

**Statement by Simon Oakley to accompany Application for Co-Option onto
Chichester City Council October 2022**

I was born in St Richards Hospital, grew up in the Witterings and attended Bishop Luffa School. Was also a Sea Cadet at the T.S. Chichester Unit by Florence Park.

Spent 31 years as a Merchant Naval Deck Officer, serving on Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and P&O Ferries.

Became a local government Councillor in 2011 at Parish (Tangmere) and District (Chichester) level, followed by County level in 2013. Main focus of activity has been on Planning, Transport, Drainage and Community Facility matters. Have been closely involved in the development of Neighbourhood Plans and scrutiny of planning applications (including the recent Solent Carpet Warehouse extension).

Have helped secure grants for facilities in Chichester East, including for community transport and the Swanfield Centre.

Worked with City, District and County Councils on improving accesses and crossings in Eastern Chichester, e.g. tarmacking the access to the Florence Park Pavilion, the Florence Road controlled crossings, a Community Highway Scheme for the Lidl “missing link”, widening the tarmac on the East side of the St James Industrial Park and the Swanfield bus shelter project. Was closely involved in CDC’s early 2010’s NE Chichester Development Brief to ensure the retention of the old Chichester Hospitals sports ground (now Keepers Green) as open space.

Regularly attend events at Swanfield Park Community Centre and liaising with Registered Housing Providers on various issues, including removal of waste. Also liaised with CDC regarding flytips on the Barnfield site.

Am actively involved in seeking a resolution to the lease issue between the Chichester Sea Cadet unit and CDC.

Have been a regular attendee of and contributor to City Council meetings since 2013 and spend much time using the roads within Eastern Chichester.

I believe that my experience and knowledge of local government, including working across its various tiers, would enable me to meaningfully contribute to the City Council’s work in improving the whole City and in particular its Eastern part as well as improving inter Authority working and co-operation.

Simon Oakley

17th October 2022