

## **Pen portrait - Cllr Ian Clark**

### **Who am I?**

I moved to Oundle in 1991 where I live with my family and I'm a history teacher at Oundle School.

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

I joined Oundle Town Council (OTC) because I felt (at the time) it wasn't very good at communicating with residents. When I joined OTC, I had lived in Oundle for nearly 30 years and I didn't really know what it did, how it did it, or even what direction it was going. Foolishly, I spoke up at my first Annual Town meeting and was challenged to get involved - I'm glad I did. I've seen what a difference one can make serving as a councillor and I think we are much better communicating with residents about who we are and what we do.

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

I'm the current Mayor having joined OTC in 2018, and have served mainly on the Estates Committee, and have also worked on the Finance, HR, and Planning Committees.

I founded the Communications Working Party, with the aim of improving communications with the town, and think we have seen some great developments in that area, including monthly updates and biannual reports. I've also been involved in a few projects aimed at improving the town such as the recycled Snipe Meadow boardwalk, a sustainable long lasting solution allowing residents to enjoy the area whilst causing minimal impact to the environment. I was delighted to provide locals the opportunity to meet and ask questions at the 'Meet the Mayor' sessions at a bench local to them, and on the Farmers and Thursday market. Although OTC cannot solve all issues, I hope these gave chances to show residents that we are open to listening to their concerns about our town. I'm also proud of being part of arranging with North Northants Council and a local bus operator to come to Oundle for arranged trips to Rushden Lakes, which is now being provided by a new operator.

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

I plan to continue working towards improving Oundle, so it is the best place to live, work and visit. I hope to see new people stepping forward this May 2025 so we can have an election and the people of Oundle can choose who they want to serve on OTC, making our council more accountable.

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

I've learnt a lot about myself serving as a Councillor, working collaboratively on projects, improving my "people skills" as well as gaining a broader sense of how things work in terms of Oundle, businesses, the law and finance – and hope to pass onto new councillors as they take on the rewarding challenge of being a local councillor.