



# PERSONAL STATEMENT

# JULIA OSBORN

## Who am I ?

I am a Parish Councillor and Chairman of Send Parish Council. I have served on the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee for the past four years, and on the task group to the committee. I am also a member of the "Parish Liaison Group for Climate Change" and recently I have been appointed to join the "Eight Parishes Group".

## Why am I standing again?

My aim will be to continue to represent parish council's interests at GBC. I will provide a strong voice for all parish councils; and especially for those facing unprecedented levels of change and development in their Parishes.

## Key achievements and contributions as a member of the committee include:

I have successfully lobbied GBC to include an item in the work programme of the committee for a **report on Section 106** monitoring. Previously, Section 106, a fund vital to all parish councils, had only been considered as a single line in the Appendix of the General Fund Financial Monitoring Report.

I was one of the first members of the Council to flag the issue of **non-determination** of planning applications in the Council Chamber in November 2021, along with the cost implications of defending appeals that were a result of non-determination and the increased spending on agency staff.

I have challenged proposals that I have considered would result in a loss of democratic accountability for elected members or reduce the opportunity for input by parish councils.

I have sought to ensure effective treasury management, risk management and that environmental monitoring is given greater priority in Council's actions and in committee reports.

As a member of the task group to the committee, I have reviewed many aspects of the Council's constitution and protocols seeking to improve transparency and enhance the role of parish councils.

## PROFILE

Julia has been a member of Send Parish Council for eight years. She has served in her Parish Council as Vice-Chair of the Send Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee, and has recently been appointed Chairman of Send Parish Council at the Annual Meeting in May 2023. She also led the Save Send Action Group response to the Local Plan at the public inquiry in 2018-19.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Julia holds MSc in Public Administration from the University of London, and a BA in Politics and Social Policy. Her professional background is in undertaking research work.

## CONTACT

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## **Penny Tompkins – Personal Statement**

During my working life as a solicitor, I was Company Secretary of Unum Limited (income protection insurer in Dorking) and AXA Travel Insurance (part of the wider AXA Insurance Group). In these roles I was extensively involved in the establishment and maintenance of corporate governance standards and procedures, including the training of directors. These were both heavily regulated environments.

Once retired I became a trustee of the Dorking Society (a charity and also a company limited by guarantee). The Society runs the Dorking Museum and undertakes a wide range of activities within the local community. My primary role (aside from the general role as a trustee) was to introduce all necessary modern governance standards and practices (including training) in accordance with both the requirements of the Charity Commission and general company law.

I retired as a trustee of the Dorking Society when I became a Shere Parish Councillor.

## **Simon Schofield – Personal Statement**

The Corporate Governance and Standards Committee plays an important role in:

- Monitoring and reviewing Guildford Borough Council's corporate governance activity including the framework of internal audit control as well as the completeness, accuracy and validity of the risks identified in the Corporate Risk Register
- Considering and commenting on audit and accounts activity including financial monitoring and aspects of operational performance including complaint handling, planning enforcement and gender pay gap

My working background has been specialised in international taxation, finance and tax law for almost 30 years working for major accountancy firms (Ernst & Young, Deloitte) and multinationals (Samsung, Huawei, GE Capital) and where the most directly relevant role was 5 years as Vice President for European Taxation and Corporate (Internal) Audit at Samsung Electronics. This involved overseeing and undertaking internal audit activity across Europe to assess the effectiveness of the control environment as well as identifying and evaluating operational risk issues arising across all departments including finance. I've also acted as a private sector representative to the World Customs Organisation and worked with various trade associations on EU and OECD direct and indirect tax matters. My professional qualifications were as a Chartered Accountant (1997) and Chartered Tax Advisor (1994) which I held until my retirement two years ago (and graduated with a Mathematics degree from Emmanuel College in Cambridge back in 1991)

The main reason for standing as a parish representative is that I believe that I can make an effective contribution to the work of the committee based on my previous experience and that I can assist in the critical evaluation of the Council's operational performance. One point of note is that the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 have still not been fully audited at this point which has not been mentioned the last few sets of Committee minutes. The timeliness of local authority audits is being monitored by the Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Public Sector Audit Appointments body responsible for managing audit quality (PSAA).

The Chair of the PSAA has stated "The scale of the backlog of outstanding opinions is such that it is beginning to seriously undermine the financial management, governance and accountability of local government bodies. As a result they are making decisions, managing multiple financial challenges and laying plans for the future with limited assurance about their underlying financial positions". For this reason I would be looking to have due attention focussed on managing the outstanding audit backlog as part of ongoing future work.

## **Tim Wolfenden - Personal Statement**

I have lived in Guildford for some 30 years, the majority of these in Shalford. I have a keen interest in local affairs. I have been a governor at Shalford Infant School (which all three of my children attended) and more recently at Guildford County School (currently attended by youngest child), where I chaired the Finance & Premises Committee. I have recently been re-elected onto Shalford Community (Parish) Council, and now chair the Finance Committee having previously chaired the Planning Committee. I am a keen cyclist and helped establish a local cycle campaign group; I am also very conscious of the current climate emergency and through work on the community council helped instigate the village's climate action group. Amongst other interests, my wife and I also have an allotment in Shalford.

A physicist by training, I retrained to be a school teacher five years ago and having started at Christ's College, Bellfields, am now a maths teacher at Guildford County School. Previously, I was Operations Director for a division of a global engineering company, with responsibility for day-to-day management of the business. During this time I implemented revised governance structures; I also represented the business on the audit committee. Earlier in my career as a business consultant I gained experience advising organisations on operational management and associated governance.

I have served as a co-opted member of the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee during the term of the last council and have enjoyed supporting it by applying a combination of my professional skills and local knowledge. Unfortunately long covid has severely curtailed my activity at times over the past couple of years, but I am confident that I am now once again able to fully commit to the committee and would like to have opportunity to continue for a further term supporting the work of the council and, through it, the wider borough community.