

Parish Cllr. Gillian Smith

Written Statement

I have lived in Staplehurst for 35 years, having moved here from West London. One of the reasons my husband and I chose Staplehurst was its communication links to London, and for many years we commuted daily. Staplehurst provided a wonderful environment for us to bring up our two daughters, and I am pleased that the community spirit in Staplehurst is still as strong as ever. I worked as a Business Analyst for London Transport until I took up a career in Education, spending the last 25 years teaching in local primary schools. The provision of good quality Transport and Education services in our rural community is a particular interest for me. Undoubtedly Staplehurst has changed over the years and faces significant challenges ahead, but I am very keen that we strive to maintain the special character of the village. Becoming a member of the Parish Council gives me the opportunity to play a part in achieving this.