

PARISH COUNCILLOR JOAN BULLER BEM

WRITTEN STATEMENT

I moved to Staplehurst in 1978 with my husband Malcolm and two young sons. After attending Parish Council meetings for five years I was encouraged to stand for election, and after being successful in 1983, have served the community since.

I have gained enormously from working with other councillors who all brought their own skills to the council. I returned to teaching when my sons reached teenage years and enjoyed the challenges that 7-year-olds bring. Ill-health forced my early retirement from Staplehurst Primary School, but gave me more time to devote to council activities.

As a long-standing member of the Planning Committee, I am now often asked to represent the council and residents at Maidstone Planning Committee, and appeals. I have been an active advocate of the Neighbourhood Plan and many other council initiatives. I also represent the council on several Staplehurst organisations and run, with Malcolm, the weekly meetings of Staplehurst Interest Group.

Being an active participant in village life, I feel I can reflect the feelings of our growing population.