

## Parish Cllr. Elaine Symes

### Written Statement

I was born and grew up in Staplehurst and have lived in the village almost all my life. I attended Staplehurst Primary School and the then Angle School (now High Weald Academy).

After training as a nursery nurse, my working life has been mostly in caring for children, adults with learning difficulties and the elderly.

In 2013 my partner and I started Laineys Farm- a care farm for adults with learning difficulties. Students come to Laineys Farm to interact with our animals and help with every aspect of farming, alongside many other activities.

My reason for joining the Council is to make a positive input to improve the lives of residents of Staplehurst. My particular interests are in improving urban and rural safety and the local environment for residents. I hope to be involved with local crime analysis and initiatives to reduce the overall level of crime by prevention, education and rural intelligence initiatives. I am a member of Staplehurst Neighbourhood Watch and started the Staplehurst Fields of Vision Group. I would like to support existing groups for the elderly and the vulnerable to ensure we look after these valuable elements of our community.