

From Cllr Jo Slimin
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Dear Friends and fellow Liberal Democrats in the Tadley and Baughurst Division

You will soon be asked to vote for our candidate to stand in next May's Hampshire County Council election in this division. This is a seat we have every opportunity to win back from the Tories. The choice you make could influence what can be achieved for the benefit of our residents in the next four years. I have put myself forward as I believe I have the campaign skills, relevant experience, time to devote to the role, enthusiasm and passion to win the seat. Then, if elected I will work to, ensure we do not remain forgotten at the far edge of a huge county. Since 1981 this seat has been either Tory or Liberal Democrat and I have been involved in every election held in the branch area.

If selected, I will use all the campaigning knowledge gained as candidate or agent and give my personal commitment to work hard by canvassing voters across the division to Win.

So why choose me? Firstly, I have **many years experience in local government**. First elected to Tadley Town Council in 1983 I have served continuously since with periods as Chairman. Making Tadley area a better place to live and working with fellow councillors across the area to deliver. Elected borough councillor 3 times including in 2022. Previously Liberal Democrat group leader when we ran the council delivering for the whole area the Tadley Pool and Barlow's Park community football ground. In 1996 we bought land at Manydown to provide well planned future homes. I have stood as a county candidate and worked for our county councillor when leader of the LibDems

I know my community and they know me. If elected I will draw on this knowledge, plus my past work experience and involvement in the local voluntary sector. My ambition is to contribute to three areas of County functions that I believe need to be our future priorities.

1. **Social Care**. 78% of the County budget is spent on this and education. I have personal experience of the care system as my mother was in a home for 12 years with dementia. It is not just the elderly that are being let down now. Many children are not accessing timely social services or mental health support when needed. I can bring awareness of local provision as I am the Borough's Health and Wellbeing champion. I am an active member of the Tadley Wellbeing Forum, a founder member of Citizens Advice Tadley (still on the Board and chair the Research and Campaign Committee) and a local school governor.
2. **Education**. I have been a governor at Bishopswood schools since 1984 and Chair and Safeguarding Governor for the past 4 years, I have seen at first hand how our children are being let down by the lack of support for schools to make sure every child has the opportunity to get the best possible start in life. For those who need extra support to learn it takes too long to diagnose and deliver that support. For those that need support because of family circumstances that support is difficult to access and lacks resources. Both these place the burden back onto families and schools to deliver what they can within their constraints of time and finances. I would welcome the opportunity to try to change this.
3. **Environment**. I have a passion to do all I can to ensure we protect our world for future generations. My last 18 years of employment was at the Environment Agency where I helped deliver many major flood protection schemes. I led engagement with the public to be better prepared for increasing flood events, dealt with incidents such as flooding, pollution, fly tipping and fires. As Director of Calleva Community Energy I am delivering renewables locally already working with HCC on this. I have run greening campaigns, encouraged recycling, set up volunteer litter collectors, planted many trees, helped to develop projects to increase access to safer cycling and walking locally. But Councils all need to step up!