



intouch

ADSTONE . BLAKESLEY . COLD HIGHAM . LITCHBOROUGH . MAIDFORD . PATTISHALL . SLAPTON . TIFFIELD . WOODEND

YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLORS: ROGER CLARKE AND SANDI SMALLMAN

On 5th May this year Local Elections were scheduled to take place in Blakelsey and Cote, which is a 2 seat Ward. However Conservatives Roger Clarke and Sandi Smallman were the only two candidates and hence by default were elected. Therefore *Intouch* would like to bring you an introduction to your Local Councillors.



Roger Clarke and his family moved to Pattishall in 1974. Roger is from a farming background and between 1982 and 1994 ran a livestock marketing business. In 1994 he established a landscape design and construction business from which he has just retired.

Sport has always been important to Roger, primarily rugby, rising to play for one of the Northampton Rugby Club teams! Today he still plays tennis, badminton and golf.

Village life has always been important to Roger, who has served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for about 25 years. He chaired a very successful Parish Plan committee resulting in a 100 page publication.

Serving the wider community, Roger is a Trustee of the South Northants Leisure Trust and has recently stepped down from South Northants Standards committee. Roger established and chaired the Pattishall Heritage Trust on behalf of Holy Cross Church and serves as Chairman of two other village Charitable Trusts.

Politics has always been of interest to Roger and he formally Chaired the Pattishall and District Conservative Association when Michael Morris (now Lord Morris of Nazeby) was MP. When attending his local surgeries he would often pop in for a gin and tonic!

Roger was part of the original team that supported both County Councillor Ben Smith and District Councillor Jim Byrom and helped with their leaflet distribution. Roger now very much hopes that he is able to support the community as your District Councillor.



Sandi Smallman has been your Ward Councillor since 2003 and has really enjoyed her work, helping residents achieve their goals as individuals and as communities. She has chaired the Resources Review and Development Committee, and sat on many other

Committees including Development Control and the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. One of Sandi's important achievements on behalf of residents in the Ward was driving the work that resulted in a Public Inquiry to keep Blakesley and Cote Ward in the new constituency of South Northamptonshire with new MP, Andrea Leadsom.

Having worked with disabled children overseas and served for 4 years as President of the Girl Guides on the Island of St. Helena, Sandi was pleased to be able to continue her work for young people as part of her wide-ranging portfolio as a Cabinet Member. That period saw the expansion of the children's holiday arts and sports activity programmes and the receipt of a large grant from the Big Lottery which enabled the recruitment of a Play Co-ordinator to develop and implement a Children and Young People's Play Programme for the District.

Much of her Ward work is dealing with residents' planning applications: Sandi has been a staunch supporter of common-sense applications. She has addressed the Development Control Committee on many occasions on behalf of residents and has particularly supported the planning needs for the elderly to remain in their own homes.

Although she really values our beautiful villages, Sandi wants to see them remain vibrant and sustainable and to encourage young people to be part of village life with new development where need is shown.





Feel free to get in touch

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LATEST NEWS

Sandi has made a strong address to the Development Control Committee on behalf of the residents of Adstone objecting to a planning application which has been a contentious issue for years. She and Roger attended the site meeting with members of the DC Committee and Sandi will again make strong representations to the DC Committee urging them to refuse the application.

The application was approved at appeal by a Planning Inspector from Bristol, when Members of our own Development Control Committee had refused the application. Sandi urges the Committee Members to stand by their original decision to refuse the application as they are local people who live in and appreciate our beautiful district – let's see localism at work!

After a lot of Planning issues that Sandi was involved in, the new Blakesley and Woodend Village Hall is nearing completion – the site was blessed by the Reverend John Hall and Sandi attended the celebration breakfast when local children dug the first spade of earth on the site. The building sits very well in its environment resembling a redbrick barn and it is hoped that the opening celebration will be held in September and Sandi and Roger are looking forward to the event. It will be a perfect new home for the playgroup, indoor bowls club, cricket club, other sporting organisations and a great venue for social events.

AFFORDABLE HOMES



At the end of June 8 Affordable Homes were transferred to the Grand Union Housing Association in Pattishall. Sandi and Roger are pictured opposite at the building site earlier this year.

Roger and Sandi are thrilled that the new houses will enable 'village people' to remain in Pattishall. The heart of any village has to be local people.

Pattishall is an example to many, since it has 48 active organisations catering for the needs of the community and it has retained its village school which is attended by pupils from neighbouring villages who have lost their schools!

Roger sits on the Board of the Northampton Rural Housing Association and he is conscious of the time lapse between thought, action and the production of 'affordable' housing, which can be in the region of 4 years! Really this is no good to the young people who want a house in their village now.

Roger and Sandi will continue to try to ensure younger people have access to affordable housing in their home village.