is a crucial part of what all councillors do and I continue to serve on the Council's Finance and General Purposes and Human Resources committees to play my part in this key area and in ensuring that the council has the best possible team of employees not only to assist councillors in their work but to deliver services directly to the people of Oundle. It is to them that ultimately all councillors are accountable.

### **My future plans...**

Being a councillor has enabled me not only to feel a part of the town but to develop a deeper and deeper appreciation of it and of its history and, most importantly, of its people. Although I have been a councillor for many years I never tire of the role because there is always something more that can be done for the town and so long as I feel that way I shall want to remain a councillor.

### **What can I do for new councillors?**

My extensive experience as a councillor and as mayor allows me to guide new councillors through the intricacies of council working and protocols, and work with them to make Oundle a great place to live and work.